



KANSANS CAN SCHOOL REDESIGN

MERCURY 7

ALAN SHEPARD

LIBERAL USD 480

401 N. Kansas Ave.

Liberal, Kansas

Superintendent: Renae Hickert

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

Meadowlark Elementary School

1200 N. Calvert

Liberal, Kansas

Principal: Shawna Evans

SECONDARY SCHOOL:

Liberal High School

1611 W. 2nd St.

Liberal, Kansas

Principal: Ashley Kappelmann



Alan Shepard holds the distinction of being the first American to journey into space and the only Mercury astronaut to walk on the Moon. On May 5, 1961, in the Freedom 7 spacecraft, Shepard was launched by a Redstone vehicle on a ballistic trajectory suborbital flight – a flight which carried him to an altitude of 116 statute miles and to a landing point 302 statute miles down the Atlantic Missile Range. In 1963, he was designated Chief of the Astronaut Office with responsibility for monitoring the coordination, scheduling and control of all activities involving NASA astronauts. He made his second space flight as spacecraft commander on Apollo 14, Jan. 31 - Feb. 9, 1971. He was accompanied on man's third lunar landing mission by Stuart A. Roosa, command module pilot, and Edgar D. Mitchell, lunar module pilot. Maneuvering their lunar module, "Antares," to a landing in the hilly upland Fra Mauro region of the moon, Shepard and Mitchell subsequently deployed and activated various scientific equipment and experiments and collected almost 100 pounds of lunar samples for return to earth.

Source: NASA



- Alan Shepard was the first American in space.
- He specialized in recovery teams.
- He worked on a ship during World War II.
- He worked as the head of NASA's Astronaut Office.
- He left NASA in 1974.



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Revised May 25, 2018



KANSANS CAN SCHOOL REDESIGN

MERCURY 7

VIRGIL "GUS" GRISSOM

TWIN VALLEY USD 240

107 N. Nelson St.
Bennington, Kansas
Superintendent: Fred Van Ranken

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

Tescott Grade School
305 N. Minnesota
Tescott, Kansas
Principal: Steven Kimmi

SECONDARY SCHOOL:

Bennington Junior-Senior
High School
301 N. Putnam
Bennington, Kansas
Principal: Curtis Nightingale



Gus Grissom piloted the Liberty Bell 7 spacecraft - the second and final suborbital Mercury test flight - on July 21, 1961. This flight lasted 15 minutes and 37 seconds, attained an altitude of 118 statute miles, and traveled 302 miles downrange from the launch pad at Cape Kennedy. On March 23, 1965, he served as command pilot on the first manned Gemini flight, a three-orbit mission during which the crew accomplished the first orbital trajectory modifications and the first lifting reentry of a manned spacecraft. Subsequent to this assignment, he served as backup command pilot for Gemini 6. Grissom was named to serve as command pilot for the AS-204 mission, the first three-man Apollo flight. Lt. Colonel Grissom died Jan. 27, 1967, in the Apollo spacecraft flash fire during a launch pad test at Kennedy Space Center, Florida.

"If we die, we want people to accept it. We're in a risky business, and we hope that if anything happens to us it will not delay the program. The conquest of space is worth the risk of life."

- Gus Grissom (John Barbour et al., *Footprints on the Moon* (The Associated Press, 1969), p. 125.)



- Gus Grissom's full name was Virgil Ivan Grissom.
- He grew up in the small Midwestern town of Mitchell, Indiana.
- He was too short to participate in high school sports. However, he found a niche for himself in a local Boy Scout troop, where he eventually became a leader.
- To earn spending money as a child, Grissom delivered newspapers twice a day throughout the year.



