

# GHS Science Department News

February 2018

## Energy Conversions and Trebuchets

Mr. Baxter's Physical Science classes have been learning about energy conversions. The law of conservation of energy says that energy cannot be created or destroyed, but can be moved from place to place and transformed into different types of energy. A trebuchet (similar to a catapult) is a great way to illustrate this conservation law.

Gravitational potential energy from falling weights is transformed into kinetic energy of the object being thrown. In the past, large trebuchets were used in battle to hurl boulders at castle walls and enemy soldiers. Nowadays, we just lob tennis balls across the room.

