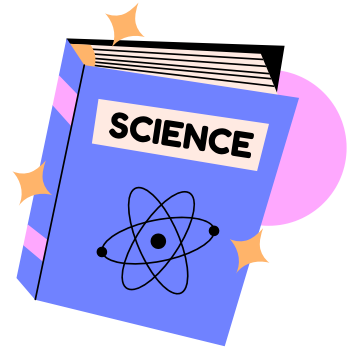




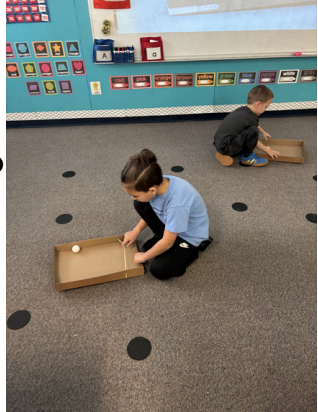
WINTER
25th

UCS SCIENCE SPOTLIGHT K-5



KINDER THROUGH 2ND GRADE

- Kindergarteners in Mrs. Nowinski's class are learning about forces through their Amplify science curriculum. Today, they got to see how much force is needed to make their pinball move. They are excited to learn about strong and gentle forces and finish up their pinball machines over the next couple of weeks.



3RD GRADE THROUGH 5TH GRADE

Nothing for this newsletter! Send in your 3rd through 5th grade news for next quarter!

FEEDBACK FORM FOR SCIENCE TEACHERS

Please use the Google form to share any fun science activities you are doing within in your classroom! You may also use it to ask any science curriculum questions. Please understand that teachers will be handling this feedback, so use it for constructive and creative purposes only.

[SEND US YOUR SCIENCE NEWS!](#)



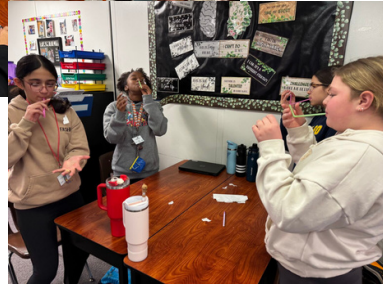
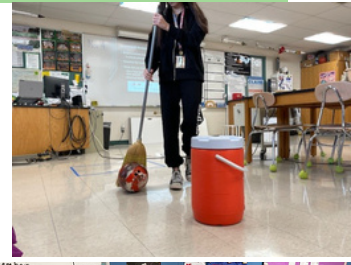
WINTER
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UCS SCIENCE SPOTLIGHT 6-12



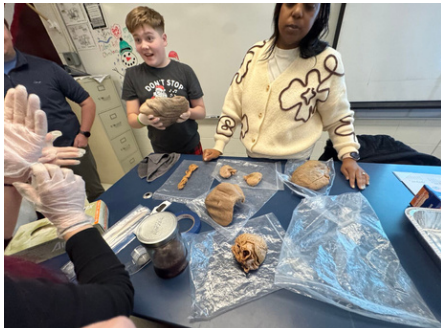
6TH GRADE THROUGH 8TH GRADE

- To wrap-up their Open Sci-Ed unit on contact forces, Mr. Stoke's 8th graders at Bemis played Broomball using a broom and a bowling ball.
- Havel's 6th grade scientists have been using their Open Sci-Ed curriculum to discover how hail forms and why particles do not fall as soon as they form in the sky. The students investigated with a soap bubble film on the top of a pop bottle. They placed the bottle in a hot water tub to watch thermal energy and convection in action. They also placed the bottle in cold water. The students were amazed as they watched the soap bubble film sink inside the pop bottle. Our students also discovered that updrafts are responsible for keeping particles suspended in the air. Lots of fun in science class had by all.



