SALINE COUNTY SCHOOLS SPOTLIGHT PAGE

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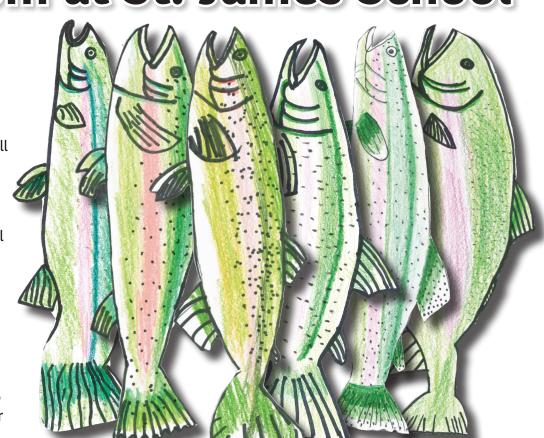
Trout in the Classroom at St. James School

This spring fifth and sixth grade students at St. James School witness the beauty and wonder of God's creation up close every day thanks to their participation in the Trout in the Classroom program sponsored by Nebraska Game and Parks. A 50-gallon aquarium on the classroom counter has been home to nearly 100 small rainbow trout since early January. Students have observed the early stages of the trout's life cycle, from tiny orange eggs to alevin, tiny fish with a yolk sac still attached, to their current stage as fry, small fish that zoom around the tank and swim to the surface to feed.

Students assist in caring for the trout by feeding them, testing the water quality to make sure it is healthy for the fish, and cleaning the tank. They have learned that not all trout survive to adulthood—in nature or in an aquarium. Sixth grader Chris Wissenburg has kept a "life log" tracking our trout's survival rates and noted that February 2 was the day that the largest number of trout died. Thankfully, mortality rates lessened after that, and we still have a large number of trout that are thriving in the tank.

At the same time that they received their trout eggs, the classes also received several larger trout for dissection. Trout dissection day was a big highlight for students. Students thoroughly enjoyed learning more about anatomy in a hands-on way.

To complete the Trout in the Classroom experience, the St. James 5 th and 6 th graders will travel to Schramm Park near Gretna, Nebraska, in April. While there, they will release their trout in the canyon ponds and participate in other activities such as fishing and viewing the exhibits in the Schramm Education Center. What a wonderful way for our children to learn and grow joyfully!



What students enjoyed about dissecting trout

Liam: "We got to see what was inside trout."

Ranae: "I have enjoyed the dissecting because I got to see the swim bladder. It looks like a clear bubble. The heart is really small; it's like the size of an eraser on a pencil but red and gooey."

August: "I enjoyed learning about the organs, then seeing them."

Oscar: "I saw how little their organs are compared to our organs."

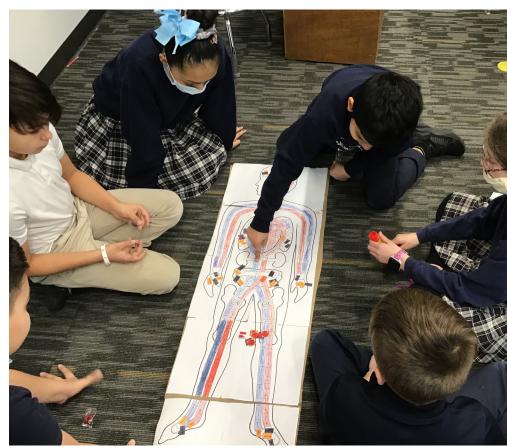


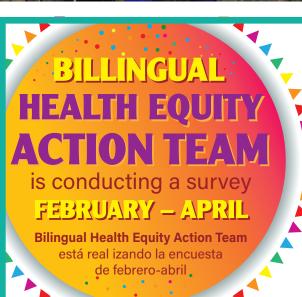












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