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KANSANS CAN SCHOOL REDESIGN

MERCURY 7

JOHN GLENN

COFFEYVILLE USD 445

615 Ellis St.
Coffeyville, Kansas
Superintendent: Dr. Craig Correll

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

Community Elementary School
102 S. Cline Road
Coffeyville, Kansas
Principal: Jennifer Bright

SECONDARY SCHOOL:

Field Kindley High School*
1110 W. 8th St.
Coffeyville, Kansas
Principal: Travis Stalford

** with Roosevelt Middle School staff involved as a 7-12 center*

On Feb. 20, 1962, John Glenn, piloted the Mercury-Atlas 6 "Friendship 7" spacecraft to become the first American to orbit the Earth, circling it three times. During this mission, Glenn, who specialized in cockpit layout and control functioning, successfully showed that the Mercury spacecraft worked in space the way it was intended. The mission also helped NASA learn more about being in space. In 1998, at the age of 77, Glenn became the oldest person to fly in space when he flew on the STS-95 Discovery shuttle flight, a nine-day mission during which the crew supported a variety of research payloads including Glenn's investigations on space flight and the aging process. Glenn was also known for setting a new transcontinental air speed record on July 16, 1957, while flying an F8U-1P Crusader from Los Alamitos, California, nonstop to Floyd Bennett Field, New York at a record speed of 725.55 mph. The flight lasted just three hours, 23 minutes and 8.4 seconds, which beat the previous record holder by 15 minutes.

Source: NASA



- John Glenn specialized in capsule and instrument design for the project.
- He was the first American to orbit Earth.
- He became a U.S. Senator from the state of Ohio and served for 25 years.
- He became the oldest person to fly in space.
- He was a Marine pilot.
- In 1957, he set a speed record after flying from Los Angeles to New York in less than three and one-half hours.
- He was the last living member of the crew when he died in 2016.



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KANSANS CAN SCHOOL REDESIGN

MERCURY 7

SCOTT CARPENTER

WELLINGTON USD 353

221 S. Washington
Wellington, Kansas

Superintendent: Dr. Mark Whitener

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

Kennedy Elementary School

501 N. Woodlawn
Wellington, Kansas

Principal: Stephanie Smith

SECONDARY SCHOOL:

Wellington High School

1700 E. 16th St.
Wellington, Kansas

Principal: John Buckendorff

Scott Carpenter had the unique distinction of being the first human ever to enter both inner and outer space, thereby acquiring the dual title, Astronaut/Aquanaut. Specializing in communication and navigation, he served as backup pilot for John Glenn during the preparation for America's first manned orbital space flight in February 1962. Carpenter flew the second American manned orbital flight on May 24, 1962, piloting the Aurora 7 spacecraft through three revolutions of the Earth and reaching a maximum altitude of 164 miles. The spacecraft landed in the Atlantic Ocean about 1,000 miles southeast of Cape Canaveral after 4 hours and 54 minutes of flight time. Following his Aurora 7 flight, Carpenter was criticized by Flight Director Chris Kraft said the astronaut had ignored repeated instructions to conserve fuel and check his guidance instrumentation. This mission would go on to be described by one journalist as "a brilliant example of how a space agency learned by doing in the early years of the space age and how two ways of managing a mission – one with engineers in charge on the ground and the other with pilots in charge in the air – came to a head."

Sources: NASA; Popular Science, Mercury Astronaut Scott Carpenter and the Controversy Surrounding Aurora 7, Oct. 13, 2013



- Scott Carpenter specialized in communication and navigation aid for the project.
- He was commissioned in the Navy in 1949.
- He was designated a Naval aviator in 1951.
- Carpenter left NASA in 1967.
- For many years, Carpenter lived in Vail, Colorado. He was an avid skier.



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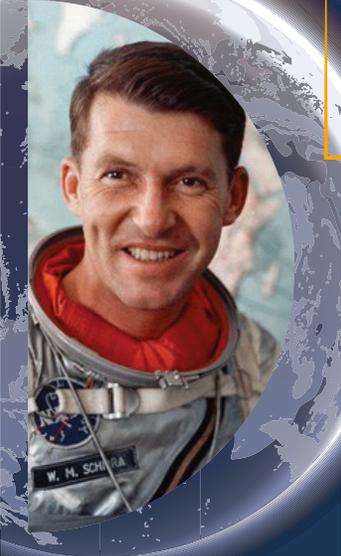
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KANSANS CAN SCHOOL REDESIGN

