

News Release

Everett Public Schools

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H.M. Jackson High School junior selected as a Washington Aerospace Scholar

Daphne (Danfeng) Wei, a junior at H.M. Jackson High School, is one of 260 juniors from across the state accepted into the first phase of Washington Aerospace Scholars (WAS). The WAS program begins with a distance learning component followed by a six-day summer residency experience for 160 students who move forward into phase two.

Her science teacher, Andy Sevald, had this to say about her, "Ms Wei is a very determined young woman. Inexhaustible in her quest for understanding and knowledge; I expect her someday to be the forerunner of some new and totally revolutionary design and to have the name of Wei spoken in the same reverent tones currently reserved for the great engineers of their day: Wankel, Watt, and Diesel."

During phase one Daphne and her 259 colleagues are currently participating in a NASA-designed curriculum covering the history of space exploration, the Space Shuttle, the International Space Station, the moon, and Mars. From January through May, the scholars will complete 10 lessons - submitting quizzes, math solutions, essays, and graphics concerning these topics every other week. Scholars will independently select a topic of interest for a final project combining an essay with a graphic. Scholars are also competing for a space in one of our four summer residency sessions.

Phase two of WAS is a six-day summer residency experience for 160 students who are selected, based upon their performance in phase one. In each residency session, 40 scholars are selected to work cooperatively planning a human mission to Mars with support from professional engineers/scientists, university students, and certificated educators. Each session also includes briefings from aerospace professionals, tours of engineering facilities, and hands-on engineering challenges involving model rocketry, robotics, landing devices, and payload lofting.

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