

8th Grade BMS

Open Pod Meeting

March 28, 2024



Team Teachers

- Social Studies - Mrs. Ruggiero
- Language Arts - Mrs. Camarro
- Science - Dr. Cortright
- Math - Ms. Zaleski
- Resource - Mrs. Hayslip

Preparation for High School

- SHS Course Request/Override Deadline - March 28th (no exceptions!)
- Review course selections with SHS counselor - June
- SHS Orientation during school day - May 22nd
- BOLO: SHS Fall Sports Registration - late spring/early summer
- Social Media: Facebook Group "Westport High School Parents"; Instagram pages for sports/clubs/departments

Absences

- We need to see students in person
- Checking Schoology and Google classroom is a great primer, but doesn't make up for meeting in person
- After missing a day(s) of school a student should plan on meeting with teachers the morning they are able to return
- Teachers will work with student to prioritize assignments and make a plan to make up work

Spring Fever

- Please help us get your kids to the finish line
- End of 8th grade important time for setting habits for high school
- Keeping you in the loop about misuse of technology

Social Studies

- Current: Mock Trial and Civil Rights wrap up
- Focus: Human Rights at home and abroad
 - How does the US address issues in the world?
- Content: What are some examples of people who have been denied rights, or are currently fighting for their rights?
 - Using UDHR, Genocide Case Studies, Human Rights book clubs
- Culminating in an independent research project exploring an injustice of their choosing

Language Arts

- Previous Unit: Romeo & Juliet
 - Focus on tracking motifs to craft inclusive themes
 - Reading and paraphrasing Shakespeare
 - How do Shakespeare's themes connect to us
 - [love story](#) [Quick Decisions](#) [Actors vs. Tech](#) [Unwritten Rewritten](#)
- Upcoming: Synthesis Literary Analysis
 - Focus on synthesizing theme across texts
 - Formal literary analysis essay: film & short story
 - Grammar: Active and passive voice (quiz next Friday)
- Memoir
 - Mentor text: Night by Elie Wiesel
 - Independent text: Self-selected memoir
 - Narrative craft techniques, purposes and impact
 - Narrative writing
- Cumulative vocab assessment

Math

○ Math 8:

- We have just finished simplifying exponential expressions and will be working on understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

○ Algebra:

- We have completed our unit on linear systems and are currently working on simplifying exponential expressions. Final exam first week of June.

○ Geometry:

- We will be taking the Polygons and Surface Area & Volume unit test next week and will begin our Transformations unit the next day.

Science

- Previous Unit: Genetics and Evolution
 - Evidence for Evolution
 - Trait determination
 - Gene - Protein - Trait Process
 - Natural Selection
- New Unit: Forces and Motion
 - Car Crashes
 - Newton's Laws and Energy of Motion
- NGSS Prep

