

Bettendorf High School

Planetarium Programs

THE RENAISSANCE

This show was the first show produced by our planetarium productions class in the spring of 2009. The show covers how the birth of the Renaissance was seen through the scientists of the time. It covers the shift in thought from a Aristotelean universe to that described by Copernicus, Galileo, Kepler and Newton.

High School
20 min

A TRIBUTE TO WALT WHITMAN

This was our first look at producing a show for high school students, by high school students. It features poems by the transcendentalist Walt Whitman, narrated by Alex Menard ('08) and Mr. Bruecken. Insights into Whitman's poems lead the audience through vivid imagery and music composed by Danny White ('05).

High School
20 min

THE ASTROLOGY OF SHAKESPEARE

This show highlights the many references to Astrology in Shakespeare's plays. It features narration by several of our high school students and music composed by Mike Conrad ('06).

High School
25 min

CELESTIAL GEOMETRY

This show was produced by Bettendorf's Astronomy II class in 2006. It takes the audience through the mathematics of parallax and angular size. It shows how the circumference of the earth was first found and how the Hubble Space Telescope judges distances to faraway objects. It was narrated by Alex Clark ('06) and Colleen Lasar ('06) with script by John Buck ('07) and visuals from many of our high school students.

High School
25 min

MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

This program is one I use for scout groups and the general public because it gives a general introduction to the night sky. It emphasizes what you can see with your own eyes and then shows what additional information can be seen with various types of telescopes.

5th-12th grade
30 minutes

SKYWATCHERS OF ANCIENT MEXICO

This set of two programs takes the audience through the astrology and technological advances attributed to astronomy in Ancient Mexico. The first show looks at the Aztec gods and goddesses and how they influenced their culture. The second show focuses on the Mayans.

5th-12th grade
40 min

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

This show comes in three varieties: German, Spanish, and French. It is narrated in each of these languages. The cosmological content is not as important as the real world listening that students get when the narrator takes them through various constellations.

10-12th grade
30 min

LONELINESS FACTOR

This program reviews the methods we have used to find out about outer space and what messages we have sent. It speculates on what different life forms would look like and it finishes with the format and message that we could send. This has proved to be entertaining for the kids and can lead into usage of the film, "Contact".

5th-12th grade

42 minutes

VOYAGER ENCOUNTER

This program is narrated by Patrick Stewart of Star Trek fame. It details the structure and function of the voyager spacecraft and then highlights the close-up pictures of Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.

5th-12th grade

42 minutes

ALL SYSTEMS GO

This program starts with the 1957 launching of Sputnik by the Russians. It then covers the next 25 years of US Space history and finishes with the 1982 launch of the Space Shuttle. This is a great program to emphasize history.

5th-12th grade

40 minutes

DAWN OF ASTRONOMY #1

This program looks at the beginnings of astronomy through European culture. It looks at some of the massive rock formations in England, specifically Stonehenge. There is a CD-ROM that I can use for supplemental materials.

High School

45-90 minutes

DAWN OF ASTRONOMY #2

This program finishes some historical perspectives of astronomy with a great look at the pyramids in Egypt. There is a CD-ROM that I can use for supplemental materials.

High School

45-90 minutes

THE UNIVERSE OF DR. EINSTEIN

This program looks at the life of Albert Einstein. It is general enough to include his own thoughts, theories, and family history.

High School

45 minutes

CHRISTMAS STAR

This is a program that we have traditionally given to the public sometime in December. It is a look at what event could have produced the star of Bethlehem. It uses references from the bible, and other religious texts as well as scientific evidence of astronomical events around the time of the birth of Christ. Supplemental slides have been added from around Bettendorf and it is narrated by Frank Gorshe (a retired teacher from the district).

Public

43 min

STELLAR THREAD

This program takes human evolution to another level. Not only does it describe the synthesis and reproduction of DNA, but it also shows that the molecules of DNA have their origins in the hearts of dying stars.

High School

42 min

CONSTELLATIONS

This program can be adapted to what you need in the classroom. A simple rundown of constellations in the sky is typical, but other supplements could be added

All ages

Length varies

INTRODUCTION

This is a program for younger children. They explore the planetarium and how it works. They look at the "pretend" stars and watch them move across the sky. There are many other special effects that we can show with some unique projectors and lasers.

Kindergarden-2nd grade