



VANDENBERG MIDDLE SCHOOL

Lompoc Unified School District
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Aug. 19, 2013

Dear Aerospace Modeling families,

Welcome to an exciting year at Vandenberg Middle School! Your child is enrolled in the Aerospace Modeling science elective, supported by the Endeavour Academy. This unique course will expose students to a hands-on, project-based learning environment, utilizing the same principles of science carried out in our local space and missile industries. The first year of the class was a great success and I look forward to building on the lessons learned to further enrich the program.

I first want to let you know about the culminating activity of first semester, Balloon Fest! Held on **Saturday, December 7th** at Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria, the Endeavour Institute will be hosting this unique science event. Students will bring experiments that they have been designing throughout the first semester, attach them to tethered weather balloons, and send them up to 1000 feet into the air. More details will follow, but for now, please put this date on your calendar to ensure that your young scientist is able to attend (family is also invited).

The offers of support I have received from the Aerospace parents have been overwhelming, and I want to specify one of the best ways you may assist our unique program. While the Endeavour Institute has supported several grants for the course, this money will typically be funneled towards our larger projects (model rockets, robotics, etc.). We will also be completing smaller projects that require simpler materials such as specific card stock and poster board. Rather than creating a particular wish list, **I would like to request a donation of \$20 by each Aerospace family.** This lab fee will go towards the less glamorous (but still necessary) materials to fill in the gaps between our larger projects. If your family is unable to make the donation, please know that I understand and intend to provide all students with a wonderful experience in this class.

A special account has been created to ensure that all donated money is used strictly for the Aerospace Modeling classes. If you choose to send a check, please make it out to the "Aerospace Club." You may also mail checks to the address above. Thank you very much for your enthusiastic support of this course! If you have further questions or concerns do not hesitate to email me at ladwig.christopher@lusd.org or check the class website at www.ladwig.vmsteacher.org.

Sincerely,

Chris Ladwig
VMS Aerospace Modeling