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San Tan Charter School is Expanding its Career and Technical Education Program to Include Aviation

The School's Announcement Coincides with Governor Doug Ducey's Recent State of the State Address, when he spoke of the importance of a stronger focus on CTE and the Teacher

GILBERT, Arizona—Thanks to an exciting new addition to San Tan Charter School's Career and Technical Education (CTE) program, high school students will soon be able to learn about aviation.

As Principal Marlene K. Armstrong, M.Ed. noted, the school is working on a full aviation program that will start with two new courses during the 2021-2022 school year, with three new courses being added in 2022-2023 and 2023-2024.

"A group of students who were interested in aviation along with a parent met with myself and Mrs. Walker (Elementary Assistant Principal) to discuss the possibility of bringing the program to San Tan Charter School," Armstrong said, adding that over the course of last year, she did research, attended trainings and started planning a program that will give the students the opportunity to participate in a set of courses that will be a very important part of their educational and professional journey.

"The aviation industry is not just pilots and flight attendants. The industry is growing by leaps and bounds and the job outlook for pilots, support staff, engineers, mechanics, business management, public relations and many other areas is fantastic."

The timing for this announcement could not be any better, Armstrong noted. Governor Doug Ducey recently spoke of the importance of a stronger focus on CTE and the teacher during his recent [2020 State of the State Address](#). San Tan is partnering with the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), local industry professionals, and educational experts to implement the new aviation program. The first year of the aviation course will provide the foundation for advanced exploration in the areas of flying, aerospace engineering, and unmanned aircraft systems, Armstrong said. For instance, students will learn about engineering practices, problem-solving, and the innovations and technological developments that have made today's aviation and aerospace industries possible.

"Students will have hands-on activities within the classroom and will be going to local airports and aviation manufacturing companies," Armstrong said, adding that pilots will also be part of the new aviation program and that students from the school will have the opportunity to apply for their private pilot's license when they turn 16.

San Tan Charter School already offers a wide selection of CTE courses; they include Business and Marketing, Career Exploration, Coding, Computer Technology, Culinary Arts, Forensics, Introduction to Engineering, Introduction to Entrepreneurship, Introduction to Video Game Design and Robotics.