

## Krueger Elementary Embraces Space through a Lockheed Martin Program



*Over 200 second grade students at Krueger Elementary signed a poster that will go into space this Fall as part of Lockheed Martin's Student Signatures in Space program.*

SAN ANTONIO, TX - Second graders at Krueger Elementary School on the northwest side of San Antonio wanted a taste of blasting off into space. So, all 200-plus kids signed a "Student Signatures in Space" poster to celebrate Space Day 2008. The poster program is jointly sponsored by NASA and Lockheed Martin, and gives students an opportunity to send their digitized signatures into space. The Space Shuttle mission designated to carry this year's signatures has been tentatively identified as STS-126, a flight to the International Space Station scheduled for next Fall.

"Our goal with Student Signatures in Space is to spark kids' interest in technical studies by giving them a personal connection to the space program,"

said Barbara Reinike, Space Day program manager for Lockheed Martin. "Classes usually follow their signatures mission together from launch to landing, so it really piques the students' interest in the whole process. Counterpart lesson plans that incorporate math and science activities help teachers take the learning experience to the next level."

After the signatures return from space, the poster will be returned for permanent display to Krueger Elementary along with a picture of the crew that carried the signatures into space and an official flight certification verifying that the signatures did, indeed, fly on the Space Shuttle!

Since the program began in 1997, nearly 4.5 million students have participated in Student Signatures in Space. There is no cost to schools to participate. However, because of space constraints on each mission, participation is limited to approximately 500 schools each year.