



Workshop FAQ

What will we actually be doing?

Teams of OPS students and teachers will work with journalists and medical researchers to learn the skills of science journalism. Working together, the teams will produce short videos and audio essays that connect the science of viruses (virology) to an audience of high-school aged students. The teams will be researching topics, interviewing scientists, shooting video, recording audio, editing their work, and uploading it to the web for teachers and students throughout OPS and the world to use for their own classes.

Can you tell me more about the teams?

Each team has two rising ninth-grade students and two teachers. As a group, the teachers and students come from 7 high-schools and 11 middle-schools throughout OPS. Each team will be joined by a “media mentor” and a “content advisor” – professional journalists and research scientists who will act as coaches to help the teams produce high-quality media products.

Will we be doing anything dangerous with viruses?

OSMP participants will NOT be doing anything dangerous. They will not come into contact with any viruses – they will be telling the stories of the people who work with viruses and connecting that work with the experience of teens.

What kinds of technologies will we use?

The OSMP teams will use professional quality videocameras, voice recorders, microphones, headphones and editing software. Each group will have two Macbook Pro laptops to use for this workshop; the computers will stay with the teachers and be used in their own classes.

Why is OPS doing this project? Who is paying for it? How does it connect with science in the school year?

OSMP is a pilot project designed to test new ideas about learning science for OPS. A key goal is to learn as much as we can about developing science media activities in an experimental setting before integrating these activities into the curriculum at large. The project is funded by the Omaha Schools Foundation.

Are there some teams going to Lincoln? Who is driving and what are the other details?

Several of the teams will travel to Lincoln for several days of our workshop to work at the Nebraska Center for Virology and Nebraska Educational Television in Lincoln. OPS has chartered a mini-bus for July 7, 9, and 14 that will pick up students and teachers at 8:00 at the Sorrell Center and will return by 4:00 on those days.

What happens with lunch?

OSMP will provide a voucher for lunch at the UNMC cafeteria where OPS teachers and students can choose from a large variety of food.

What are the details about the student stipend and science elective credit?

Following completion of the OSMP workshop, students will receive a \$500 stipend and one elective science credit at the high school level. We are working now on the specifics about grades.

What time does the program start and end?

We will start promptly at 8:00 am so please plan on arriving a few minutes early. Our program will end at 4:00pm everyday. We will meet in the UNMC Sorrell Center.

When will parents and families get to see the projects that teams are working on?

Parents and the OPS community will be invited to a luncheon on Friday July 17 to see the OSMP projects and hear the ideas about connecting this project with the science curriculum.

What if we cannot make it to the workshop one day?

Please call Dan Gilbert at 402-203-2894 or Chris Schaben at 402-210-9655 as soon as possible. All participants are expected to attend the entire two-week session. If there is a health issue or other emergency please let us know and we will figure out a solution to keep you involved in OSMP.