

## PRESS RELEASE

April 23, 2009

**Friday, 4/24, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, 4/25, 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.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 at 231-767-7263 or [ktank@muskegonisd.org](mailto:ktank@muskegonisd.org)  
Cell: 231-894-5419

### **Hundreds of students head to Muskegon Lakeshore to launch rockets**

MUSKEGON, MI: On Friday, **April 24, 2009**, from **9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**, **657** elementary school students will head to the Muskegon lakeshore to launch **45** student-built rockets during day one of the two-day Michigan Aerospace Challenge. Students will rotate through the rocket launch activity from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. At 10:30 a.m. and again at 12:30 p.m. aviation educator Jerry Pahl of the Kalamazoo Aviation History Museum/Air Zoo will engage students in a lively presentation at the L.C. Walker Arena Annex. Throughout the event students will perform hands-on science activities aboard the historic World War II LST 393, one of two remaining ships of its kind.

**Middle and high school student** teams begin the two-day statewide high-power rocket competition on Friday as well. 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. 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 on Saturday, April 25, 2009, with the launch of 15 high-power rockets built by student teams from Clawson, Grand Rapids, Grand Ledge, Holland, Lakeville, Marlette, and Muskegon. Saturday's launch takes place at the Mart Dock property on Muskegon Lake and is open to the public. It will begin at 8:00 a.m. weather permitting. The closing awards ceremony will immediately follow the final launch around 11:30 a.m.

Over 100 volunteers make the Michigan Aerospace Challenge 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 the 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 20, 2009, at Michigan's Adventure Amusement Park.** All three programs require students to use their knowledge and skills to solve "real-world" problems.

###