

Students and teachers at Homer-Center have experienced some new projects, specifically in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Challenger Center for the Space Science Education is a program that allows many young students to experience a field of study that they would often not be exposed to in the past. This program, to put it simply, sent students off onto a “space mission” where students were prompted to study and perform various jobs in order to complete real-world issues that real astronauts and engineers experience.

The 8th grade class of Homer-Center has made some adjustments in order to prepare for this expedition. Teachers Anthony Buffone and Sarah Fyock had added extra science and math lessons into their classes as they continued to prepare for the mission. As stated, each student was also assigned a certain role for the mission, and as such, they were prepared to follow through with his/her role. The introduction of these assignments allowed students to discover new abilities about themselves. Not only did this program give students the opportunity to explore new fields of study that they wouldn’t often see in a classroom, but they are got the opportunity to actually develop a better understanding of STEM-related careers. This opportunity wasn’t just handed to Homer-Center’s students though, as 400,000 middle school-aged students and 40,000 educators around the globe are engaged in a Challenger Learning Center program per year. Hopefully, the numbers will not just end there!

"The entire time that I was at the training I was so excited. All I kept thinking about was how excited our students are going to be for this experience and how relevant the lessons would seem once they got the opportunity to put them to real life applications," said Homer-Center teacher, Anthony Buffone, after recalling his prep-experience for the Challenger Learning Center.

Photo:

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