



For Immediate Release
Rumson Borough School District

New Jersey Trout in the Classroom STEM Grant

On December 18, 2019, the Forrestdale Middle School was awarded the First Energy STEM Classroom grant for the New Jersey Trout in the Classroom program. The grant is awarded to encourage the creativity and curiosity of students in the areas of science, math, engineering and technology.

In October, Mrs. Lauren Smith's 6th graders of the Forrestdale Middle School welcomed over 200 rainbow trout eggs to raise for the Trout in the Classroom program. This opportunity is



offered by the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife and its partner Trout Unlimited. The eggs are from the Pequest Hatchery, located in Oxford, New Jersey.

In preparation for the arrival of the trout eggs, students were in charge of maintaining the water quality of the tank and researching the responsibilities of trout raising. The students monitored the hatching basket which housed the eggs. The lucky class who was there to welcome the trout calculated the anticipated day the eggs would hatch. Students have monitored the health of the eggs and water conditions and had the experience of observing eggs hatch. Students researched the life cycle of the trout and were then able to watch them develop from their alevin stage into their fry stage.

Through this program students will learn the importance of clean, cold water not only for trout, but the entire freshwater ecosystem of New Jersey. The goal of the program is to foster eco-conscious students that feel connected to their watershed. The trout will be released by the students to a local stream in the spring.