



Meet the MARS Challenge!



March 20, 2019

To ANY & ALL parents of 2nd through 8th Graders:

This is to let you know there's a STEAM competition coming up called **"Meet the MARS Challenge!"** It will be held May 31, 2019, June 1, 2019, and June 2, 2019. **"Meet the MARS Challenge!"** exhibits to those attending the **Mars Exploration Celebration**, has cash rewards, and is judged by professionals for added exposure! **FIRST ENERGY CORP. is, once again, generous in their commitment and support of our Celebration by contributing \$12,000 that we may divide it among the various winners!**

So, what exactly IS "Meet the MARS Challenge!"? It is a student STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) competition during the **Mars Exploration Celebration**. **The Mars Exploration Celebration is happening in downtown Mars this coming May 31st, June 1st & 2nd, 2019!** **"Meet the MARS Challenge!"** is open to ANY 2nd through 8th graders from ANY district, ANY town, or ANY alternative school setting. It's a competition that follows the scientific method.

Our Celebration is education-based on exploration and innovation. NASA has collaborated with our past two Celebrations by sending numerous NASA employees to lecture and provide numerous exhibits to display. With each Celebration, NASA strongly encourages us to find more ways to reach more children, youth, and the community. **"Meet the MARS Challenge!"** is our effort to do just that!

The **"Meet the MARS Challenge!"** is based on this scenario: There are 100 Earthlings being sent to live on the next great frontier, the planet Mars! The student is to identify a particular problem/issue/challenge they see these colonists facing. Students are **Challenged** to **TRY** to address and/or solve the issue by presenting an exhibit, much like a science fair project.

The student's exhibits would fit into one of the Challenge's 4 categories: **M.A.R.S.** (**M**=mechanical, **A**=agriculture, **R**=relationship, **S**=survival). Professionals volunteering to judge will determine the winners in each category for each of the age groups (2nd - 4th grade, 5th & 6th grades, and 7th & 8th grades). **Cash prizes** will be awarded at the end of the Celebration on June 2nd and participating schools acknowledged with an award!

Entries will be limited! Refer to www.marsnewyear.com ("Student Challenge" tab) for upcoming dates, entry information, and to complete the online submission form. You will be notified within 48 hours of submitting the application if your entry has been accepted.

For further questions you can call the numbers below or email us at meetthemarschallenge@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Shelly Watson,
Chairperson
724-766-2329

Mary Jo Phillips, mphillips@marsk12.org
Co-Chairperson
724-316-8809