



Greetings!

I hope you had a great summer, and found lots of exciting things to do. I sure did! Through Char-Em ISD, I was able to participate in a four day training session on Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). UAVs are commonly referred to as drones, and I am proud to say that I am an experienced UAV pilot, following this training.

I want to thank Mrs. Dean and Mr. Bacon for encouraging me to participate, and Jim Rummer at Char-Em ISD for putting this training together and providing materials. We had amazing instructors from Northwestern Michigan College, led by Carl Rocheleau, NMC's Chief Unmanned Aerial Systems Instructor. During our time together, we flew drones on a simulator, flew them in real life, and actually built and operated our own UAVs! I will have this model available to study throughout the school year, as well as a simulator that Char-Em provided.

I will have that simulator in my classroom, as well as another that I received a private donation for! Also included in this grant are kits to build UAVs in class this year. This means that students in STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Art and Math) will get experience designing, building, and actually flying Unmanned Aerial Vehicles this year! I cannot tell you how excited I am to start the school year with these wonderful tools at our fingertips. UAVs will be a large part of our STEAM curriculum this year, as well as many other interesting topics, including forensics, trebuchets, and stomp rockets.

In conclusion, I cannot wait for the school year to get started, so that we can get our hands on these wonderful tools. I again would like to thank the private donor for their generous gift on behalf of Pellston STEAM.

Sincerely,

Chris Schlappi