



Greetings Future Doctors and Supporting Family Members!

I am beyond excited to offer your child a unique and memorable learning experience you won't soon forget. We will start, informally, a health unit this week. This unit will start with some hands-on projects at home. Some sample activities include making realistic hands/skin, making your own bone joints, and a model lung, to name a few. Your child will select one of 25 activities available to complete in one week's time. The materials needed use everyday household items, however, please contact me if you might need any assistance with supplies. I will be happy to help you and your child.

So, what will we do with the projects? Good question. Here is an estimated timeline for all events planned:

February 18, 2009- Human body activity project information given and projects selected. A project sheet with directions will come home at this time.

February 26, 2009- Projects due. The classroom will be converted to a Medical Artifact Museum. Students will rotate around the room to learn more about our human organs and body systems.

February 26, 2009- Students apply for a medical program under the University of Bunyi. All students will be admitted to one program under a gracious scholarship from the Bunyi Funds Inc. As a result, no course fees or lab fees will be needed. Students will select one of 5 medical programs:

1. Ophthalmologist (Muscular Systems)- Requires cow eye dissection upon graduation
2. Cardiologist (Circulatory Systems)- Requires pig heart dissection upon graduation
3. Orthopedic Specialist (Skeletal System)- Requires owl pellet sorting upon graduation
4. Pulmonary Specialist (Respiratory System)- Requires pig lung dissection upon graduation
5. Neurologist (Nervous System)- Requires sheep brain dissection upon graduation

Important- Students can apply for the non-dissecting medical route by participating in the Orthopedic program of study.

February 27, 2009- Students will be notified of acceptance under a medical program. Students will conduct a research paper to prepare for a one-day medical residency program. Students will also be required to complete an MCAT* exam and pass with a score of 85% or above.

*MCAT- Medical Classroom Admission Test

March 13, 2009- Students will present their research in front of a panel of peers. Upon successful completion of a presentation, students will take their MCAT exam to see if a medical residency will be granted.

March 13-20*- MCAT certificates will be given and a medical residency will occur under a medical specialist.

- Dates are approximate.

March 20, 2009- Graduation from The Medical Program of University of Bunyi.

Attached are some notes from www.carolina.com. This is the site we will purchase mammal organs from. This is the same company RCS purchases the hands-on science kits. Please contact me for any questions you may have. I am looking forward to the awesome projects, presentations, and work our class will complete.

Happy researching,

Mrs. Bunyi

Dissecting Information from www.carolina.com

Importance of dissection

Many educators strongly feel that there is no substitute for the hands-on, learning experience of dissection. Susan Offner, a former Outstanding Biology Teacher Award recipient, wrote that, "The learning that occurs in a dissection is qualitatively different from the learning that occurs in a lecture or paper-and-pencil setting. No model, no video, no diagram and no movie can duplicate the fascination, the sense of discovery, wonder and even awe that students feel when they find real structures in their own specimens".

The National Association of Biology Teachers states, "The NABT acknowledges that **no alternative can substitute for the actual experience of dissection** or other use of animals and urges teachers to be aware of the limitations of alternatives."

Furthermore, "Classroom experiences that involve nonhuman animals range from observation to dissection. NABT supports these experiences so long as they are conducted within the long established guidelines of proper care and use of animals, as developed by the scientific and educational community."

Other reasons to dissect

Dissection is also important because it:

- Helps students learn about the internal structures of animals.
- Helps students learn how the tissues and organs are interrelated.
- Gives students an appreciation of the complexity of organisms in a hands-on learning environment.
- Provides one of the most memorable and instructive units in a school biology course.

Response to the claim that many animals used in research are stolen pets

Animal activists prey on the emotions of pet owners. They falsely claim that pets are stolen and sold to medical research facilities and suppliers of animals for scientific research. According to the Americans for Medical Progress Educational Foundation, "There is no market for stolen pets in biomedical research. Well over ninety percent of the animals used in medical research are rodents. Dogs and cats account for less than one percent of the total number of lab animals needed by researchers."

The US Department of Agriculture, under the Animal Welfare Act, governs the procurement of animals. Carolina is proud to have an outstanding USDA inspection and compliance record, and we are committed to treating all animals in a humane manner.

Sources for Carolina's dissection specimen

Carolina obtains animals from many sources—some from cultures, some from natural or managed habitats where seasonal collections are made, and many from the food industry.

Where does Carolina obtain the sharks and worms used for dissection?

Many animals and organisms are dead when we purchase them. For example, fishermen supply fish and sharks, and the fishing bait industry supplies earthworms.

Where does Carolina obtain the fetal pigs used for dissection?

Abattoirs, producers of sausage, supply fetal pigs that would otherwise be considered offal and sent to the landfill.

Where does Carolina obtain the frogs used for dissection?

The current source for most preserved frogs for biology has an interesting history. Several decades ago, an area of desert was converted to farmland through irrigation. Man's changing of that land use also resulted in a large increase in the frog population in this area. One industry that emerged from this new resource is the provision of frog legs for food. A fraction of the grass frogs collected from that man-made habitat are preserved for biological study. Bullfrogs, however, are cultured specifically for use as specimens.

What if a student objects to dissection?

The NABT "encourages teachers to be sensitive to substantive student objections to dissection and to consider providing appropriate lessons for those students where necessary."