

January 16, 2004

Dear Parents,

Your Explorations student will show you the portfolio that they have been working on for the second quarter. This was a challenging project that required them to not only pull together information they already knew, but to also learn new procedures and techniques and to show they could learn technology on their own. Every student made progress and, even if they haven't fulfilled the full requirements for the portfolio, they still had a successful experience.

Please take a few minutes to go over the portfolio with your child, review his or her work work, and compare it to the requirements. Ask them to describe the challenges and frustrations, as well as the moments when they had that flash of insight or realized how much they now know compared to when they began the course.

On another note, because of the nature of this course and the potential for what we learned to benefit other schools, I intend to write an article for a educational journal detailing what we have learned about the course and what the students have learned. For that, I need to present samples of student work as well as views of the class. I'll modify all work to remove identifying information and replace any names with pseudonyms. If I may use your child's work and pictures for professional work, please check the appropriate area below.

Thank you for the privilege of teaching your child.

Derrel Fincher
Middle School Mathematics and Technology
The American School in Japan

Student's Name: _____ Parent's Name _____
Comments for the Student:

Additional Comments:

I give permission for my child's work and pictures to be used anonymously in connection with professional activities. **Yes** _____ **No** _____

Signature: _____ Date _____