

Mendham Township Middle School

Science Department

16 Washington Valley Road, Brookside, N.J. 07926

September 8, 2006

Dear Mendham Township Middle School Family,

The Dissection Opt Out Law (C. 18A:35-4.24 & C. 18A:35-4.25) allows public school pupils in grades K-12 to choose not to participate in certain experiments involving animals. Students have the right to refuse to dissect, vivisection, incubate, capture, harm, or destroy organisms. When students exercise this right, parents and/or guardians are then required to inform the school in writing, within two weeks of the receipt of the notification, of their desire to exempt their child from participation in the stated activities. The classroom teacher will provide an alternate assignment with similar objectives.

In accordance with this law enacted by the New Jersey Department of Education, the Mendham Township School Science Department has generated a list of science activities that have been done in the past, and may be implemented by the classroom teachers in the future.

Grade 5 General Science, Teacher: Mrs. Stacey Bray

- Field Trip: Capture and Release of aquatic organisms
- Owl Pellet dissection
- Capture and release of worms, larva, and small organisms found in the first soil horizon
- Observing the dissection of a cow's eye

Grade 6 Earth Science, Teacher: Mrs. Tracy Longo

- Capture and release of worms, larva, and small organisms found in the first soil horizon
- Maintenance of classroom aquarium (freshwater fish, aquatic plants)

Grade 7 Life Science, Teacher: Mrs. Geri Esposito

- Dissections: Worm, Starfish, Frog, Clam, Fish
- Field Trip: Observation of a kidney transplant, live via satellite

Grade 8 Physical Science, Teacher: Mr. Jon Huppert

- This course does not participate in any activities that fall under this statute

Please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Science Department with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
The MTMS Science Department

cc: Mrs. Christine Johnson, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Patrick J. Ciccone, MTMS Principal