

National ACE Primary Student of the Year:
Braden King
Nominated by Teacher, Megan Tucker
Hillsboro Charter Academy Hillsboro, VA

Teacher, Megan Tucker, nominated first grade student, Braden King from [Hillsboro Charter Academy](#). Her write-up and photos follow...

Braden King is a STELLAR 1st grade scholar at Hillsboro Charter Academy and has an internal passion for aerospace. He gets SUPER EXCITED about anything related to rockets and space and often is seen wearing those same things on his daily outfits!

When talking to the guidance counselor about Braden, her first sentence was that after doing a lesson with him, she immediately went to his career interest activity to make sure that aerospace was on the list. In kindergarten, he wanted to be an astronaut. In first grade, that changed to an engineer. He also drew an AMAZING picture of himself working in a building and controlling a rover on Mars.

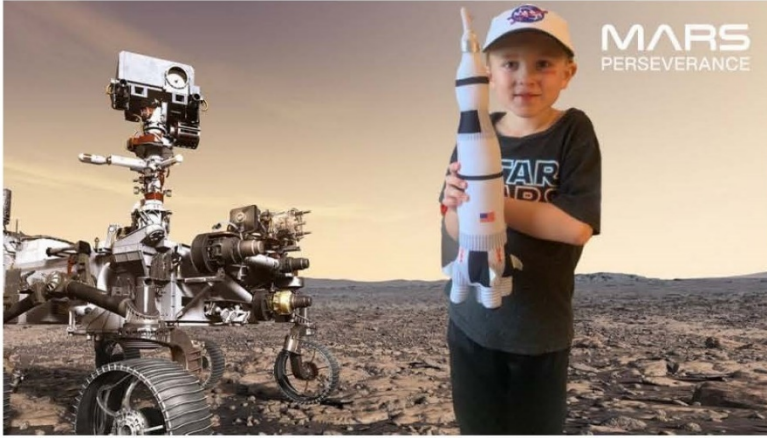
Interestingly enough, when speaking with Braden, he definitely does not want to be an astronaut like he originally thought in kindergarten. Instead, he wants to "be a mechanical engineer and work for NASA because that is where they build and launch rockets." Remember that this scholar is in 1st grade and knows not only the career of a mechanical engineer, but also the details of what that career does. He very proudly told me that a mechanical engineer "makes things with moving parts."

Braden is a constant bright light in the classroom. He is always smiling and consistently participating in Flight Funday. There are many times that Braden's hand is the only one up because he is the only one that already knows the name of the rover that was sent to Mars or that it has a helicopter on board. He is very kind to others and easy-going in the classroom. He is also very self-motivated and takes his time. When asked to choose between airplanes and rockets, his answer is always a quick, "ROCKETS because I LOVE SPACE!" His favorite planet is Mars because one of his favorite colors is red. The toy that he likes the best at his house is a stuffed rocket from Christmas.

When Braden has free time, he likes to save his empty paper towel rolls and get a piece of paper to turn it into a rocket. He is ALWAYS engineering something and if he can relate it to rockets or space, he will do it! His favorite CAP ACE lesson is the one where you pack to go into space with Buzz Lightyear (Lesson #8: Load the Shuttle). The Space Shuttle happens to also be his favorite aerospace vehicle.

Even though Braden is only in 1st grade, his passion for aerospace is evident in all that he does at Hillsboro Charter Academy, as well as outside of the school walls! Ask any teacher or specialist about Braden and they all know that he will be working for NASA some day! Even during distance learning, he was often seen "on the screen" with a rocket or wearing a shirt related to space. He lives and breathes AEROSPACE! He is the perfect choice for the Civil Air Patrol CAP ACE National Student of the Year as he exemplifies all that CAP ACE stands for and LOVES rockets TO INFINITY and BEYOND!!!!

Congratulations, Braden!
You epitomize the heart, mind and spirit of true ACE students!
CAP is proud of you and cannot wait to see what you decide to become!



Mars Perseverance Landing Pic: Virtual Challenge



Four Forces of Flight/Rocketry



Moon Phases: OREO Style!



AstroTurkey: Balloon Rocket Launch

Braden's Aerospace Collage created for "Flight Funday Fest" in November (Distance Learning)



Kindergarten Career Goal: Astronaut

1st Grade Career Goal: Mechanical Engineer

