



News from the field of the premiere DoD Youth STEM education program.

STARBASE Robins Turns 25



On October 06, 2021, STARBASE Robins celebrated 25 years of educating, equipping, and empowering students in STEM. STARBASE Robins held a ceremony to commemorate the 25th anniversary where executive director, Wesley Fondal Jr., began by addressing Vineville Academy 5th Grade students, teachers, STARBASE Robins staff, and the Museum of Aviation staff. The crowd also heard from Mr. Albert Rogers, founder of Cirrus Academy in Macon Georgia and the second person to serve as director of the STARBASE Robins program.

During his presentation, Mr. Rogers spoke to the history of STARBASE Robins, encouraged students, and shared the importance of continued efforts to provide STEM learning opportunities through partnerships with the local community. The ceremony was concluded with a recognition ceremony for the students of Vineville Academy who had successfully completed the 25-hour STEM program.

A video presentation was also created and shared to commemorate the occasion. Check it out [here!](#)

Below are a few notable comments about the STARBASE Robins program.

"I have seen amazing results in our school district because of STARBASE Robins. They have partnered with us and allowed many of our students to be able to find the opportunities to grow, to think outside of the box and be creative and to find out how they can collaborate. It has been an amazing relationship. I think STARBASE Robins is one of the hidden secrets of middle Georgia. It does a great job of helping students see what the future can be, It is also a program that gets our school district excited because Science, Technology, Engineering and Math are major factors of what we want our students to be able to learn and do."

*Dr. Curtis L. Jones Jr.
Superintendent
Bibb County School District*

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"Science is fun. Science is curiosity. We all have natural curiosity. Science is a process of investigating. It's posing questions and coming up with a method. It's delving in."--Sally Ride



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“The STARBASE STEM program has brought both excitement and engagement to our students and our teachers in the district. As a result our students and teachers are excited about STEM education and [STARBASE] provides them with opportunities to have experience with real world STEM applications.”

*Dr. Tonya Woolfolk
Science Coordinator
Houston County School District*

“What I see immediately with our 5th graders, in addition to their excitement and enthusiasm about learning, is the inquisitiveness come out in them. The hands-on activities that are provided to them by STARBASE gives them the opportunity to ask questions and to think more critically about their learning opportunities.”

*William Ray
Principal, Kings Chapel Elementary
Houston County School District*

“As a result of working with STARBASE Robins for close to ten years now, I’ve seen students blossom. There, they learn about various careers and working together in collaboration, as you would in the work force. STARBASE provides a lot of benefits for our students, many of whom have decided to go into STEM careers. Without STARBASE, some of our students would never have been able to have the experience that they have had with 21st century skills.”

*Stephanie Johnson
Teacher
Peach County Schools*



The Governor and Adjutant General of Montana Visit STARBASE



Greg Gianforte was elected the 25th Governor of Montana on November 3rd, 2020 and assumed office January 4th, 2021. He tapped Major General Pete Hronek to lead the Department of Military Affairs as the new Adjutant General. MG Hronek assumed command as the TAG in January of this year and has provided integral leadership and support to both Montana STARBASE programs.

This past summer, MG Hronek invited Gov. Gianforte to visit each Montana STARBASE site to experience firsthand what our programs are all about. The students were delighted when Gov. Gianforte stopped by. Mr. Gianforte spoke with the students about his role in our state's government, the importance of STEM and Montana's National Guard, and gave the students opportunities to ask him questions.

MG Hronek accompanied the Governor on his visits and stated, "I was pleased that Governor Gianforte accepted my invitation to visit our STARBASE sites. We are proud of our STARBASE program and believe strongly in its mission to engage and inspire young Montanans in STEM. Governor Gianforte is a strong supporter of education and enjoyed meeting the STARBASE staff and interacting with the students. We hope to expand our STARBASE program here in Montana so we can continue to positively impact young students, inspire, and invest in their future."

The staff members of both STARBASE Fort Harrison and STARBASE Great Falls appreciated Gov. Gianforte and MG Hronek taking time to visit their programs this past summer. They are grateful to be back to normal operations this school year as the country and state continue to navigate the pandemic.



For those programs that have not resumed normal operations, updates to the COVID Operational Status Tracker spreadsheet are due no later than December 31st (last day of the month).

These updates are provided to OSD/M&RA as a report monthly.

The link to the spreadsheet is available in STARBASE-U. If you are having trouble accessing the tracker, please contact email@dodstarbase.org for assistance.

