



# WESTWOOD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

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## SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child is presently enrolled in a course in which animal dissection may be part of classroom instruction. Dissection is defined as “the manipulation of properly preserved animals or animal parts for scientific study, which includes incising and may be followed by inspecting, touching, handling, and mounting.” In compliance with state law, the Westwood Regional School District offers students alternatives to animal dissection should their parents wish their child abstain from these activities.

Alternatives to animal dissection may include, but are not limited to: computer programs, Internet simulations, plastic models, videotapes, digital videodiscs, and charts. Alternatives to animal dissection techniques are designed to provide the student with knowledge similar to that expected to be gained by students in the course who perform, participate in, or observe the dissection.

Students who have opted out of animal dissection exercises are given information on specific activities and resources to use as their alternative assignment. These students are also provided assistance with an alternative task.

If you wish to opt your child out of participation in all animal dissection activities as described within the course, please complete and sign the enclosed form and return it to your child’s science teacher by the **end of the first week of school**.

If you have any questions about the opting out procedure, please feel free to call me at (201) 664-0880, ext. 2068.

Sincerely,

Jin Park  
K-12 Supervisor of STEM  
Westwood Regional School District



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### Alternative to Animal Dissection Opt-Out

I do not wish for my child to participate in animal dissection activities. Instead, I wish for my child to be provided approved alternatives to animal dissection. Please print all information with the exception of your signature.

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|------------------------|------|
| Name of Student        |      |
| Science Course         |      |
| Parent/Guardian's Name |      |
| Address (Line 1)       |      |
| Address (Line 2)       |      |
| Phone Number           |      |
| Signature              | Date |