

News Release

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Haller students skype with NASA engineer to learn about Orion space mission

ARLINGTON- Haller Middle School students Skyped with NASA engineer, Nujoud Merancy, on Oct. 5 to learn more about the Orion spacecraft and its mission. Merancy is the planning and analysis lead engineer for Orion and she talked about her position with NASA and about Orion. The Orion spacecraft is intended to facilitate human exploration of asteroids and of Mars and to retrieve crew or supplies from the International Space Station if needed.

Students also asked Merancy questions about her position and the Orion program. Questions ranged from those about habitable net volume and the spacecraft's shield to what an average day at NASA looks like for Merancy.

"The students were so engaged with Ms. Merancy because they could relate to her," said Haller teacher Rachel Harrington. "She is a UW graduate and a fellow Seahawks fan who also is incredibly inspiring and working on discoveries and feats that one can only dream about. Whether students plan to work in aerospace engineering or not, they look at her and feel like the world is open to them as long as they work hard and dream big."

"From the perspective of a teacher, everything about this Skype session aligns with what education is truly about: inspiring young minds with real world experiences and accomplishments," said Haller teacher Colleen Turk. "This wasn't just about space science or engineering. This assembly was about inspiring our students to be critical thinkers and problem solvers. I think we accomplished that goal thanks to Ms. Merancy and NASA."

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