



**QuarkNet**

## Stories from the classroom

This is my fourth year teaching Regents, AP and IB Physics at Kenmore West High School in Kenmore, NY. I have been a member of QuarkNet at the University at Buffalo throughout this time and they have been a huge asset to me. Particle physics was one of my favorite topics in college but it is a very small section in Regents and IB Physics and is not part of the curriculum at all for AP Physics.

QuarkNet has helped me utilize my resources to incorporate particle physics into the core curriculum for my classroom. I have been able to do this for topics such as momentum and energy. My favorite part of the 3-day workshop over the summer is working in groups with the other teachers. We take place of students while the QuarkNet facilitator acts as the teacher to complete some of the activities on the QuarkNet website such as Quark Puzzle or Rolling with Rutherford. Through this, I get a better knowledge of how the lesson should run and I get to see any misconceptions that might arise from my students.

QuarkNet has also brought together many schools in our area where students work together on the CMS data and analyze results for different types of boson detections. This is an amazing opportunity for the students to work collaboratively with their peers and other schools as well as physicists from Fermilab and schools from different states. The students have a video conference with these other groups and debrief on what their findings are and reasons why they might have gotten the results they did.

Not only has QuarkNet advanced my abilities and content knowledge, it has also provided me with a network of physics teacher in my area to collaborate. It would be a huge disservice to our physics community if this program no longer runs.

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