



Spring Grove Area High School

1490 Roth's Church Road
Spring Grove, PA 17362

717.225.4731 x7000
Online: www.sgasd.org

Four Years/Five Teams/One Mission:

Give student scientists an opportunity to work with and learn from NASA engineers

Spring Grove Area High School has had a group of student science enthusiasts involved in the NASA Student Initiative every year since 2012. Some of the very first students to participate in the program are now enrolled in prestigious universities across the country, involved in various scientific fields of study. We are extremely proud of the fact that not only are our students so successful in the NASA program while here at the HS, but that they use their experience to generate even more success after graduation.

There can be some concern when attention is paid to a program that seemingly benefits only a few students. At first glance, the NASA Student Launch Initiative could appear to be such a program. However, consider that in order to qualify for SLI, students must score in a certain range in the Team America Rocketry Challenge (TARC) which is open to any student in Middle School and High School - a fairly large number of students.

Also, in order to continue to encourage interest in science and rocketry, those students who do participate in SLI come back to the Middle School and Intermediate School grades to teach rocket-building workshops to younger students. In the larger sense, the circle of knowledge and growth is completed that way - it's an amazing concept.

Equally amazing is the fact that, year after year, the students raise **ALL** the money needed to do this at the same time! This is an unfunded program. Neither NASA or the school district is in the position to provide direct funding for this program. Every year since our high school was first invited to participate, the students and advisor/teachers take on the task of doing the work to prepare and test rockets for NASA by April; while at the same time, raising anywhere from \$10,000 to \$26,000 to fund that work and the subsequent trip to Huntsville, Alabama to launch the rocket.

This year, the estimated cost for Project Triton is about \$20,000. The students have been successful this year in their fundraising efforts (making and selling cotton candy, taking orders for granola, selling Bonus Books, hosting a Paint Night and writing for grants) but they are still short of their goal.

CAN YOU HELP? Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Spring Grove Area School District to benefit the Student Launch Initiative. You will find a form at the bottom of the letter to complete and send with your check. If you would like to follow the progress of the Student Launch Initiative team or learn more about this year's assignment - Project Triton - take a look at their team web site at <http://springgroverocketry.weebly.com/>

On behalf of the Board and staff of Spring Grove Schools and the students we serve, thank you for your time and consideration!

Lisa A Smith
Community Relations Coordinator
smithl@sgasd.org

Please mail your completed form,
with check to:

Spring Grove Area School District
ATTN: SLI Project Triton
100 East College Avenue
Spring Grove, PA 17362

Please make checks payable to **SGAHS/SLI**.
Questions?

Call Lisa Smith at 717-225-4731 ext 3031.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Day-time phone number: _____

E-mail address: _____