

Pittsford Schools

Sutherland High School
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Dear Parent/Guardian:

Beginning the week of October 14th, your child's Global Studies class will begin working with an Internet company called ePals. This site allows teachers from around the world to search for other classes around the world and initiate discussions between kids from a wide array of backgrounds. As I stated at Open House, Global 9 is more than just about history, it's about understanding and culture. Students should leave this class in June with the knowledge of both. To facilitate that goal, we will begin talking with students from various areas of the world. Our first cultural connection will be a classroom based in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The students there are part of an English speaking school of the same age group.

ePals is used worldwide and the communication through this company is run as a closed system. All accounts are free as ePals does not charge for any of its services. PCSD has ensured that students are protected and that the accounts created for them, through ePals, is behind a "walled garden". Students will be required to log into a secured account and the only people that they communicate with are student's set up by teachers on both ends. This closed system protects our students from any possibility of outside access, ensuring that they are able to communicate confidently, learning about world cultures in a safe and secure environment.

I thank you for your continued support of Global Studies and am looking forward to the opportunity of connecting with other classrooms around the world throughout the school year. By allowing our students to learn of culture from those who live in other parts of the world, your children will become better citizens of the world as they continue to grow up in an interconnected and interdependent world.

If you approve of this opportunity please print your name and check the "do" box below. If you do not wish for your child to participate in this program, please select the "do not" box below and your student will not be given an account, and will therefore not have access to ePals. Your child will then be given alternative opportunities to learn about other cultures.

If you have any specific concerns or questions, please call me at 267-1129 in the Social Studies office at Pittsford Sutherland.

Thank you,



Paul LeVan

I, _____, **DO** give my son/daughter permission to participate in ePals.

I, _____, **DO NOT** give my son/daughter permission to participate in ePals.

Signature: _____