

Homer-Center Junior Senior High School has been granted the opportunity to participate in the *Trout in the Classroom (TIC)* program. This program allows students to attain knowledge based on the act of conservation, the importance of conservation to the environment, and the student's surroundings in general. In addition, students participating in this program are able to understand more about the role of our shared water resources.

Students who are in the class *Science and Society* taught by Mr. Mark Shopland are able to participate in this program. These students learn the life cycle of the trout, which then furthers the students understanding of their local streams. As the year continues, the trout grow, creating an enjoyable experience for all the students who participate. When the year ends, the trout are set free in various approved local streams and lakes, letting them live out their trout-lives.

"I am so appreciative of the dedicated members of the Ken Sink Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the PA Fish and Boat Commission for their commitment to educating our youth about cold water conservation and the importance of our local water supplies. Their time, expertise and financial support have made the *Trout in the Classroom* program possible. Watching trout eggs hatch and develop into fingerlings generate questions from students which create teachable moments on a daily basis. The Trout in the Classroom program made a wonderful addition to our existing curriculum on Water Quality which includes a field trip to do Stream Testing, and studying topics such as Acid Mine Drainage and Marcellus Gas Drilling. I would recommend the Trout in the Classroom program to any teacher interested in taking on the challenge," said Mr. Shopland.

Check out the trout on the “Trout Cam”

<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/h-c-trout-cam>

*Our participation in the Trout in the Classroom program was made possible through grant funding (Sport Fishing and Aquatic Resource Education Grant, PA Council of Trout Unlimited, and PA Department of Education). The brook trout eggs, food and technical assistance were provided by PA Council of Trout Unlimited and PA Fish and Boat Commission. Special thanks to our local Ken Sink Chapter of Trout Unlimited for their participation and support.*

*Article written by Justin Smyers and Michael Sweeney*

*Picture: Michael Sweeney*

