Study Description: This research examines relationships between personality, beliefs, cognitive ability, and emotions. In this study, your children will be asked to answer questionnaires and complete a series of tasks related to academic achievement.

Participation time and compensation: The total participation time will be about 2.0 hours. As a thank you for your help, both twins will receive a $60 Target gift card for the questionnaires. This totals a $120 Target gift card for your family, redeemable at all Target locations as well as on-line at Target.com.

Confidentiality: The on-line database is secure. All survey responses we receive will be treated confidentially and stored on a secure server. All computer files will be stored on password-protected computers in locked offices. Your names will not be on any data we collect. An identification number will be put on them instead. All paper forms will be kept in locked filing cabinets in a locked office. Data will be kept for at least ten years after the end of the project. No one other than project administrators and the Michigan State University Human Research Protection Program will be able to access the data.

Your identity or individual information will not be revealed in any reports about the study. Instead, we will summarize information across participants. Your confidentiality will be protected to the maximum extent allowable by law. Data collected as part of this study may be shared for research purposes with researchers outside of MSU. However, these outside researchers will never have access to your name, address, or any other identifying information. Data files used by outside researchers will identify you by ID number only.

Your participation: If you and your twins take part in this research study, you will be asked to complete a questionnaire that asks about you and your twins. We will also ask about your interest in being contacted about future research on these topics, much of which provides additional financial compensation.

Your twins’ participation: If your twins agree to participate, they will individually complete questionnaires about their personality, beliefs, cognitive ability, and emotions. They will also be asked to complete a series of word and block puzzles and will be shown information about how the brain works. This study should be completed in a private location (away from other people).

Risks: The primary risk for this study is that the questionnaires/interviews are time consuming and some participants may feel uncomfortable reporting on their own cognitive ability or beliefs. However, our experience in studies that have used similar or identical measures is that the questionnaires have not been psychologically traumatic or upsetting to the participants. There is also a risk that your confidentiality may be breached. We will take steps described above in order to protect your confidentiality, making this risk unlikely.

Benefits: Your participation in this study will contribute to society’s understanding of how a person’s attitudes influence academic achievement.

Guidelines for participation: You and your twins are volunteering to help us with this study. We hope you will be able to complete the entire study. However, you and your twins have the right to refuse to answer any questions. You also have the right to stop participating at any point with no penalty or negative consequences, except that you may not receive the thank-you payment.

The data from this study are unique. As a result, we plan to store them indefinitely for use in future studies. Names will not be kept on any data records; all data (e.g., questionnaire responses, etc.) will be
identified only by an ID number. Only study staff/investigators, collaborators at other institutions and the MSU Human Research Protection Program will have access to your deidentified data. Names linked to the ID numbers will be stored in a triple password-protected file on a separate computer. Your family’s identity or individual information will not be revealed in any reports about this study. We will summarize information from all participants.

If you have concerns or questions about this study, such as scientific issues, how to do any part of it, or to report an injury (i.e., physical, psychological, social, financial, or otherwise), please contact Paula Leaf, the project coordinator, at leafpt@msu.edu. You may also email the Principal Investigator, Dr. Alex Burt (burts@msu.edu). If you have any questions or concerns about your role and rights as a research participant, would like to obtain information or offer input, or would like to register a complaint about this research study, you may contact, anonymously if you wish, Michigan State University Human Research Protection Program at (517) 355-2180, FAX (517) 432-4503, or e-mail irb@msu.edu, or regular mail at: 408 W. Circle Drive, 207 Olds Hall, MSU, East Lansing, MI 48824.

You indicate your voluntary consent to participate in this research study by returning the completed questionnaire.

Alex Burt, Ph.D.
Department of Psychology
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824
If your family agrees to participate in this study, we will ask you to do a few things on the computer. We will ask you questions about your moods and your beliefs. We will also ask how you do in school and have you do a set of word and block puzzles. We will also show you information about how the human brain works. Some kids feel uncomfortable when we ask them a lot of questions about their feelings and how they are doing in school, but we will always keep your answers a secret and you can choose not to tell us anything you do not want to talk about.

Everything that we learn about you will be kept private. Only staff and investigators from the study, researchers at other groups and from the MSU Human Research Protection Program will be able to see your answers. We will not tell your parents anything you say. We won’t put your name on anything. We’ll put a special number on them instead. We will lock up everything.

Filling out these questions, reading the information about the human brain and doing the puzzles will take about 2.0 hours. We will pay you for your hard work today. You get a $60 Target gift card for answering questions.

You don’t have to do anything you do not want to do. You won’t get into any trouble if you stop. Do you have any questions about anything we just talked about? If you are not happy about what you do today or want to report an injury, you can contact Paula Leaf, the project coordinator, at (517) 355-6878 or email her at leafpt@msu.edu. You may also email the Principal Investigator, Dr. Alex Burt, at burts@msu.edu. If you have any questions or concerns about your role and rights as a research participant, would like to obtain information or offer input, or would like to register a complaint about this research study, you may contact, anonymously if you wish, Michigan State University Human Research Protection Program at 517-355-2180, FAX 517-432-4503, or e-mail irb@msu.edu, or regular mail at: 408 W. Circle Drive, 207 Olds Hall, MSU, East Lansing, MI 48824.

You indicate your voluntary consent to participate in this research study by completing the online questionnaires.