

## PRESS RELEASE

April 23, 2008

Friday, 4/25, 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, 4/26, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

### On Site Contacts:

**Rick Witham**, MAISD Regional Math & Science Center at  
231-767-7316 or [rwitham@muskegonisd.org](mailto:rwitham@muskegonisd.org) Cell: 231-557-4014

**Kristin Tank**, MAISD Public Information Officer, 231-767-7263 Cell: 231-894-5419

## Lakefront serves as launch site for 2-day statewide rocket competition

MUSKEGON, MI: On **Friday, April 25, 2008, from 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**, 516 elementary school students will arrive by bus in downtown Muskegon to launch the first wave of 38 student-built rockets along the Muskegon lakeshore as part of the Michigan Aerospace Challenge (MAC). In addition, these students will perform hands-on science activities on the Mart Dock property and attend aerospace presentations at the L.C. Walker Arena Annex. **Elementary rocket launches will occur from 9:45 to 11:00 a.m., 11:45 to 12:30 p.m., and 1:00 to 1:30 p.m.**

**Middle and high school student** teams are also beginning a two-day statewide high-power rocket competition on Friday. Students will showcase their knowledge of math and science principles by presenting student-made high power rockets that are capable of reaching altitudes of **3,000 feet** before splashdown in Muskegon Lake. Each team has calculated the expected altitude of their rocket, built payloads, and prepared an oral presentation and display that explain the aerospace concepts involved in rocketry. The middle and high school students will attend a presentation by **Astronaut Colonel Jack Lousma at 1:30 p.m. in the Hilt Building** (425 W. Western Avenue) while their rockets are being judged. Volunteer judges, who have a variety of math, science, aerospace, and technology-related backgrounds, will be examining rockets and interviewing members of the high power rocket team from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

The Michigan Aerospace Challenge concludes the following day with the launch of the 21 high power rockets built by student teams from the following schools: Alger (Grand Rapids), Burton (Grand Rapids), Ford (Grand Rapids), Westwood (Grand Rapids), West (Holland), Guardian Angels Catholic (Clawson), Riverside (Grand Rapids), Rochester Hills, Marlette, Hesperia, Lakeville, and the Muskegon Technical Academy. A team from Community United Methodist Church and Boy Scout Troop #1023 of Fruitport will also compete. **Saturday's launch**, which is open to the public, will begin at **8:00 a.m. at the Mart Dock property** on Muskegon Lake. The closing awards ceremony will immediately follow the final launch.

Over 100 volunteers make the MAC possible each year. This program is funded by the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District, MAISD Regional Mathematics and Science Center. The Michigan Aviation Hall of Fame and many local businesses provide support to make this event possible. The Michigan Aerospace Challenge is one of three mathematics and science related student programs coordinated by the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District Regional Mathematics and Science Center. West Michigan Science Challenge, a regional science fair, took place in March and **Middle School Amusement Park Physics will occur on May 14, 2008, at Michigan's Adventure Amusement Park**. All three programs require students to use their knowledge and skills to solve "real-world" problems.       ###