



PARENTAL PARTICIPATION:

While the students in grades K-12 attend SEMAA classes, the parents are invited to meet in the Family Café, where they can share ideas and techniques on parenting and keeping children excited about learning. During the Family Café they meet with education specialists to learn about the latest tools and techniques to help their child succeed in school.



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FERNBANK SCIENCE CENTER

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Fernbank Science Center

156 Heaton Park Drive, N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30307-1398
678-874-7102 Fax: 678-874-7110
Web: <http://fsc.fernbank.edu>

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SEMMAA

FERNBANK SCIENCE CENTER





The Science, Engineering, Mathematics and Aerospace Academy (SEMAA) was established in 1993 by Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland, OH, and the NASA Glenn Research Center at Lewis Field to increase the participation of underrepresented and underserved students in science, math, engineering and technology careers; to increase the "success" rates of all students interested in science and math; to develop partnerships to recognize and support students interested in these fields; and to support the continued success of highly successful students.

SEMAA offers a set of learning experiences for K-12th grade students to promote improved participation and success in college preparatory courses and in post-secondary undergraduate science, math, engineering and technology programs; to increase interest and awareness of careers; and to impact involvement of parents to ensure the child's future success in these fields.

FERNBANK SCIENCE CENTER'S PROGRAM:

In April, 1999, the DeKalb County School System's Fernbank Science Center was awarded a NASA grant to establish a SEMAA program in Atlanta, Georgia. The academic portion of SEMAA is offered at Fernbank Science Center three times each year during Fall, Winter and Spring sessions. A Summer session of SEMAA is also offered and is designed to bridge the academic portion of the program from one grade level to the next.

PARTICIPATION:

Students participate in SEMAA at their grade level during one of the Fall, Winter or Spring sessions. Once enrolled in SEMAA, students are invited to continue each year through a pipeline, from one grade to the next, through grade 12. Summer sessions offer additional opportunities with related but different instruction than that of the academic year sessions. There is no cost to the participants of this NASA program.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Classes during the academic year are taught on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 12 Noon. Grades K through 2 attend for five Saturdays, while the higher grades participate for eight weeks. In the summer, students participate in half-day sessions, each day, for one week. During that time, participants receive hands-on, inquiry-based, cooperative learning instruction in math, science, technology and aerospace from scientists and instructors at *(continued)*

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: (continued)

Fernbank Science Center and the Premier DeKalb County School System. Classes are taught in classrooms and laboratories at Fernbank Science Center and the adjacent Fernbank Elementary School.

AERONAUTICS EDUCATION LABORATORY:

Of particular note in the SEMAA program is the use of a state-of-the-art computerized Aeronautics Education Laboratory that enables students to learn about flight. This laboratory, built with support from NASA and a number of local foundations and corporate donors, contains a flight simulator in which students can fly an airplane or use the Space Shuttle to dock with the International Space Station in virtual reality. The facility also includes a research-grade wind tunnel, a microgravity drop tower, a weather station and other computer workstations which illustrate principles of flight. The teamwork of the DeKalb County School System's Fernbank Science Center, NASA and local donors has made this opportunity possible.

