



Dear Parent(s),

Your child's class will soon be embarking on a journey to space! In preparation for their simulated space mission at the Challenger Learning Center of Maine (CLCofME), students will complete prep work at school receiving assigned jobs as Mission Controllers and Astronauts. Together, they will work to complete their simulated mission to space.

While they are at the CLCofME they will engage in hands-on learning that is tied directly to the Maine Learning Results standards. They will surely enjoy the experience, but this is not a "field trip." The work they do at the Center will complement their in-class work and provide activities that are not possible in the classroom. In addition to meeting science standards they will be required to solve problems, communicate effectively, make good decisions and work as a team to achieve success.

We invite your child to give feedback after the mission by completing an online survey. You can access the survey link from our Web site: www.clcofme.org, or from our Wikispace: www.clccomet.wikispaces.com. The names of all students who complete the survey will be entered into a prize drawing at the end of the school year.

The CLCofME is part of a network of more than 50 centers around the world that were established in honor of the astronauts lost in Challenger flight 51-L. We continue the educational spirit of the Teacher in Space mission through our programs. If your child is inspired by the experience we will know that we have succeeded in one of our goals which is to excite students about the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

Rather than stop there, we want to help you foster your child's interest in STEM 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 a bi-monthly free public science series that takes place on the last Thursday of the month from January through October. We also offer programs during all school vacations, occasional after-school programming, and on and off-site science modules for a variety of groups, such as scouts. We even host educational birthday programs! To learn about upcoming events please visit our website, www.clcofme.org, and click on the mailing list link or send an email directly to jtherrien@clcofme.org.

STEM careers can be very rewarding, are essential to the future progress of our state, nation, and the entire world. To learn more about STEM in Maine visit www.mainstem.org. There are also great student resources on pursuing STEM careers:

http://www.pbs.org/safarchive/5_cool/53_career.html#stem.org

<http://library.thinkquest.org/J0113274/careers.htm>

<http://www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/lagniapp/careerpg.html>

If you would like to come check out the Challenger Learning Center of Maine, and are unable to attend on your child's mission date, you are welcome to visit the Center during our office hours: 9:00-4:00 Monday through Friday. We also offer public missions and corporate missions where you can try out the Mission Control and Space Station jobs for yourself! Please call 990.2900 x3 for more information or to schedule a tour.

We are looking forward to working with your student, and hope to meet you sometime soon!

Sincerely,

The Mission Crew, Challenger Learning Center of Maine