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GPA: Science

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Science CAPT

10th graders to test in March!

10th graders have been actively preparing for the upcoming Science CAPT in March. Daily they are practicing skills to help them feel more comfortable approaching and responding to questions by looking at the same released CAPT questions in each of their interdisciplinary classes. ELA has been working on having students identify key question words assuring they have read the question and know what they are being asked to do. In social studies, 10th graders identify key terminology in the questions which they identify as important to answering the question. During math the students label and distinguish between experimental variables. Our advisory classes are having the 10th graders create sentence starters to help them begin writing their responses. In science classes, we are focusing on both content and evaluating released student responses such that our students offer corrections and suggestions for improving the released response answers. Additionally, students have the opportunity to receive CAPT prep via "focus groups", after school sessions and through access to studyisland.com. All three science teachers are meeting with certain students during the students' non-core classes for short 20 minute "focus sessions" in order to give individual instruction to those who need some support to either maintain or improve their anticipated CAPT scores. A parent letter and permission slips were sent home at the start of December for our after school CAPT sessions and we are continuing to offer those sessions on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 2:30-3:10pm. The third individualized CAPT prep resource is the website studyisland.com which teachers have been assigning for homework and during advisory class. It can be accessed via any internet connection (PC, cellphone, tablet) and is a fantastic practice and review resource for students.

STUDENT-PARENT RESOURCE: STUDYISLAND.COM

Studyisland.com is an academic skill building and test preparation website where students can access content from all areas of coursework and practice test-like questions. The site also offers CAPT and SAT prep resources.

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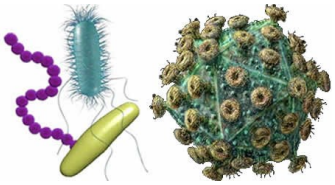
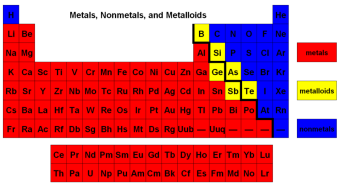
Articulated Anatomy and Physiology students are beginning their study of the muscular system. They will be doing a laboratory dissection of chicken legs which will allow them to directly visualize the relationship of form and function in muscles. They will also model the attachments and movements of muscles, by creating 'jumpy dolls', using human muscle functions to create marionette type dolls that move through mimicry of human muscles.

College Prep. Anatomy and Physiology students will soon be investigating the skeletal system . They will explore disarticulate model skeletons and evaluate what bones can tell us. Their study of the skeletal system will then expand to learning about the body's joints and how they work with the bones (shape, articular surfaces, attachment points) and muscles to create movement.



GPA Biology students are currently comparing and contrasting bacteria and viruses. Students are debating whether or not viruses should be considered "alive" and the risks and benefits of using bacteria and viruses in food, medicine, industry etc. Additionally, they enacted a mock epidemic and traced back the origins of the "disease" to patient zero!



In **Chemistry** we are investigating the chemical nature of the three broad classes of elements- metals, metalloids and nonmetals. Students are exploring the properties of elements like the highly reactive metals sodium and potassium, , slow reacting non-metals like Carbon, and the mixed properties of metalloids like Silicon. After a general overview, the students will then focus more closely on each class beginning with metals.