

**Space Zoo Patrol – Cool Science Interview
6-19-17**

1. What is your name and where do you live?

Hi, I'm Curtis Betzler, and I live near Seattle, Washington.

2. What is your title and what do you do now?

I'm a teacher, and I teach 6th grade science at Chief Kanim Hawks Middle School in Fall City, Washington.

3. What was your first job?

My first job was as a dishwasher.

4. How did you get started in science? What was your first science job?

I initially earned my degree in chemistry and worked at the Boeing Company for many years as a chemist. After several accomplishments, I decided to go into teaching. This way I still get to work in the science field but also get the pleasure of working with students to try to share my joy for learning. Also, teaching has allowed me to travel to a wide variety of places and work with many unique and wonderful people.

5. What is your greatest accomplishment?

Hopefully, I haven't reached my greatest accomplishment yet...but the nicest thrill is when students return after a number of years and relate how something we did in class years ago has helped them with their current endeavors or just to share in their growth and success. Also, in recent years I've been involved with the collection/distribution of educational materials to learners in Africa. I have the pleasure of representing our school community to the people in Africa and then return to share the positive connections with people here.

6. What was your biggest mistake / embarrassment?

I doubt I've made my biggest mistake yet either, but I've definitely learned from the ones I make. My biggest mistake tends to not be as good a listener as I would like other people to be when I speak. But I continue to work on this. Just listening to others can open up a whole new world of insight and you can learn more working with others than you often can by working alone.

7. What is your goal / dream for science?

My goal or dream is for all students to be scientifically literate. I don't expect all kids to be scientists but if they can understand all sides of the key issues (pollution, global warming, etc), they will be better able to make educated choices as to what's best for their future.

8. What is your advice for kids?

My advice to children is to take the opportunity to travel and visit people in other countries and with different cultures. It will give you a greater appreciation for your own home and an appreciation for how small and connected our world really is. Also, pursue a career or path that you enjoy....you want to be able to wake up and look forward to each day.