



Homeschool Programs

As part of its mission and its recognition of the importance of education, PARI serves students in a variety of venues. Programs that have been developed in support of the North Carolina Essential Standards and the South Carolina Curriculum Standards are key not only to students enrolled in public, private and religious schools in the area but also to students being taught at home. With this in mind, PARI is working to support homeschool education in a variety of ways.

First, educators at PARI host homeschool groups on campus at PARI. This venue affords the students not only an opportunity to receive age-appropriate instructional programs in PARI's classrooms or in the AdventureDome planetarium but also permits the students to participate in a tour of facilities, including the educational Galaxy Walk and the Exhibit Gallery with its displays of meteorites and Space Shuttle artifacts.

Second, PARI offers "Homeschool Days" twice per year on the PARI campus, generally the last week in April and again the week before Thanksgiving. These programs offer students four hours of participation in hands-on programs designed for specific grade levels.

Third, at the initiative of homeschool groups, PARI offers programs such as the AdventureDome planetarium programs at venues elsewhere. In this case, it is up to the organizer(s) of the homeschool group involved to advertise the programs to other groups and individuals and to handle the registration and other logistics.

In addition to its local efforts, PARI is working with a network of statewide homeschoolers to determine additional ways to serve this important segment of K-12 students. Suggestions and requests are always welcome. Please contact PARI Science Educator Christi Whitworth (cwhitworth@pari.edu) for more information.