PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Professor Montserrat Teixidor-i-Bigas, Department of Mathematics, Tufts University

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Poincare@tufts.edu

What is the Poincaré Institute?
The Poincaré Institute is a project by Tufts University, a company called TERC, and nine school districts in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine, including your school district. The people doing this project want to change the way people teach and learn math. We are going to try to do this by giving classes for teachers. Your school district is a partner in this project, and your teacher is taking these classes. We want to study if taking our classes makes a difference for teachers and students.

How are students involved in the study?
We will ask you to do two assessments. Doing an assessment is like taking a test, but it isn’t a school test. It won’t change your grade in school, and no one at your school will see your answers. It’s just a way for us to know what you think and what you know. Each assessment is about 45 minutes long and has two parts. The first part asks you to do math problems, and the second part asks about your math experience. The assessments will be at your school during a class period. We will also ask to videotape or audiotape during a math class and to photocopy your written work. This will only happen if your math teacher says that this is okay.

How will my privacy be protected?
The results of this project might be published in a book or magazine. Your last name will not be in these books and magazines. These are only read by people who are trying to improve education and are not sold in regular stores. We might also talk about the project at meetings for people who are interested in education. If you give your permission, the video of your math class might be shown to other people. This would be at meetings, or in books or magazines, or on websites. We will never use your last name. We would like your permission to use your first name in videos or written work. We will never show your answers on the assessment to your teacher or to anyone else in your school or town.

Could anything bad happen to me?
If you decide not to be in this project, it won’t change your grade in math class. Also, your answers on the assessment won’t change your grade. This project is separate from your math class, and your teacher will not see your answers. You may not like some of the math in the questions or you might think they are really hard. It is OK if you do not know the answer because some of the questions are meant for kids in higher grades or even for your teachers. You can also decide to stop being in the project at any time.

Do I get anything from the project?
This project doesn’t give you anything right away. But we hope that it might help people who are interested in teaching and learning math. We hope we will understand more about how teachers and students do math, so that math classes can be more helpful and more fun for students. We need to do projects like this one to learn more about this.
What should I do if I have questions?
If you have questions about the project, please contact Caroline Hagen, Project Manager, at 617-627-2875 or caroline.hagen@tufts.edu. If you have questions about the rights of people who are part of research projects, please contact Yvonne Wakeford, the Tufts’ IRB Administrator, at 617-627-3276 or yvonne.wakeford@tufts.edu.

If you are in the project, you can stop being in the project at any time. If you decide not to be in the project or to stop, it will not change your math class grade.

If you sign below, you are saying that you have read this form. You are also saying that you know that you can ask us questions.

You will get two copies of this form. Please keep one and give the other one back to your math teacher.

I understand the information and I agree to:

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>yes</th>
<th>no</th>
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<tr>
<td>Complete two assessments.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Be videotaped during math class.</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
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<tr>
<td>Be audiotaped during math class.</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
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<tr>
<td>Have my written math work from class photocopied.</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
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<tr>
<td>Let the people on the project use my first name (no last names will be used).</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
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Student’s printed name              Signature              Date

Teacher’s name (please print)              Grade

School Name              School District              State