

Aaron Bender
Professor, Biological & Physical Sciences
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Biography: Mr. Bender was born in western Nebraska but moved to Buffalo, Wyoming when he was in 5th grade. He always enjoyed playing outside and observing nature. He and his family spent their summers hiking, canoeing and going on road trips which are things he still enjoys doing to this day. After graduating high school, Aaron was accepted to the University of Wyoming where he studied Biology and Chemistry. It was at this point that he knew he wanted to pursue a career in academic science. After obtaining his BS degree, Aaron applied to the graduate program in Molecular Biology where he spent the next several years studying genetics and cancer. After finishing the PhD program at UW, Aaron accepted a Neuro-Oncology fellowship at the Mayo Clinic where he studied the genetics of brain-tumor formation. After working for a few years at the University of Kansas, he realized that he had a knack for teaching and a desire to move back to Wyoming. Mr. Bender has been on the faculty at CWC now for nearly 2 years and absolutely loves teaching science. He is also heading up our INBRE research team where they are studying the genetics of disease-carrying mosquitos. It is fantastic to have finally found my dream job back in Wyoming.

Workshop: *Breathe Out/Breathe In... The flow of Oxygen and Carbon Dioxide between animals and plants.* Mr. Bender will give a brief (and animated) talk about how plants breathe out the Oxygen that we breathe in and about how plants breathe in the Carbon dioxide we breathe out.

- Students will grind spinach leaves in a blender and pour into an air-tight container.
- Students will gather isopods (role-y-poleys) and place them in a separate air-tight container.
- Probes attached to laptop computers will measure the oxygen and carbon dioxide levels over time.