



Hopatcong Borough Schools Press Release

Learning Today. Leading Tomorrow.

Picatinny Arsenal STEM Outreach

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, September 29, 2017

Dr. Joanne Mullane, Hopatcong Acting Superintendent of Schools, Announces

On Wednesday, September 27th, the students in Mrs. Tumminelli and Mrs. Ferrara's third grade classes from Tulsa Trail Elementary School in Hopatcong Borough School District got to participate in an engaging earth science lesson and demonstration led by Picatinny Arsenal engineer, Gordon Powers. The children learned about the three different types of rocks, how they were formed, what they were made of, and how to identify them.

Mr. Powers works closely with the Sterling Mine in Ogdensburg, and after his lesson, the children all got to sort through bins of rocks, looking for six individual pieces based on the qualities he taught them. They had to place them in their boxes in the correct spots, which were labeled with names and characteristics. They then got to take the boxes of rocks home as souvenirs.

Mr. Powers also brought an ultraviolet light, and some luminescent rocks with him to show the children, and explained the properties of those and why they "glowed" when the lights were out. The children loved it, and oohed and aahed accordingly!

This wonderful hands-on experience was made possible by a partnership created by Mrs. Michelle Tumminelli with Picatinny Arsenal's STEM Outreach Program, through the coordinator, Mr. Doug Wong. Mrs. Tumminelli and Mrs. Ferrara's students will have the opportunity to have multiple engineers come in and visit them throughout the year, presenting them with different lessons in the various areas of science and technology. This program gives these students exposure to a side of science and engineering that they might not otherwise see. It just may spark something in some of them that will foster a lifelong love of learning, and possibly even a future career. Mrs. Tumminelli already has another visitation planned for the students in October with the coordinator, where the students will be learning about chemistry through the concepts of food science.

