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[Home](#) > Featured Director - John Puttre STARBASE Wisconsin

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Established in Milwaukee in 2011, STARBASE Wisconsin's Director and two instructors serve an average of nine hundred 5<sup>th</sup> grade students per year from 25 separate Tier 1 schools in the Milwaukee Public School District. This unique STEM Academy is administered and sponsored by the Wisconsin Air National Guard, but also supported by the U.S. Army Reserve, who provides the academy facility at their Reserve Training Center in Milwaukee. The STARBASE Wisconsin Academy is located in the heart of the school district, within walking distance of several elementary schools.

STARBASE Wisconsin is led by retired Colonel John Puttre. John brings 35 years of combined aviation and scuba diving experience to STARBASE. He is a Commercial rated pilot as well as a Dive Master/Rescue diver. John has a passion for sharing with children his knowledge related to the science and technology of both flying and diving. STARBASE Wisconsin has two instructors; Cynthia Van Lare earned her Master's in Education-Professional Development and has been teaching Math and Science for over 10 years. Michelle Klos-Gonzalez holds a Master's Degree in Education and has worked in youth development and education for over 7 years. The staff is dedicated to providing a "hands-on, minds on" Science and Technology experience to Milwaukee Public School students who would not otherwise have an opportunity to engage in the activities offered through STARBASE, Wisconsin. The smiles displayed on the faces of children in attendance demonstrate their story of success and reveal the excitement of those fortunate to be a part of the STARBASE experience.

STARBASE Wisconsin is looking forward to growing the program in Milwaukee as well as expansion to the Native American communities in the future.

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[1]

**Name:** John W. Puttre

**Academy:** [STARBASE Wisconsin](#) [2]

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**Links:**

[1] <http://dodstarbase.org/sites/default/files/styles/large/public/alumni-profiles/John%20Puttre.jpg?itok=QTj57vZ7>

[2] <http://dodstarbase.org/academies/starbase-wisconsin>