

for release
September 14, 2018

for more information
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(219) 650-5486



All Systems Go!

The Merrillville Community Planetarium presents All Systems Go!, a public program beginning on October 5 and continuing through October 20. The show will be presented on Friday, October 5, 12, and 19, and Saturday, October 13 and 20 at 7:30 p.m. Additional showings may be added if needed. The planetarium opens for seating 30 minutes before the show begins. No one will be admitted after the program starts. The program lasts from 60 to 90 minutes.

October 2018 is the 60th anniversary of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's origin. During this program, we'll look back at some of the milestone events in NASA's 60 year history, including the first Americans in space, landing on the moon, and exploration of our solar system. The planetarium's Gift Shop will be open and, weather permitting, an outdoor observing session will be offered following the program.

Admission to public programs is \$4.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children. Seating is limited and should be reserved by calling (219) 650-5486 or visiting the planetarium's web site at **www.mcpstars.org**. Tickets are sold at the door. Groups may arrange for a private show by calling the planetarium at (219) 650-5486.

This is the first of four public programs for the 2018-2019 school year. Our next public show will be "The Winter Sky" in January 2019. For more information about the planetarium, visit **www.mcpstars.org**. The planetarium is located in Clifford Pierce Middle School at 199 East 70th Avenue in Merrillville, Indiana. Please park and enter on the west side of the building.

Merrillville Community Planetarium
Public Planetarium Programs
2018-2019 School Year



Admission to public programs is \$4.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children. Seating is limited and should be reserved by calling (219) 650-5486 or visiting www.mcpstars.org. Tickets are sold at the door. All programs start at 7:30 p.m. and the planetarium opens for seating 30 minutes before show time. No one is admitted after the program starts. Programs last from 60 to 90 minutes. Groups may arrange for a private show by calling the planetarium at (219) 650-5486.

The planetarium's Gift Shop is open for each show. Weather permitting, an outdoor observing session is offered following each program. The planetarium is located in Clifford Pierce Middle School at 199 East 70th Avenue in Merrillville, Indiana. Please park and enter on the west side of the building.

All Systems Go!

Friday, October 5, 12, 19
Saturday, October 13, 20

October 2018 is the 60th anniversary of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's origin. During this program, we'll look back at some of the milestone events in NASA's 60 year history, including the first Americans in space, landing on the moon, and exploration of our solar system.

The Winter Sky

Friday, January 11, 18, 25
Saturday, January 19, 26

The winter stars are among the brightest and most interesting of all the seasons. Orion, Taurus, Canis Major, and Gemini are all visible during the early evening. Other objects of interest include the Orion Nebula, the Pleiades star cluster, Mars after sunset, and Venus and Jupiter before sunrise.

Adventures Along the Spectrum

Friday, April 12, 19, 26
Saturday, April 20, 27

This is a family presentation of one of our school programs for 3rd to 5th grade. Professor Photon leads the audience on an adventure from the familiar world of visible light to the invisible and eerie realms of the energy spectrum. A look at the spring sky follows the main program.

Apollo 11: The First Landing on the Moon

Friday, July 12, 19, 26
Saturday, July 20, 27

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first landing on the moon! The moon landing was one of the greatest adventures of mankind. Feel the launch of the world's most powerful rocket, and watch as astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin become the first humans to walk on the moon.

Merrillville Community Planetarium
 Clifford Pierce Middle School
 199 East 70th Avenue
 Merrillville, Indiana 46410

School and Group Programs
 September 7, 2017

School groups (from pre-school to college), Boy and Girl Scouts, clubs and organizations, church groups, and family gatherings are invited to visit the planetarium. There is a group admission fee of \$72 per show (additional charge for full dome shows) and the planetarium can seat up to 64 visitors. Group programs may be scheduled during the school day, after school, evenings, weekends, and summer. Most programs last about an hour (shorter for very young children). Please allow additional time to use our Waiting Area or Gift Shop. For more information, call the planetarium at (219) 650-5486 or visit our web site at www.mcpstars.org.

We frequently update our programs – please call or email to check on the availability of any program in which you may be interested.

