

DNA CLUB 2026-2027

DNA Club is in its 8th year and is looking for a small group of dedicated students to work on biology related research projects. DNA Club is not an official school club and meets after school. The time investment needed depends on the project, but you should expect to work multiple days a week throughout the year. Below are the projects being offered next year and a new category of a proposed student project.

Projects for 2026-2027

- DNA metabarcoding of bacteria from the large Winogradsky column. This is an ongoing project that will require monthly sampling, DNA extraction, and learning how to run the Nanopore minION gene sequencer.
- *Wolbachia* infection in natural fruit fly populations. This project will require fruit fly trapping outdoors, culturing, DNA extraction, PCR, performing genetic crosses. This project is in collaboration with Lehigh University.
- Feminization of *A. nasatum* pillbugs by *Wolbachia* bacteria. This project will require pillbug collection, DNA extraction, PCR, bioinformatics, and qPCR.

This year students can propose a DNA Club project. Below are the guidelines.

- Study must be designed, implemented and analyzed in a school year. Ideas that require large learning gaps to perform should be avoided (ex. Eukaryotic cell culture).
- Budget is at or below \$200. If beyond this, you will have to fundraise.
- Create a proposal of your idea including objective, hypothesis, rough experimental design, rough budget, and predictive results based your hypothesis. No vertebrates.
- Proposals due by May 21, 2026.

All students in DNA Club are expected to commit to a project for the whole year as well as present in the 2027 Showcase.

IF INTERESTED IN DNA CLUB, PLEASE STOP BY ROOM 223 IN THE MORNING TO DISCUSS YOUR POTENTIAL INVOLVEMENT.