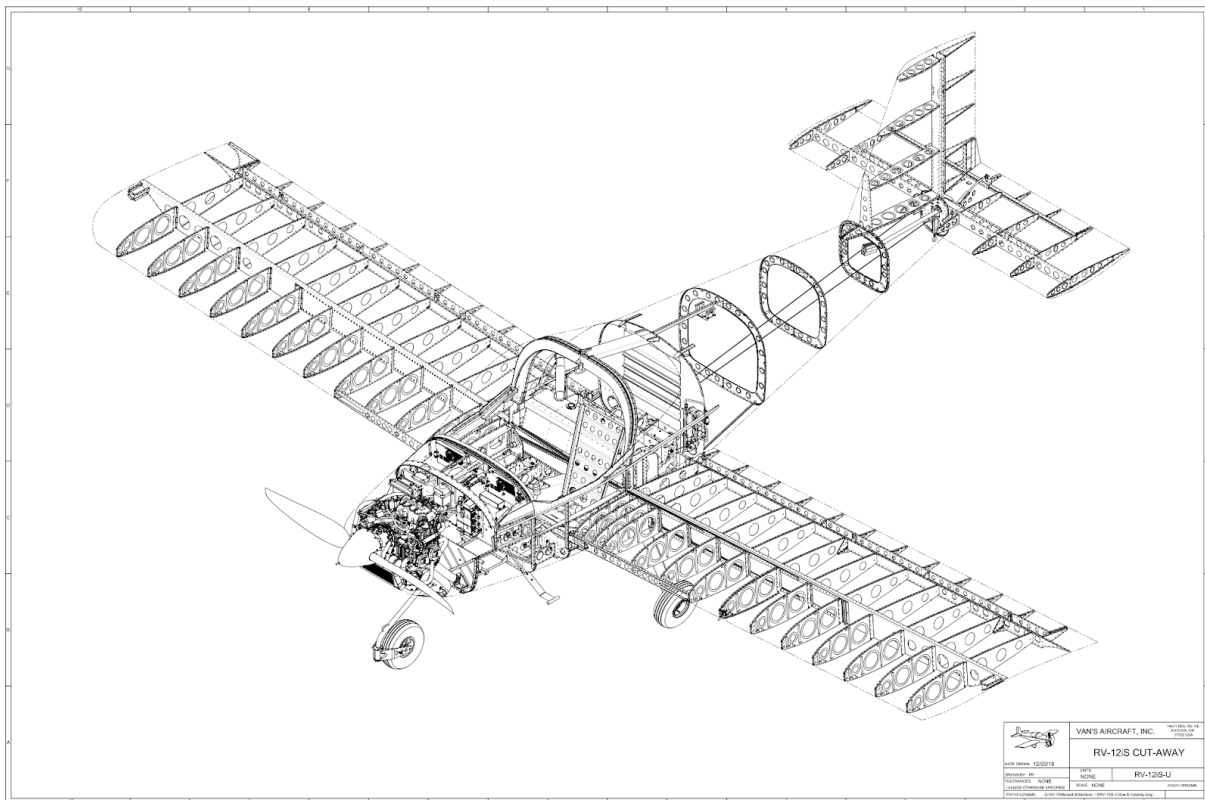




Most high school students interested in STEM fields find the concepts dry and theoretical. STARS guide students through building a real, airworthy airplane from scratch. This hands-on experience ignites their passion for engineering, develops invaluable technical skills, and gives them a monumental achievement to elevate their college applications.



S.T.A.R.S. – Students in Tech, Aeronautics, Rocketry & Space

From Classroom to Cockpit: Aviation Program Brings STEM to Life for Texas Students

An innovative program allows students to build a real, full-scale airplane and gain engineering experience.

[Austin, TX – Sep 23, 2024] For high school students, interested in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), learning concepts like aerodynamics, physics and engineering has never been so engaging. STARS is launching an immersive after-school

program that guides students through the entire process of assembling a real airplane from kit form. Over the course of 12 weeks, students will work hands-on with tools, read technical plans, apply physics principles, and collaborate to construct a complete, air-worthy airplane from the ground up.

The opportunity to build a real-life aviation product addresses a major challenge in STEM education - making theoretical concepts tangible and exciting for students. "Too often, kids get bored with traditional classroom lectures on science and math," said Felipe Barreiros, co-founder of STARS. "With our program, students see their knowledge put into practice as an actual airplane takes shape piece-by-piece with their own hands. It's the perfect way to ignite their passion for these critical fields."

STARS' unique approach provides unparalleled experience for students interested in aviation, physics, engineering, and other STEM career paths. By immersing them in a structured, milestone-based curriculum taught by instructors and aviation experts, the program develops critical hands-on skills. These include reading and interpreting technical schematics, operating specialized machinery and tools, applying mathematical formulas, executing multi-step assembly processes, and performing rigorous quality inspections.

Just as importantly, the program fosters invaluable soft skills that underpin success in any field. These include teamwork and communication as students collaborate. They'll also gain experience in project management by tracking their build progress against timelines and deliverables. Problem-solving skills are developed by identifying and resolving issues that inevitably arise during an ambitious construction project of this scale.

"The STARS program represents exactly the kind of innovative, engaging education we strive for," said [suggested quote from a school member or Principal]. "The chance for our students to build a real airplane from scratch is a phenomenal way to teach STEM principles through a tangible, real-world application. We can't wait to make this opportunity available."

Upon successful final inspection and receipt of their airworthiness certification from governing authorities, students will have made a contribution that is unmatched in value on a college application or resume. The completed aircraft will be sold, with all proceeds reinvested to fund the program's future aircraft kit purchases and continue the build cycle for the next class of students. STARS also partnered with aviation schools in Austin area for students that wish to take their Private Pilot certification, and fly the airplane they built themselves.

"I never imagined I could actually build a real plane with my own two hands," said Sam Rodriguez, a junior who participated in STARS pilot program. "But with the instructors' guidance, I learned so much about aviation mechanics, best practices and working as a team. This experience allowed me to discover my passion for rocketry in a way no traditional class could. I can't wait to include this achievement on my college applications!"

The STARS aviation program will be offered to high school students starting February 2025. Students and parents can find more information and register at www.stars.rocks.