

SCIENCE BUDDIES *in Action*



Teacher

Lauren Hirsch
Wheeling, Illinois

Summary

When Lauren Hirsch left her biotech job to embark on a new career path as a middle school teacher, she found a way to spread her interest in scientific inquiry. Science Buddies helps her put hands-on learning experiences at the center of the curriculum.

Overview

For 23 years, Lauren Hirsch put her love of scientific inquiry to work in the biotechnology industry. Now, with a little help from Science Buddies, she's helping to develop the next generation of scientists by emphasizing hands-on research projects and a strong understanding of the scientific method in her middle school chemistry and life sciences classes.



"I strongly believe that my students need to possess a solid understanding of the scientific inquiry process, and in my quest to bring that goal to my classroom several years ago, I happened upon your website," Ms. Hirsch says. "I discovered its rich materials for both teachers and students and began to integrate it into my teaching."

Ms. Hirsch believes that cooperative learning and hands-on scientific investigations are the best way to give students a strong foundation in the scientific inquiry process. In order to achieve this goal, she has made Science Buddies an integral part of the curriculum. At the beginning of the school year, she uses Science Buddies' In-Class Science Project page and the Science Fair Project Guide to help her students get acquainted with the scientific inquiry process. Her classes culminate in a mini-science fair, in which Ms. Hirsch asks students to select one of Science Buddies' Project Ideas, conduct the experiment, and complete a write-up and poster on their project.

In particular, Hirsch enjoys the flexibility of Science Buddies' resources. "Using your website is great," Ms. Hirsch says. "It is very comprehensive, it is very user-friendly, but more importantly, it provides me with the opportunity to differentiate for the wide variety of learning styles I have in my classroom."