

An In-House Pond Study

September 25, 2015

Middle school research students did not have to travel far to study pond organisms and water depth. During a science lesson at Levittown Memorial Education Center, seventh-grade student-scientists in Doug Neu and Paul Zaratini's classes had access to the district's new Memorial Pond, built to provide an additional science research tool.



After dividing the pond in grids, the students measured its varying depths using a meter stick, the data later entered into an Excel spreadsheet. The students also identified the location of the pond's surface plants and took water samples of the plant life and other organisms that exist within the water. These samples were then observed under a microscope and identified and classified on a worksheet. The lesson culminated with the building of a 3-D model pond profile.

Director of Science Kevin McDermott said the lesson at Memorial Pond unleashed enthusiasm and excitement in the students by allowing them to perform hands-on research.

"The purpose of today's lesson was to make the students excited about science," he said. "We also wanted the students to see microscopic life that you cannot see on the surface and to have experience using the microscope."



