

Denbigh High School Aviation Academy students ahead of schedule with airplane

Students have completed the plane's vertical tail and are working on finishing the tail cone

Students are building a full-sized airplane

By Sarah J. Pawlowski, spawlowski@dailypress.com

7:29 p.m. EST, February 23, 2014

NEWPORT NEWS — It didn't take long for students building an airplane at the [Denbigh](#) High School Aviation Academy to catch up from time missed during recent snow days.

Their teachers said they're still planning to have the 750-pound, two-seat aircraft finished within a year. The original estimate was two years.

"They're way ahead of schedule," aviation teacher Terri Sanchez said during a visit Thursday.

The Denbigh High School Aviation Academy is located behind the [Newport News](#)-Williamsburg International Airport. Students in the program learn skills to prepare for careers in aviation, electronics, engineering and technology.

This is the first full-sized airplane that students in the program have attempted to build. They received the materials from Eagle's Nest Projects, which donates kits to schools to build airplanes. When they're finished, the students are planning to fly it.

Nearly 30 students were selected for the project, which started in the fall. So far they've completed the plane's vertical tail and are finishing the tail cone. They plan to start the wings next week, Sanchez said.

Visit dailypress.com to read past coverage about the project. Keep up with the students' progress by following their blog at <http://community.nn.k12.va.us/rv-12/>.

Pawlowski can be reached by phone at 757-247-7478.

Copyright © 2014, [Newport News, Va., Daily Press](#)