

SENECA FALLS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Offices

P.O. Box 268, 2 Butler Avenue
Seneca Falls, New York 13148-1497

Dr. Michelle Reed
Superintendent of Schools
(315) 568-5818
(315) 712-0535 FAX

James Bruni
Administrator of Business
& Operations
(315) 568-5874

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Dear Parents/Guardians and Students;

Observation and experimentation with living organisms in life science education, including hands-on dissection, gives students a unique perspective and opportunity to explore scientific concepts. Dissections are a recommended study method in some life science courses that may occur in our District Schools. Please be assured that all animal materials will be used respectfully and for the purpose of meeting course objectives.

However, we understand that students may have objections to the dissection of animals. New York State Education Law Section 809 requires that schools offer students who express a moral or religious objection to the performing or witnessing the dissection of an animal, either wholly or in part, have an opportunity to undertake and complete an alternative project that has been approved by the student's teacher. Therefore, students expressing either a sincere moral or religious objection to dissection may request an alternative activity by having their parents/guardians send a letter to the attention of the school principal requesting alternative instruction to dissection.

In cases where students object to dissection, teachers will provide an alternative to actual dissection. This alternate activity will be related to and of comparable rigor to laboratory dissection. Some examples of alternate activities may include the use of computer simulations or research. Students who perform alternative projects will not be penalized.

Parents are encouraged to discuss this issue with their child. Moral or religious objections to the dissection of animals must be submitted to the principal's office so that an appropriate alternative activity may be planned for your child. If you have further questions regarding this issue, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Faith Lewis
Principal
Mynderse Academy High School
105 Troy Street
Seneca Falls, NY 13148
315-568-5500 Ext. 1133

Kevin Rhinehart
Principal
Seneca Falls Middle School
95 Troy Street
Seneca Falls, NY 13148
315-568-5500 Ext. 2120