



S.M.A.R.T. NOTES

VOL 1. No 1. 2010 December

DC Area Middle School Students to Become Space Weather Researchers

Science, Mathematics, Aerospace, Research, and Technology (S.M.A.R.T.), Inc., a non-profit organization formed in 1985 to address the under-representation of African Americans in science and technology, has sponsored and co-sponsored engaging and hands-on activities over the years to excite students, families, educators, and the general public about math, science, and technology. These activities, in collaboration with NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center, Howard University Dept. of Physics and Astronomy, Howard B. Owens Science Center, and area schools, have been short term.

Now S.M.A.R.T. has kicked off the S.M.A.R.T. Space Weather Program, a longer term activity funded by the DC Space Grant Consortium that will provide District of Columbia metro area students (who are not naturally drawn to science and math) with an opportunity to conduct Space Weather research using real NASA data, predict the impact of Space Weather on the Earth, and present the results of their research in a professional manner.

The S.M.A.R.T. Space Weather Program was kicked off with the teacher training, held at the Martin Luther King Library on November 20, 2010, for teachers who will implement the program in their school. Teachers from four middle schools (Jefferson, St. Augustine, Ernest Everett Just, and Kettering) and one elementary school (Concord) participated in the training.

Dr. Valerie L. Thomas, President

***S.M.A.R.T. Space Weather Program Teacher Training
Martin Luther King Library
November 20, 2010
Photo Gallery***



Dr. Valerie L. Thomas, S.M.A.R.T. Introducing Teachers



Construction of a Solar Cookie Demonstration



Space Weather Hands-on Activity

SPACE WEATHER

Space Weather, an unfamiliar topic for most people, can have a major detrimental impact on our electrical grid (causing a black out), spacecraft, and astronauts when they start exploring other planets. It results from the release of plasma, from the sun spots on the Sun, into the universe. If the plasma is released in the direction of the Earth, it will take four days for it to reach our planet and cause a solar storm. With advanced notice, action can be taken to minimize damage to our electrical grid, spacecraft, and/or astronauts. That process involving the released plasma traveling from the Sun and causing a solar storm is referred to as Space Weather and the advanced notice is referred to as the Space Weather Report.

S.M.A.R.T. Space Weather Program

Goddard Space Flight Center Visitor Center is the next location for S.M.A.R.T. Space Weather Program Teacher Training on January 15th, 2011 from 12 noon - 4 p.m. In case of inclement weather, the training session will be held at the same location on January 29th.

S.M.A.R.T. Special Student Activity (Optional)

If the teacher training is not held on January 29th, S.M.A.R.T. will host the teachers and their students on Saturday January 29th from 12 noon—4 p.m. at the Goddard Space Flight Center Visitor Center.

For comments or questions send an e-mail to: notes@smart-science.org

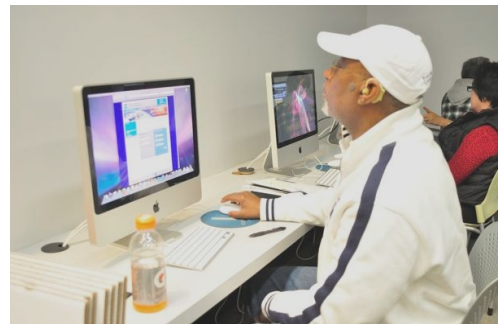
**S.M.A.R.T. Space Weather Program
Teacher Training
Martin Luther King Library
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Photo Gallery**



Space Weather Hands-on Activity



Reviewing Space Weather Action Center



Conducting Online Curriculum Science Activity



Conducting Online Curriculum Science Activity