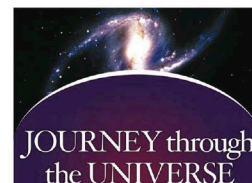


## Visiting Educator Profile



### **Mark Schnurstein**

Advanced Science Teacher Middle School Grades 7–8  
Des Moines Public Schools  
Des Moines, IA

### **Bio**

Mark received his Bachelors degree in Chemistry and Biology education from the University of Northern Iowa, and a Masters in the Arts of Teaching from Webster University in Kansas City Missouri. He is currently working as the lead teacher for the NASA Explorer Schools Program at his school. In this position he is using inquiry- and project-based science to teach seventh and eighth graders advanced science concepts in the earth and space sciences. In addition to classroom teaching, Mark has extensive experience presenting at regional and national conferences. He has spoken on a variety of topics at several National Science Teacher Associations regional conferences. In July 2007 he presented at the College Boards AP Conference in Las Vegas regarding an inquiry/project-based curriculum for middle school that was developed through an Advanced Placement Grant. Mark was on the development team. Mark has presented at numerous National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Conferences where he has outlined the benefits of a multidisciplinary math and science curriculum with lessons that use hands-on, integrated science and math. Mark has worked collaboratively with the Blank Park Zoo in Des Moines, IA, to create a program that allows students to serve as docents to other students visiting the zoo. His most recent undertaking is with the Des Moines Schools and the Great Ape Trust of Iowa to develop a curriculum that, through inquiry-based learning, will allow students to participate in research on the great apes. Mark has a passion for teaching science in a fun and exciting way that allows students to become engaged and excited about learning. His hands-on approach challenges students, and shows them the importance of science and its impact on their lives.