Dear Parents,

A Universal Challenge Course is a set of activities, based upon Outward Bound concepts, designed to enhance the participant's work with teammates to solve structured problems that require collaboration, communication, creative problem-solving, leadership, trust, risk taking, time management and an understanding of individual strengths and weaknesses.

We also intend to integrate these elements and initiatives into our curriculum in order to teach state standards and benchmarks. For all activities, a debrief is an essential means to reflect on the process and articulate the team's learning. Trained, experienced facilitators will help participants share their experiences and connect them to life skills/issues.

In order for students and adults to utilize our course this standard release of liability form must be signed. As you are aware, these release forms can be quite scary when you read through them. Therefore, I have included some statistics in order to alleviate some of your fears.

* The Challenge Course at U.N.H. had 9,000 participants last year. Only one injury/incident was reported - a person slipped on the ice and injured her leg walking through the parking lot to her car.

* For every million hours of Challenge Course use four injuries take place. For comparison, basketball has 2,650 injuries per million hours of use. Challenge Courses are safer than physical education classes or recess time.

* Our Challenge Course is so safe that our insurance expense did not increase.

*The risk of participating on a Challenge Course is the same as working as a real estate agent.

* Our school has been conducting school challenges for 16 years. During this time the only injury we have had was a black eye.

If you have any questions regarding the safety of your child/children, please do not hesitate to call me at the school.

Best Wishes,
Mike Caron

P.S. In order for your child/children to participate in these exciting activities this form must be returned to your child's homeroom teacher.

PLEASE FILL OUT THE FORM ON THE BACK -- THANK YOU
RELEASE OF LIABILITY FORM

UNIVERSAL CHALLENGE COURSE
NORTH HAMPTON SCHOOL

Outdoor adventure activities are exciting, challenging, and both physically and mentally demanding. Some activities may be stressful and possibly hazardous. The programs provide goal-oriented activities that offer participants an opportunity to explore new behaviors related to trust, teamwork, and leadership capabilities. These activities may include field games, low elements a few feet high that are constructed of rope, cable, and wood, and high elements that require safety equipment, or rock climbing. All activities are supervised by instructors who have been specifically trained in the operation and safe practices of challenge courses or rock climbing. Our philosophy is Challenge by Choice, meaning that participants agree to choose their own level of challenge and agree not to be coerced by instructors or other participants.

The North Hampton School has taken precautions to provide proper equipment and qualified instructors. It is impossible, however, to guarantee absolute safety. While it is the aim and responsibility of the program and instructor to provide you with an enjoyable, educational, and safe experience, you must realize that there is a degree of risk and personal responsibility for safety when you participate in adventure activities. You will receive instruction in safe up-to-date practices and safety techniques related to all elements and activities to be supervised throughout the program. Participants are advised to call hazardous situations to the leader’s attention.

Injuries can occur. By consenting to participation, you assume all risks incidental to the use of the course and activity, including the possibility of bruises and more serious injuries. Signing this form indicates your recognition and understanding of the responsibilities and hazards inherent in your participation on the course. You agree to assume all responsibilities and risks involved in the program, and for yourself and your heirs to release and hold harmless the North Hampton School, its officers and employees, from all claims and legal actions, whether for property damage, physical injury, or otherwise, arising from your participation in the program.

We make every effort to ensure the safety of all children during hunting and EEE seasons. The final decision regarding the participation of your child is at your own discretion.

Please confirm with your signature that you have read this information, that you understand your responsibility as a participant, and that you assume all of the risks incidental to this adventure program. Also, sign to show that you agree to follow instructions and directions given by your instructors, and that you will act with good judgment.

Participant’s Name (please print) ___________________________ Homeroom ___________________________

Parent or Guardian Signature ___________________________ Date ___________________________