

Attention Teachers: A NOTE ABOUT THE PLANETARIUM

Countless times our visitors share their fond memories of their first visit to the Planetarium. Our goal is to create an environment where your children may have an enjoyable educational- and memorable- experience. You can be instrumental in preparing your class beforehand by sharing with them your experience, and especially the following.

The Planetarium may seem like a movie theater- but it is not. It is a small and intimate space. The Dome on which we present the sky acts as an amplifier. Sound becomes a serious problem. *Any talking, whispering, or giggling that would go unnoticed in a regular theater becomes a significant intrusion in the confines of the Planetarium.* We make it clear prior to each class, but children may not realize how their voices are magnified and carried. We engage the class with questions, and permit time at the end of the class for individual questioning. Therefore, please help us by explaining how any noise will be disruptive.

The Planetarium also differs from a theater in that it becomes almost *completely* dark. This allows us to show a beautiful night sky that few children in the city have had the opportunity to experience. Seldom do children today find themselves literally unable to see their hands in front of their faces. This darkness may be quite unsettling to children as old as age 10. Coupled with their anonymity in the dark, we see inappropriate behavior that really is the child's attempt to cope with this anxiety. Knowing ahead of time what to expect may help them feel more comfortable.

Presentations are congruent with the Ohio State Science Academic Content Standards, but you are welcome to call me to modify your class' content to better suit your goals. We want our time with your class to be of the best possible quality. We employ lecturers who are avid amateur astronomers with a real love for the night sky- and wish to convey their sense of joy and wonder to your children.

Thank you for your help-

***David Richards
Hoover-Price Planetarium Director***