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Dr. Sharon Vitella

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Dear Mount Laurel Parents and Guardians:

The Mount Laurel School District takes great pride in the hands-on instruction of science that our teachers provide for your child. Students are involved, enthused, and engaged in their science learning, which goes far beyond the traditional textbook. In order to provide active learning experiences, students are often involved in activities such as examining single-cell organisms, observing insects, and dissection at the higher levels. Units of study may also involve an array of instructional experiences, including videos, models, computer programs, books, and other manipulatives in order to support hands-on learning.

The Department of Education has passed legislation allowing public school students to choose not to participate in certain experiments involving animals. If you elect for your child to “opt out” of these activities, alternative education projects within the unit of study can be provided. Parents who wish to exempt their child from these kinds of activities are required under the opt-out law to inform the school in writing within two weeks of the receipt of this letter. Letters should be sent to your child’s science teacher with a copy also sent to the building principal.

For more information regarding the NJ science standards, please visit the NJ Department of Education website at <http://www.nj.gov/njded/aps/cccs/science/resources.htm>.

For specific information regarding your child’s science program, please contact the classroom teacher or building principal.

Yours truly,

Dr. Sharon Vitella
Assistant Superintendent for
Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment