

UTAH STATE OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Leadership...Service...Accountability

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To: Alexandra Hesse, Exhibits Director, The Leonardo

From: Velma Itamura, Science Specialist;
Thalea Longhurst, Health Sciences & Technology Education Specialist;
Frank Wojtech, Health and Physical Education Specialist

Subject: Body Worlds Exhibit

The Body Worlds anatomical exhibit will be coming to The Leonardo in mid Sept. This exhibit uses real human cadavers to educate the public about the human body. As a precaution, districts should preview the exhibit before having students attend. Also, it is recommended that parents sign an explicit, student permission slip. Parents should be well informed, regarding the nature of the exhibit, prior to any school sponsored visit.

The Body Worlds anatomical exhibit has enormous educational value for Science, Health Science, Health and Physical Education students in Utah. The Biology Core Curriculum covers the relationship between structure and function of organs and organ systems. Human anatomy and physiology is the foundation of each and every health science course available to Utah high school students. Each Utah Health Science course requires students to study anatomy (structure), physiology (function), and diseases and disorders, among other requirements. The Health Education Core Curriculum covers understanding of healthy lifestyles, disease prevention, and the benefits of adopting healthy nutritional and fitness behaviors. The Health Core also includes understanding of organ systems, reproductive systems, prenatal development, death and dying, cancer and other diseases, childhood and adult obesity, and the developing brain. The Physical Education Core Curriculum strives to develop healthy, responsible students who participate in a variety of activities that lead to a lifelong healthy lifestyle. Fitness and obesity, cardiovascular, respiratory, and digestive systems, locomotive systems, and configurations of blood vessels are all topics covered within physical education.

The Body Worlds exhibit is an excellent opportunity for students to observe the human body and gain understanding of the relationship between lifestyle choices and the effects of these choices on the human body. This exhibit features anatomical specimens which will allow students to better understand the complex architecture of bodily structures as a whole and the interaction of individual parts of the body. Each body system is highlighted in this exhibit as well as the human body as a whole. Students will have the opportunity to see the human body in a way that they could previously only imagine. One-dimensional photographs from textbooks only provide a representation of reality. Real human specimens provide detail and visual images in a way that students can truly understand what they have been studying. No longer is the human body just a picture on a page, but rather it becomes something that a student can relate to, understand, and appreciate. The Body Worlds exhibit brings this study to life.