

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
Department of Sociology

September 2011

Dear Lexington High School Parent,

My name is Debra Chang and I am a senior in the Department of Sociology at Harvard University. I am conducting a research study that focuses on the academic experiences of high school students in high-achieving schools. My advisor for this research is Professor Mary Brinton, Chair of the Harvard Department of Sociology and a Lexington resident. This research is being conducted with the support of Principal Natalie Cohen and Dr. Paul Ash, Superintendent of Lexington Public Schools. Principal Cohen has advised the design of the study. Both Principal Cohen and Dr. Ash hope that the research will provide valuable information to inform the continuing efforts of LHS and the Lexington community to address issues of academic stress and to maximize the benefits of the learning environment in Lexington public schools.

The research focuses on the academic experiences of Lexington High School students and on students' views on the learning environment at LHS. Your son's or daughter's participation is entirely voluntary. If you decide to allow your student to participate, he or she will be asked to fill out a brief on-line survey about his or her experiences in high school. The information collected in this survey will be completely confidential, and all survey results will be reported in the form of statistical tabulations. At the end of the survey, your son or daughter will have the opportunity to volunteer to be interviewed in greater depth about his or her academic experiences. The interview will last approximately 30 minutes and will be conducted by a trained Harvard undergraduate. All interviews will take place on Lexington High School grounds.

At the bottom of this page is a consent form. If you decide to allow your son or daughter to participate, **please sign the form and have your student return it by Wednesday, October 26 to the box in the main office. As an extra incentive, students who agree to a short interview after filling out the questionnaire will receive a * \$5 giftcard to Starbucks*.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Debra Chang, Harvard Class of 2012 debrachang12@college.harvard.edu

Parental Permission Slip (Necessary for Participation)

The nature and purpose of this research has been satisfactorily explained to me and I grant permission for my child to participate in the study. I understand that the information collected in this survey will be completely confidential and that all survey results will be reported in the form of statistical tabulations.

Parent/Legal Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian's Name (print): _____

Student's Email Address (**required**--for on-line survey): _____