<i>program title</i>	<i>grade level</i>	<i>program description</i>	<i>teacher guide</i>
Introduction to the Planetarium	kdg & 1st	Introduces the planetarium and the day and night sky	yes
Wilbear's Adventure	kdg - 3rd	Wilbear is a teddy bear who learns about the history & science of flight	
How Do We Explore Space?	1st	Exploring space by using our eyes, telescopes, and spacecraft	yes
Earth Is a Planet	1st - 2nd	Earth as a planet: the atmosphere, water, land, and life	yes
Exploring the Sky	1st - 5th	Stars, planets, moon, constellations; earns badge for young scouts	
Larry Cat in Space	1st - adult	A family show about a cat that follows its owner to the moon	yes
Let It Snow	1st - adult	Favorite holiday songs and festive animation (<i>full dome show – additional fee</i>)	
The Sun and Earth	2nd	Stars; Earth orbits the sun; cause of day and night, seasons	yes
MoonWitch	2nd - adult	After hearing about a "MoonWitch", a young girl learns about the moon	
Current Sky and Solar System	3rd - adult	Constellations; sky motion; a trip to the North Pole; tour of the planets	yes
The Sun's Family	3rd - 4th	Covers the sun, planets, moons, asteroids, and comets	yes
The Moon	3rd - 4th	Basic information about the moon, phases, and eclipses	yes
Flying the Space Shuttle	3rd - 4th	How the shuttle works and what it does in space; historic missions	
Adventures Along the Spectrum	3rd - 5th	Professor Photon explains light and the electromagnetic spectrum	
The Water Planet	4th - 5th	The atmosphere, water, land, and life of Earth; basic geology	
Our Star, the Sun	4th - 5th	About stars and the sun; how the sun affects our planet	yes
Satellites and Space Probes	4th - 5th	Types of satellites; rockets; space probes sent to the planets	yes
Dawn of the Space Age	4th - adult	Historic moments from Sputnik to the Shuttle (<i>full dome show – additional fee</i>)	
Man and the Moon, part 1	5th - 6th	Information learned about the moon prior to spaceflight	yes
Man and the Moon, part 2	5th - 6th	New knowledge about the moon from lunar probes and astronauts	yes
The Inner Solar System	5th - 6th	Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, and the asteroid belt	
The Outer Solar System	5th - 6th	Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto, and comets	

continued

<i>program title</i>	<i>grade level</i>	<i>program description</i>	<i>teacher guide</i>
The Planets	5th - adult	From its formation to extrasolar planets, this program explores our solar system	
Destination: Mars!	5th - adult	Follow astronauts on a journey to explore Mars based on NASA plans	
RingWorld	5th - adult	The Cassini space probe explores Saturn, its rings, and its moons	
The Star Gazer	5th - adult	Astronomer James Kaler shares his knowledge and enthusiasm for stars	
Africa: Mysteries in Art	5th - adult	The art, history, and role of the sky in various cultures in Africa	
Art for All Time	5th - adult	Explore how humans have painted the beauty of the world throughout history	
Eclipse: Dance of Shadow and Light	6th - adult	Solar & lunar eclipses in history; cause of eclipses; safe viewing	
A Comet Called Halley	6th - adult	The history & science of comets; results of Halley's 1986 visit	
Comet: From Ice to Fire	6th - adult	Comets in history; the nature and study of comets; recent comets	
Learning About Stars	6th - adult	The winter sky; brightness, color, composition, and how stars evolve	
Galaxies and the Universe	6th - adult	The fall sky; the Milky Way & Andromeda Galaxies; types of galaxies	
Galaxies	6th - adult	A journey from our Milky Way "neighborhood" to the most distant galaxies	
Life Beyond Earth	6th - adult	How planets form & life begins; life elsewhere; methods of contact	yes
Exploring Our Universe	6th - adult	How humans' view of the universe has changed throughout history	
More Than Meets the Eye	6th - adult	Backyard astronomy: objects visible with eyes, binoculars, telescopes	
The Endless Horizon	6th - adult	Human exploration of the oceans, continents, and outer space	
The Wright Way to Fly	6th - adult	The story of human flight from Icarus to the Wright Brothers	
All Systems Go!	6th - adult	The history of NASA and America's space program from Sputnik to the shuttle	
Apollo 11: First Landing on the Moon	6th - adult	A detailed account of the first human landing on the moon in 1969	
Magellan: Report from Venus	7th - adult	Results from the Magellan probe which used radar to map Venus	
The Mars Show	7th - adult	Historic views, recent Mars probes, and future exploration	
The Voyager Encounters	7th - adult	The planets, moons, & rings of the outer solar system	
Cosmic Catastrophes	7th - adult	Causes of mass extinctions: supernovas, cosmic impacts, human effects	
The Life and Death of Stars	7th - adult	The evolution of stars as traced in the constellations of winter	
Mercury: America's First Men in Space	7th - adult	Early space race with the Soviet Union; flights of Shepard & Glenn	
Twins in Space: The Gemini Program	7th - adult	The Gemini Program tested spaceflight operations needed to land on the moon	
Van Gogh Sees the Stars	7th - adult	The life & art of Vincent Van Gogh; how Van Gogh was influenced by the sky	
Through the Eyes of Hubble	8th - adult	The discoveries made by Hubble since being successfully repaired	
The Days of the Dead	8th - adult	Traces the history & art of this Mexican festival from the ancient Aztecs to today	
The Dawn of Astronomy	8th - adult	Ancient astronomy; building and use of pyramids and Stonehenge	

