



Aeronautics Careers Academy

Career-Technical Education Program News from the Six District Educational Compact

Aeronautics students apply their learning in professional settings



L-R: Sky Quest Pilot Stacey Warner, Gavin Peeps (Kent), Sarah Castillo Caro (Stow-Munroe Falls), Roger Aukeman (Stow-Munroe Falls), Nick Gallagher (Stow-Munroe Falls)

Aeronautics Careers Academy (ACA) students engage in a variety of work-based learning experiences to explore the wide-variety of career opportunities within the field. These opportunities not only provide students with first-hand knowledge of the businesses and careers, but they also allow students to participate in hands-on experiences to better understand the day-to-day roles and responsibilities of the professionals.

- This year, four ACA students had the opportunity to spend five Wednesdays at **Sky Quest**, a private jet charter company. Students spent full days at their headquarters at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport, where they spent time with dispatchers as they created flight plans, pilots as they planned pre-flight activities, and mechanics as they performed aircraft maintenance. Students also had the opportunity to fly on a Learjet when it was flying without passengers from Cleveland to Akron.



Students working on the P-51 Mustang restoration



Bryce Cook (Stow-Munroe Falls) standing on the gate of a C-130

- Throughout the school year, four ACA students at a time volunteer at the **MAPS Air Museum** located at the Akron-Canton Airport. Students spend five consecutive Wednesdays at this volunteering experience, where they work on a variety of different restoration projects led by MAPS adult volunteers, many of whom are retired veterans. An example of a project students have worked on this year includes the restoration of a P-51 Mustang, a fighter-bomber used during World War II and the Korean War. The restored aircraft will eventually be put back on display at the front entrance of the museum.



Parker Duncan (Stow-Munroe Falls) gains experience in an aircraft de-icing truck at Castle Aviation

- At **Castle Aviation**, a cargo airline company headquartered at the Akron-Canton Airport, pairs of students spend five full days engaging with dispatchers, mechanics, and pilots to better understand the inner-workings of the air charter, air cargo, and aircraft maintenance operations.



John Kinsella flying in the pilot seat of a Cessna 172, marking his 200th hour of flying



Chris Kinsella sitting in the pilot seat of a Cessna 172



Catherine Kinsella explores a Cobra helicopter on a field trip to the MAPS Air Museum



Aviation takes flight for the Kinsella family

Aviation has become a shared passion for the Kinsella siblings of Stow-Munroe Falls. **John** (Class of 2023) and **Chris** (Class of 2025) are Aeronautics Careers Academy (ACA) completers, while their sister **Catherine** (Class of 2027) began the program this school year.

After completing ACA, **John Kinsella** pursued flight training through the Western Reserve Flight Club at the Portage County Airport and is now an instrument-rated commercial pilot with more than 300 flight hours. He is currently working toward multi-engine certification and plans to become a certified flight instructor. John credits ACA with helping him confirm his career path and connect with valuable industry resources.

Chris Kinsella is majoring in Aviation Management and Logistics at Bowling Green State University while serving in the Ohio Army National Guard. Through ACA job-shadowing experiences, Chris explored multiple aviation career paths and discovered his interest in operations and management. Upon graduation, he plans to commission as a second lieutenant.

Now in her first year of ACA, **Catherine Kinsella** is eager to follow her brothers into aviation, with interests in the military and travel. The trio's mother, **Elizabeth Kinsella**, shares, "The program has given each one of our kids an invaluable insight into aviation that has helped shape their passions and guide them toward meaningful future careers. The experiences they gained have not only equipped them with valuable technical skills but have also instilled discipline, leadership, and a strong sense of purpose that will benefit them throughout their lives."



2024 Aeronautics completers outside the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force



2025 Aeronautics completers having fun on their trip to Dayton

Students dive deep into aviation history on senior trip

Aeronautics Careers Academy students celebrate the completion of their two-year program with a trip to Dayton, Ohio, home of the National Museum of the United States Air Force. The world's largest and oldest military aviation museum offers an incredible opportunity to explore more than 360 aircraft and aerospace vehicles, along with thousands of historic aviation artifacts. Students get up close to some of the most iconic aircraft in history, including the retired Boeing 707 that served as "Air Force One," the SR-71 Blackbird, B-29 Superfortress, F-117 Nighthawk, and the famous B-17 Memphis Belle. After a day of museum exploration, students unwind and celebrate their accomplishments with an evening at a Dayton Dragons baseball game.

Success Story



Patrick Gallagher is a 2021 graduate of Theodore Roosevelt High School in Kent and a completer of the Aeronautics Careers Academy. Patrick graduated from The Ohio State University in May 2025 with a degree in Aviation Management. While at OSU, Patrick was President of The Aviation Management Organization, served as the student chair on OSU's Aviation Alumni Society, and interned at Delta Air Lines. In August, he joined Delta full-time, where he is employed in the Commercial Strategy Analyst rotational program. Currently in his first rotation within the pricing and revenue management team, he works to price and manage the demand of all of Delta's flights throughout its network. He is also taking advantage of the flying perks, recently traveling to Dublin, Ireland, for the weekend! Patrick shares, "ACA was my first glimpse into this industry and gave me the basic understanding of how everything functions in aviation. It exposed me to real-life experiences and allowed me to explore many avenues in aviation. It allowed me to follow my passion, learn more, and take both my passion and learnings further into my collegiate and professional career."