Mendham Township Middle School

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Form M-11

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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, vivisect, 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. In addition, our procedures at MTMS certainly allow for students who are feeling a bit queasy during any dissection type activity to excuse themselves to the nurse's office. They will be afforded a subsequent opportunity to make-up the activity and or to participate in a less invasive activity containing a similar learning objective.

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: Mr. Craig Clausen
• Field Trip: Capture and Release of aquatic organisms
• Possible activities include conducting controlled experiments with darkling beetles and isopods

Grade 6 Earth Science, Teacher: Mr. Matthew Viggiano
•This course does not participate in any activities that fall under this statue

Grade 7 Life Science, Teacher: Mrs. Geri Esposito
•Possible Dissections: Worm, Starfish, Frog, Clam, Fish
•Activities including, but not limited to general insect and living organism habitats

Grade 8 Physical Science, Teacher: Mrs. Stacey Bray
• This course does not participate in any activities that fall under this statue

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

The MTMS Science Team