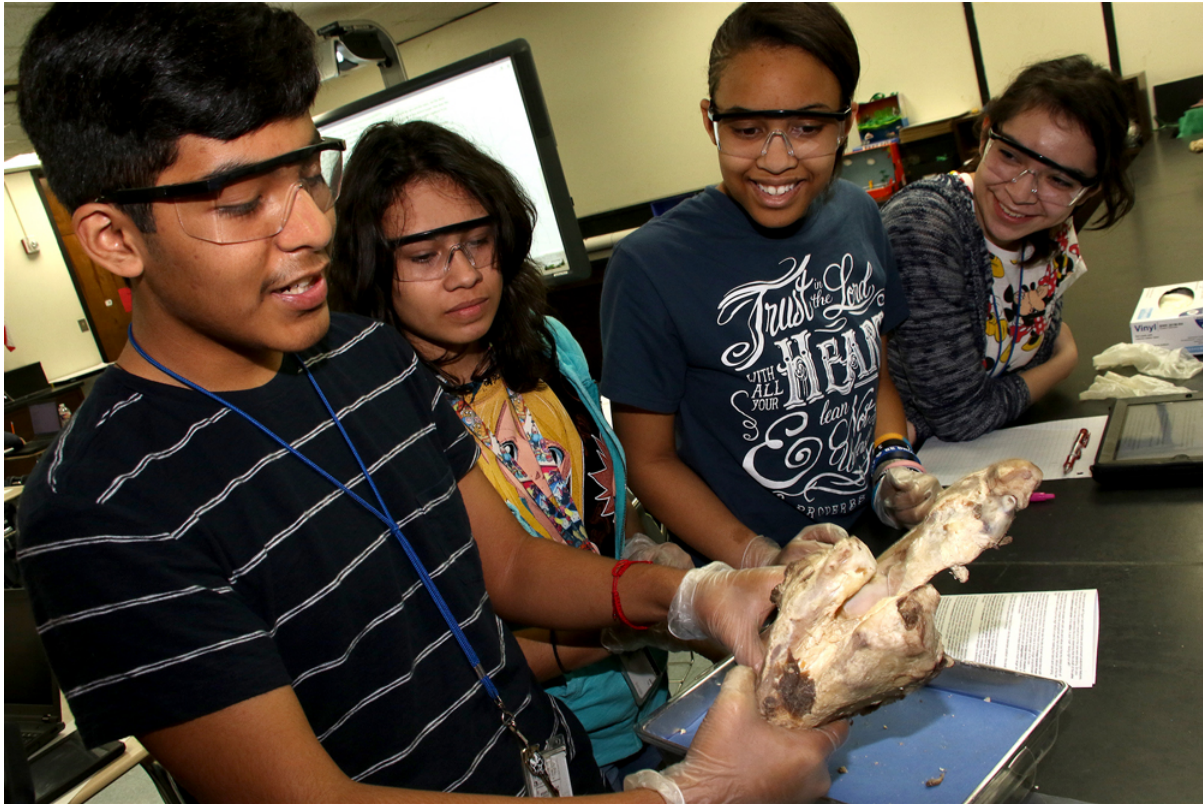




# GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



(from left) Manuel Emmanuel, Dahana Martel, Aryanna Vigier and Fatima Rebollar search for identifiable features of the cow elbow joint as they work together in a Human Body Systems lab.

## **Sterling's Health Science Academy Introduces Human Body Systems Class**

Hands-on lessons are a major component of the new Human Body Systems class at Ross S. Sterling High School. Part of the Health Science Academy launched last year with freshman students, the class, taught by Loraine Zuniga, is comprised of sophomores interested in the field of medicine who have taken Principles of Biomedical Sciences.

Lab times are always lively, with students working in groups and discussing concepts they are learning. During one lab involving cow elbow joints, small groups of students read information and questions on iPads while looking at the structures and identifiable features of the joints. They were surprised at how large the joints were and how difficult they were to manipulate.

“We started with the brain and are working through all the body systems,” said Zuniga. “Dissections are always fun for the students, and they also enjoy building the body systems on the mannequins as we learn about new systems.”

The mannequins are models of the skeletal system to which students add “systems” they mold from clay. At the end of the course, students will have mannequins with all the human body systems.

From the experiences these students have had in the academy, many have already decided on the medical fields they plan to enter. Opportunities also are opening up for some of them. Aryanna Vigier enjoys the hands-on lessons most, since she plans to be a pediatric physical therapist. She attended a four-day camp at Lamar University last summer, sponsored by the Advanced Health Education Center, which included job shadowing, looking at x-rays and watching open heart surgery at St. Luke’s Hospital.

“My favorite activity was visiting the Shriners Hospital for Children, because we got to see physical therapists working with kids. I loved it,” said Vigier.

Brent Cariaga was pleased to receive an invitation to the National Academy of Future Physicians Convention in Boston, Massachusetts, scheduled for this summer. Symrin Jhagroo plans to participate in an internship with Neighbors ER.



Ross S. Sterling High School Health Science Academy students (from left) Cody Jones, Tryston Anderson and Israel Robles examine the cow elbow joint in a recent lab in their Human Body Systems class.

Michelle Duhon, career and technical education (CTE) specialist, works with the academy and enjoys interacting with the students and watching them engaged in projects and labs. Since the academy concept is fairly new, sophomore students Bryce Putnam, Israel Robles and Nathalie Martinez have been selected as Health Science Academy Ambassadors to represent the program and provide information for visitors.

For the next two years, when another group of freshmen is added to the Health Science Academy, a new course also will be added as the original group of students moves to the next grade. There are 49 sophomores and 63 freshmen, but 68 new freshmen will be accepted into the Health Science Academy for the 2016-17 school year, according to Duhon.

“Moving forward, Sterling will have the Biomedical Series, including Principles of Biomedical Sciences, Human Body Systems, Medical Interventions, and the research-based capstone course Biomedical Innovations, using the Project Lead the Way curriculum,” said Duhon.



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