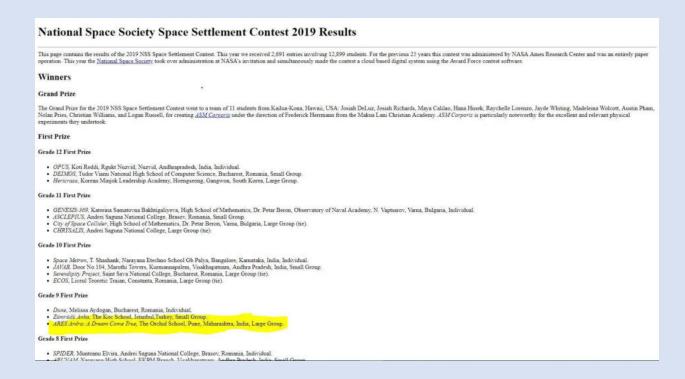
The Orchid School Wins First Prize in the Worldwide NASA Ames Space Settlement Contest 2019

The Orchid School students were declared winner in the Class 9 large group category by NASA Ames Space Settlement contest. The results were declared in the third week of March 2019.



This research project, designed by a team of 6 students from class IX, was about a self-sufficient space settlement revolving around the orbit of Mars. They worked on it for 8 months balancing their syllabus demands and regular classes.

Now the team is a global winner!

Interestingly, last year too, our school students were declared winner in the class IX large group category.

Our winning team has provided a synopsis of their project – "ARES Ardra: A Dream Come True "below:

Aryaman Sen, Aryan Bhirud, Gautam Patwardhan and Mandar Shukla of Class IX and Dhruv Jadhav, Paras Kasmalkar and Sandeep Nallamilli of Class VIII have won the first prize in the 9th standard large group category in the NSS Space Settlement Contest. It is an amazing achievement for us because the competition had received 2,691 entries and there were 4

groups from our school itself. Finally, we were the only group to receive a prize in the contest from our school and were also the only group from Maharashtra to win a first prize.

The project was about designing a space settlement for different purposes such as mining, reducing population density on earth etc. The name of our project is *ARES Ardra: A Dream Come True*. We worked on the project for 7 to 8 months. We used to discuss about the project in school and then go home and document all the things that we had discussed in school. The main aim of our project was to create a completely self -sufficient space settlement revolving around the orbit of Mars.

Our project is unique in the following ways –

- The Mars Base is a colony for scientists to stay on Mars and discover many new metals and conduct experiments. The Mars Base would also help in increasing revenue for the settlement with the help of tourism. The people from Earth would come to stay in the Base for seeing landforms like Mariner Valley, Olympus Mons etc. The Mars Base would also ensure water for the settlement which would be procured from the Northern icecap on Mars. This water would also be used to get Oxygen for the settlement with the help of electrolysis.
- The settlement has a completely Earth like atmosphere which means that it is equipped with all the aspects which are necessary for human survival like agriculture, carbon dioxide capturing, animal husbandry etc.
- It is also equipped with schools, colleges and hospitals to provide all the amenities to the people available in Earth. It also has a government to run the settlement in a peaceful manner.