



QuarkNet

Stories from the classroom

At Allen High School, the largest high school in Texas, I started a thriving physics club where the focus is on learning about aspects of modern physics that, while fascinating, are not ordinarily highlighted in the state curriculum. For example, this past Friday the physics club learned about the standard model of particle physics with the intention of watching “Particle Fever” documenting the search for the Higgs boson at a future date. I have taken much of what I have learned from QuarkNet about the current state of research in areas like dark matter, gravity waves, and neutrino physics and used it to inform and motivate my students (many of whom have, quite encouragingly, expressed an interest in pursuing careers in physics, astrophysics, astronomy, or cosmology). In addition, I had the opportunity to supervise a group of students in QuarkNet-related research a few summers ago, and the group was able to successfully publish an article in the American Journal of Physics. Further, Dr. Jingbo Ye of SMU has generously allowed me to borrow some of the equipment used in that research to conduct labs in my AP Physics C course.

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