



Dear Parent(s),

Your child's classroom will soon be embarking on a journey to space! Their mission will be full of adventure and excitement, as your child is put in the driver's seat to accomplish time-sensitive activities while making key decisions that impact the success of their simulated space mission.

They will surely enjoy the experience, but this is not a "field trip." The work they do at Challenger will complement their in-class work and provide activities that are not possible in the classroom. Through a combination of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) content aligned with today's education standards, immersive technology, real science data, and hands-on activities, students will be engaged in a high-tech simulation environment. The unique setting promotes cooperative learning, creative problem solving, and decision making, while simultaneously reinforcing and bringing relevance to STEM concepts taught in the classroom.

Your child's teacher has received training and lessons designed to help your child understand key concepts that are critical to achieve success. Students learn about the individual roles and responsibilities of each team that will be working together as astronauts and mission controllers on the crew. Teachers will work directly with Challenger Flight Directors to differentiate the student experience for various learning styles and levels of readiness to help ensure the instruction is appropriately personalized for the group.

At Challenger, we want to help you foster your child's interest in science and potentially turn the inspiration into a career path. We offer a variety of on-going programming for children grades K-10 and families. This includes periodic "Family Science Nights" -- public science events that cover a variety of topics and themes, including chemistry, engineering, physics, and astronomy. We also offer programs during all school vacations, and on- and off-site STEM modules for a variety of groups and occasions, such as scouts, after school clubs and school-wide family science nights. We even host out-of-this-world birthday parties! To join our mailing list, sign up on our web site: <http://www.astronaut.org/about/contact>.

If you would like to check out the Challenger Learning Center of Maine facility for yourself, you are welcome to visit the Center any time. Regular office hours are 9:00 AM-4:00 PM Monday through Friday if you would like to schedule a tour. If your work place is looking for a fantastic company retreat, we also offer corporate missions that provide an incredible team building experience! Please call (207) 990-2900 x4 for more information.

We look forward to working with your child, and we hope to meet you sometime soon!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Therrien
Center Coordinator / Education Director

Commanders Pratt, Worthley, Cotrell, Hibbard,
Loftin, Megquier, and Kelley
Flight Directors

The Challenger Learning Center of Maine is part of a network founded in 1986 in honor of the astronauts lost in Challenger flight 51-L. Today, the network comprises more than 40 international centers. Since opening in 2004, Maine's Challenger Center has inspired more than 75,000 students.