

## Science Field Trips that Support English-Language Learners

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This year, the MRSEC hosted a large one-day field trip of Waltham High School students as part of an extension of the partnership between Brandeis and Waltham High School. The district has a high percentage of students from backgrounds underrepresented in the sciences, and the MRSEC has several on-going programs with their teachers and students to help broaden participation in STEM. For the field trip, 120 sophomores and juniors enrolled in either sheltered English immersion or C2 (low-level) biology and chemistry classes came to Brandeis. Many of the students were new to the country, and/or for whom English is a second language, and/or are not typically aware of educational opportunities beyond high school. The goal was to introduce Brandeis and ignite their interests in science. More than 25 Brandeis scientists fluent in Spanish, French and Portuguese volunteered to lead small-group science discussions in those languages. The powerful event included talks delivered by scientists from URM and immigrant backgrounds. The event was featured here: <https://goo.gl/JEA5tJ>

