

October 6, 2014

Dear Parents,

One of the standards within the 6th grade science curriculum is to “describe the use of technology to observe objects in the solar system and relate this to science’s understanding of the solar system.” Though I do teach them about the different technologies, I feel it important to instill in them their own curiosity. Combine this with the Language Arts Core and the bump in reading and writing across all subjects, and you get a project like this one.

Each student is going to have to write a (at least) 1 page 5 paragraph essay on a space mission. I have a few missions listed below, but there are literally hundreds, so the students are welcome to choose from this list or research and find another that isn’t listed. They will have to fill out a list of questions based around their mission. The questions will include things like: Who was involved in the mission? Where did the mission go? What technologies were used on the mission? What did we learn from the mission? They received this question paper on the same day as this letter. The signed letter will be due Wednesday, October 8. Due dates for other parts of the project are listed below.

There will be a total of 5 parts to this project which will be graded as shown in the chart below:

Item	Points Possible	Due Date
Parent Note Signed and Returned	5	October 8
Research Sheet Filled Out	10	October 15
First Draft of Essay (Written or Typed)	15	October 20
Parent or Adult Edit Sheet	10	October 23
Final Draft (Typed)	30	October 30

Each piece of the project will be entered as its own assignment, but total the project is worth 70 points, which is a considerable amount, so each student will want to be sure to do each of the parts in their entirety. Most of the project will be put onto this term. The final report is due after the change in term, so its grade will be put onto Term 2. Please note that this project is entirely a homework assignment.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me here at school, or through e-mail: apratt@syracuseartsacademy.org

Thanks!
Aaron Pratt

Manned	Mercury-Atlas 6	First American in Orbit
	Gemini 4	Fist American Space Walk
	Apollo 11	Moon Landing
	Apollo 13	Moon mission with problems
	Skylab 1	First US Space Station
	STS-7 Challenger	First Woman in Space
	STS-31 Discovery	Hubble Telescope Deployed
Unmanned	Pioneer 5	First deep space probe
	Voyager 1	Fly-by probe of Jupiter and Saturn
	NEAR	Near Earth Asteroid Rendezvous
	Mars Exploration Rovers	Spirit, Opportunity, Phoenix
	New Horizons	Pluto Fly-by Probe

I have read this paper with my student and both student and parent understand the upcoming project. I understand that there will be a total of 5 parts, including this note, and more information about each part will come as it gets closer to due.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

*You may detach this sheet after the list of space missions if you would like to keep the other information.
All of this information is also available on my blog.*