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Siena Welcomes Space and Strategic Systems Engineer

Apollo 11 Landing Specialist Peter Kachmar Visits Northern Virginia Campus

Oakton, Virginia, June 2, 2023 — The Siena School recently welcomed experienced space scientist and NASA engineer [Peter Kachmar](#) to its [Northern Virginia](#) campus. Kachmar is currently a Distinguished Member of the Technical Staff and Principal Systems Engineer at the [Charles Stark Draper Laboratory](#) in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Kachmar—also a Siena Northern Virginia grandparent—spoke with elementary, middle, and high school students about his decades of work in space science, most notably his role in managing the [Lunar Orbit Rendezvous](#) for the [Apollo 11 Lunar Mission](#) in 1969.

Students enjoyed seeing the various models, pictures, and other materials Kachmar brought to highlight the tools and technology of space flight. As a 4th

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grader shared, “My favorite part was hearing about all the science behind the lander and how they did it. I also liked learning about all the math that they had to do.”

Kachmar’s name is on the [Wall of Honor](#) at the National Air and Space Museum’s Udvar-Hazy Center. As the [National Air and Space Museum](#) notes,



He is recognized by NASA as a leading authority in space rendezvous and proximity operations, integrated spacecraft ascent, entry, and on-orbit systems, system autonomy and autonomous operations, GPS applications for space vehicles, and space vehicle integrated GN&C systems. He received the NASA Space Awareness Honoree Award for his extensive work for NASA.

Kachmar also discussed some fundamental physics concepts necessary for space flight, as well as potential future travel to Mars. A 3rd grader described Kachmar’s visit as “very exciting and very helpful for us” as they’ve been learning about past, present, and future space travel.

About The Siena School

The Siena School, a leader in dyslexia education, serves bright, college-bound students with language-based learning differences. The school was established in 2006 in [Silver Spring, MD](#), where it serves students in grades 4-12. The [Northern Virginia campus](#) serves grades 3-10 and will add grade 11 for the 2023-24 school year. Siena’s staff and board of advisors include distinguished national, state, and local education leaders and professionals. Siena’s program is designed for students with mild to moderate learning needs who are experiencing a discrepancy between their academic achievement and intellectual abilities in one or more areas such as reading, writing, oral expression, or math. For further information, visit www.thesienaschool.org.