

Digitarium (Star Lab) 101

PREPARATION:

- The Star Lab is reserved on a first come first serve basis, be sure to book early each year!
- Visit our website for resources <http://www.sjcoescience.org/starlab.html>
- Plan what you will do in the Star Lab.
 - Use “Sky Tonight” Outline with remote control
 - Use one or more videos built into the internal drive
 - Devise your own outline with the remote control
- Plan who will operate the Star Lab. Remember only teachers/volunteers trained by our office are allowed to operate this equipment.
- Plan for space: the dome takes up an area of 16’ x 20’ with a 16” diameter. The dome is 10.5” high. The space within the dome can comfortably seat 20 adults or 30 students.

PICK UP: Fridays between 3:30 – 4:30pm at the Office of STEM, Wentworth Education Center

- Keep in mind that the Star Lab has some large components and will need a vehicle with space.
- Upon receiving the equipment, please check to make sure you have all the equipment in each container.
- If any equipment is missing or broken, call the Office of STEM immediately at 468-4800.

AT YOUR SCHOOL:

Here are some suggestions from “veteran” Star Lab teachers:

- Go over the rules and tell a star story to the students in their classroom before we leave to visit the lab. Then we line-up and walk to the Lab, with the classroom teacher.

RULES FOR STUDENTS:

- Lean forward while sitting in the Lab. Don’t lean back and rest on the dome, it is not strong enough and will tear.
- Pockets must be empty. Sharp objects such as combs, pencils, toys, or keys will puncture the dome.
- Everyone gets 2-3 minutes to whisper with a neighbor, silence on my signal.
- Warn the students that it will get darker, that screaming is not permitted.
- Keep your hands to yourself.
- The classroom teacher helps students enter while I’m inside directing traffic and keeping students away from the projector.
- Classroom teacher exits Lab first. You’re between the door and the projector to direct traffic. Always protect the projector.
- Total time spent with each class, from the time leaving the classroom to returning, 45-60 minutes.

SUGGESTED TIME FRAMES:

- Grades K-2 spend 10-15 minutes in the lab
- Grades 3-6 spend 20-30 minutes in the lab
- Grades 7-12 spend 30-45 minutes in the lab

PACKING UP/DROPING OFF: Fridays by 3pm or earlier.

- In the rush to pack up, please remember to carefully pack up all equipment correctly.
- Our office does not have time between drop off and pick up to open all the equipment.
- **You are responsible for any missing items. Be sure to double check and make sure all items are returned and in working order!**