

PROJECT

STARWALK



An exemplary educational program validated by the Joint Dissemination Review Panel, United States Department of Education, and a National Diffusion Network Developer/Demonstration Project.

Project STARWALK

PROJECT STARWALK is a cooperative astronomy program between elementary schools and their local Planetarium that provides lab instruction in the area of Earth and Space Science using a process approach in observing, graphing, and predicting concepts such as seasons, constellations, distance and time. It is expected that this process approach will enhance cognitive knowledge attained by students who participate in the program. Students receive a series of lessons structured around three visits to a Planetarium to prepare them for their activities at the Planetarium and to consolidate and further the learning after the visit. Planetarium handbooks and teaching packets provide the instructional materials for these lessons. Classroom teachers participate in the activities along with their students. Students in grade 3 are introduced to the concepts of rotation, revolution, time, and stars and constellations of our galaxy. Students in grade 5 study earth's rotation, revolution, and axial tilt as factors affecting seasons, and stars and constellations of our galaxy.

STARWALK addresses an educational need

The National Science Foundation and the National Teachers Association have both expressed concern about students' inability to integrate process skills into related content areas. Project STARWALK addresses the educational need presented by such lacks in Science preparation. STARWALK instruction provides:

- * A planetarium model to facilitate student understanding of basic physical concepts in a concrete way
- * a multi-sensory approach to maximize learning
- * content in the area of earth/space science
- * experience in observing, graphing, and predicting

STARWALK evidence of effectiveness

Research conducted in cooperation with the Center for Educational Leadership and Evaluation at the University of Delaware has provided statistical evidence to support the program's contribution to student achievement in Earth/Space Science. The gains recorded by treatment groups represented increases in scores three to six times above normal expectations. As a result STARWALK makes this claim:

Third and fifth grade students in the program improve their knowledge of Earth/Space Science concepts related to seasons, weather, distance, and time, as measured by a domain-referenced test, significantly more than a comparison group of similar students studying the same curriculum with a different method.

STARWALK costs

- * 1 day Initial Teacher Training for each grade.....arranged
- * Master Copy of Teacher Guides (3rd & 5th) and Student Worksheets.....\$50.00
- * Your duplication of Teacher Guides and Student Worksheets.....local costs
- * Planetarium Visit fee (3 visits/year).....student enrollment x local costs

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