Journal Article Review

of

*Space: The New Frontier!*

by Stephen Baird

Review by

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OCED 6353 – Educational Futures

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October 3rd, 2008

Bibliographic Information

Baird, S. (2008, April). Space: The New Frontier!. *Technology Teacher*, *67*(7), 13-19. Retrieved September 30, 2008, from Academic Search Elite database.

Credibility of the Article/Author

*Technology Teacher* is a major journal for technology educators. The author, Stephen Baird, is a “technology education teacher for the Virginia Beach City Public Schools and adjunct assistant professor at Old Dominion University” (Baird, 2008, p. 19).

Synopsis of Article

Space travel for the public is just around the corner. Stephen Baird, the author of *Space: The New Frontier!*, explains some of the recent advances towards space transportation, spaceports, space tourism, and space hotels (Baird, 2008). There are currently six licensed spaceports: (a) California Spaceport at Vandenberg Air Force Base, (b) Spaceport Florida at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, (c) Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport (MARS), (d) Kodiak Launch Complex on Kodiak Island, Alaska, (e) Mojave Air and Spaceport in California, and (f) Oklahoma Spaceport (Baird, 2008, p. 15). The launch of the first commercial space station by Bigelow Aerospace in expected in 2010 (Baird, 2008, p. 17-18). Galactic Suit, Ltd. has an orbital hotel scheduled to be in operation by 2012 (Baird, 2008, p. 18). Throughout the article Baird discusses the new opportunities for individuals who can afford Space Tourism. As a Technology Education teacher in a Virginia High School, and an adjunct assistant professor at Old Dominion University, Baird understands, and concludes the article by explaining, the importance of teaching students to be evermore technologically literate (Baird, 2008, p. 19).

Impact for Education

Technology Education is ever changing. Educators in this field, and other fields, must adapt to the changing needs of society. One of these changes is the advancement of space travel. As space travel opens to the public sector, students will need training in space science and other areas related to the space travel industry.

The need for teaching space science and space engineering is going to become a necessity in schools. Not only will students need to understand the processes of becoming a space tourist, but, more importantly, students will need to be able to design the apparatuses that will take tourists to space. Recently, in education, there has been a push to incorporate more Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) curriculum. Engaging students in STEM and space science/engineering curriculums can develop adults that have the knowledge and the desire to literally take our society to the next, “outer”, level.

The future of schools, and education as a whole, may change completely as society looks beyond our planet for new places to live, work, and vacation. As the costs of space travel decrease, schools will begin taking field trips to space with teachers that are trained educational astronauts. This will allow hands-on experiences that can be used to expand student curiosity and imagination. Eventually, there may be schools in space. The curriculum for those schools would involve an entirely different look at STEM.

Initially, the greatest impact for education is a movement that has already begun. Industry is calling for more students with a thorough understanding of and an enthusiasm for science, technology, engineering, and, mathematics. The focus in schools should be to encourage students to develop those skills. Thus, education will be producing the adults that can discover/develop more efficient technologies, both Earthly and beyond.