

# CHALLENGER LEARNING CENTER OF LAKE ERIE WEST

EDUCATIONAL  
SERVICE CENTER  
OF LAKE ERIE WEST

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on space!

**Hello Challenger friends!**

**Exciting Happenings at the Challenger  
Learning Center!**

February was an action-packed month at the Challenger Learning Center of Lake Erie West! Learners from Washington Local and Oregon City successfully piloted multiple missions, demonstrating teamwork and problem-solving as they ensured the health and safety of their crews—a key marker of mission success.

Looking ahead, we're gearing up for an exciting summer filled with STEM learning through our upcoming camps. Additionally, we're taking our digital dome on the road to visit local preschools, bringing immersive space experiences to young learners. In Monclova preschool, we'll explore what it takes to grow plants on the Moon, diving into the challenges of sustaining life beyond Earth.

There's no shortage of discovery and innovation happening at the center—stay tuned for more adventures in STEM!

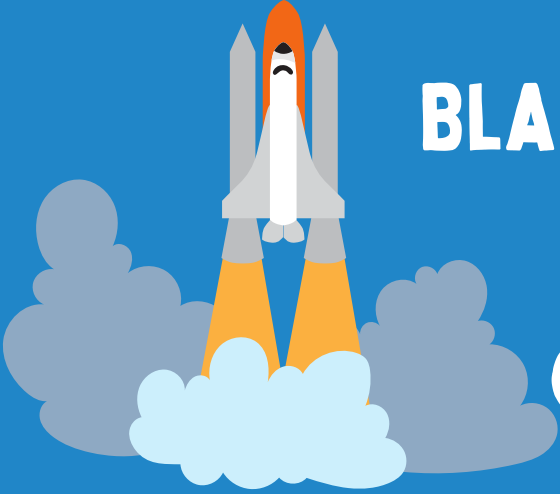
*Heather Townley*

Coordinator of Gifted STEM  
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**Challenger**<sup>®</sup>  
LEARNING  
CENTER

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# BLAST OFF TO SUMMER CAMP AT THE CHALLENGER LEARNING CENTER OF LAKE ERIE WEST!



## June 2-6 Astro Camp

**Kindergarten – 2nd Grade**

"Astro Explorers: Little Hands, Big Dreams!"

**3rd – 4th Grade**

"Mission: Adventure Beyond Earth!"



## June 9-13 Robotics and Coding

**5th – 6th Grade**

"Rescue Robotics: A Mission to Save Lives!"

**7th – 8th Grade**

"Robot Olympics: Engineering for Space Exploration!"



## June 23-27 Astro Camp

**3rd – 4th Grade**

"Mission: Adventure Beyond Earth!"

**5th – 6th Grade**

"Space Innovators: Charting the Future!"

Click or scan for more information and registration.



# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SPACE?



## NASA's Image of the Day

Did you know that NASA posts a new image every day? The art made by the universe is truly inspiring. On February 24, 2025, this picture was taken by the Hubble Telescope. This NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope image features a supernova remnant called the Veil Nebula. This nebula is the remnant of a star roughly 20 times as massive as the Sun that exploded about 10,000 years ago.

Image Credit: ESA/Hubble & NASA, R. Sankrit

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## ISS Expedition 72 Crew is Preparing to Come Home!

[Read more HERE!](#)



The Expedition 72 crew on the International Space Station spent Tuesday preparing for departure and doing scientific research. NASA astronauts Nick Hague, Suni Williams, and Butch Wilmore, along with Russian cosmonaut Aleksandr Gorbunov, practiced their return to Earth aboard the SpaceX Dragon, set for mid-March. Their replacements, Crew-10, are scheduled to launch on March 12.

Meanwhile, the crew continued research on how space affects the human body. Hague exercised for a study, and Don Pettit worked on experiments related to muscle and bone health. Williams and Wilmore handled station chores, while Russian cosmonauts Alexey Ovchinin and Ivan Vagner unloaded supplies from a recent cargo delivery.

# SCHEDULE WITH US!

Virtual or In-Person



## In-Person Mission: What to Expect

- Approximate program time: 2.5 hours
- Time spent in both Mission Control and the space craft during the fully immersive simulated mission
- Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) aligned
- Common Core State Standards (CCSS) aligned

Learn more about our Simulated Missions [HERE!](#)

## Virtual Mission: What to Expect

- Approximate program time: 1 hour
- Delivered in real-time by Challenger Learning Center Flight Directors
- Closed captioning available
- Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) aligned
- Common Core State Standards (CCSS) aligned

Learn more about Virtual Missions [HERE!](#)

**[CLICK HERE to schedule a mission or request information!](#)**

# SCIENCE SNAPSHOT:

K-4

## Observing Solar Energy

Students analyze map visualizations of Earth's albedo, or reflected sunlight, to infer seasonal patterns. Using a dataset from Chicago, they compare these maps to a 2018 radiation absorption graph, deepening their understanding of how climate data is represented in different formats.

5-8

## Drilling on the Moon

In this hands-on STEM challenge, students will explore the properties of icy-regolith, a mixture of ice and lunar soil found at the Moon's south pole. Using simple materials, they will design and construct a motorized drill bot capable of penetrating simulated icy-regolith. Through testing and iteration, students will refine their designs to optimize drilling efficiency. This activity integrates engineering principles, problem-solving, and teamwork while providing insight into the challenges of lunar resource extraction.

9-12

## Hurricanes as Heat Engines

In this cross-curricular lesson, learners will

- analyze NASA sea surface temperature data to use as evidence to explain a phenomenon.
- explore how hurricanes gain energy from the ocean surface.