

---

June 11, 2015

Dear Board of Directors of Technology Learning Center:

As you know, Technology Learning Center (TLC) partnered with Marietta City Schools during the 2014-2105 school year to provide hands-on science enrichment to students in our school district. Little did we realize, when our agreement was signed at the beginning of the school year, the extent of the impact that Professor Know How's lab and Jim Phillips would have in our schools this year. The program has made a difference in countless ways and in various sites within our school system.

First and foremost, the Professor Know How Lab made a difference for our students, for it not only changed students' attitudes toward science but also improved student achievement in science. Since the beginning of mid-October, over 200 sixth-grade students, many of whom were academically challenged or economically disadvantaged, have participated in the full after-school Professor Know How Lab. Six other sixth graders with repeat behavior issues also participated in a special one-day Lab designed as an intervention to motivate these students, and six other eighth graders participated in the Professor's Lab during a Saturday in March as part of preparation for the Georgia End-of-Grade Milestone Assessment. In addition, over 600 sixth graders visited the Professor Know Lab for a one-hour, specially designed lesson on plate tectonics, and over 200 eighth graders participated in a one-hour lesson on energy designed by Professor Know How. These learning experiences were unique and significant, and without question, the impact on these students will be long-lasting and meaningful.

In addition to the direct impact on students, our partnership with Technology Learning Center has made a difference in the professional learning of teachers throughout the district. On a district-wide professional learning day in February, Jim Phillips hosted a three-hour session for elementary science lab teachers. During that time, these teachers were able to experience a model for using hands-on approaches in their individual science labs. Teachers from Marietta Sixth Grade Academy and Marietta Middle School have also visited the science lab on several occasions and, as a result, have been able to understand ways to implement constructivist lessons based on scientific inquiry. The delivery and cost for such professional learning would have been nearly impossible without the in-kind support of Jim Phillips and TLC.



Emily Lembeck, Ed. D.  
*Superintendent*

Although the TLC program is unique in its approach and with its equipment, its true asset is Jim Phillips, known simply as “The Professor.” His energy for science is infectious, and his approach with students is engaging. He is a dedicated, generous teacher. In addition to his diligent work ethic, he exhibits a “can-do” attitude and a grounded sense of purpose. Jim has worked tirelessly throughout the year to assist in any possible way he could and in every instance when he was asked. He volunteered on numerous Saturdays throughout the year, including leading Saturday science sessions and at our community-wide literacy celebration day in late September on the Marietta Square. Many people are adept at articulating needs, but Jim is the rare partner who both sees a need and proposes a solution and then jumps right in to work for improvement.

The Professor Know How Lab has been a tremendous value to our schools, to both our teachers and our students. Indeed, the services that Technology Learning Center has provided this year are truly invaluable. Please know that we are extremely grateful for the commitment and generosity of your organization. We look forward to another exciting year of partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'John Waller'.

John Waller, Ed.D.

Director of Secondary Curriculum & Instruction