

COUNCIL ROCK

High-flying physics class

The campers hope to fly the model airplanes today that they have created.

By JOAN HELLYER
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A Council Rock teacher is using large scale model airplanes this week to teach local teenagers about physics.

"Face the wind," Joe Warwick, the teacher, instructed student Nick Leighton during a flight session Wednesday behind Council Rock High School-South in Northampton.

"Now level it out and gently turn upward," Warwick, a CR South physics teacher, said as Nick maneuvered an airborne model plane by remote in the thick afternoon heat.

The weeklong camp provided students with a chance to gain some valuable flight knowledge, like "when the plane is inverted, all controls are backwards. That's pretty key," Nick, 14, explained.

The Holland Middle School eighth-grader said he has had fun, enjoying his love of flying while learning some science from Warwick and the camp's guest speakers.

"There's no pressure. It's easy. He's a good teacher," Nick said of Warwick.

The physics teacher said he offered the camp, using mostly his own equipment, because it's the kind of program he wanted to attend when he was a kid. "I really believe

in this," Warwick said.

In addition to the flying sessions, the dozen campers are working inside the school to build three model airplanes. The kids said they've learned how important communication with everyone working on a project is.

For instance, they're supposed to use a checklist to mark off what they've done on the plane. But not everyone has followed directions, the students said.

"It complicates things," said Travis Spiecker, 13, an eighth-grader at Newtown Middle School in Newtown Township. "We have to go back and check everything, and we can't continue [with the work.] If we keep things consistent, it works a lot better when you have a whole group of people working on it."

The kids hope to have the model planes finished by today so they can fly them before the end of the camp. To prepare for the big moment, the students are using flight simulators in an adjacent CR South classroom to develop their flying skills.

"The stick time is a less expensive way for them to train," Warwick said as he watched the students practice flying maneuvers. "It's amazing how quickly we can train a student to get out there and fly."

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Flight Camp teacher Joe Warwick explains the ins and outs of flying model airplanes to student Nick Dessalet.
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