



Educators' Network™



NASA Langley Research Center's Office of Education proudly announces the inaugural issue of its first electronic newsletter, the NASA Educator's Network (ed.net). Ed.net furthers our mission to connect the precollege and university communities to unique NASA resources, programs, and opportunities as well as provides NASA with an opportunity to stay connected to educators, faculty, and students. We hope that the NASA Educator's Network will continue to inspire you and the next generation of explorers... as only NASA can.

Dr. Samuel E. Massenberg
Director
Office of Education

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In The News

Teacher Interest in Space Exploration Continues to Soar

Despite the loss of the space shuttle Columbia and the courageous STS-107 crew, the NASA Educator Astronaut Program continues to interest thousands of teachers who wish to follow in the footsteps of the first educator mission specialist, Barbara R. Morgan.

The NASA Educator Astronaut Program, which debuted on January 21, 2003, has received over 6,357 teacher nominations from across the nation since the February 1, 2003 tragedy. The NASA Educator Astronaut Program seeks individuals with experience and expertise in K-12 education to create extraordinary ways to share the space experience with millions of students and teachers in the classroom and to inspire the next generation of explorers. Selected teachers will perform the jobs and responsibilities of Mission Specialist Astronauts on space shuttle and International Space Station missions. Some duties include operating the shuttle's robotic arm, leading research experiments, and performing routine space walks. Following national recruitment efforts and a detailed selection process, NASA will select three to six teachers to become fully qualified members of NASA's Astronaut Corps. Educator astronauts who are chosen will become full-time NASA employees who can earn an annual salary between \$50,974 and \$94,448, based on the selected candidate's qualifications.

Students, family members, friends, and the public are encouraged to nominate K-12 teachers for this unique opportunity to join NASA's inaugural class of educator astronauts. Those interested in applying or nominating a teacher must do so by April 30, 2003. NASA anticipates making its selection announcement as early as 2004. For more information about the NASA Educator Astronaut Program and to apply online, visit <http://edspace.nasa.gov>.





ON THE AIR



NASA's Destination Tomorrow™

Tues., Mar. 18, 2003
11:30 a.m. - 12:00 Noon ET



NASA Science Files™: The Case of the Biological Biosphere

Wed., Mar. 19, 2003
11 a.m. - 12 Noon ET

NASA CONNECT™ : Measurement, Ratios, and Graphing: Safety First IRI

Thurs., Mar. 20, 2003
11 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. ET

For a complete listing of public, cable, and instructional television stations broadcasting NASA Kids Science News Network™, NASA CONNECT™, the NASA Science Files™, and NASA's Destination Tomorrow™, check out NASA's Center for Distance Learning at <http://dlcenter.larc.nasa.gov>.

Did You Know?

How are clouds classified?

In 1803, Englishman Luke Howard created a system of classifying clouds that is still being used today. Howard classified clouds into three main types based on their general form and height above the ground. These main cloud types are cirrus, cumulus, and stratus. Formed at very high altitudes, cirrus clouds are wispy and feather-like. Middle clouds are called stratus clouds; they have blanket-like layers. Lastly, cumulus clouds are low-altitude clouds with a puffy, cotton ball shape. To learn about the NASA Students' Cloud Observations On-Line (S'COOL) program and how you and your students can participate, please visit <http://asd-www.larc.nasa.gov/SCOOL>.



Cirrus clouds are wispy and feather-like.



Stratus clouds have blanket-like layers.



Cumulus clouds have a puffy, cotton ball shape.





NASA NEWS BRIEF

NASA AND SCETV BRING TV SERIES INTO CLASSROOMS

NASA and South Carolina Educational Television (SCETV) are joining forces to video-stream three educational TV series – NASA Science Files™, NASA CONNECT™, and NASA's Destination Tomorrow™ – into classrooms in South Carolina and across the country. NASA Science Files™ and NASA CONNECT™ are designed to enhance and enrich the teaching and learning of mathematics, science, and technology for students in grades 3-5 and 6-8. NASA's Destination Tomorrow™ is designed for educators, parents, and life-long learners. Schools nationwide can access streaming video through SCETV's K-12 educational portal at <http://www.knowitall.org/nasa>.

