

# Young Scientist Roundtable

*A program designed for all students in  
kindergarten through 12th grade and their families.*

Monday, October 14, 2019

7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Wayzata High School Auditorium  
4955 Peony Lane North, Plymouth

## **Roundtable Part 2**

8:10 – 8:40 p.m.

Students are invited to meet with the speaker after the presentation to discuss the topic in more depth.

## **Riding a Laser Beam to Alpha Centauri**

Optics go beyond eyewear and lightbulbs. Fiber optics are fundamental to the operation of the internet, household lighting, and more. Lasers, with pulse lengths of one femtosecond, are used in eye surgeries and steel cutting and measuring gravity in collapsing black holes. Dr. James Leger, University of Minnesota College of Science & Engineering's Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering, will describe nanostructures that act as optical cloaks similar to Harry Potter's famous invisibility cloak, huge telescopes may someday be held together in space using laser beams, and futuristic ideas in optics that include systems that can "see around corners" and whether it is possible to use laser light produced on earth to propel an interstellar spacecraft to Alpha Centauri.

### **In Partnership with...**

Anoka-Hennepin School District, Eden Prairie Public Schools, Edina Public Schools, Hopkins Schools, Lakeville Area Public Schools, Minneapolis Public Schools, Minnetonka Public Schools, Orono Public Schools, Osseo Area Schools, and Wayzata Public Schools.

*For more information, call Deb Slomkowski at 763-745-5205, email at [Deb.Slomkowski@wayzataschools.org](mailto:Deb.Slomkowski@wayzataschools.org) or visit our website at [www.wayzataschools.org/community/ysr](http://www.wayzataschools.org/community/ysr).*