MERCURY 7

WALT "WALLY" SCHIRRA



MCPHERSON USD 418

514 North Main
McPherson, Kansas
Superintendent: Gordon Mohn

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

Eisenhower Elementary School
301 Wickersham Drive
McPherson, Kansas
Principal: Chris Allen

SECONDARY SCHOOL:

McPherson Middle School
700 E. Elizabeth
McPherson, Kansas
Principal: Brandon Simmelink

Wally Schirra holds the distinction of being the only astronaut to fly all three Apollo-era programs – Mercury, Gemini and Apollo. Schirra flew the six-orbit, nine-hour Mercury-Atlas 8 mission on Oct. 3, 1962, becoming the fifth American, and the ninth human, to ride a rocket into space. He commanded Gemini 6A in 1965, a flight with Tom Stafford, which was the first rendezvous of a two-manned, maneuverable spacecraft. Gemini 6A and Gemini 7 flew in formation for five hours, as close as one foot to one another. Schirra also commanded Apollo 7, the first manned Apollo flight. During that 11-day flight in Earth orbit in 1968, he and fellow crew members Walt Cunningham and Donn Eisele tested the Apollo systems and proved it was ready to take astronauts to the moon. In what was a precursor of things to come, Apollo 7 transmitted the first television feed live into commercial networks from space during its 260-hour flight.

Source: NASA



- Wally Schirra specialized in environmental controls and life-support systems for Mercury.
- Schirra was the only astronaut to fly in the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo programs.
- After retiring from NASA in 1969, Schirra became a commentator with CBS Television.
- He formed his own consultant company, Schirra Enterprises, in 1979.
- He was awarded honorary doctorates by several institutions of higher learning.



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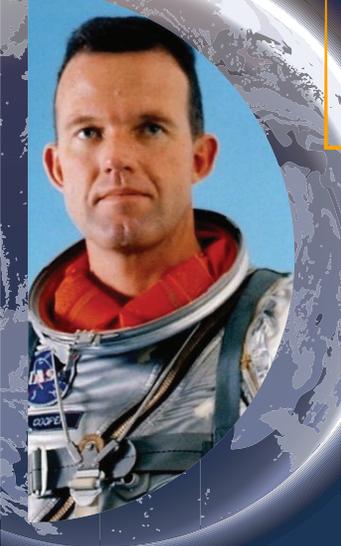
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KANSANS CAN SCHOOL REDESIGN

MERCURY 7

GORDON COOPER



OLATHE USD 233

14160 Black Bob Road, PO Box 2000

Olathe, Kansas

Superintendent: John Allison

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

Westview Elementary School

500 S. Troost St.

Olathe, Kansas

Principal: Jonathon Bell

SECONDARY SCHOOL:

Santa Fe Trail Middle School

1100 N. Ridgeview Road

Olathe, Kansas

Principal: J.J. Libal

Gordon Cooper set two long-duration flight records on his Mercury and Gemini flights. On May 15-16, 1963, he piloted the "Faith 7" spacecraft on a 22-orbit mission which concluded the operational phase of Project Mercury. During the 34 hours and 20 minutes of flight, Faith 7 attained a summit of 166 statute miles and a speed of 17,546 miles per hour and traveled 546,167 statute miles. Cooper served as command pilot of the eight-day 120-revolution Gemini 5 mission, which began on Aug. 21, 1965. It was on this flight that he and pilot Charles Conrad established a new space endurance record by traveling a distance of 3,312,993 miles in an elapsed time of 190 hours and 56 minutes. Cooper also became the first man to make a second orbital flight and thus won for the United States the lead in man-hours in space by accumulating a total of 225 hours and 15 minutes.

Source: NASA



- Gordon Cooper piloted the sixth and last flight of the Mercury program. He also commanded Gemini 5.
- He engineered tools for the project, including the Redstone rocket.
- He was the youngest of the original Mercury 7.
- Cooper was the first astronaut to sleep in space.
- He served in the Marine Corps.
- From 1950 to 1954, Cooper was a fighter pilot in Germany.
- In 1975, Cooper became vice president for research and development for Walter E. Disney Enterprises Inc., of Glendale, California, which is the research and development subsidiary of Walt Disney Productions.



