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PGCPS STUDENTS TO MEET ASTRONAUTS AS PART OF NASA 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Springhill Lake Elementary and Greenbelt Middle School students to be visited by Astronauts Loren Shriver and Bruce McCandless

(Upper Marlboro, MD) The Prince George’s County Board of Education and Prince George’s County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. William R. Hite, Jr. this afternoon announced that on Wednesday, September 9, two of its Greenbelt schools – Springhill Lake Elementary and Greenbelt Middle School – will be visited by astronauts from the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center.

“We are honored that some of Prince George’s best youth scholars are being afforded this opportunity to celebrate NASA’s 50th anniversary,” said Verjeana M. Jacobs, Esq., Chair of the Prince George’s County Board of Education. “We hope that their interaction with the astronauts reaffirms the importance of science, technology, engineering and mathematics and inspires them to reach new heights academically,” added Dr. Hite.

Specifics of the visit are detailed below:

**Greenbelt Middle School, 8950 Edmonston Road, Greenbelt, MD**
Time: 9 am – 9:45 am
Media/Visual opportunities: 45 Science students
Astronaut Bruce McCandless
Principal Judy Austin
Dr. William R. Hite, Jr., Superintendent

**Springhill Lake Elementary School, 6060 Springhill Drive, Greenbelt, MD**
Time: 9 am – 9:40 am
Media/Visual opportunities: 200 4th and 5th graders
Astronaut Loren Shriver
Principal Natasha Jenkins
Dr. Bonita Coleman-Potter, Deputy Superintendent

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Prince George’s County Board of Education
About Prince George's County Public Schools
Prince George's County Public Schools is the 2nd largest school system in the state of Maryland and the 18th largest in the nation. With a projected enrollment of more than 134,000 students, the system is among the most diverse in the nation. The school system currently employs approximately 16,000 full-time employees, which includes approximately 10,000 teachers.

About Loren Shriver
Shriver is a veteran of three space flights and has logged more than 386 hours in space. His missions include STS-51C in 1985, STS-31 in 1990, and STS-46 in 1992. In October 1992, he was assigned as Deputy Chief of the Astronaut Office. In 1993, he accepted the Space Shuttle Program position at KSC, and retired from the Air Force as a Colonel.

About Bruce McCandless
A veteran of two space flights, McCandless has logged over 312 hours in space, including 4 ours in MMU flight time. He flew as a mission specialist on STS-41B (February 3-11, 1984) and STS-31 (April 24-29, 1990).

About STS-31 Discovery
The STS-31 Discovery launched on April 24, 1990 from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. The crew aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery included Col. Loren J. Shriver, USAF, (spacecraft commander), Col. Charles F. Bolden, USMC, (pilot), and Drs Steven A. Hawley and Kathryn D. Sullivan (mission specialists). During this 5-day mission, the crew deployed the Hubble Space Telescope and conducted a variety of middeck experiments. Following 76 orbits of the earth in 121 hours, STS-31 Discovery landed at Edwards Air Force Base on April 29, 1990.

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