ATLAS STEM

PROGRAM 03

THE FLIGHT DECK

A ninety-minute session in which every student builds a rubber-band powered plane, trims it between test flights, and flies it for distance and for time aloft.

90
Minutes, one session

1
Plane per student

0V
No electricity at all

$0
Cost to the school

WHAT A SCHOOL USUALLY ASKS

COST TO THE SCHOOL
$0. Atlas supplies every plane, the tape measure and every print-out. Students time flights on their phones.

SAFETY
No electricity, no heat, no blades. Planes are wound only at the launch line and always point away from faces.

WHO SUPERVISES
Three Atlas volunteers, FCPS-registered, plus one school staff member in the room at all times.

SPACE AND TABLES
A gym, cafeteria or field with a long open flight lane, plus a few tables to build at.

TIME IT TAKES
Ninety minutes end to end, including setup and pack-down. Atlas arrives twenty minutes early.

HOW MANY STUDENTS
Built for twenty. Everyone builds their own plane, then flies with a partner who times and measures.

HOW THE DAY IS SCORED
Three flights each, every one timed and measured. The best distance and best time count, out of one hundred points.

WHAT GOES HOME
Every student keeps the plane they built and a card showing how to re-trim it.

The constraint worth knowing: the motors are rubber bands, so Atlas confirms latex allergies with the school before a date is booked.