

# 3RD GRADE: EXPLORING THE COSMIC CLASSROOM: A STELLAR JOURNEY OF WONDER AND DISCOVERY

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Third grade students recently delved into the mysteries of our solar system. From captivating trips to the planetarium to engaging encounters with a NASA ambassador, this educational expedition was truly out of this world.

As part of their studies, each student was tasked with researching a planet of their choosing, delving into its unique characteristics, composition, and role within the solar system.

Adding to the excitement, a special guest from NASA shared his experience and insights into space exploration and the wonders of the cosmos with the 3rd and 5th grade class. Students eagerly listened as they learned about NASA's missions, astronauts, and the cutting-edge technology used to explore the universe beyond our planet. Olivia was impressed with the NASA Ambassador being willing to come to an elementary school and share his own experiences and thoughts about his job and space, which not all students get to experience. Olivia also loved Mr. Borath's quote, "A dream without a plan is just a wish." He was speaking to the students about the importance of planning and working hard to achieve their dreams.

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The adventure continued with a visit to the Glendale College Planetarium, where students were transported to distant planets and celestial bodies through immersive presentations and breathtaking visuals. Witnessing the vastness of space and the beauty of our solar system firsthand sparked curiosity and excitement among the young learners, setting the stage for their exploration. Maddy shared, "The planetarium was really cool because we saw planets, stars, and the moon. I learned that there are lots of exoplanets. The Planetarium showed that God made everything unique. We often don't think it is a big deal, but it really is!"

Harnessing the power of technology, students also had the opportunity to create Google Slides on various space topics, allowing them to showcase their creativity and digital skills. From the mysteries of black holes to the wonders of distant galaxies, each presentation offered a glimpse into the vastness and complexity of the cosmos.

As the culmination of their studies approached, students channeled their creativity into crafting solar system mobiles for the classroom. Working diligently, they carefully constructed models of the planets, moons, and other celestial bodies, bringing the wonders of the cosmos to life in their own unique way. Pepperly said she enjoyed making the mobiles, and everyone's mobiles are different in a unique way. At this week's Open House, everyone commented on how different and impressive the mobiles were.

Throughout their exploration, students were reminded of the awe-inspiring nature of the universe and the role of God as the architect of our solar system. They marveled at the intricacies and beauty of the cosmos, fostering a sense of wonder and reverence for the world around them. Tyler reminded the class, "When God made the solar system, He made constellations and precious creations."

In conclusion, the 3rd grade journey through the solar system was a voyage of discovery, inspiration, and wonder. From captivating trips to the planetarium to engaging encounters with a NASA ambassador, students embraced the mysteries of the cosmos with enthusiasm and curiosity, leaving them with a deeper appreciation for the vastness and beauty of our universe.





