

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

School and Group Programs
 September 11, 2009

School groups (from pre-school to college), Boy and Girl Scouts, civic organizations, and church groups are all invited to visit the planetarium. There is a group admission fee of \$65 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 visit our gift shop. Call the Planetarium Director at (219) 650-5486 or visit our website at www.mcpstars.org.

We are constantly updating our programs and adding new shows. Please call for the current availability of programs.

| <i>program title</i> | <i>grade level</i> | <i>program description</i> | <i>guide</i> |
|--|--------------------|---|--------------|
| Introduction to the Planetarium | kdg & 1st | Introduces the planetarium and the day and night sky | yes |
| 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 | |
| Wilbear's Adventure | 1st - 3rd | Wilbear is a teddy bear who learns about the history & science of flight | |
| Larry Cat in Space | 1st - adult | A family show about a cat that follows its owner to the moon | yes |
| 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 | |
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| 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> | |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 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

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|--|--------------------|--|--------------|
| 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 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 | |
| Humanities & the Stars: Greeks | 8th - adult | The stars, planets, & universe as portrayed in Greek mythology | |
| 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 | |