PHYSICISTS TO-GO

Visit Guidance for the Physicists

General visit guidance

Please note that you are expected to adhere to the Code of Conduct for APS Meetings when interacting with your partner teacher and during your virtual classroom visit.

General Zoom support is available at the link here. For the best video quality, locate yourself near your wifi router and be sure that you don't have too many programs running in the background of your computer. Before your video call, test out your audio and adjust the lighting in your room so your face is well lit.

To improve the accessibility of your visit

- Try to use a headset when you connect with the class. This generally offers the best audio quality and least background noise.
- If you have a presentation, share it with the teacher before your visit. They can then share that resource with students who may need it on their personal device to follow along.
- Use the closed-caption option on Zoom or powerpoint to be more inclusive.

Science Communication Tips

1. Know your audience! Confirm the grade level of the class you will be speaking to—5th graders will have different interests and experiences from 12th graders! Also ask the teacher you are paired with about the math and science background of their students and what they have been studying in class.
2. Use simple language: avoid jargon and acronyms. Sometimes it can be hard to realize all the technical language we use when describing our work; a helpful metric is to imagine you are explaining your work to your 10 year-old cousin. Aim for language that this younger cousin would understand.
3. When using complex words, give the definition in common, age appropriate language **BEFORE** offering the technical term. Example, "I work with tiny tubes of carbon that are really hard to break. They are called carbon nanotubes"
4. Use examples and analogies to explain complex ideas. When choosing examples, adjust them to be relevant to your audience's experiences.
5. Focus on storytelling: both about your experience and about your work
    a. Authenticity is key to engaging and connecting with your audience. Share your path into science, and whenever possible connect what you are talking about to personal experience.
    b. Talk about what problems you are trying to solve or solutions you are looking for rather than saying what you do. For example, you could say "I got to work with the head of Computer Science on a project related to Efficient Data Structures for Building Health Care Services with Model-Driven Engineering." But a better explanation of your work would be, "I got to work with the head of Computer Science trying to identify more efficient ways to use online platforms to do patient check-ups."

Interested in learning more about effective science communication? Check out the AAAS Communication Toolkit and learn about Narrative and Storytelling from the UK's National Coordinating Center for Public Engagement.