



Contributed photos

The view from approximately 90,000 feet above Earth from Dayville School's High-Altitude Balloon launched last school year.

Viewing the eclipse — from space

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

Dayville High School science and computer teacher Jim Latshaw and his students will host a North Medford High School astronomy club, sending two high-altitude balloons soaring 90,000 feet up, near the edge of space, during Monday's total solar eclipse.

The group is set to launch from Dayville School.

"I ran through high-altitude balloon launches last year in a computer class," Latshaw said.

GPS trackers and computer simulations were used to project the landing, and Geographic Information System data tracked the flight path.

Monday's launch will include one balloon with video payload, with a camera aimed at the sun, and the other balloon will have instrumentation, monitoring temperature and gamma radiation.

The event will be live-streamed through NASA's website, which will track the eclipse from 58 sites across the United States.

Latshaw said they enter the parameters on the internet, tracking how quickly the balloons ascend and what altitude the balloons rupture, and Google Maps predicts where the flight path.

Latshaw said his students have the opportunity to participate.

"They've been trained, and I'm hoping they show," he said. "It's exciting for us all. It's exciting science."

To see the livestream video, visit Eclipse2017.nasa.gov.



Students in Dayville teacher Jim Latshaw's computer class learn the ropes for launching high-altitude balloons during the 2016-17 school year. Dayville students in the photo are Michael Jagger, back left, Austin Walker and Gabe Walker, right. Latshaw, his students and a North Medford astronomy club will launch two balloons on Monday with the eclipse live-streamed on NASA's website.

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