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**TIVY HIGH SCHOOL TO IMPLEMENT AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATIONS (AOPA) AVIATION STEM CURRICULUM**

**KERRVILLE, TEXAS (February 14, 2019)** – Kerrville ISD is excited to announce a new pathway for Tivy High School Students. THS will be joining more than 100 schools in implementing the nationally recognized Aircraft Owners and Pilots Associations (AOPA) high school aviation science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) curriculum in the 2019-2020 school year.

“We are pleased to have the opportunity to expand our CTE programming for our students and we are grateful for partnerships with AOPA, the Kerrville Airport Board and the Kerrville Public School Foundation for the seed grant for key start up technology and materials,” KISD Superintendent Dr. Mark Foust said.

Tivy High School will be recruiting 30-50 students to participate in the introductory course. The program aims to provide students the skills they need to pursue aviation-related career and educational opportunities.

“Having three airports within sixty miles of Kerrville and labor market data reflecting high demand for numerous jobs in the field of aviation, we are excited to be able to offer our students an opportunity to explore careers in aviation while learning the essential knowledge and skills to earn pilot or drone certification,” Sylvia Flannery, KISD Senior Director of Curriculum and Instruction said.

The courses will be taught by Aaron Cook, who is currently the Math teacher at Hill Country High School. Mr. Cook has a background in the Navy where he worked as an Aviation Electronics Technician.

“I am very excited to be part of KISD’s effort to provide aviation instruction to the students of our community,” Cook said. “Our aviation program will expose students to the wealth of opportunity within the industry, and prepare them to compete for future positions. While serving in the Navy, I logged thousands of flight hours as a crew member aboard P-3 and E-6 aircraft. In addition, I served as an F-18 avionics technician aboard the USS Ronald Reagan, and USS George HW Bush. I hope to use these experiences to help inspire our students to pursue both military, and civil, opportunities in the aviation industry.”

Tivy High School students will have a unique opportunity to experience a first-of-its-kind, comprehensive, four-year aviation study program aligned with rigorous math and science standards used in approximately 30 states nationwide. The program aims to provide students the skills they need to pursue aviation-related career and educational opportunities.

### **ABOUT AOPA and the Curriculum**

AOPA is the world's largest aviation member association. Schools nationwide will be implementing the ninth-grade and tenth-grade STEM curriculum in the 2019 – 2020 school year, and 25 schools will also be testing the eleventh-grade curriculum. AOPA will release subsequent courses each year until curriculum is completed for grades nine through 12.

According to a [2018 Boeing study](#), there's a growing demand for qualified people to fill aviation industry jobs, and it's not slowing down. Globally, 635,000 commercial aircraft pilots; 622,000 technicians; and 858,000 cabin crew members are needed within the next 20 years.

Before implementing the curriculum, teachers are required to participate in a three-day professional development workshop to gain a deeper understanding of the materials, learn about available resources, and network with other aviation educators. These are exciting times for the students of Kerrville ISD.

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