



Science Minded
Learn about the advanced science program here at Providence Academy.
The Secondary Newsletter



Letter From the



What should we expect from our students, and what should we require of them? I ended last month's article by asserting that we must reassess our assumptions about our academic expectations for students. In reality, our students are often capable of much more than the modern educational environment in America would have us to believe. In fact, if we adopted the tendencies of many schools, we would either "dumb down" our curriculum or inflate student's grades. Many schools do both! Tom Spencer, in his article entitled *Essential Academic Work*, notes that setting the academic "bar" should not be in relation to some artificial understanding of student's capabilities. Rather, our expectations should focus on challenging the minds of our specific students. Spencer states that this approach "does not mean all students will earn high grades." However, all students will be able to learn the material. The approach of rejecting low expectations and affirming that our students can learn is at odds with everyone achieving A pluses all the





Principal Letter

time. Our culture has become increasingly attached to the idea that looking good on paper is more important than really learning academic material. Therefore, starting with the assumption that our students *can* learn and that they deserve a challenging curriculum is exactly what we need. Although it is somewhat trite to state that our students will rise to the occasion if challenged, there is much truth in the statement! In next month's article I will continue to explore the idea of challenging our students and how that approach guides our curriculum. It is my prayer that all of you enjoy a Christmas break full of worship and family time.

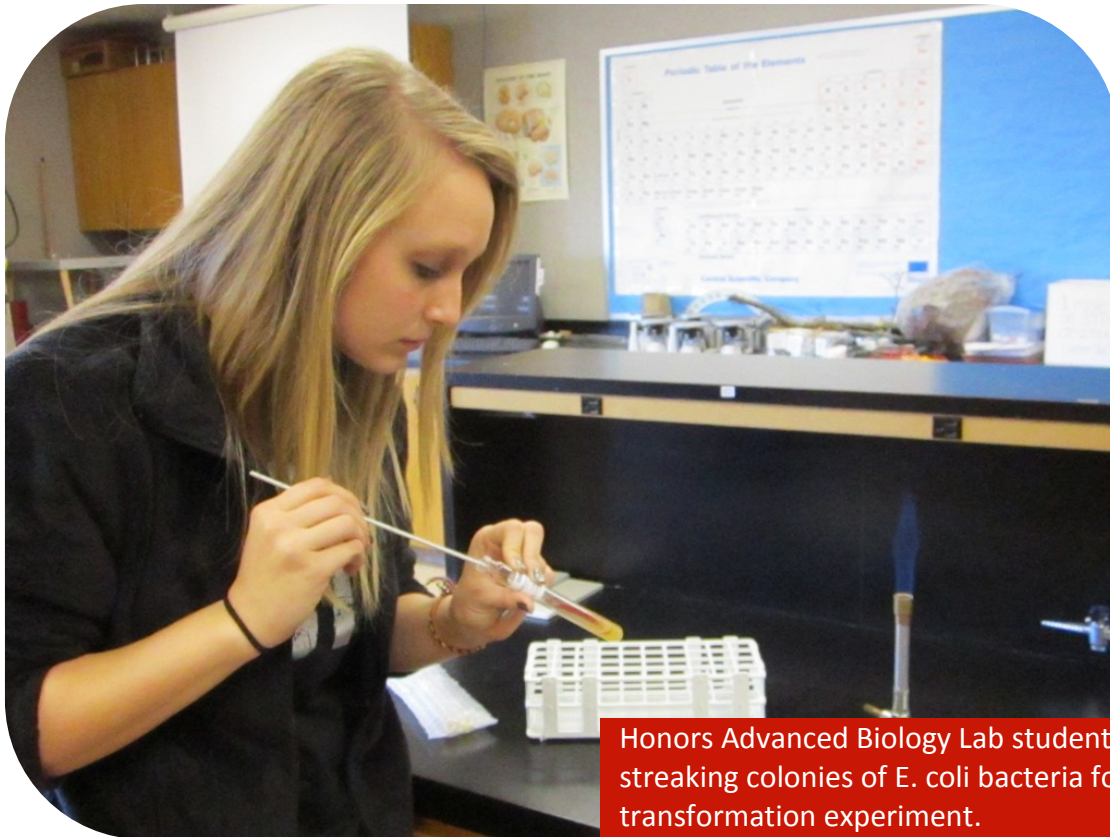


Sophomore class serves at Rise Up event



Senior class serves at Good Samaritan Ministries

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Honors Advanced Biology Lab students are streaking colonies of *E. coli* bacteria for a transformation experiment.

Honors Advanced Biology

Advanced Biology is a senior elective honors course designed to build upon concepts and skills learned in Biology and Chemistry. The goal for the course is three-fold: to further develop in students a vision of God as the Author and Creator of life (Genesis 1); to provide opportunities for the students to carefully analyze scientific information in the light of His principles (Colossians 2:8); and to provide supplemental instruction on some of the more difficult concepts sure to be encountered in a college-level freshman biology course. First semester students learned advanced concepts in Cell Biology and Molecular Genetics while working through seven of the labs recommended for the College Board *AP Biology* course. The second semester includes a reading and evaluation of Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* and field trips to a university library as well as to corporate and university labs. In addition, the students will learn to read, critique, and use scientific journal articles.

Advanced Biology is taught from a Biblical six-day creation view (Genesis 1:11-13, 20-27,31; 2:4-9, 19-31; Psalm 100:3, Isaiah 42:5; John 1:3,4).



Sophomores go to the Creation Museum

We were blessed to have the opportunity to go the Creation Museum in Petersburg, KY on October 20 and 21. Thursday night we were at the Creation Museum for a presentation in the Planetarium by astrophysicist Dr. Jason Lisle. We did not have the opportunity to examine the night sky constellations, stars, and globular star clusters at the Creation Museum's new Observatory because of rain, but we pray classes in the future will be able enjoy the new Observatory. We spent Friday at the museum, visited the planetarium for a different show, watched a movie in the special-effects theater, and enjoyed a workshop with Dr. Menton. He was an associate professor of anatomy at the respected Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis and holds a PhD in cell biology from Brown University. It was a wonderful educational trip with the blessing of great Christian fellowship.



Hello Dolly!

This year the drama and music departments are joining forces to put together the production of *Hello Dolly*. This is sure to be a great event for the whole family to enjoy. The cast of 40 Providence Academy students has been rehearsing from the beginning of January to entertain you with song, dance, and dramatic performances. You can go ahead and clear the dates of March 2 and 3 on your calendars. Performances will take place Friday at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.



Lead, Caleb Presley, performs with Avery Blackmore and Whitney Baxter. You can look forward to seeing all of them in the spring production.



Ariel Huhn and Jeffry Schoondyke accept the service award for the sophomore class at the annual Rise Up mentor banquet.

Mission Statement

Providence Academy equips students to achieve academic excellence and spiritual maturity through a biblically based, Christ centered, classical education, so they will think and live in a manner, which brings glory to God.

Providence Academy

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