

"In physics, we had to build a contraption to put an egg into, climb a ladder, let it drop and see if it wouldn't break. It was fun because it was a hands-on project, and we usually don't get to do those as much."
-Cailey Roberson, 11

"Kahoot was a very competitive way to get ready for the semester exam, and it really did help me out."
-Cameron Turner, 11



JUDGE 'EM For a change of scenery, some teachers allowed their classes to judge the middle school science fair. "Our knowledge was tested," senior Jessica Bilimek said. "We gave them the advice they needed."



DRAWING IT OUT With marker in hand, junior Daylan O'Neal draws the character Arthur Dimmesdale from the novel "The Scarlet Letter" while adding various symbols to relate the project to the understanding of the book. "It helped us better understand the book because we were able to get a better mental picture of the characters," Daylan said.



photos by e. meinzer
JOCELYNN VILLAGRAN, 10 & ADRIANNA WILLIAMS, 12 CONNOR CHANDLER, 10

crawfish brawl

Class learns by the bayou
Louisiana's staple delicacy made its way to Texas as a learning experience for the Wild Fish Ecosystem class. "We wanted to be hands on with aquaculture," sophomore Connor Chandler said. "We already had the trough and water systems flowing, so we figured we would get some crawfish."



IT'S in your DNA

Genetics lesson provides students with engrossing biology lab

The swishing sound of Gatorade being tossed around in the many mouths of students fills the freshmen biology classrooms as they begin their experiment to extract some of their own DNA from the insides of their cheeks.

"This lab was appealing to us because it was interactive," freshman Mallari McClaran said. "It was also simple, so I was able to focus on the experiment more than in other labs because others are really complicated."

Being able to visualize what their own DNA looks like helped many students put a picture with a subject that they were learning. The hands-on experience helped get many students excited about the new material they were preparing to learn.

"It was cool to be able to see what we were talking about in class and see what is inside you," freshman John Morgan said. "It is good to have demonstrative labs that information can be taken from and see it in a real life scenario."

The simple materials that made up the experiment, Gatorade and dish washing detergent, were the only things used to make the DNA visible to the naked eye. By switching from solely looking at textbooks to performing experiments, students were able to see a subject in a new light.

"If you're looking at a textbook, you don't fully understand it," freshman Mikenzie Blase said. "However, if you can see it for yourself it gives you a better grasp." spread by h. hayes and m. cook

not your AVERAGE class

"We had a project based on parabolas and the function of them. We had to come up with something to help us in the 'Quadratic Games.' It was cool to have a project based on 'The Hunger Games' because no one really likes math."

-Kristen Clayton, 10

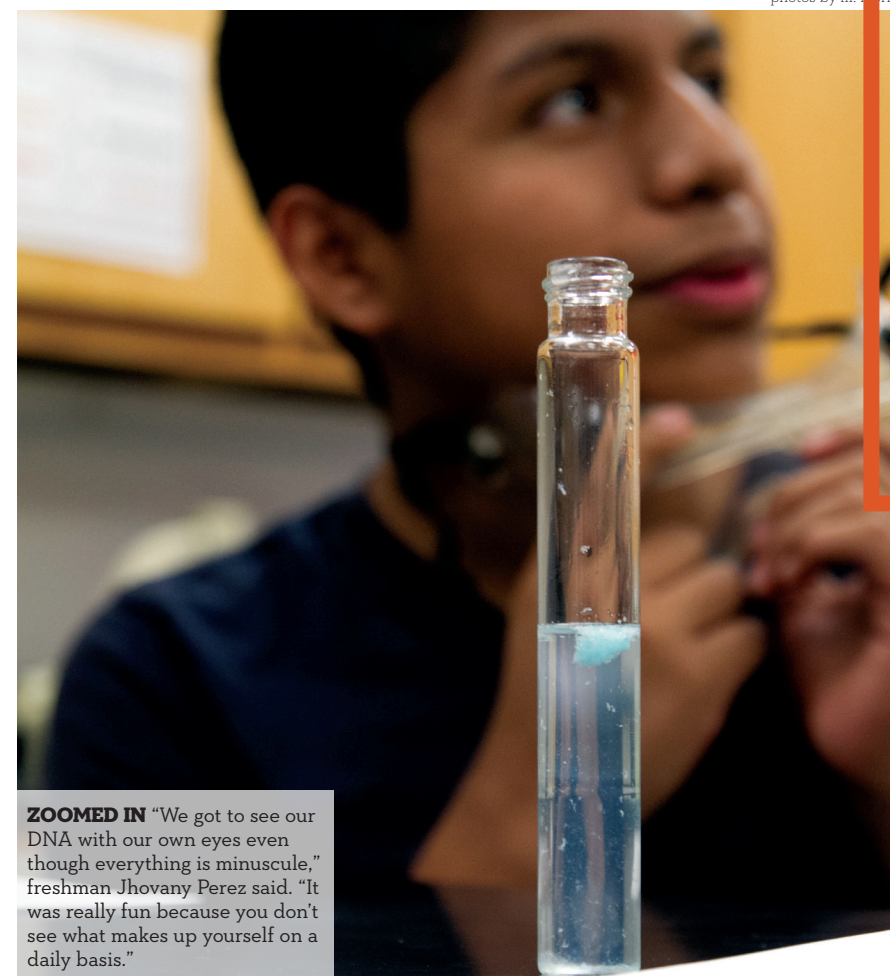


PROVING IT To get the measurements precisely right, senior Jada Holmes gets on the ground to get a closer look at the taped outline of a body. The forensic science class tried to give students real-world experiences. "Forensic science gave me a hands-on experience of what the FBI has to go through," Jada said.



SWEET RELIEF After being assigned the government project at the beginning of the year, seniors finally turn in their projects to government teacher John Littmann at the end of the first semester. "After completing all 20 parts of the semester long project, which was just a long, tedious project, it felt good to finally be able to turn it in," senior Cooper Zverina said.

BURNIN' UP During an experiment, sophomore Haley Goss turns to look for her chemistry partner. During the experiment, students were observing different chemical reactions when substances were exposed to heat on the Bunsen burner. "I like experiments better because it helps me understand things better," Haley said. "Chemistry gives me hands-on experience with different labs and allows for more participation."



ZOOMED IN "We got to see our DNA with our own eyes even though everything is minuscule," freshman Jhovany Perez said. "It was really fun because you don't see what makes up yourself on a daily basis."

"We tried getting as many cheek cells and tongue cells to get the most amount of DNA mass we could."

-Kevin Jacobs, 9



LOOK CLOSELY Trying to get a peek at his own DNA, freshman Briley Court looks through not only one but two pairs of eye protection. "I didn't have contacts and I don't have any other way to see clearly," Briley said. "My teacher still made me wear my glasses under the goggles for eye protection and so I could see what I was doing."



SHAKE IT UP Freshman Thomas Strutton shakes a test tube while participating in a lab during biology. "We spit it into containers, and we put chemicals in it to where we could see the bacteria in it, which showed the amount of DNA we had in our mouth," Thomas said. "It was really funny to see some of the kids get really grossed out by it."