9TH THROUGH 12TH GRADE

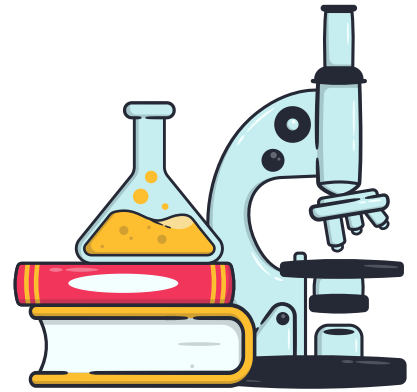
- Biology students at Eppler Junior High had the opportunity to learn about organ donations. We brought in a presenter from Gift of Life Michigan, the organization responsible for maintaining the organ donation registry for the state, who taught students about what it means to be an organ donor, what organs in the human body can be donated and the reasons many people need a donation. At the end of the presentation students were given the opportunity to hold real platinated organs such as a heart, heart and lungs connected with a pacemaker, lungs, liver, and kidney. This correlated with our New Visions Biology curriculum!
- Biology students at Utica High School are conducting a lab on disease transmission as part of the Human vs. Bacteria unit in the new Biology Curriculum, New Visions. They will be learning about how diseases get transmitted and the factors that may increase or decrease transmission.





WINTER
25'

UCS SCIENCE SPOTLIGHT 9-12



9TH THROUGH 12TH GRADE (CONT.)



- Eisenhower Forensics science students traveled to Lawrence Technological University to conduct blood spatter analysis experiments to determine how distance, angle, and speed of blood droplets affect the splatter pattern. Using their knowledge of blood spatter physics, students analyzed the blood evidence from a crime scene and helped solve the case of the missing brownies. Students also got to make liquid nitrogen slushies, and they were delicious. Later this month, students will build a house and the fire marshal will conduct controlled burns to determine burn patterns.
- The district is piloting different physics curricula this school year at the high schools throughout the district. Below is a picture of Utica High School Physics students experimenting with fishing line to see how the length and tension of the string affects the pitch of sound produced. This was an introductory lab to learning about waves in the Active Physics Curriculum. This unit was piloted last semester at Eisenhower High School and is currently being piloted at Henry Ford and Utica High Schools. The physics committee is hoping to make a decision next month on which curriculum to propose to CLC and the school board by the end of the school year.

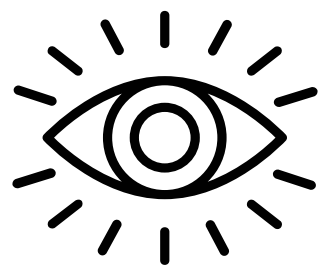




UCS SCIENCE UPDATES VISION/CURRICULUM

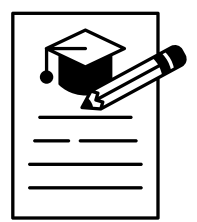
VISION PROGRESS

- The SSLT team met in December 2024 to discuss how the science content from K-8 connects to units in grades 10-12, with the key idea being how to determine where 9th grade Biology fits into our K-12 learning experience. Our leading question for this discussion was, “what is something memorable that a 9th grade teacher could use to remind students about the science content they are teaching?” Each 9th grade unit was looked at and SSLT members collaborated to write down experiences from each grade level that would benefit 9th grade Biology teachers.
- The Chemistry and Physics Course Design teams are currently piloting new curricular materials and will be meeting in a month or so to decide on curriculum for next school year. SSLT decided that as a way to keep with our vision that the new Chemistry and Physics courses will be offered to all students 10th – 12th grade.
- Based on your feedback, our Fall DPPD days seemed to be a success! Thank you to all of you who shared your thoughts and experiences from our choice sessions as well as your content or grade level meetings! We appreciated hearing from you and have started thinking about and planning for next fall. Look for an interest survey to come in the spring!



CURRICULUM UPDATES

- This year biology has been moved to the ninth-grade district wide. The New Visions for Public Schools curriculum kits for Units 3-6 have been delivered to buildings.
- Chemistry and Physics teachers are starting their second pilots during January and early February. The Design Team has been collecting evidence to make an informed decision for the best curriculum for the 2025-26 school year. Members on this team are doing this by: looking at samples of student work, observing pilot classrooms, reviewing student surveys, visiting other districts, meeting/talking with teachers from other districts, and utilizing a student focus group to debrief on the unit.



IMPORTANT DATES

- February 5th 9th Grade Bio Meeting
- February 7th Physics Design Team Meeting
- February 25th Chemistry Design Team Meeting
- March 18th 9th Grade Bio Meeting
- May 1st SSLT Meeting

