

BUCKS in ACTION

The cat dissection is a staple of the anatomy / physiology class. In January, the students let the cat out of the bag and begin by removing the fur, connective tissues, and adipose layers in order to expose the muscles. Students dissect and learn the location, names, and functions of 50 skeletal muscles. This is an extremely intense lab experience and it concludes prior to spring break with the muscle lab practical exam. Students then remove the muscle layers and learn the interior organs of the digestive system (esophagus, stomach, liver, pancreas, gallbladder, small and large intestine), respiratory system (lungs, diaphragm, trachea), and excretory system (kidney, bladder). Students continue learning with the cat specimen by removing all parts of the organism except the bones. The rearticulation process of reassembling over 200 bones of the cat skeleton is tedious, meticulous, and challenging - to say the least.

The students select a theme and create their display using a variety of adhesives, wires, and fasteners. On display are their final art display with rearticulation standards on par with those that you would find in a natural history museum. During the week of May 14-17, staff and students of Buchanan High School voted for their favorite and ballots were tallied. This year, 1st place was awarded to Bree W. (senior, cat #8), 2nd place Avery Y. (senior, cat #2), and a three way tie with Ella F. (sophomore, cat #3), Emma L. (senior, cat #6), and Avery S. (sophomore, cat #7).

Anatomy / physiology is an upper level science elective class offered at Buchanan High School.





