Dear Parent,

This fall your student will be participating in an exciting pilot study utilizing the “flipped classroom” method of learning in conjunction with other activities. The pilot study is part of a grant awarded to Seekonk High School called “Flipping Biology” from the Bridgewater State University Curriculum Leadership Council. The grant, written by Library Media Specialist Suzanne Larson and Science Department Chairperson Angela Cunard has become a collaboration that also includes Biology teachers Jennifer Borden and Matthew Wills along with Learning Center teacher Laura Callahan Almeida.

The “flipped classroom” is a novel teaching strategy not unlike the Kahn Academy videos. This model is inclusive, allowing students to view the video on their own time and at their own pace. The video can be paused to take notes or replayed as many times as needed to master the concept being presented. Valuable classroom time can be focused on application of the concepts in small group settings, freeing the teacher to be the “guide on the side” rather than the “sage on the stage”. Additionally, teachers can collect and share their own “libraries” over time, greatly influencing the professional learning community. The videos can also be used for summer work assignments, students who are unable to attend class and for lessons when teachers are absent.

The premise of this teaching method is that students watch short video segments prepared by their teachers for homework. They can take notes and complete graphic organizers so that they are prepared to utilize the information in class the next day. Students can pause and/or replay the video as many times as needed to fully understand the information and complete the assignment. The videos and other elements of the unit will be embedded in a “Libguide” at the following address: [http://sha.seekonk.libguides.com/FlippedBiology](http://sha.seekonk.libguides.com/FlippedBiology). A libguide is a webpage that serves
as a portal to all of the resources the student will need to successfully complete a task, assignment or unit. For this pilot unit, the videos, worksheets, and links to readings will all be compiled in this one site.

This learning method does require access to the internet and we realize that every student may not have access. To address this problem, we will distribute assignments in advance to allow time to utilize internet resources at school or the public library. Please contact us if there are any issues so that we can try to resolve them.

We hope that you will take time to look at the libguide, videos and links. We also respectfully request that you encourage your student to complete these novel homework assignments so that they can fully participate in the classroom activities. At the end of this pilot unit, we will ask that all students and parents complete a survey regarding the learning method. This pilot unit along with the survey data will be presented at a conference in April. Thank you in advance for your interest and support!

Suzanne Larson, Angela Cunard
Jennifer Borden, Laura Callahan Almeida
& Matthew Wills