Merrillville Community Planetarium

Planetarium News

September 10, 2018

NASA Celebrates 60 Years of Leading American's Space Program

After the Soviet Union launched Sputnik in October 1957, President Eisenhower responded by calling for the creation of a civilian agency to lead the United States' exploration of space. On July 29, 1958, Congress passed the National Aeronautics and Space Act, which established NASA. The agency came into existence on October 1, 1958.

This fall, we're celebrating the 60th anniversary of NASA's founding by presenting "All System Go!" This planetarium program celebrates the first 25 years of NASA, looking at milestones such as the first American in space, landing on the moon, and space probes exploring the solar system.

50th Anniversary of the First Human Moon Landing

When Apollo 11 landed on the moon in July 1969, it had a very profound effect on a nine year old boy growing up in Terre Haute, Indiana. That young boy grew up in a family of teachers and decided to combine his interests in space and teaching by becoming a Planetarium Director. So, as Planetarium Director of the Merrillville Schools today, I'm excited to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first human landing on the moon with my audiences.

Our July public show will be "Apollo 11: First Landing on the Moon". This program started as a slide show that I wrote when I was a freshman at Ball State University for the 10th anniversary of Apollo 11 in 1979. We've updated it to be a modern planetarium program.

45th Anniversary of the Merrillville Community Planetarium

Merrillville Junior High School – the building that we call Clifford Pierce Middle School today – was remodeled from 1972 to 1973. As part of that project, a planetarium was added to the building. The planetarium opened to Merrillville students and community in the fall of 1973.

So, in addition to recognizing the 60th anniversary of NASA, we can celebrate the planetarium's 45th birthday this fall. The planetarium is approaching one million visitors over the last 45 years. And, while the technology used in our planetarium has changed over the last 45 years, our mission – bringing the Universe to the Merrillville Schools and Northwest Indiana – has not.

– Gregg L. Williams, Planetarium Director

Merrillville Community Planetarium
Mailing List Update
2018-2019 School Year

Help us keep our mailing list up-to-date and accurate. To continue receiving information about future programs, please complete and return this form by October 15, 2018. Thank you.

Return completed form to: Mailing List
Merrillville Community Planetarium
199 East 70th Avenue
Merrillville, IN 46410

action (check one): _____ remove from mailing list
 _____ add to e-mailing list – here's my e-mail address:

(Please print. We will not share your e-mail address with other organizations.)

_____ keep on postal mailing list for another year using the address on the
back of this paper
_____ keep on postal mailing list, but correct as noted below

address to (circle one): family individual

name: _____
address: _____
address: _____
city, state, zip: _____

We would like to know what you think of our planetarium and its programming. What do you like about our shows? What would you like to see changed or added? Please take a moment to write your comments in the space below.

Merrillville Community Planetarium
Clifford Pierce Middle School
199 East 70th Avenue
Merrillville, Indiana 46410

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Apollo 11: First Landing on the Moon
50th Anniversary of Moon Landing

July 2019 Public Show

60th Anniversary of NASA

All Systems Go!

Fall Public Show

Merrillville Community Planetarium