

May 18, 2021

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Your child has expressed interest in applying to a very prestigious summer program at the University of Pittsburgh. The University of Pittsburgh's Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies (REEES) has been awarded a federal STARTALK grant that allows us to host an intensive, online, five-week summer Russian language program—the Pitt STARTALK Summer Russian Language School—for selected high school students, at no cost to the students and their families. REEES partners with three high schools that currently offer excellent Russian language programs: Pittsburgh Brashear in the city of Pittsburgh, and Pritzker College Prep and Noble Street College Prep, two public charter high schools in Chicago. We also accept applications from students at other U.S. high schools. This year's Pitt STARTALK Summer Russian Language School will host up to 24 rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors, who are or will be taking Russian at their high schools. All costs associated with the program are covered by the STARTALK grant awarded to the University of Pittsburgh.

In order for your child to participate in this program, we must first make sure that you are completely aware of its requirements. Participating students will be required to attend all scheduled online intensive classes and extracurricular programming daily on Monday–Friday, throughout the five-week duration of the program. We know that this is a large time commitment for both you and your child, but it offers a tremendous opportunity for them. Please discuss this program and weigh its potential benefits and drawbacks.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Pitt STARTALK Russian Program Director, Olga Klimova, at [vok1@pitt.edu](mailto:vok1@pitt.edu).

Best regards,



Gina M. Peirce  
Assistant Director, Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies  
University of Pittsburgh

## **Pitt STARTALK Russian Program: Student and Parent/Guardian Agreement**

Students: Please read the letter on the previous page with your parents or guardians. It is extremely important that everyone knows exactly what to expect out of this program, particularly with the commitment of time. If you have gone over the letter with your parents or guardians, and they consent that you can participate, please sign and date the fields below. You will then need to scan this page and email it with your other application documents, following the guidelines provided at the top of the online application form.

I understand that this program requires me to attend all scheduled intensive online classes and extracurricular programming daily on Monday–Friday for the entire five-week summer session, and I am fully committed to dedicating that time to studying Russian. I will also do my best to stay in good academic standing and maintain superior standards of behavior.

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Name of Student	Signature	Date
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I understand that this program requires the student to attend all scheduled intensive online classes and extracurricular programming daily on Monday–Friday for the entire five-week summer session, and I am fully committed to my student child participating.

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Name of Parent/Guardian	Signature	Date
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## Recording Release

I/We hereby authorize the University of Pittsburgh, its officers, employees, agents and assigns to photograph, videotape, audiotape and/or otherwise record my/our child,

\_\_\_\_\_, (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Recordings"),

(Name)

before, during and after his/her participation in **STARTALK Summer Language Program**, at **the University of Pittsburgh**, on **June 21- July 23, 2021**; to display my/our child's likeness on and in all such Recordings and to use such Recordings, and such likeness, for the University's purposes at any time without notice to me or my/our child, in the sole discretion of the University.

I/We understand that I/we and my/our child shall not be entitled to any remuneration of any kind for any use of my/our child's likeness or the described Recordings.

I/We further understand and agree that the University of Pittsburgh shall have and retain all worldwide rights of ownership, distribution and use of the Recordings (in all forms, including without limitation, negatives, positives and other forms), and that any reproduction, distribution or use, at any time and in any way, commercial or otherwise, of all or any portion of the Recordings is subject to the University's prior written consent. I/We agree that I/we will assist the University, as needed, in registering intellectual property rights in any of the Recordings upon request.

I/We have read this entire Release, fully understand it and agree to be legally bound by it.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Releasor's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Releasor's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date