



CAP ACE Program



2019 National Award Winners



- The program started in 2007 as the *CAP Jr Cadet Program*.
- In 2008, the program became *ACE: Aerospace Connections in Education*.
- The [Air Force Association \(AFA\)](#) has been the sustained sponsor of both ACE shirts and ACE program awards. Appreciation to the AFA!
- This year: record number of students (over 51, 000) all across America! [ACE School List](#)
- See the [10-year anniversary story](#) of the ACE program in CAP's Volunteer Magazine.

National ACE Teacher of the Year: Heidi Baker
Nikiski North Star Elementary, Nikiski, AK

National ACE School of the Year: Friendship Elementary School
Principal, Dr. Tracy Brack; Coordinator, Brian Johnston
Buford, GA

National ACE Students of the Year (2):
Joy Evans Nominated by Teacher, Tammy Clingenpeel
Fellowship Baptist Academy, Carson City, MI
Hunter Haverly Nominated by Teacher, Elaine Mountain
Sacred Heart School, Providence, RI

National First-Year Outstanding ACE Teacher of the Year:
Jeanette Gonzales
Ranchito Avenue Elementary School, Panorama City, CA

National ACE 11-year Sustained Excellence Award (3):
Gwyn Bray
Walt Disney Elementary, Alvin, TX
Linda Crane
Northwest Florida Ballet Academie, Ft. Walton Beach, FL
Bear Exploration Center
Principal, Liz Hill Montgomery, AL

National ACE Teacher of the Year:

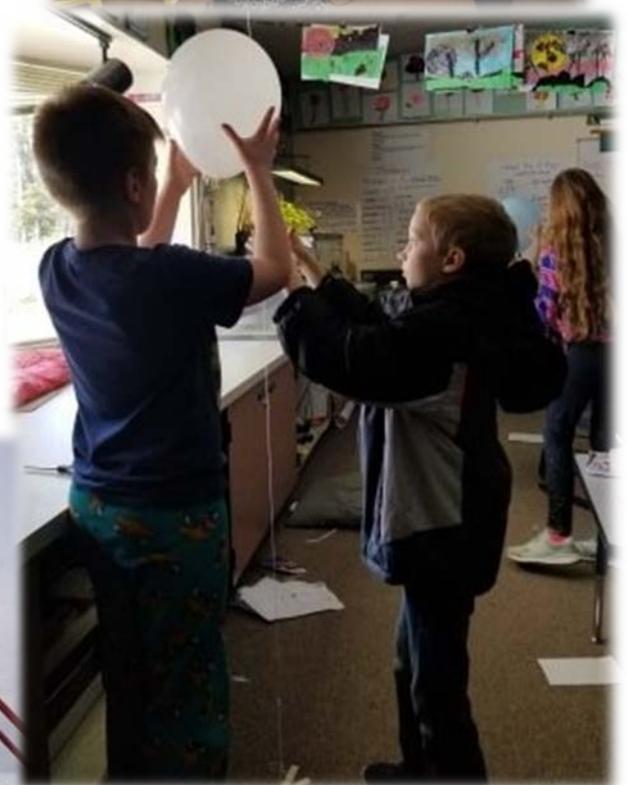
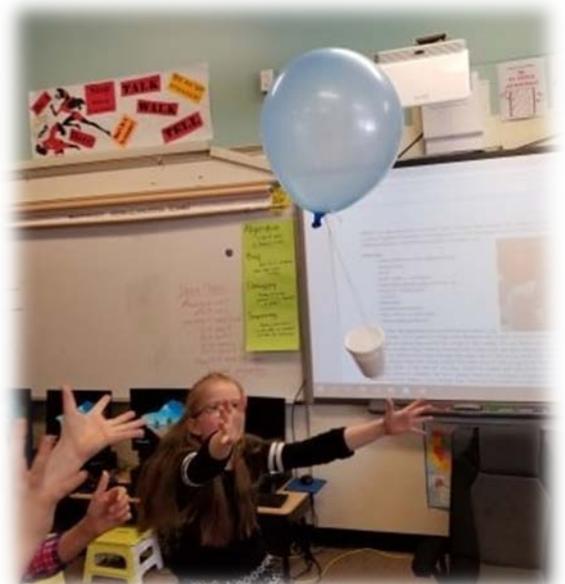
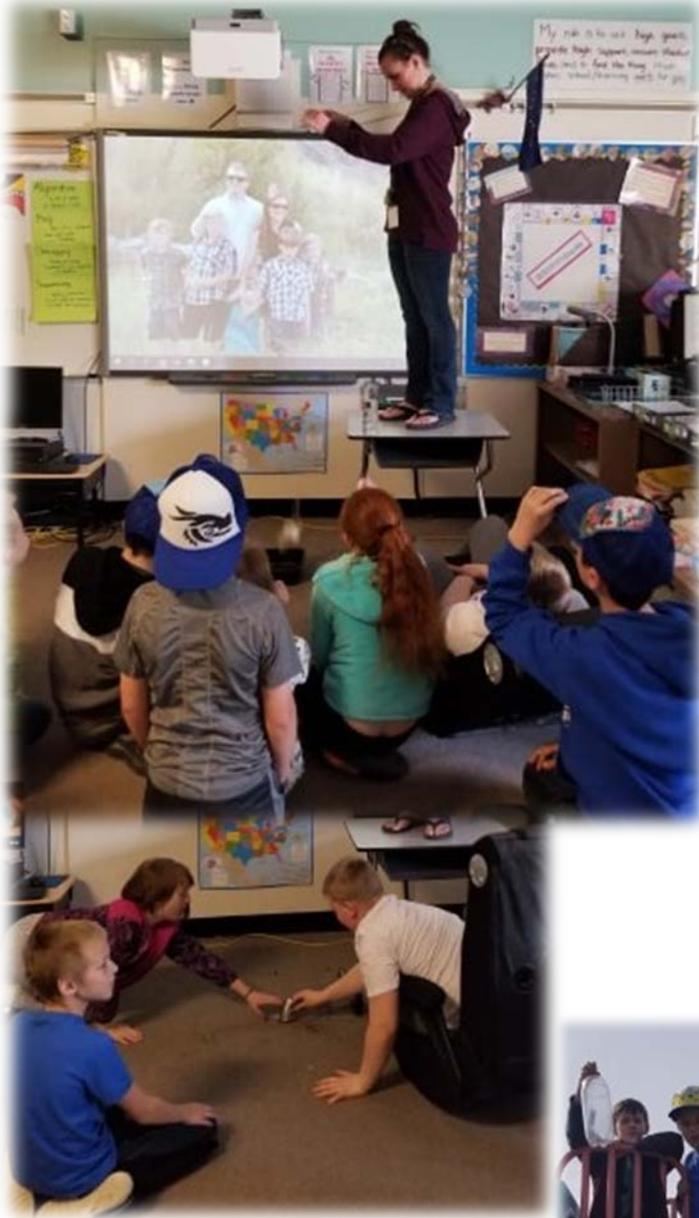
Heather Baker

