

# **Middle School Communications – “*Sailor of the Stars*” 2007-2008**

## **About the Teacher Gretchen Simmonds**

Thank you for giving me the privilege of working with your child this year. I am entering into my 14<sup>th</sup> year in the field of education. I graduated from the University of Central Florida with a degree in elementary education. I have taught in several different environments including public, private and homeschooling. This will be my tenth year at Covenant Christian Academy as a teacher and co-director. We will also be home schooling our son Patrick this year as well as keeping up with our other two little ones.

## **About the Curriculum**

“Sailor of the Stars takes students through the entire process of astronaut training, from applying for a position as an astronaut, to astronaut candidate training, selecting as orbiter crew, launch, working and living in space, landing and debriefing. Within this context students complete cross-curricular assignments individually and as part of a team in the areas of language arts, social studies, mathematics and science and technology.” Author Robert Lawrence

As you can see this is a very exciting curriculum that will challenge the students not only in the area of language arts, but in many other subject areas as well.

## **Goals for the Year**

Students will:

- Complete a job application
- Write business letters
- Conduct a job interview
- Make a presentation for an audience
- Interpret quotations
- Draw relationships between vehicles on earth and in space
- Build and launch a simple rocket
- Read and perform a script
- Create a magazine-driven report
- Write and participate in a press conference

- Solve a variety of problems
- Use the internet and other references for research
- Value teamwork

### **Supplies needed**

Students will need the following supplies for this class:

- Pencils
- Paper
- Folder
- Household items may be requested from time to time, please check the website each week.

### **About Grades**

Students will be graded on their work using the following scale. A-90-100, B-80-89, C-70-79, D-60-69, F-60 and below.

They will receive these grades on their individual and cooperative work. Grades are not the emphasis of this class, learning will be. We will use our grades as a chance to encourage their best work.

### **Parent's Part**

Your students are in for an exciting and yet challenging semester of math. Please help them along the way by doing the following: check to make sure their homework is complete each week and complement them when you see a job well done. Check [www.mycca.org](http://www.mycca.org) for information on updates and supplies needed.

### **Contact the Teacher**

Please feel free to contact me (or have your student do it) with any questions. My email address is [gretchensim@yahoo.com](mailto:gretchensim@yahoo.com) and my phone number is (407) 322-9994.