

## Independent Day School “Astronauts” Simulate NASA Experience

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Tampa, Fla.

Aware of the upcoming Discovery Space Launch from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, Independent Day School Early Primary teachers planned a phenomenal Discovery Space Day where space simulations brought learning closer to reality.

The children, dressed in their individually-decorated astronaut attire, equipped with rocket boosters (2 liter soda bottles), paraded to the launch site (across the campus to the middle school field), where they witnessed middle school math teacher and longtime IDS Summer Camp counselor for model rocketry Tom Bronson, control the real launch! All students assisted with the countdown.

PreK3 teacher Lauren Bronson said, “The students were amazed to see the rockets being launched into the sky and were thrilled after the rockets were retrieved and returned to the classrooms so they could be investigated up close.”

Astronauts (students) then blasted off on board “Discovery” (the elevator) to the moon (the second floor Grand Room) to experience life in space (the Developmental Centers). Students walked on the moon’s cratered surface (heavily pillowed-and-sheet-covered-floor), all wearing space shoes (carwash sponges on their feet) and ate space food (chocolate pudding sucked through a straw out of a Ziploc bag). They performed simple tasks in space (using gloves and tongs to try and emulate how truly difficult it would be).

“The IDS “astronauts” had determination on their faces as they tried to walk across the “moon”. The unit on the solar system brought a sense of how it might be different to be on the moon or in outer space,” said PreK3 teacher Samantha Nelson.

To top it all off, each class also had an opportunity to enjoy a special space show in the creatively-constructed planetarium that was set up in Corbett Hall.

Parents were there to snap pictures and gave support to accomplish a major day of delightful learning memories. It was a tremendous success!

Founded in 1968, Independent Day School-Corbett Campus is a fully accredited, independent school located on Orange Grove Drive in northwest Hillsborough County. The school serves over 500 students in PreK3 through 8th grade and offers the International Baccalaureate program of study for all middle school students.

At IDS, all children experience learning in a nurturing and highly academic environment focused on excellence and developing a positive self-concept. IDS-CC has become recognized as an exemplary school with over 4,000 visitors observing and learning from and with IDS-CC teachers about the school’s M.O.R.E. Approach to education.

The vision for all students at IDS-CC is to accelerate learning by creating a brain-friendly environment that is: Joyful and Challenging, Stimulating and Productive, Nurturing with High Standards and High Expectations, and includes Ethical Conduct, and Dignity and Respect for all.

For more information about IDS visit [www.idsyas.com](http://www.idsyas.com).



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