

LIVIN' THE LAB LIFE

Our science classes prepare us for future success

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3/28/18

It's a boy! After injecting their sea urchins with potassium chloride, AP Biology students eagerly waited for gametes (sex cells) to release to reveal the gender of their sea urchins. After the gametes had been released, the students then examined them under a microscope to determine the sex.

The students were able to witness fertilization in real time by carrying out vitro fertilization in depression slides. Once finished with the urchins, the students were able to then dissect them to study their internal anatomy. This lab compliments the material covered in recent lectures.

“My hope is that students walk away from any lab with a greater enjoyment of asking questions and seeing how things work in the natural world,” AP Biology teacher, Dr. Cordek said. Over the course of the year, AP science students conduct labs based on the material they are learning in class. First-hand experience in the lab helps to provide a greater understanding of difficult and in depth ideas.

The students perform a different lab about once a week. Some labs can span over a course of several days. Upper-level labs are more open-ended and allow students to design their own experiments.

“These labs test whatever theory or law is being studied at the time, and become the application of that concept,” AP Physics teacher, Mr. Rearick said. Labs take up approximately 20% of the AP Physics curriculum.

“The labs that we do in AP Chem help me understand why the equations work the way they do,” AP Chemistry student, Alexis Nibert said. Without the practice in class, it would be harder for students to grasp the concepts.

Students in AP Chemistry, Biology, and Physics get to experience valuable material in their classrooms, and develop a greater understanding for the world they're living in. ■



Seniors Grace Mackall, Sarah Al-Ubaidi, and Ethan Dubnansky conduct their AP Biology lab by injecting their sea urchin with potassium chloride.

Source: Madalyn Intihar



With everything on the line, Sophomores Kyle Glessner and Zachary Connor try to find the perfect spot to slide their car down the ramp.

Source: Madalyn Intihar

Westmont Hilltop School District

Unified in a commitment to inspire and to empower resilient, lifelong learners.

This feature story was created by students in yearbook journalism with faculty oversight and is intended for WHSD students, faculty and community members. All efforts will be made to ensure the accuracy of this publication. Please report any mistakes to yearbook advisor Korbin Shearer at kxs@whsd.org