

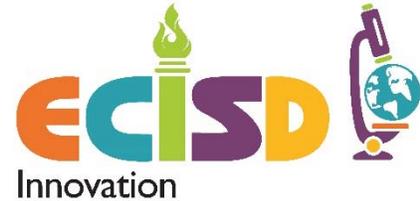
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Odessa students and Texas Tech University researchers working on a novel treatment for cancer

As a part of PICK Education’s model, which serves to bring real-world experiences into the classroom, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) and a group of student researchers from Ector County Independent School District (ECISD) are working together on a novel treatment for cancer in space. The group of 6th graders from Nimitz Middle School will be traveling from Odessa, Texas on June 18 to meet a team of researchers from the Department of Surgery at TTUHSC to load their experiment samples for spaceflight during a video conference with NanoRacks. The experiment will study the activation of the spores in the bacterium, *Clostridium sporogenes*, in microgravity. The study aims to treat colon cancer with a novel method for astronauts that are exposed to radiation in space. The experiment is set to launch to the International Space Station (ISS) on the SpaceX CRS-18 this July.

Nimitz Middle School was one of three ECISD finalists in the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program (SSEP). This is ECISD’s second year to be selected into SSEP, and is 1 of 38 communities participating in the competition across three countries; U.S., Canada and Brazil. The group of 6th graders will also be traveling to the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Virginia to attend the 2019 SSEP National Conference, hosted by the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education (NCE SSE). The students will be presenting their experiment design and attend featured presentations by nationally recognized scientists, engineers and astronauts.

SSEP is designed as a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education initiative, and gives students the opportunity to become researchers where they are able to design and propose real microgravity experiments to be conducted by an astronaut aboard the International Space Station. The Student Spaceflight Experiments Program [or SSEP] is a program of the NCE SSE in the U.S. and the Arthur C. Clarke Institute for Space Education internationally. It is enabled through a strategic partnership with DreamUp PBC and NanoRacks LLC, which are working with NASA under a Space Act Agreement as part of the utilization of the International Space Station as a National Laboratory.

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For more information, please contact the Innovation Department at 432-456-0999.

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