Science

CHROMOSOME -> GENE -> PROTEIN -> TRAIT

Cattle Musculature



Tulip Variations



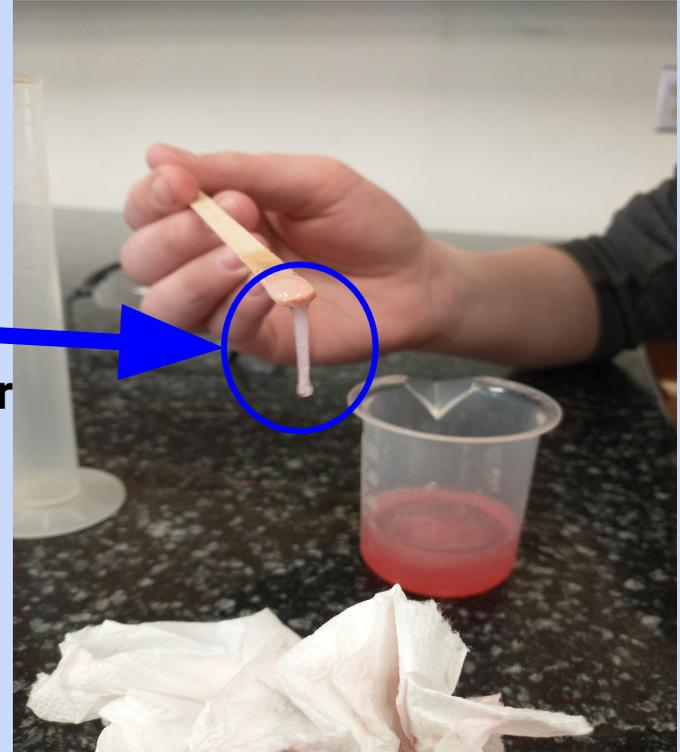
Science

CHROMOSOME -> GENE -> PROTEIN -> TRAIT



1. Crush in salt water,
2. Mix with dish soap,
3. Filter

4. Stir in meat tenderizer
5. Add ice cold alcohol



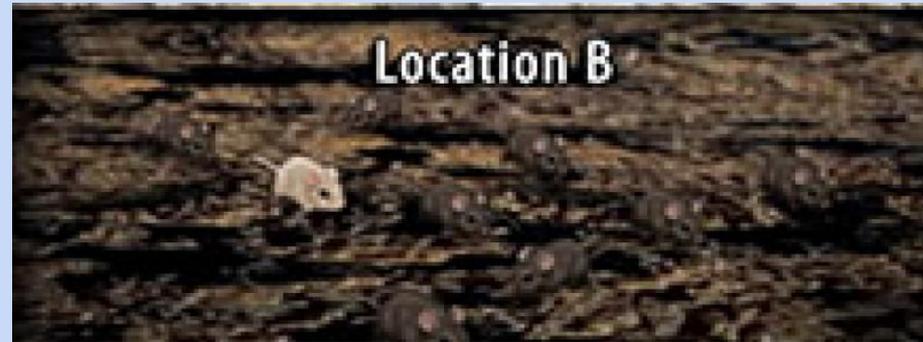
Science

TRAIT VARIATION + NATURAL SELECTION = EVOLUTION

1,000 years ago



Today



**Fur color changes (light vs dark) caused by differences in the MC1R gene.
Prevalence of dark fur on dark rocks caused by natural selection.**

Science

COLLISIONS



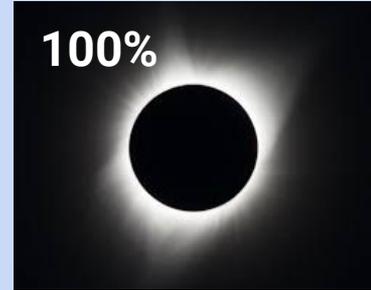
FORCES, MOTION, AND ENERGY



Science

SPECIAL EVENT - SOLAR ECLIPSE 4/8/24

- Eclipse Glasses provided to all students
- Viewing and lesson on 4/8 last period
- Students will be sent home with the glasses
 - Eclipse peak is approximately 3:25 PM
 - **Students MUST wear eclipse glasses.**
 - **It is NOT safe to view the eclipse in CT without them!**



SBAC/NGSS Testing

- May 14-16 (SBAC), May 23rd (NGSS)
- All Testing Begins at 8:42 AM
- No devices allowed (phones, smartwatch)
- Need **Charged** Chromebook and plug in headphones
- Bring **non-electronic** work/activities
 - Book (hard copy; no Kindles)
 - Paper-based activities (crossword puzzles, coloring pages, etc)

BMS Events

- End of 3rd Q. - April 5th
- Yearbook Orders due April 5th
 - www.coffeepond.com
 - Password: Bedford24
- Art Show: April 30th 5:30-7:30 PM

Upcoming 8th Grade Events

- Chelsea Piers, Stamford: June 4th; TBA
 - Arrive by **7:45 AM**; 8 AM Depart
 - Box Lunch provided, bring water
 - Lunch selection in school- allergies noted
 - Wear comfortable clothing
 - Bring warm clothing for ice skating

Upcoming 8th Grade Events

- **8th Grade Moving Up Ceremony**
 - June 12th, 6-7 pm (outdoors on Wakeman Field)
 - Student arrival time: 5:30 pm
 - Rain Date June 13th