

National ACE Sustained Excellence Awardee:

Brainard Harris

**Tech Resource Specialist/Aerospace Technology I Teacher
Stewart Middle Magnet School Tampa, FL**

Mr. Brainard Harris, aka Maj Brainard Harris, CAP Chaplain of SER-FL-032 Group 3, and an aerospace technology teacher at [Stewart Middle Magnet School](#), started with the CAP ACE program from its inception! Although we could write about Brainard Harris, this write-up is an excerpt from his words when asked to “tell us about his history with CAP and with the ACE program” and “how the program has helped recruit CAP cadets.”

- As the goal of the ACE program is to be a feeder program for the CAP Cadet Program, Brainard Harris exemplifies everything we hope an ACE Teacher to do.
 - In an effort to increase diversity within CAP, Brainard has “ACED” that goal!

I started with the "Civil Air Patrol - Middle School Initiative Cadet Squadron" at Ferrell Middle School of Technology in 2003. I was asked by the school district to open "Rampello Downtown Partnership K-8 School" in 2005 partly to have a CAP Cadet Squadron. Soon afterward, I was introduced to the "Jr. Cadet program" and we were considered a "pilot school." After the pilot year, when the program was renamed ACE, we instituted a whole school ACE program and had many students who went through both ACE and CAP. Off the top of my head students who started in ACE in 4th or 5th grade included my youngest son, Jordan Harris, who made it to Cadet Lt. Col. in CAP and is now an Aircraft Mechanic for Airborne -PEMCO at TPA. Chad Harrison (Chad was with us at Rampello and transferred to Barrington with us - Chad was an at risk youth when he started in ACE & CAP) went through both programs and is a now Marine. Christian Natiel was in my 6th grade CAP class and we also used the ACE program in that class. Christian graduated West Point, was selected as a Rhodes Scholar, and is now an officer in the Army. Christian was not being successful in school, academically and behaviorally. He credits CAP, and my class, with giving him the desire to pursue his current path. These are just some examples. The school had about 800 students and we usually had about 60 in the CAP program each year

In 2009 I left Rampello, and opened Barrington Middle School where we began a CAP cadet squadron, and an ACE program in 6th grade. I partnered with a few teachers (including my wife's class - Lori Harris) at Stowers Elementary School which was on the same physical campus. We had about 45 students in the CAP cadet program and about 20 6th graders in ACE each year. We did see students who started in my wife's kindergarten ACE class and made it through and participate in the CAP Cadet Program.

We also had students who started in my 6th grade ACE program move into the cadet program and a few also participated in a 2 year Build-A-Plane project that we did with those students. The lead aircraft mechanic was Andrew Harris, my oldest son who started with Ferrell CAP Cadet Squadron. He was also the founding cadet of the Rampello Cadet Squadron and was a CAP cadet mentor to students the first year of the Rampello ACE program. Andrew made it to Cadet Captain then graduated NAA and is now a lead A&P Mechanic for Airborne-PEMCO.

Students who participated in both the Barrington Middle School ACE and CAP Cadet programs:

Jordan H. (working on A&P)

Quinton B. (dual Aerospace & Electrical Engineering Major @ UCF - interning @ Delta - ACE and CAP helped especially with his physical fitness)

Elijah M. (when he started in ACE at Stowers his 5th grade year, he lost a brother who was a Marine in an auto accident, but he is now heading into the Military)

Christopher M. (in Military Intelligence)

Sara and Jason N. (in Military)

Jacob T. (became a fire fighter and is now a military officer)

That program was a collaboration with Stewart Middle Magnet School. It also had a CAP cadet squadron at the time and an ACE program with the AVID teacher Karen Willis-Barette. Of the 12 students who completed that program 10 of the 12 are now serving the military in aviation or are in aviation careers.

Other cadets that went through the ACE program and joined CAP include:

Noah K. (in Military)

Jorge L. (Marine Officer)

Brent I. (proud father and crane operator)

Samantha K. (in Military – CAP and ACE gave her great confidence)

Anthony G. (in Military)

There are many others that the program has greatly impacted, but the list would go on and on!

