Honors Biology + Honors English: H2BE

Susan Conroy

Jessica Stiffler

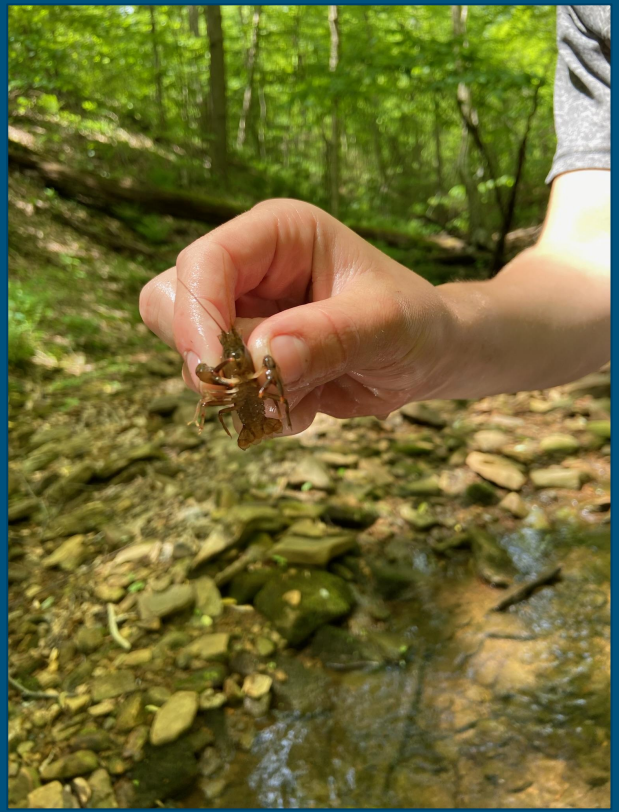
Reading challenging and relevant texts

- *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck (Quarter 1)
- *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare (Quarter 2)
- *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot (Quarter 3)
- *Leave Only Footprints* by Conor Knighton (Quarter 4)
- Poetry
- Current events articles

Plus choice book (such as memoirs) about adventurers, nonfiction works about genetics, ecology, and related ethics

Studying biological principles

- Looking at life with various lenses
- Evolution and quantifying change
- The qualities of life
- Cellular structure and function
- Biochemistry and organic compounds (nutrition and feeding the soul)
- Metabolic processes
- Ecological processes and appreciation
- Understand genetics and GMO’s
- Numerous labs - both structured and guided inquiry to “discover” principles

