

Invitation to Participate

Prapanna Smith, a researcher/graduate student at California State University San Marcos is conducting a study on how schools create learning environments that impact students' attitudes towards life. You are invited to participate in this study because you are a teacher or administrator in a unique school that embraces an innovative approach to education.

Purpose

This study has two objectives:

1. To better understand the relationships between your experiences in school and your students' attitudes and beliefs about their lives.
2. To learn about the ways that your school helps you prepare for life.

Description of Procedures

If you agree to participate, you will be interviewed either individually or in groups. The conversational style interview will take approximately one and a half to two hours and, with your permission, will be audio and/or videotaped. The interviews will take place in a private conference room located in your school campus.

Risks and Inconveniences

There are some potential risk in the participants in this study. Some teachers may feel threatened or intimidated if participating in focus group interviews if administrators are present. Administrators may likewise feel they cannot speak freely if teachers are present. Therefore, focus groups will not involve teacher and administrator participants, except where school organization and size necessitates otherwise.

Your interview and contact data will be kept confidential and will remain in the researcher's sole possession. The main risk to confidentiality is that if the researcher's computer is lost or stolen there is the potential that unauthorized individuals may access the data. To protect against this possiblity the researcher's computer will remain in this possession at all times or under lock and key, and at all times be password protected.

For transcription of audio data the researcher will only use a company or companies who specialize in transcription services. Only the audio recordings will be provided to transcribers. The researcher will use the video recordings to check the transcriptions for accuracy.

If the length of the interview is inconvenient for you, you may terminate your participation in the interview at any time without any consequence to you.

Benefits

This study will shed light on how schools can foster a deeper sense of life purpose and personal meaning in student's lives. There may be a direct benefit to participant teachers and

administrators in the schools studied in that review of the final dissertation findings may help them to gain insights into how they are helping to inspire their students to achieve great things in their lives. A digital copy of the final study will be made available to your school and to all study participants upon its completion.

Confidentiality

Interview tapes will be placed in a secure place such a locked cabinet or password-protected computer. Only the researcher, his advisor, and a reputable transcription service company will have access to the information you provide. The analysis and reporting of the results will not identify participants by name. Call contact information, such as email addresses, will be kept in a safe, password-protected computer. There will be no follow-up interview sessions, but you may be contacted in the future via email.

You should know that the Cal State San Marcos Institutional Review Board (IRB) may inspect study records as part of its auditing program, but these reviews only focus on the researchers and the study, not on your responses or involvement. The IRB is a committee that reviews research studies to make sure that they are safe and that the rights of the participants are protected.

Voluntary Participation

Participation is voluntary. You do not have to participate in this study if you do not want to. If you agree to be in this study, but later change your mind, you may withdraw at any time. There are no consequences of any kind if you decide you do not want to participate. Your employee standing will not be affected if you choose not to participate.

Questions

If you have any questions about this study I will be happy to answer them now. If you have any questions in the future about your rights as a research participant, you may contact our Institutional Review Board at 1-760-750-4029. If you have questions about this research please contact either my faculty advisor, Dr. Jennifer Jeffries, at 1-760-750-8510 or me via phone or email A digital copy of the final study will be made available to your school and to all study participants upon its completion.

- I agree to participate in this research study.
- I agree to be videotaped and/or audiotaped.

Participant's Name

Date

Participant's Signature

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