

## **1988 Pattonville graduate headed into space tomorrow morning**

United States Air Force Major Robert Behnken, a 1988 graduate of Pattonville High School in Maryland Heights and a NASA astronaut, will be going into space for the first time on a space shuttle bound for the International Space Station tomorrow morning.

Liftoff for the space shuttle Endeavor is at 2:28 a.m. (EDT) on Tuesday, March 11. Behnken, who will serve as a mission specialist aboard the shuttle, invited Judy Mitchell Miller, one of his former teachers who is currently an English honors/gifted teacher at Pattonville High School, to attend the launch at Cape Canaveral. Earlier this year, Behnken asked Mitchell Miller for a small token representing Pattonville that he could take into space with him. She procured a Pattonville lapel pin and sent it to Behnken.

Although Pattonville students will miss the live launch due to its early morning liftoff, science classes at Pattonville High School will track the shuttle's daily work until it returns. The shuttle mission involves delivering the Japanese Kibo Logistics Module and the Canadian Dextre robotics system to the International Space Station, as well as rotating an astronaut in and out of the space station.

To read Behnken's biographical data and an extensive interview with him and learn more about his mission, visit the following Web site:

[http://www.nasa.gov/mission\\_pages/shuttle/shuttlemissions/sts123/index.html](http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/shuttle/shuttlemissions/sts123/index.html).

The shuttle mission also has one other St. Louis and Pattonville link. Astronaut Michael Foreman, who is also making his first space flight early tomorrow morning, is the first cousin of two Pattonville graduates, Tim Folkerts (Class of 1980) and Matt Folkerts (Class of 1983).