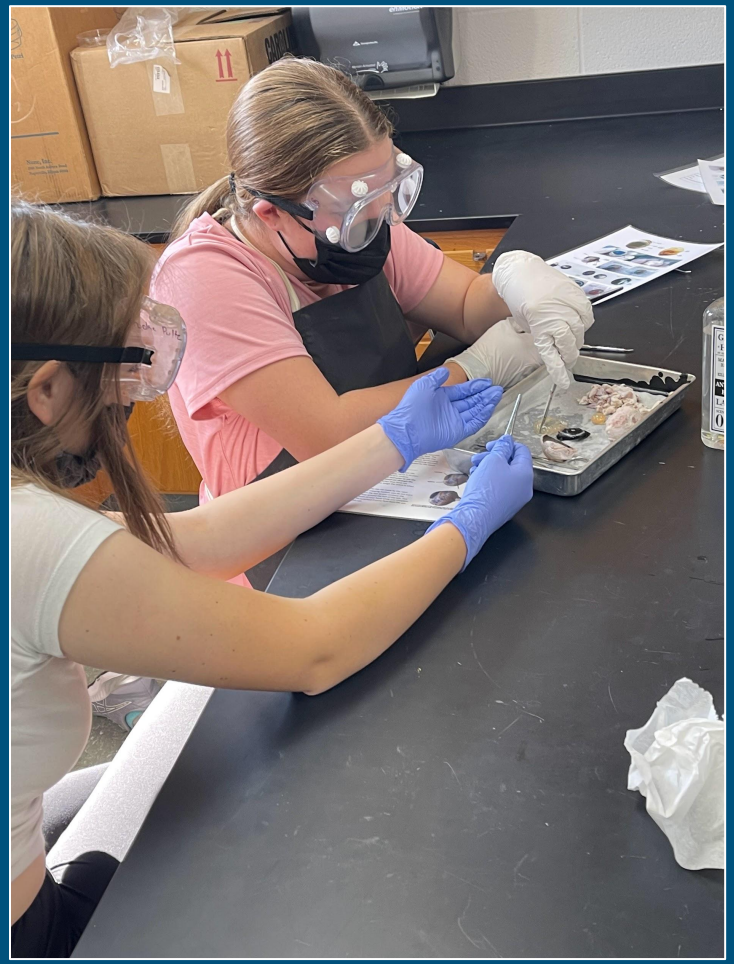


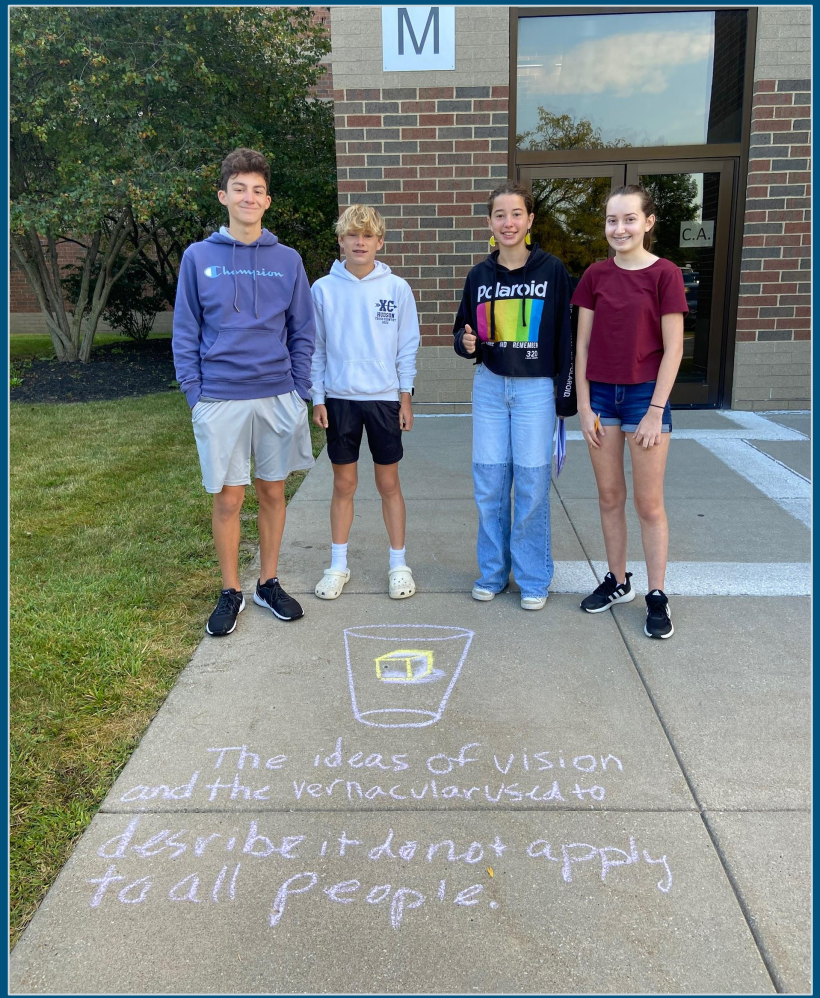
Experiential learning and discovery!

