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METEOR LANDING MAKES A “GREAT IMPACT” ON VENICE SCHOOLS

Education Foundation Simulates A Meteor Landing for Immersive Learning Project

Venice, FL (April 2, 2018) – The Education Foundation of Sarasota County funded the “Great Impact” Meteor Landing, a schoolwide immersive grant designed to bring earth space science and geology to life for students. Students of Venice Elementary School (VES) and adjacent Venice High School (VHS) returned from spring break on Monday, April 2, 2018, to discover a meteor had skidded across the lawn and landed on campus. USF professors and graduate students responded as NASA scientists, quarantined the meteor with caution tape and began processing the site utilizing apparent sterilizing techniques, outward observation procedures, and collecting scientific data.

This science-based inquiry project allows for unique cross-curricular or interdisciplinary opportunities for all students. Elementary (K-5) classes took part in the discovery throughout the day, interacting with the scientists, asking questions, and recording their own findings. Classroom projects will occur at both VHS and VES in addition to collaboration between the schools.

Some of the unique ways in which teachers at Venice High School are incorporating the meteor landing into their curriculum include:

- High school art class taught by Gail Bruder-Werner created 15 digital renderings of aliens. These artworks will be on display at the meteor site for elementary students to use as creative writing prompts in language arts classes.
- Students in Beth Donofrio’s high school English class are studying Shakespeare in April. Their assignment is to write about how the meteor landing would be explained and studied in the 16th century, using only the knowledge and instruments available during that time.
- Valerie Fletcher, an ESE (exceptional student education) teacher is using the meteor for the foundation of a lesson on safety.

Professional development was provided to assist faculty and administrators with guiding students’ curiosity toward testable questions, quantifiable inquiries, plausible hypotheses, observations, and inferences, helping the students develop accurate scientific habits of mind. During the week of April 2-6, students will be asked to help analyze samples, simulate procedures, propose solutions, and investigate actual historically comparable events.

About the Education Foundation

The Education Foundation of Sarasota County is an independent partner working to advance philanthropic support for Sarasota County Schools. Its mission is to enhance the potential of students, promote excellence in teaching and inspire innovation in education. Guided by the belief that education changes lives, the Education Foundation strives to match each donor’s passion with high-impact projects created to ensure students graduate with purpose and are prepared for

BMS Immersion Project cont'd

a post-secondary pathway. The Education Foundation of Sarasota County and its philanthropic investors are champions for students, teachers, and schools. For more information on how to be a champion for education, visit EdFoundationSRQ.org.

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