

Ector County Independent School District
(432) 456-0000
802 N. Sam Houston Ave.
Odessa, Texas 79761
www.ectorcountyisd.org



Mike Adkins
Communications Officer
Date: November 19, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ECISD students discovering extraordinary things in ordinary places

The ECISD Innovation Department, in conjunction with the ECISD Curriculum and Instruction science team, have been rolling out a local Foldscope initiative since May of 2020. The Foldscope is an optical microscope composed of paper and a lens. It was designed to be portable and durable, while performing on par with conventional research microscopes (140X magnification and 2-micron resolution). ECISD is in partnership with the Foldscope team, Stanford University and researchers in the Foldscope project. Recently, two Stanford University team members presented to ECISD teachers in a live webinar, and this weekend one of our very own teachers will present a Foldscope Live Workshop to an international audience.

Azul Serrano Purcell from Nimitz Middle School is presenting a Foldscope Live Workshop **Saturday, November 21, from 9:00-10:00 a.m. (CT) via YouTube**. The title of the workshop is “Implementing the Foldscope in 7th Grade Science Lessons,” and it is the 15th episode in the Foldscope Live series. Foldscope Live is a series of online experiences organized in an effort to help people stay connected and curious in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic. During the live workshop, Azul will be sharing some of the labs she has done in her 7th grade science class and the plans she has for her upcoming lessons, from looking at her classroom pets' wings to collecting samples in the school yard, and even taking samples from dissections! (source: <https://www.facebook.com/foldscope/posts/3560576420655088>)

Mrs. Purcell is from Argentina and holds a medical degree in her home country. She is in her second year of teaching at Nimitz MS. Ms. Purcell implements many hands-on experiences for the students in her science classes; for example, during a recent unit on body systems her students dissected chicken legs to investigate tendons, muscles, bones, and bone marrow. The students also were able to view the chicken bone marrow using their Foldscope personal microscopes. In another lesson, Ms. Purcell's students dissected frogs to literally dig deeper into real-life body systems. When studying the nervous system, Ms. Purcell had her students using cutting edge technology to stimulate and measure neuron signals. It will be exciting to see Ms. Purcell share with other teachers around the world what she has learned in working with her own students.

Foldscope provides many opportunities for hands-on, real life science connections from Kinder through university level.

For more information about this release contact ECISD Communications at 432-456-9019.



Foldscope

Yesterday at 3:57 PM

Tune in next Saturday, November 21st at 9am CT (Texas)! 🌍

Title: "Implementing the Foldscope in 7th Grade Science Lessons"

This workshop will focus on how to incorporate the #Foldscope into everyday lessons. Azul will be sharing some of the labs she has done in her 7th grade science class, and the plans she has for her upcoming lessons, from looking at her classroom pets' wings to collecting samples in the school yard, and even taking samples from dissection!

This workshop will be hosted by Azul Serrano Purcell. Azul graduated from Universidad Nacional de Cordoba in Argentina, where she received her Medical Degree. After moving to the U.S., Azul started the process of getting my medical license. She was getting ready to apply for residencies and became a mom. She decided to pause her medical career and find something where she could still use her knowledge and passion for science while working with children, so teaching science was the perfect fit. Now Azul works in Ector County ISD in Odessa, Texas.

<https://zoom.us/j/93088608220...>

Meeting ID: 930 8860 8220

Passcode: 240394

Foldscope Live Workshops: Foldscope Live is a series of live, online experiences that are organized in an effort to help people stay connected and curious in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[PICK Education](#)

⌋ Foldscope Live Workshops ⌋

Speaker:

Azul Serrano Purcell (ECISD)

Time:

9 am CT • Nov 21

Topic:

**Implementing
the Foldscope
in 7th-grade
science lessons**

