Journey Through Our Solar System With Nebraska Fifth Graders

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“There are things that are known and things that are unknown;  
in between is exploration.”  
–Anonymous

Fifth grade students at Seward Middle School in Seward, Nebraska, study the topic of space exploration. The unit centers around exploring the solar system using, among other research-based classroom techniques, Gardner’s seven intelligences (Armstrong, 1994). All subject areas are integrated throughout this unit. Students practice skills of problem-solving, estimating, and analytical skills to make logical decisions throughout their study. They work both independently and in small groups, thus demonstrating communication skills, initiative, task commitment, and the ability to work with others. “The use of technology in this unit has leveled the playing field for many of my at-risk students. As they create their HyperStudio projects, they find that their products are every bit as good as those of their classmates, something they don’t often experience.” Through the many real-world connections made in this unit, these fifth graders gain an increased likelihood that they will be confident, successful citizens.

Literature Reference  

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