

ANIMALS – DISSECTION IN THE SCIENCE CLASSROOM

The Board of Education recognizes that the study of living things is essential to effective instruction in the life sciences. The primary goals for demonstrations and investigations involving animals are to achieve an interest in and an understanding of the life processes, to demonstrate biological principals, and to teach proper care and handling of animals. Therefore, the Board requires that any such instructional activities, investigations, and projects be well-planned and adequately supervised, and be conducted with a respect for life and appreciation of the health and safety of both animals and students.

The board recognizes that some students have a moral or religious objection to dissection or otherwise harming or destroying animals. In accordance with state law, students shall have the right to opt out of dissection activities, provided that the student performs an alternative project approved by the student's teacher. The objection must be substantiated in writing by the student's parent or guardian.

At the start of the school year parents will be notified of the opt-out rights and responsibilities under the law and this policy by information in the Family Mailing Packet.

APPROVED BOARD OF EDUCATION: December 6, 2011