



QuarkNet

Stories from the classroom

As a QuarkNet teacher I have had the opportunity to introduce modern physics concepts at the middle school level for many years. We use the Standard Model poster I got from QuarkNet to go beyond the text book and explore cutting edge concepts usually not even approached in middle school. Because of the professional development I have received at my QuarkNet center (SMU), I feel confident that I can teach these concepts to my students. One of our QuarkNet activities I have used is pictured below. My 8th grade students are “Bowling for Atoms.” They roll a ball bearing at bowling pins, keep track of the hits and misses, and then use that data to determine the diameter of the bowling pin. It is a fun and enlightening activity I would not be using without my experiences at QuarkNet. QuarkNet has improved me as a teacher and expanded the horizons of physics for hundreds of my students.

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