Integrating technology is essential to educational growth and communication. The ability to use the Internet as a communication and learning tool is a critical life skill that all students should possess in the 21st century. To effectively integrate 21st century technology, students in third grade will pilot the use of Edublogs Student Blogs as an educational tool.

**Reasons for Blogging:**
- Motivates and engages students in rigorous and relevant dialogue.
- Students can share their thoughts, opinions and ideas with their classmates and teachers in an authentic and respectful manner.
- Provides students with a real audience and purpose for writing and learning; which improves the quality of their work.
- Serves as powerful statements of students' academic progress, analytical thinking, and communication skills.
- Teacher monitoring of blogging serves to model appropriate and safe online behavior.
- Prepares students with 21st century skills - blogs and discussion boards are often used in college courses and employment for the dissemination of information and assignments.

**Blog Rules:**
2. Students will **not** be allowed to publish personal (e.g. full name, telephone, address) information on their blogs.
3. Students may post images, videos, recordings, writings, art works.
4. All blogs will follow the safety guidelines outlined in the Children’s Online Privacy Protect Act (COPPA - http://www.coppa.org/).
5. Student participation will be closely monitored.
6. Parents may gain access to the blog sites, but may **not** share personal information comments.

There are many ways to differentiate student learning. Discussion boards and blogs provide one way. There is an alternative assignment for students/parents who do not wish to participate in this online activity. To ensure that every student that participates in these online discussions does so with the consent of their parents, we ask that the parent sign a permission form giving or declining their consent.

**Student:** I have read and agree to follow the Blog Guideline Rules.

_________________________  ____________________________
(Student’s Signature)  (Date)

**Parent:** As the parent/guardian, I **give** / **do not give** permission for my child, __________________________ to participate in the Edublogs student blog activity moderated by Star of the Sea teachers.

_________________________  ____________________________
(Parent/Guardian Signature)  (Date)

**PARENT'S PLEASE SIGN & RETURN TO SCHOOL**