Notes of interest:

For a number of years the students & staff from Stowers Elementary and Barrington Middle School would collect Christmas presents for the Veterans at our state Veterans Nursing home and the CAP cadets would deliver them. Our CAP cadets who started with ACE in the 6th grade also presented the Colors at multiple Tampa Bay Rays baseball games. Our CAP cadets every year for over 10 years participated in the Sun 'N Fun EAA Fly-in precautionary mission, but also the in the education program presenting aerospace activities in the youth activities area and promoting the ACE program to teachers. We took students from Stowers, Barrington, and Stewart each year on several field trips to places including Embry-Riddle University, Sun 'N Fun Fly-In, Kennedy Space Center, and Cape Canaveral Air Station.

My current school is Stewart Middle Magnet NASA Explorer STEM School. We have been integrating the ACE program in all of our 6th grade classes, and have had a monthly Aerospace Leadership Club for all 3 grades levels (6-8) with about 25 kids per grade that we used the ACE 5 & 6th grade curriculum with as part of our STEM Club Day. We hope at some point to restart a CAP squadron at Stewart. At Stewart we have a great principal who supports the ACE program and hopes to have a CAP cadet squadron back, if we can work that out.

Congratulations, Brainard Harris!
Your dedication, passion, and endurance for the ACE and CAP
Cadet programs are an inspiration!
You are a CAP treasure!



Brainard Harris with ACE students touring Airboune Pemco

2021 photos and back to former students and cadets...



2020 Stewart Middle Magnet ACE Students at Kennedy Space Center





Barrington ACE students launching airplanes

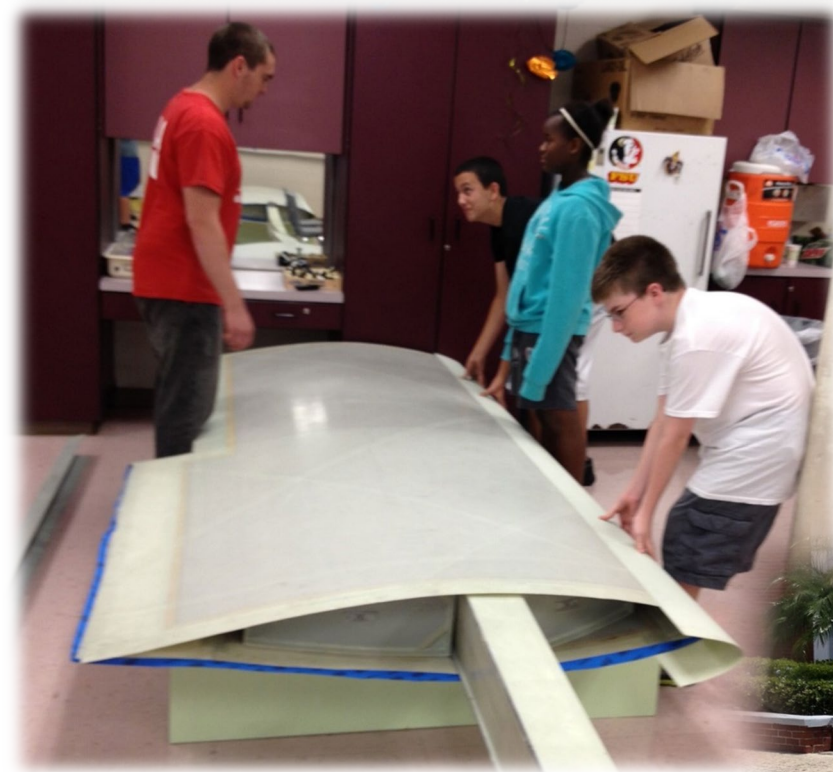
Former ACE students; now CAP cadets at Rocketry Encampment





Barrington Cadets and ACE students at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University





Steward ACE and CAP cadets with Build-a-Plane Project at school and at County Fair

ACE students who were also CAP cadets posting the
Colors at a Tampa Rays game





Barrington CAP cadets and ACE students delivering check (1st year) and Christmas presents (the next year) to Veterans

