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Biotech program debuts at Moreau

Special to The Catholic Voice

The greater Bay Area is a world hotbed of biotechnology, providing a rich scientific environment that enables a school like Moreau Catholic High to develop a program that is highly relevant to students and to the community at large.



Science teacher and certified athletic trainer Kerrie Gibson, with student Sofia Segura '15.

COURTESY PHOTO

Skills in each STEM area, science, technology, engineering and math. Besides the fact that biotech is a truly cross-specialty discipline, she explains, she takes an unusual approach to the class. Instead of using an academic approach, she uses a business model. "We run our program as if we were a biotech company," explains Gibson. "It is a very hands-on class."

Moreau Catholic's goal is to expand the number of students enrolled in the biotech program itself and to roll out the second-year offering, already developed by Gibson.

Moreau Catholic offers 13 courses in life and physical sciences. These courses challenge students to learn important concepts, often through inquiry-based, hands-on experiences. Moreau has six science labs that are fully equipped for lab experiences. There is a great deal of interest among students at Moreau to sign up for science courses. In fact, according to Moreau College Counselor, Jim Patterson, "Over 62 percent of students take four years of science, while only two years are required to graduate, and only three are required by UC schools."

Thanks to the efforts of science teacher and certified athletic trainer Kerrie Gibson, Moreau Catholic has a new biotechnology "biotech" program that made its debut this fall.

Says Gibson, "The biotechnology class is perfect for Moreau because we are a STEM school." By this, she explains that, in the biotech

world, one uses that biotech is a truly cross-specialty discipline, she explains, she takes an unusual approach to the class. Instead of using an academic approach, she uses a business model. "We run our program as if we were a biotech company," explains Gibson. "It is a very hands-on class."