- Hikes at Hudson Springs Park and Cuyahoga Valley
- Working in the land lab
- Consulting with park rangers at Cuyahoga Valley for service learning project
- Guided learning through inquiry (PBL)
- Guest speakers on various topics; partnership with Kindergarten teachers

New Skills Learned:

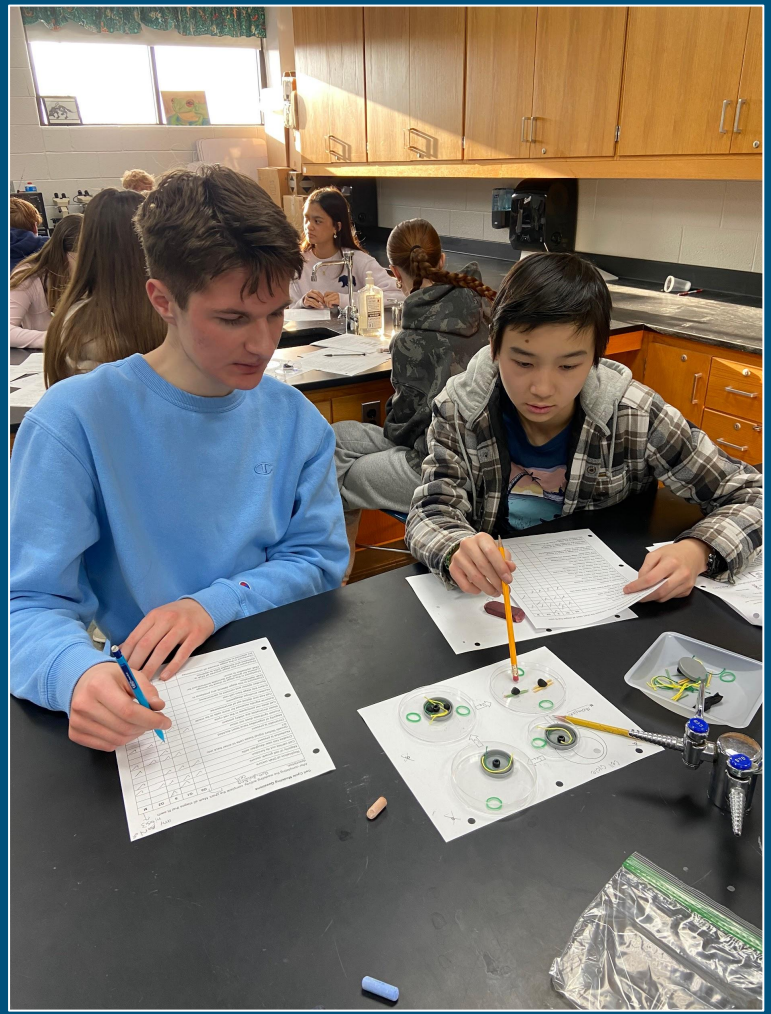
- ★ Map reading
- ★ Identification of local plants and animals
- ★ Awareness of food sources (i.e. genetics behind popular apple varieties)
- ★ Scientific method & microscopes
- ★ Designing investigative labs
- ★ Mineral, water, and land use rights
- ★ Deeper appreciation for the outdoors





Left: Takeaways from Annie Dillards' *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*

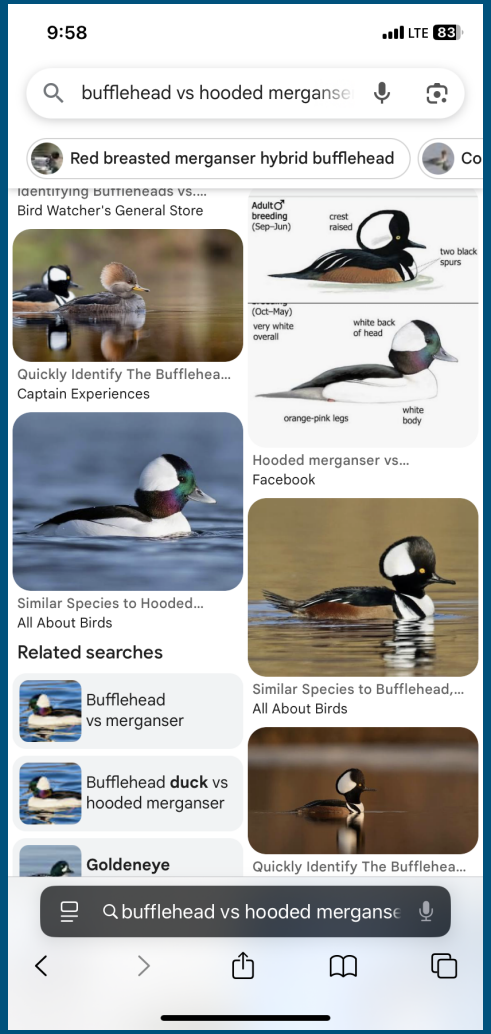
Right: Population lab



Above: “Chalk Talk” with cycles (water, nitrogen, etc.)

