Looking at Labs

Hands on Experience

The smell of formaldehyde is enough to make the average students sick to his stomach, without having to cut into a rat. Hands-on experience helps students acquire the knowledge they learned in class. Labs also enhanced the concepts learned in the normal classroom setting.

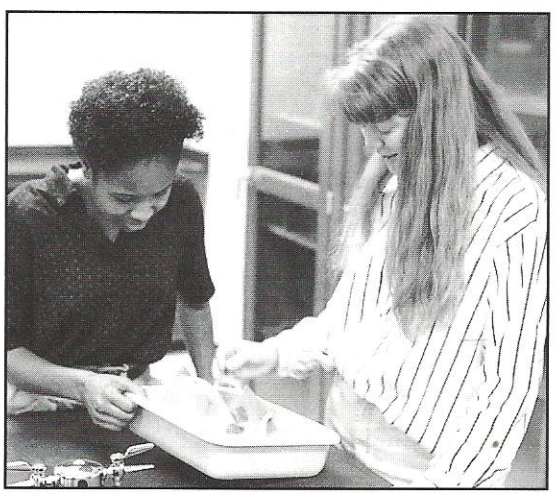
In Mrs. Arlene Finney-El's biology classes, lab work occupies at least 20% of the biology year. Projects included the dissection of rats, sharks, and other sea animals. Students also did microscopic research and observations as well as performed genetic probabilities. The goal of the laboratory exercises was to enhance the concept which was previously discussed in the classroom setting.

Chemistry classes participated in laboratory exercises. Lab provides a visual aid reinforcement of ideas presented during class. The laboratory exercises usually carry over for one or two hours.

"I wish to see each classroom equipped with glassware and chemicals," stated Mrs. Deloris Hiers. She would also like to see the lab exercises last for two hours, for those two hours to consist of chemistry lectures and for students to earn 2 units in chemistry.

Every once in a while, something happened during these experiments which provided a little amusement. Mrs Hiers remembered one such event. One day a girl bent her head over not realizing her bunsen burner was on, and her hair caught on fire. Mrs. Hiers called to the girl that her hair was on fire, but she did not hear her. Mrs. Hiers had to hit the student on the head with a lab book to put out the small fire.

Amy Zielke



Performing experiments in chemistry are Karyn Davis and Brian Edwards. Chemistry experiments usually last for one or two hours.

In Mr. Russell Polk's Biology classes, students Keisha Bomar and Beth Garrett work on dissecting their pig.