



Spotswood Public Schools

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SPOTSWOOD HIGH SCHOOL METEOROLOGY CLASS HOSTS GUEST SPEAKER

SPOTSWOOD, NJ - Chief Meteorologist for New Jersey 101.5 and Townsquare Media New Jersey, Dan Zarrow, was a guest speaker at Spotswood High School on Thursday, December 8, 2016. Mr. Zarrow spoke to the meteorology class at that time and shared what it's like to be a broadcast meteorologist for the radio station. Born and raised in New Jersey, Mr. Zarrow spent some time after graduating from Cornell University forecasting and storm chasing in Oklahoma. While there, he "caught" three tornadoes, observing them safely from about a mile away. After a few years, he moved back to New Jersey and landed a freelancing job with News 12 NJ and eventually a full-time position with radio station NJ 101.5. He discussed with the students how he determines the forecast each day, including synthesizing a massive amount of data taken from various weather stations across the state, weather balloons and satellites. Multiple forecasts are then determined for various parts of the state, including northern, central, and southern counties. Mr. Zarrow answered student questions and stressed the importance of the coursework, mostly science and math, required in both high school and college to become a meteorologist. Mrs. Julie Jay, Spotswood High School Environmental Science teacher stated, "We are so happy Mr. Zarrow could visit our class. His presentation supports the curriculum and exposed the students to what a career in the field of meteorology is like." Mr. Zarrow shared in this enthusiasm. "I had a blast speaking to Mrs. Jay's meteorology class at Spotswood High School! It's actually rare that I have the opportunity to speak to high schoolers. The students posed some excellent questions about my daily routine as a broadcast meteorologist, the science of the atmosphere, and careers in meteorology and earth science. Oh, and the fact that Spotswood offers a dedicated meteorology class ... awesome!"

Dr. Scott Rocco, Superintendent of Schools stated, "This opportunity provided our students a real example of how their class work is used by professionals every day. We hope it motivates them in the science field and possibly plants a seed for those who may continue on in the field of meteorology.

Coordinating this type of presentation is just a small indication of the dedication of the staff here in Spotswood and their commitment to our students.”

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