

4-H School Enrichment in Action!

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Science is a part of our everyday lives. It's everywhere and for everyone! 4-H School Enrichment offers six science-based projects to students and teachers in Lancaster County.

Science helps us gather facts, think critically and make the right decision. We learn to use our senses to obtain information about ourselves and the world around us. We can communicate with one another. We predict the future by using past observations. We investigate, interpret and make conclusions, then evaluate. These steps are all part of the science process. It's science in action!

Elementary grades are a good time for capturing children's interest in science. Lancaster County youth development programs and 4-H School Enrichment are doing their part to educate students in science. In school year 2001-2002, 18,514 Lancaster County youngsters participated in 4-H School Enrichment science programs.

GARBOLOGY welcomes second graders to the world of trash and the three R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Youngsters develop an increased awareness of garbage—where it comes from and where it goes, the problems it presents and possible solutions. Students make a dump and then a landfill. What is the difference? Do you know? They learn about littering, composting, packaging. They make paper and complete a recycling science



In 4-H School Enrichment Embryology, third grade students watched chicks hatch in the classroom.

project.

As a core subject in the science curriculum of the Lincoln Public Schools, all second graders are mandated to learn the lessons taught in Garbology and are tested on knowledge gained from the program. The hands-on/heads-on activities in this curriculum meet the National and Nebraska Learning Standards of Excellence.

"This is fun," said Jake from Lakeview Elementary. "I like to smash the cans I recycle. They're made into new cans, you know."

Students from Elliott Elementary have learned how worms can eat their garbage.

"We put special worms called red wigglers in this box

and they eat our lettuce, banana peels and other stuff. Then they poop or make stuff called castings and we can use this to help our plants grow," explained Amanda.

Yes indeed! About 1,000 red wigglers can eat up to three to five pounds of kitchen scraps a week. The castings can be added to potting or garden soil for richer plantings. These youngsters are learning about a new way to compost called **VERMICOMPOSTING**.

If you've been in a third grade classroom lately, you've probably heard about hatching baby chicks. **EMBRYOLOGY** was voted the favorite thing we did in third grade. The miracle of life unfolds as students study life cycles. Youngsters and teachers

are responsible for the care of fertile eggs throughout the 21-day incubation period, then the baby chicks hatch.

"We're pretty excited when those chicks hatch. This is a tremendous character building unit — teaching responsibility and so on. We hardly get anything else done these few weeks," said a teacher at St. Joseph's Catholic School.

Embryology is a core subject in the science program of the Lincoln Public Schools and meets the National and Nebraska Learning Standards of Excellence. Students are tested on information gained in this project.

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Bugged by Pests?

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- Food Safety & Nutrition
- Family Living
- Home & Community
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NEP/4-H School Enrichment Participants Eat Healthier

"I am going to wash my hands longer and start eating healthier meals and handle my food more carefully," signed, Your Germ Buster Friend, Drew. This is just one example of the many positive changes which Lincoln Public School (LPS) students are making as a result of the **NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM (NEP)/4-H SCHOOL ENRICHMENT** program, designed for income-eligible schools.

With funding from the USDA Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program, Lancaster County NEP staff developed teacher

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Students make "Yummy Bugs," a healthy snack made with ingredients from three food groups.

A Community of Character!

CHARACTER COUNTS! is a project of the Josephson Institute of Ethics which teaches youth ages 4-18 the Six Pillars of Character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship. In Nebraska, Character Counts! was initiated by the state's 4-H program in 1996 and is coordinated through cooperative extension in many instances. In 1999, Character Counts! was set to Nebraska state standards for schools.

Currently, more than 45 public and private schools in Lancaster County have implemented Character Counts!



Character Counts! teaches students to be TeRRiFCC (Trustworthy, Respectful, Responsible, Fair, Caring, and good Citizens).

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