

International Space Station Contact with Greenfield Schools

All Greenfield Central Schools will be participating in a question and answer session with an astronaut on board the International Space Station, ISS, sometime in the next 4 to 6 weeks. Students will be chosen from each elementary school, each middle school, and the high school to represent our school system in this unique opportunity. We will use Amateur Radio, HAM radio, to contact the ISS directly from our High School Ham radio station. We will have students ask one question each, and the astronaut will answer each question as the ISS orbits overhead and is in radio contact with our station. Contact should last from 8 to 10 min and will give ample time for 8 to 15 questions and answers.

ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station), is sponsored by NASA, AMSAT (Amateur Radio Satellite Corp.), the ARRL (American Radio Relay League), and 8 other sponsoring countries. This is a formal program that allows Ham Radio contacts with astronauts as they orbit the earth in the ISS. Part of the program consists of scheduled contacts with schools to enhance student interest in the space program. It is a great opportunity for a mind-stretching project for the students and teachers in our school system.

This program is sponsored locally by the Hancock Amateur Radio Club and the High School Technology Department. In the last few years Mr. Gary Wynn has assembled a first class amateur radio station at the high school that is capable of worldwide communication and satellite communication. Dr. Gary Stouder is coordinator of the local ARISS communication project, Mr. Joey Johnson will be in charge of coordinating the selection of students to talk to the astronauts, and Mr. Tim Renshaw will be making the events available to the community on WRGF and the School Cable TV Station. We will also plan on having a major radio station, TV station, and Newspaper coverage of the event. It should be a great PR event for our school system and for Greenfield. I would encourage each school to get very involved in this program, and for science teachers to talk about the space program prior to our contact.

The date and time of contact will be announced about two weeks before contact.

Thank you

Gary Stouder, AMSAT area coordinator