

## Superintendent's Highlight May 8, 2020



Space Scientist **Alice Bowman** (*not to be confused with our Principal Alice Bowman*) virtually visits our Project Challenge students!

On Thursday, April 23 at 10:00 a.m., 82 students from the District's Project Challenge Program engaged in a teleconference with space scientist and engineer Alice Bowman. Hosted by our very own Dr. Alice Bowman and Project Challenge teachers Paula Engel and Sherri Winick, the students welcomed Scientist Alice Bowman into their

virtual classroom to learn about her role as Mission Operations Manager (aka "MOM") of the New Horizons mission to Pluto. She is the first woman to fill that role at the Applied Physics Laboratory.

Principal Bowman reached out to this same-named scientist hoping that she would be willing to share an inspirational message with our students. The "other" Alice Bowman responded immediately and enthusiastically and began to prepare a meaningful and informative session between herself and our students.

In the meantime, Mrs. Engel and Ms. Winick began preparing the students for the conference. Provided with links to videos, interviews and news articles, the kids began learning all about Pluto, the New Horizons mission and the achievements of this accomplished scientist. They were asked to create and share their questions which were forwarded to Scientist Bowman before the conference date.

Scientist Bowman prepared a thoroughly engaging slide presentation to address the students' inquiries which captured both their attention and admiration. Students wanted to know about her responsibilities as Mission Director, what the information collected was used for, and what her ambitions and future plans hold. They were excited to learn that the mission, which ran between 2006 and 2015, was a success and opened up future possibilities for exploration within and beyond our solar system.

Giving students opportunities like this one in these uncertain times proved to be especially meaningful today for our students. Meeting with such an accomplished scientist was just the perfect dose of inspiration, hope and connection that we all need right now.