Be a NASA Explorer School (NES)

NASA is offering an exciting new opportunity for schools to form a unique three-year partnership for professional development and student experiences. The NASA Explorer Schools program is offering its resources in science, mathematics, and technology to bring rich learning environments to educator/administrator teams, students, and their families. The program will offer stipends, grants, a one-week summer workshop at a NASA Center, and special events for educators, administrators, students, and families. Applications are now being accepted for the first 50 NASA Explorer School Teams. Those interested in applying must do so by April 4, 2003. Additional information about the program and the application process can be found at <http://explorerschools.nasa.gov>

Celebrate the Centennial of Flight

Join the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Wright brother's first successful human air-powered flight as well as the marvels of aviation history. Join the nation in celebrating how Orville and Wilbur's contribution changed the world in which we live. To experience the anniversary of human flight and access multimedia clips, essays, posters, visit <http://www.centennialofflight.gov>.

Looking Ahead...

Athena Student Interns Program (ASIP)

Who should apply: teachers and students in grades 9-11

Deadline: March 31, 2003

<http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/mer/classroom/asip.html>

NASA Pre-Service Teacher Institute

Who should apply? college juniors, seniors, and graduate students who are prospective K-8 educators

Deadline: April 15, 2003

<http://edu.larc.nasa.gov/pstp/index.html>

NASA Educator Astronaut Program

Who should apply? K-12 educators

Deadline: April 30, 2003

<http://edspace.nasa.gov>





Best of the Web

Mathematics

A Math Dictionary for Kids

<http://www.amathsdictionaryforkids.com>

Science

Science Fun with Airplanes

<http://ohioline.osu.edu/~flight/homepage.html#>

Engineering

Greatest Engineering Achievements of the 20th Century

<http://www.greatachievements.org/greatachievements/index.html>

Technology

Get Tech

<http://www.gettech.org>

NASA

NASA Spacelink

<http://www.spacelink.nasa.gov>

Geography

United States Geological Survey

<http://info.er.usgs.gov>

Higher Education

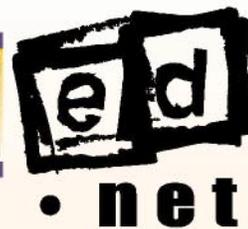
The Chronicle of Higher Education

<http://chronicle.com>

Calendar of Events

Plan on attending any of the following education conferences? If so, come learn more about how you and your students can explore the exciting world of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and NASA.

Date	Conference	Location
Mar. 21-22, 2003	WVCTM Annual Conference West Virginia Council of Teachers of Mathematics	Flatwoods, WV
Mar. 24-29, 2003	Society for Info. Tech & Teacher Education	Albuquerque, NM
Mar. 27-30, 2003	National Science Teachers Association	Philadelphia, PA
Mar. 27-29, 2003	NASA Pre-Service Teacher Conference	Alexandria, VA



Teacher Feature

"The NASA Science Files™: *The Case of the Powerful Pulley*, has really helped me understand how simple machines are used to calculate mechanical advantage and apply it to making work easier. With this information, I can make sure my students understand not only that simple machines make work easier, but how. I think that is important to overall science education." - Michael P. Young, Jones Magnet Middle School, Hampton, VA 6th and 8th grade science teacher

Do you use or have you ever used NASA educational materials and programs for instructional enrichment or professional development? Send your comments and suggestions to NASA to improve the teaching and learning of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). E-mail your comments to **dlcenter+newsletter@larc.nasa.gov** and please include the following information: name, subject taught, grade level taught, name of school, city, and state.

Suggestion Box



"We are trying to establish 'anytime-anywhere learning.' One example is our morning show with live remote interviews. It has really excited our whole school. It makes the students think 'out of the box' and try to reach out and be curious about many different topics. We, as always, try to keep 'anytime-anywhere learning' integrated with the curriculum. We also use it to highlight all activities throughout our school, including technology, science, etc."

- Margaret McHale, School Based Technology Specialist, Canterbury Woods Elementary School, Fairfax, VA

Do you have an effective instructional strategy that excites students to learn more about STEM? Would you like to offer some best practice ideas of how to use distance learning in the classroom? E-mail your suggestions to **dlcenter+newsletter@larc.nasa.gov** and please include the following information: name, subject taught, grade level taught, name of school, city, and state.

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