

High School Curriculum



Class Curriculum

A curriculum supplement on rare diseases for high school biology and health classes has been developed by a genetic counseling master's degree student in collaboration with NORD. This curriculum contains background information for teachers and creative, flexible classroom activities to promote active learning. The activities focus on advancing scientific understanding of rare disorders; promoting compassion, empathy, and respect for people with different abilities; developing critical thinking skills; and preparing students to make informed decisions as citizens.

- [Introduction](#)
- [Activity A: Research and Learn](#)
- [Activity B: Rare but Significant](#)
- [Activity C: Living with a Rare Disease](#)
- [Activity D: Big Challenges, Tough Decisions](#)
- [Take-Home Handout](#)
- [Teacher's Fact Sheet](#)

Helpful resources include: [Rare Disease Day Fact Sheet](#), [Rare Disease Day Frequently Asked Questions](#), [NORD's Rare Disease Reports](#).

Class Activities

- Watch "[What is a rare disease?](#)" video.
- Invite a [Patient/Caregiver Speaker](#) to come to your classroom and share their story.

Social Media

- Ask the students to change their Facebook or Twitter profile picture to show support for Rare Disease Day. Encourage them to use [Rare Disease Hashtags!](#)
- Show off your classroom's support of Rare Disease Day by participating in Handprints Across America! Take a picture and share it in the [Handprints Across America 2017 Gallery!](#)

Bullying & Acceptance

Many of the 30 million Americans who have rare diseases are children or teenagers, and they often encounter bullying and lack of peer acceptance. Rare Disease Day is a good time to think about how students in your school who are different from other are treated and whether there may be things teachers and students can do to encourage greater acceptance and inclusion.

- Watch "[A Brave Heart: The Lizzie Velasquez Story](#)", a documentary on a woman with rare congenital disease overcame bullying to become a motivational speaker.

Questions? Write to NORD at education@rarediseases.org.