

Gerard biology class students dissect pigs

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Biology classes at Gerard High School are dissecting fetal pigs, which are close in structure to the human body, in a comparative anatomy study.

The school arranged to receive 79 pigs through the cooperation of Cudahy Packing Co., and two or three students teamed up on one pig.

An extensive study of the pigs has been conducted by the teams for nearly a month. The digestive tract, internal organs, genital tract, thoracic area and brains are being studied by each student, and free-hand sketches of vital organs are being drawn by them as part of the assigned work.

Teams affectionately named their pigs at the beginning of the dissection. One group named their pig Arnold and renamed it Arnette after discovering later that the pig was a female. Other names have included Shimeflarb, Cinderella, Goodber Dick and Shnorkel.

Reactions to the project from the students improved after the initial incision was made on each pig.

Some of the girls, like sophomore Sue Erickson, who proclaimed "I'll never eat bacon or ham again," are still squeamish. Margarete Drolet, another sophomore, thought the project was simply, "Yuk!"