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DEKE SLAYTON

STOCKTON USD 271

201 N. Cypress St.
Stockton, Kansas
Superintendent: Shelly Swayne

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

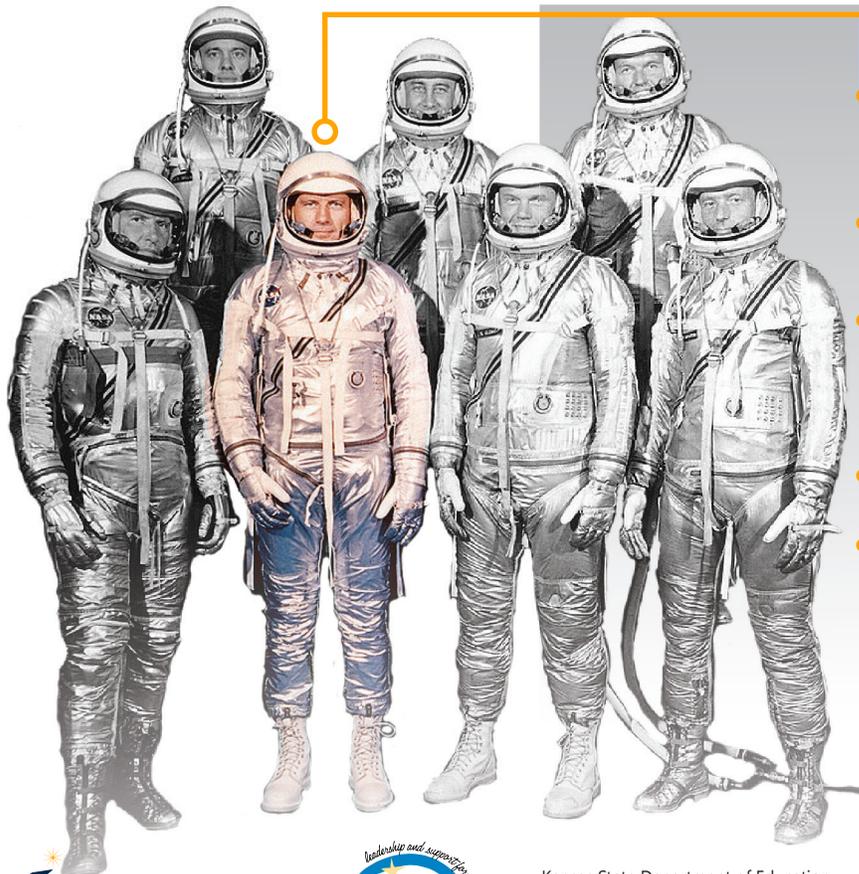
Stockton Grade School
201 N. Cypress St.
Stockton, Kansas
Principal: Stacey Green

SECONDARY SCHOOL:

Stockton High School
105 N. Cypress St.
Stockton, Kansas
Principal: Shelly Swayne

Originally scheduled to pilot the Mercury-Atlas 7 mission, Deke Slayton was relieved of this assignment due to a heart condition discovered in August 1959. He became Coordinator of Astronaut Activities in September 1962 and was responsible for the operation of the astronaut office. In 1963, he became Director of Flight Crew Operations. In this capacity, he was responsible for directing the activities of the astronaut office, the aircraft operations office, the flight crew integration division, the crew training and simulation division, and the crew procedures division. Slayton was restored to full flight status and certified eligible for manned space flights in March 1972, following a comprehensive review of his medical status. Slayton made his first space flight as the Apollo docking module pilot of the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project (ASTP) mission, July 15-24, 1975 – a joint space flight culminating in the first historical meeting in space between American astronauts and Soviet cosmonauts.

Source: NASA



- Deke Slayton worked with the Atlas missile to put Mercury in orbit.
- He flew 56 combat missions during World War II.
- He received his Air Force wings in April 1943 after completing flight training.
- Slayton retired from NASA in 1982.
- He was president of Space Services Inc., of Houston, which was a company he founded to develop rockets for small commercial payloads.



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