

ONLINE PEER REVIEW: SAMPLE LETTER TO PARENTS

Date: _____

Dear Parents,

I am considering embarking on an ambitious project with my class this year that will encompass several areas of the curriculum and support the development of many indispensable skills, in particular the use of an online environment to facilitate discussion and peer review. The plan is for the class to use an online classroom to post assignments, review each other's work, and hold discussions.

This project supports not only our language arts and technology curriculum, but also allows students the opportunity to advance essential skills such as problem solving, learning to work in teams, developing creativity, and revision in response to peer comments and self-reflection.

To make this experience a success, your child will need an e-mail address. You may choose to have him or her use your address or may set up an individual account with your Internet service provider. Students will use this e-mail address to communicate with each other about assignments for class in a monitored context.

To learn more about the site we will be using, please visit Nicenet (<http://nicenet.org>). You are welcome to join the class as a "student" so you may see, read, and respond to your child's work and thoughts; if you are interested in doing so, please let me know and I will send you instructions about how to set up an account.

I am excited at the prospect of undertaking this significant project with my students. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,