

Waltrip High School only campus in U.S. selected for Mars rover training exercise

- WHAT:** After being selected as this year's only Mission Control Academy in the United States by a space exploration and robotics company, students at Waltrip High School in the Houston Independent School District will get the opportunity on Friday to remotely control a rover located in Canada.
- From their classroom in northwest Houston, students will control the rover prototype located in the province of Quebec at a facility where terrain conditions are similar to those on Mars.
- The HISD campus, along with a high school in Ottawa, Canada, was selected as a Mission Control Academy campus by Mission Control Space Services, Inc. Waltrip was selected due to its Geographic Information Systems (GIS) magnet program and its partnership with Texas A&M University researchers.
- The Canadian company selects schools for two-week science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education and training programs led by experts from the space industry, NASA and research universities.
- The culmination of the program is the remote rover exercise.
- Almost two dozen students in Waltrip's GIS magnet program are participating in the academy training and the rover exercise.
- WHO:** HISD Board of Education Trustees, Waltrip High School Principal **Michael Niggli**, Mission Control Space Services Manager of Space and Education **Adam Deslauriers**, Texas A&M University researchers **Ryan Ewing** and **Marion Nachon**, Waltrip HS GIS magnet students and teachers
- WHEN:** Friday, Oct. 18
12:30-3:30 p.m.
- WHERE:** Waltrip High School
1900 W. 34th St., 77018

