

Eighth Grade Science Field Trip

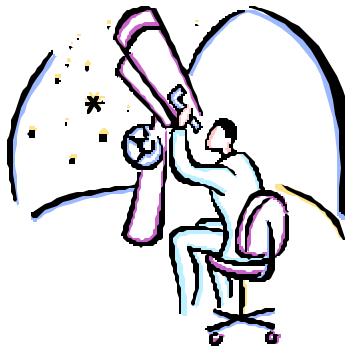
Planetarium Show

“Mission to Mars”

January 14, 2010

The Eighth grade will be going to the Discovery Museum Science and Space Center on January 14, 2010. Before lunch the students will see a Planetarium Show and in the afternoon they will participate in a simulated space mission. Pre-trip activities will be done in class. Below is more information on both parts of our field trip.

The Planetarium Show: is aligned with the current standards for eighth grade and will present a program about what challenges await future explorers who will travel to the planets and moons in our section of the Milky Way. They will explore planet earth’s relationship to the rest of the solar system and learn to identify several constellations.



“Mission to Mars”:

Challenger Learning Centers offer realistic mock-ups of Mission Control and an orbiting space station. Students join teams at computer consoles or onboard the orbiting space lab, rev up their imaginations, and work together toward the mission’s goal, whether it is the launching of a probe or the interception of a comet.

It’s clear that a visit to a Challenger Learning Center isn’t just a field trip—it is a deeply grounded learning experience that engages students, transforming them into scientists, engineers, or researchers, and placing them in a simulated space mission where they solve real-life challenges.

Rooted in national education standards in all of the communities we serve, Challenger Learning Centers reach approximately 400,000 students and upwards of 20,000 teachers per year through a broad array of mission-based activities.



Voyage to Mars™

In Earth years, it is 2076. A now routine Voyage to Mars has brought the latest human crew into Martian orbit.

Control of the incoming flight has been transferred from Houston's Mission Control to Mars Control at Chryse Station. The crew arriving from Earth on the Mars Transport Vehicle has been specially trained to replace the existing crew of astronauts, which has manned Mars Control for the past two years.

After arriving on the Martian surface, the team will collect and analyze a number of planetary samples and data. This information is vital to scientists and explorers for a better understanding of the Red Planet.

Challenger Center for Space Science Education is an international, not-for-profit 501 (c)(3) education organization that was founded by the families of the astronauts lost during the last flight of the Challenger Space Shuttle in 1986. In the aftermath of the Challenger accident, the 51-L crew's families came together, still grieving from loss, but firmly committed to the belief that they must carry on the spirit of their loved ones by continuing the Challenger crew's educational mission.

Through Challenger Center's programs and its international network of Challenger Learning Centers, the diversity, spirit, and commitment to education that exemplified the Challenger 51-L mission continues to make an impact on students, teachers, and families today.

Our Mission

Using space exploration as a theme, Challenger Center creates positive learning experiences that raise students' expectations of success; foster a long-term interest in mathematics, science, and technology; and motivate them to pursue careers in these fields.

Our Vision

To create a scientifically literate population that can thrive in a world increasingly driven by information and technology. We envision a global community where students command their own destinies by developing skills in decision making, teamwork, problem solving and communication. This vision is based on a realistic assessment of the skills needed for success in the 21st century.