Right: Mitosis lab

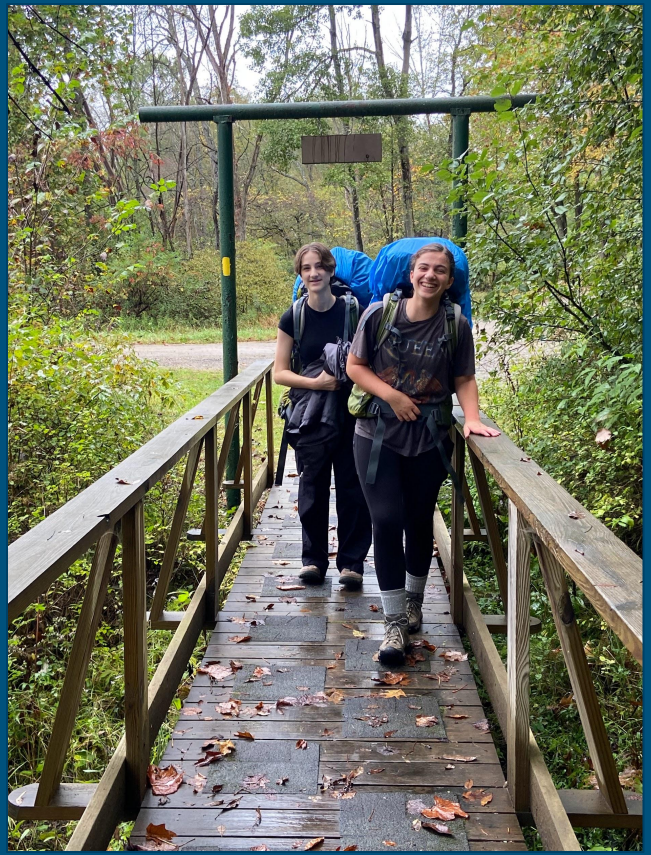
Duck Walk with Ed Carroll with Friends of Hudson Parks



Discovery at Hudson Springs Park with naturalist Judy Semroc

Backpacking Trips

Fall trip to Oil Creek State Park



Spring trip to Laurel Highlands, PA

What students say:

"H2BE has truly been the highlight of my high school career so far. You create friendships with people who you'd never even expect to become friends with, and it makes the entire experience so much more fun. When I get asked what I miss most about H2BE, I always say I miss being together with those people everyday, I miss being able to challenge each other, and I miss the teachers. Now the class was not easy, BUT if you're willing to have fun, put forth some effort, and are willing to learn, this class is truly the experience of a lifetime!!"

-Emi Uijtewaal, Class of 2022

"Once-in-a-lifetime, one-of-a-kind, rare, or unique, however you put it, there is no other class like H2BE. No other class instills a sincere love for nature and curiosity/adventure though a number of creative outlets, but also integrates a diverse group thinkers into a familial community (that shares way too many inside jokes). With every day bringing a unique and thoughtful activity (from drawing the environment of national parks to putting on skits), not only will you be left with an impact that stretches beyond Freshman year but also valuable memories created as together, you brave the wilderness and the boundaries of Bio and English, guided by the most passionate and well equipped partners in crime, Mrs. Stiffler and Mrs. Conroy."

-Sera Mathew, Class of 2022

Contacts & Applications

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Apply during FOCUS period on Thursday & Friday Jan. 29 & 30, 2026. Both student applications & teacher recommendations factor into final decisions.