

Methacton's

MALLON PLANETARIUM

Remodel Project Proposal & Rational

Planetarium Director: Adam Chantry

PHILOSOPHY

“The Planetarium is a laboratory, **NOT** to produce astronomers for the world, but to produce people who are aware of the world around us.”

- *Dr. Gerald Mallon*



Mallon Planetarium:

- Opened 1974
- Born out of Space Race
- Co-curricular, Extracurricular, & Community Opportunities



How unique is our planetarium?

- More close each year
- Possibly 20 remain state-wide

STUDENTS

The Mallon Planetarium is a distinctive feature that increases students' curiosity and scientific literacy.



Example Questions

- Why is it hot in summer and cold in winter?
- Why does the Moon go through phases?
- Why are there 7 days in a week?
- How do tides work?

(You think you know, but do you really?)

- How has space affected technology?
- What did ancient civilizations understand about the universe?

Annual Visits

(Based on '18-'19 School Year)

Topics Include: (Not All Listed)

- Day & Night
- Phases of the Moon
- Stars, Planets, & The Solar System
- Atoms & Molecules
- Mass & Weight
- Solar System Scale
- Reason For The Seasons
- Hydrosphere, Geosphere, Thermosphere, Atmosphere
- Constellations
- North Star & Navigation
- Lewis & Clark Expedition
- Plate Tectonics
- Science Fiction
- Gustav Holst: The Planets Suite
- Periodic Table

<u>Grade</u>	<u># of Visits</u>
Kindergarten	1
1st	1
2nd	3
3rd	2
4th	2
(Begin Co-Curricular)	
5th	4
6th	20
7th	7
8th	5
Total	45 Grade Level Visits/Yr.

3,600 Students Visit/Yr.

COMMUNITY

'18-'19 More Than 1,500 Community Members Visited

- Monthly Public Shows
- Annual Star Party (Free)
- Annual Laser Light Shows
- Special Events:
 - Apollo 50th Anniversary
 - 2017 Solar Eclipse
- Homeschool Groups
- Scout Groups
- Visits From Area School Districts:
 - Perkiomen Valley
 - Spring Ford
 - Various Preschools
- Local Astronomy Clubs:
 - D.V.A.A. (Delaware Valley Amaetur Astronomers)
 - Rittenhouse Astronomical Society

Methacton
SCHOOL DISTRICT

PRESENTS:

Mallon Planetarium Community Shows



Friday, September 17th

6:30 - Celestial Highlights & Planet Tour

8:00 - Celestial Highlights & Moons: Worlds of Mystery ^{NEW}

Friday, October 15th

6:30 - Celestial Highlights & Moon Witch

8:00 - Celestial Highlights & Space Exploration Update

Friday, October 29th

6:30 - Funny Thing About The Sky

8:00 - Funny Thing About The Sky (Encore)

Friday, November 19th

6:30 - Celestial Highlights & We Are Stars

8:00 - Celestial Highlights & Eclipses

Friday, December 3rd

6:30 - Celestial Highlights & Seasons of Light Holiday Special

8:00 - Celestial Highlights & Seasons of Light Holiday Special (Encore)

December 10th - 18th

6:30 - Laser Light Shows Return to the Mallon Planetarium!!!!!!

www.methacton.org/Planetarium

for Details, Tickets, & News

Adults: \$8

Children/Students/Seniors: \$6

Arcola Intermediate School
4001 Eagleville Road
Eagleville, PA 19403

GOALS

- Increase capacity and number of student visits (eliminate center projection)
- Increase the ease of co-curricular lesson capabilities and ease of use with classroom teachers
- Update & Future-Proof Aging Technology, Hardware, and Facilities
 - **Computer/Projection** (installed 2013-Higher Resolution)
 - **Light system** (installed 2013)
 - **Seating** (Original post and arrangement from 1974)
 - **Dome** (Original 1974 -New has more maintenance options)
 - **HVAC** (Original - separate from building)

Cost/Lifespan

Item

Cost

Lifespan

Dome (Spitz)	\$200,000.00	50 Years
HVAC/Wiring/Facilities	\$225,000.00	50 Years
Seating/Flooring	\$50,000.00	25 Years
Signage	\$7,000.00	25 Years
Audio System (Spitz)	\$18,000.00	20 Years
Lighting System (Spitz)	\$40,000.00	20 Years
Computers/Projectors (Spitz)	\$310,000.00	10 Years
Total Estimated Cost	\$850,000.00	
Annual Service Contract/Budget	\$14,000.00	Annual

PROCESS

Anticipated Completion

<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Presented project to Methacton Education Foundation	January '22
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Solicit Request For Information from qualified architects for quotes on design and project oversight (Spitz provided names of two local firms with previous experience)	March '22
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Hire architect to provide expertise and oversight of project	April '22
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Work with architect and Spitz Inc. to develop complete plan	April '22
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Seek approval of Board & MEF with finalized scope of project	June '22
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Pursue bids for needed work according to architect	September '22
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Anticipated construction	June '23
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Anticipated construction completion	August '23

WHY

The Mallon Planetarium is instrumental in preparing our students for STEM careers and encourages lifelong learning for our entire community.

★ "If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea."

★
- Antoine de Saint Exupery

