



# Celebrations & Successes



*The sky is not the limit  
when our imaginations are unlimited!*





## Who is Colorado SKIES Academy?

Colorado SKIES Academy is committed to preparing students for futures in the aerospace industry with authentic and rigorous project-based learning in all areas of the sciences. Located at the Centennial Airport, CSA has a partnership with Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum and the Boeing Blue Sky Exploration of Flight Center to create dynamic, hands-on experiences for students. Personalized, deeper learning projects are geared to the development of knowledge and skills acquisition in all areas of aerospace while meeting or exceeding STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art/Design, and Mathematics) education standards.



CLASSROOM POD



MAIN ENTRY

## Curriculum & Instruction

Colorado SKIES Academy is in its first year of operation and already, the facilitators have totally embraced the project-based learning (PBL) approach, especially with a aerospace focus. Each facilitator gave up their Fall Break in October, normally a time of refreshment and renewal across many districts in Colorado, to establish the cornerstones of the projects their learners would experience throughout the rest of the school year. A sampling of the topics they fully developed for first semester are:

- **High Altitude Balloons, the Weather, and the Atmosphere (gr. 6)**
- **Birds, Flight, and Ecosystems (gr. 7)**
- **Soar Up! Glider Project (gr. 8)**
- **Geology of the Earth, Moon, and Mars (gr. 6)**
- **Life in Space: Moon and Mars Colonization (gr 7)**
- **Advanced Rocketry (gr. 8)**



*"Ask Me About Air Pressure and Barometers"  
(Wyatt Miller – gr. 6) (Patrick Adamson – gr. 7)*

**Presentation of Learning  
High Altitude Balloons, the Weather, and the Atmosphere**



*Thumbs Up for Take-Off at Mile High Gliding Club  
(Simon Smith – gr. 8)  
Soar Up! Glider Project*

**High Altitude Balloon Launch with FAA Approved Time  
and Coordination with Centennial Airport Control Tower**

**Presentation of Learning  
High Altitude Balloons, the Weather, and the Atmosphere**

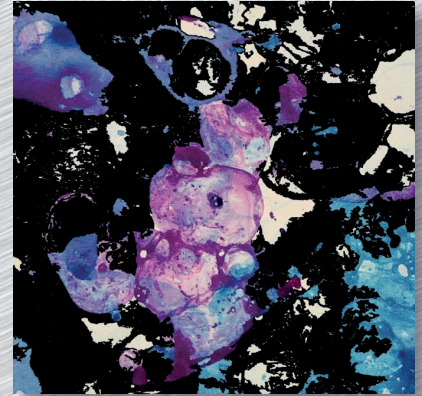


## Elective Classes

For its first year of operation, Colorado SKIES Academy embraced the passions and talents of its facilitators and challenged them to extend themselves into their “other self”. They were asked, “If there was anything you would LOVE to teach, just for fun that would fill your soul, what would it be?” Having such an eclectic mix of personalities as facilitators, the elective offerings for our students reflected the diverse backgrounds of our staff. Our elective offerings for first and second semester are:

- **Physical Education**
- **Arts & Crafts**
- **Theatre Arts**
- **Computer Science**
- **Astronomy**
- **Interstellar Art**
- **Photography and Poetry**
- **Music and Mindfulness**

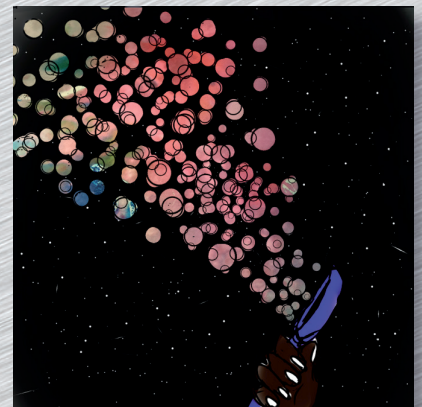
As our facilitators share their passion, our learners are finding their passion. It is amazing to see the multi-faceted talents of our students come to life when they can have an academic focus on aerospace and, given the options, express that “other part” of the whole child in them expressed through these elective offerings.



*Soul Nebula – oil technique (Kyla Turner – gr. 8)  
Interstellar Art*



*Physical Education*



*North American Nebula – (Nour Idris – gr. 8)  
Interstellar Art*



*North American Nebula – (Nour Idris – gr. 8)  
Interstellar Art*



## Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to Get into Our Modulars

When school started on National Aviation Day, August 17th, the school modulars had just arrived and were not even assembled yet. They were in halves and strewn about, somewhere near where they were to be installed. Fast forward to Tuesday, September 10th when Colorado SKIES Academy had its ribbon cutting ceremony. Colorado SKIES Academy learners and families were present along with all of the greater Centennial Airport community and Wings Over the Rockies supporters.

## Ground Breaking Ceremony

This led to our Ground Breaking Ceremony on December 13th where CSA's board members Christa Coryell, Ralph Forsythe, and Chris Swathwood, were joined by the President of the Board of Education for Cherry Creek Schools, the CEO of Wings Over the Rockies Maj. Gen. (ret.) John Barry, iLEAD Co-Founders Amber Raskin and Dawn Evenson, iLEAD Executive Board Amer Kuric, our first employee Bri Jones, our first hired facilitator Holly Pierce, and our illustrious 6th, 7th, and 8th grade learners were all there. Construction is in full swing with plans for us to be in our new building at the start of the 2020-21 school year.



## Learner Experiences Abound!

Being located on an airport has many advantages. Learners have heard from Erica Armstrong, a pilot and a professor at Metropolitan State University's Aviation Program, had demonstrations of helicopter maneuvers while listening to the pilots live, visiting Boom Supersonic, taking a tour of a B-17 on the tarmac at Centennial Airport. We all are distracted (in a good way) when a huge Chinook helicopter lands or a team of Air Force Hornets scream in to refuel at the airport.

The 6th grade High Altitude Balloon project launch sent two weather balloons 170,000 feet above the earth with a 360-degree camera capturing the entire event. Colorado SKIES Academy was the first school to capture 360-degree video from the stratosphere!



*Erick Armstrong, Pilot & Author of "A Chick in the Cockpit",  
Guest Speaker  
Wings Over the Rockies Blue Skies Exploration of Flight*



*Touring an historic B-17  
on the tarmac at Centennial Airport*



## **Community support, the wind beneath our wings!**

The greater Denver Metro community, especially the aerospace community, is hugely supportive of the school. Because of the growing shortage of people going into the aerospace industry, Colorado SKIES Academy is filling a niche in the industry, creating an interest that hopefully will translate into learners choosing an aerospace career. As a direct result, Colorado SKIES Academy received a \$552,000 grant that paid for the temporary modulars currently housing the school.

The Ray Foundation, an aerospace focused foundation, understands the challenges every start-up school experience and provided \$325,000 general operations grant.



**COLORADO**  
**SKIES**  
**ACADEMY**