A Call for Participation

Throughout the year, this newsletter will continue to spotlight the achievements, partnerships, and tips of the participants of the DoD STARBASE program. Please share your achievements, success stories, and helpful tips with us at email@dodstarbase.org.

2021 Milwaukee ACEs Fly from STARBASE to Aviation Jobs at Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport

The Aviation Careers Education (ACE) program is a summer employment and learning opportunity for high school students in Milwaukee Public Schools. ACE promotes aviation and space education and provides students with experiences in aviation-related jobs. This program is coordinated by the Department of Transportation's Bureau of Aeronautics and is the result of a partnership between industry, high schools, and government. The Department of Defense (DoD) STARBASE Wisconsin Academy is proud to be a part of the Milwaukee ACE Committee.

On June 23rd, STARBASE instructors provided an aviation education program for ACE students employed at General Mitchell International Airport in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Sixteen ACE interns participated in flight instruction, flying flight simulators and landing on runways at the General Mitchell and Waukesha County Airport. Colonel John Puttre explained how to earn private and sport pilot licenses as well as careers in military aviation. Jacqueline Boyd described the various jobs in airport operations. Current internships are established with the Milwaukee Fire Department at the airport, Paradise Lagardere Travel Retail Shops, Signature Flight Support MKE, and Transportation Security Administration to give youth a holistic view of the aviation and transportation industry.

Danasia Brown and Rahnyiah Ingram are STARBASE Wisconsin Alumni who attended the STEM program as elementary students from Milwaukee Public Schools. They both participated in the ACE program this summer as interns. The internship opportunities at Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport:

- » Encourage students to succeed in school by making class work more meaningful.
- » Give students experiences in aviation-related jobs, which help them realize that aviation careers are within their reach.
- » Encourage youth to start planning their future, set career goals and plan how they will get there.
- » Promote collaboration with educators and schools in support of aviation initiatives.

All ACE participants become familiar with different aspects of airport operations and the aviation industry. They tour airport operations including the air traffic control tower, civilian operations, 128th Air Refueling Wing, airport infrastructure, and take a flight in a small aircraft. To qualify as an ACE student, participants must be at least 16 years old and enrolled in Milwaukee Public Schools. Students can participate in the program until the summer after their high school graduation.

Article obtained from <https://starbase.wi.gov/starbase210816/>.



Danasia Brown (top) and Rahnyiah Ingram (bottom) at work.



Kendall Clark, a Winchester STARBASE Academy Alumni, Honored as an Engineering Ambassador

The National Academy of Engineering (NAE) announced a new class of EngineerGirl Ambassadors in September, 2021. Out of the 24 new ambassadors across the United States, Kendall Clark from Stephens City, Virginia was honored to win a grant to be used to inspire young girls in pursuing a future in engineering. Kendall has been working towards the goal of becoming an engineer since she was in fifth grade at Arnel Elementary with Frederick County Public Schools. She stated, "I was first exposed to engineering in elementary school through the STARBASE program. Our project was to figure out how to have an egg travel a zip line to 'Mars' without breaking." While talking to Kendall, she remembered her experience at STARBASE as fun with nice teachers that sparked her interest in engineering.

Kendall's STARBASE experience has led to the pursuit of opportunities that will culminate in earning an engineering degree, including attending science and adventure camps and seeking out unique opportunities to see STEM concepts at work. Kendall currently spends half of her high school day attending a STEM academy, the Mountain Vista Governor's School. Mountain Vista is challenging Kendall in a research-based, technology-enhanced, interdisciplinary program with authentic applications. She has chosen to follow the Physics/Engineering Focus, where she has the opportunity to be a part of the robotics club working with VEX robotics, as that will help her reach her goal of becoming an aerospace or astronautical engineer.

As an EngineerGirl Ambassador, Kendall is planning on holding six "Meet an Engineer" sessions with middle school girls next summer. She is working with her sponsor to get in contact with female engineers from a variety of specialties to lead these sessions. Her project plan includes having the host engineer explain about her field and what types of projects and activities she works on, and then have the participants complete a hands-on project related to the engineer's field. Kendall and some of her fellow math and science classmates will run the hands-on portion of the program. She is looking forward to working with middle school girls in these engineering projects in order to encourage them to never give up on their interests and goals.

The staff at the Winchester STARBASE Academy are very proud of Kendall's hard work and perseverance and are thrilled to be a small part of encouraging an interest in a STEM career. They wish her the best of luck as she continues on her path to become an engineer. You can learn more about EngineerGirl at their website: <https://www.engineergirl.org>.



Kendall Clark's class visit to STARBASE.