

Open House Mini-mission

TEACHER GUIDE

Introduction

You may want to conduct your classes' "mini-mission" (mission prep) with your students' families one evening. To do so, sponsor an open house in which students and families work together.

Materials

- _____ Computers as needed for teams
- _____ Mini-mission handouts
- _____ Team worksheets, report forms
- _____ Teacher practice data answer key
- _____ Pencils

Notes

- Check your school's calendar for the dates of regularly scheduled parent meetings. You may want to schedule your open house for the same night to showcase your program and the students' involvement in this enrichment activity.
- Running time is approximately one hour. Set the times for the mini-mission to include getting the parents and students at their stations and orienting them to the work.
- On the next page is a sample invitation. You may cut and paste the text to create your own version. Make the necessary changes and copy it for distribution well before the scheduled date. You may also want to invite school administrators and school board members to your program.
- Copy all materials needed for the mini-mission and assign your students to man each of the stations to ensure that

visiting parents can accurately complete all calculations.

- Set up the class for the mini-mission. Arrange the desks as necessary for work by large teams. You can find the link to mini-mission information on the web site under Pre-mission Prep.
- Take pictures of the parents and students participating in the mission and display in the hall, the school newspaper, or the city newspaper. The article can be written by the students.

Congratulations! You and your child have been chosen to help NASA prepare for a simulated space mission. During the **Northwestern Middle School** open house, you will participate in a practice simulation with your child.

Date: **Tuesday, October 25, 2005**

Time: **7:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

Room: **105—Mrs. Smith’s Math Classroom—a.k.a. Mission Control**

Your child is busy preparing to run a live mission with NASA, and this is one of the preparatory activities. We call it a “mini-mission” because it is only a practice for the real thing.

During this time you will work with your child to use some basic math to solve problems similar to those NASA people face. Your job may be crisis management, communications, or to serve on one of the data teams, downloading and analyzing information on the computer.

No special math or computer skills are necessary. Your main job will be to work alongside your child, encouraging him or her, and helping the child to pay attention to the written directions.

Student team members will guide you as you perform the tasks necessary to successfully complete your assignments. Remember, work quickly! The success of the mission depends on you!

You will receive your team assignment when you enter **Room 105**, converted to NASA mission control for this event. Please proceed directly to your station where team members are in place to help you succeed.

We looking forward to working with you. Thank you in advance for your participation and interest in your child’s education.