

## MEMORANDUM

October 1, 2003

TO: Governor Musgrove

FROM: Shannon

RE: Florence Middle School/NASA Explorer School

Attached are your remarks for the Florence Middle School/NASA Explorer School event in Florence at 8am. You will speak to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders in the auditorium first and then proceed to tour the campus for 30 minutes to view all the NASA pods. Kelly and I will meet you at the mansion in the morning to ride to Florence.

**FYI** - A NASA explorer school is a three year program for educators/administrators, students, families and schools (an overview is attached). The basic goal is to develop an action plan that addresses a local need in math, science or technology that incorporates NASA data and materials into their curriculum.

80% of schools selected are located in high poverty areas and 75% represent predominantly minority communities.

Florence Middle School is one of 5 schools in the state and one of 50 in the nation to be selected as a NASA Explorer School.

Florence, along with the other small schools in Rankin County, is often overlooked because of Northwest Rankin and Brandon.