

## Eugene Science Center and 4J 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Partnership

Eugene Science Center (ESC) is excited to begin a partnership with 4J to bring our portable planetarium and in-class activities to 7<sup>th</sup> grade science classes in the district. Starting in January 2024, ESC educators will be available to visit your school and deliver two, 45-minute class sessions of space science programming to your 7<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Programming is delivered during two phases:

1. Portable Planetarium (45 minutes per class). During this phase, students will have the opportunity to engage with a live planetarium show run by ESC educators in our portable planetarium that will be set up at your school. This session requires space for our portable planetarium to be set up indoors at your facility. Portable planetarium set up requires the following:
  - 25'x25' clean indoor area with 12' ceiling height. This accounts for the size of the inflatable planetarium dome *and* walking space around it. Example spaces: gym, library, music room.
  - An accessible electrical outlet. We will have an extension cord.
  - Time for set up and tear down. This should take no longer than 15 minutes on each end. The materials can be easily transported through any door.

**Note:** We ask that school personnel coordinate with 7<sup>th</sup> grade science teachers to identify an appropriate location for the portable planetarium on the date selected for phase one of the program.

2. In-class extension activities building upon planetarium content (45 minute program). This is an in-class, hands-on extension that will further explore the content introduced in the portable planetarium. This class program does not require special facilities.

Based on input from 4J 7<sup>th</sup> grade science teachers, **living systems** will be the theme of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade program. This program will explore essential questions that scientists ask as they investigate far-off moons, planets, and galaxies. We will uncover what qualities make a world habitable by taking a close look at neighbors within our own Solar System. Voyaging beyond, we will delve into how scientists identify exoplanets and how they determine where life is most likely to exist. Across the portable planetarium program and in-class extension activities, students will engage with NGSS standards, such as MS-ESS1-3, MS-ESS2-1 and MS-LS2-5.

### Scheduling

Ideally, these programs will span two consecutive days. On the first day, ESC educators will set up the portable planetarium at your school and each 7<sup>th</sup> grade science class will spend 45 minutes completing phase one of the program. The following day, ESC will return to your school and do the in-class extension programs with each 7<sup>th</sup> science grade class. There is some flexibility on a case by case basis to the structure noted above. For example, it would be possible to do in-class programming on day one and the portable planetarium programming on day two.

### Other Partnership Elements

- Each 7<sup>th</sup> grade student receives two free passes to Eugene Science Center.
- 20% off ESC memberships for 4J teachers.

**Questions?** Please contact Libby Grace, Education Director, Eugene Science Center. (541)682-7892.

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