

Dear Parents,

Your child has been given the opportunity to participate in iGEM. iGEM stands for the International Genetically Engineered Machine Competition. The High School Division of the competition allows high school students to participate in synthetic biology. Synthetic biology is a field of biology that applies engineering principles to biology to make it reliable, standard, and more like an engineering discipline. Engineers learn by building -- during the competition your child will design and build a biological machine using standard molecular biology techniques and engineering principles. Their machine will have a purpose that the team engineers. Students will use genetic material to construct the circuit for the machine. They will then insert the circuit into their cell and test the effectiveness of their machine.

iGEM provides teams an internet-based documentation center known as a wiki (like Wikipedia). Teams document their project throughout the competition season on the online wiki including information about the project, laboratory procedures, purpose of their machine, and profiles on the team members. This means that your child's name and pictures can be posted on the wiki. During the Jamboree, the final event where teams present their work, the judges award the best wiki prize at the jamboree. Keep in mind that all information contained on the wiki can be viewed by any individual, although the information on the wiki can only be edited by someone with an iGEM user account and permission to edit the wiki.

Because of the nature of iGEM and the information that can be posted on the wiki, your permission will be required for your child to participate. If you have any questions or concerns please contact me.

Safety Note: students are to be supervised by their team leader while conducting laboratory experiments. The team leader is responsible for teaching ensuring laboratory safety.

Sincerely,

Team Leader

Team Name

Contact information:

I give my child, _____, a student at _____, permission to participate in the iGEM program and to have an online user account and presence on the iGEM websites.

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____