Upper Dublin School District's Planetarium Receives Donation from Ambler Savings Bank



Roger Zacharia, Ambler Savings Bank President and CEO; Upper Dublin Education Foundation Board Member Sue Diehl; Kim Small, SRMS Planetarium Director.

DRESHER – A school planetarium is a unique, innovative program that enhances the curriculum for students of all ages. Ambler Savings Bank recently presented the Upper Dublin School District with a check for \$5,000 to go towards their planetarium, located at Sandy Run Middle School.

Educational research has shown that astronomy is a "gateway science" that sparks young children's interest in science. The planetarium is a unique learning environment that has the timeless value of encouraging visitors to be inquisitive about science and nature as well as modern learning opportunities such as fulldome capabilities and domecasting live with scientists, astronomers and astronauts.

"We are grateful to Ambler Savings Bank for their generous gift in support of our planetarium," said Kim Small, Planetarium Director and K-10 Science Coordinator, Upper Dublin School District. "Our planetarium program not only enhances our K-8 science curriculum, but it also supports cross-curricular opportunities in areas that include English Language Arts, music and social studies. It's amazing to witness our students' excitement and eagerness to learn as they enter the dome."

"We are thrilled to support Kim's efforts at the planetarium," said Roger Zacharia, President and CEO of Ambler Savings Bank. "As a parent of four young children progressing through the District, I see the program's wonderful and unique impact first-hand. Beginning in kindergarten and every year thereafter, the planetarium is tightly woven into the fabric of a student's education at Upper Dublin across multiple disciplines. Trips to the planetarium highlight a child's week bringing to life concepts learned from textbooks and Chromebooks. But most importantly, the planetarium fosters a love of learning planting the seeds for tomorrow's scientists, doctors, teachers, and entrepreneurs."

Upper Dublin School District planetarium serves all students from kindergarten through twelfth grade as well as other community groups, area preschools, private and parochial schools, neighboring school district students, social institutions and adult evening school courses. Several times a year, the planetarium opens its doors to community members for special events.

Ambler Savings Bank is a mutually organized community bank headquartered in Ambler, and has locations in Bally, Limerick, Schwenksville and Fairview Village, as well as several continuing care retirement facilities. Learn more online at www.AmblerSavingsBank.com.