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## Seventh Grade Life Science...Under a Microscope

September brought with it the first science experience of the year for Heritage Oak's seventh graders as they conducted investigative research using the compound microscope. The students were given 15 tissue samples and were required to identify and sketch their findings. The purpose of examining mammalian tissue slides is to introduce the students to basic animal tissues and help with the identification and understanding of cell associations.

Heritage Oak believes that science should be taught using inquiry-based laboratories coupled with student-centered learning. The school offers two fully-equipped science labs and regular hands-on science experiences for children as young as three years old. "As students investigate the scientific process they learn to think critically and question the world around them, making the world of science a living lesson," explains Middle School Science teacher Annie Shaw.

Heritage Oak is a traditional school appealing to parents who are seeking a proven curriculum and a safe, nurturing environment. Community awareness, academic achievement, and family values are part of its program that focuses on the development of the whole child.

The U.S. Department of Education bestowed its highest honor upon Heritage Oak when it awarded the school the 1998-1999 "Blue Ribbon" award. The "Blue Ribbon", our Nation's most prestigious education award, distinguishes Heritage Oak for its excellence in leadership, teaching, curriculum, student achievement, parent involvement, and community support.