Nikiski North Star Elementary School, Nikiski, AK 99635

As a new CAP Aerospace Education Member (AEM), and a first-year ACE educator, Heather blasted off to great heights this year! Some key points leading to Heather's selection:

- She taught her 4th grade students 20 ACE lessons- almost the entire ACE curriculum guide!
- Students kept their data in their evidence binders with their pre/post tests to show growth and mastery of concepts.
- Students took photos during lessons and used these in their data binders as well as in newsletter article writing. They also used these on the CAP flight board on their STEM wall.
- Heather connected with the local CAP Kenai Composite Squadron, even taking her students to a squadron meeting where the squadron leaders gave an aviation lesson, demonstrated the flight simulator, and took the students on a tour of their hangar and planes.
- The CAP Kenai squadron helped with two events at the school this year.
- Students said they are now interested in becoming CAP cadets! (Heather's own 13 yr old son became a member, with her soon-to-be 12 yr old son not far behind.)
- Heather's class activities and CAP connections have been featured in the local newspaper.
- The students have been connected with the community, in general, as well. As a rural school in AK, many students have family/friends who fly in and out of the platforms for work, or, work as bush pilots. Several of these aviation-related community members visited Heather's classroom to help build an understanding of the significance of flight in their community.
- ACE pre/post test results showed an increase in understanding of aerodynamics/flight, and, character development has been greatly impacted.
- Mrs. Baker created and distributed certificates of ACE lesson/concept mastery to help build student interest in the program. Certificates were presented for mastery about: roll, pitch, and yaw; lift, drag, thrust, and gravity; airplane anatomy; and NASA history.
- Students made personal ACE program patches and were given stickers for unit completions.
- At the end of the year, Mrs. Baker had a CAP Celebration Day, and had a day to present ACE program completion certificates.
- Mrs. Baker has encouraged her colleagues at school and in her school district to check out this program for their own use.
- To add another community layer to this program, next year, Mrs. Baker's class will connect with another area classroom in virtual connectivity of the ACE program.

- Mrs. Baker now feels more confident in being able to expand her expertise in the program to continue this wonderful program for her students next year.



Learning about
lift, drag and gravity!

Mastery of concepts!



Future space planes, surface tension, and CAP airplanes!



**Heather is not only an amazing novice ACE educator,
she is truly a fantastic *FACE of ACE!*
CAP applauds her tenacity; her connection with CAP and her community; and,
her dedication and commitment
in preparing her students for the future.
*CONGRATULATIONS, HEATHER!***

National ACE School of the Year:
Friendship Elementary School
Principal, Dr. Tracie Brack
Coordinator, Brian Johnston
Buford, GA 30519

Friendship Elementary School has “ACE’d” the ACE program again! With all teachers participating in the program, and, completing their online completion/program evaluations, this school continues to display the attributes of a true CAP ACE school.

Under the leadership of a dynamic principal, Dr. Brack leads by example! Not only does she encourage her teachers to get totally involved, she does, too! Here she is flying a Teacher Orientation Program (TOP) flight as all of her teachers did! *(Thanks to CAP pilots/planes!)*



CAP ACE program coordinator, Brian Johnston, continues to be a stellar leader of CAP’s aerospace and STEM education programs. Brian not only leads Friendship Elementary School in CAP’s aerospace/STEM programs, he is also the CAP GA Dir. of External AE, as Capt Brian Johnston.

Brian led the school in another ACE Lift-off event, helped all 35 teachers register for the ACE program and for their STEM Kits, invited CAP members to support the school with TOP flights and lesson support, and coordinated an end-of-year rocketry launch, supported by Capt Jack Marty, CAP’s GA Wing Aerospace Education Officer.

Many schools participate in the ACE program, but Friendship Elementary School ensures that every teacher is involved, engaged, supported, and held accountable! Some of the teachers’ end-of-year program reports include comments, such as:

Great program. It helps to engage students and makes learning fun.

I love the ACE program!

The lesson plans are AMAZING!!!

The ACE Program is a great way to get STEM in every classroom. The lessons are easy to understand and implement.

My students love this program! They are always excited when we do the lessons!

I teach a multi-grade level (3rd-5th grade) Emotional Behavior Disorder classroom. Though I cannot teach 10 lessons from each grade level, we did fit in as many as we could for each grade. We allowed all students to participate in each lesson, no matter what grade they were in, so they were exposed to multi-grade level lessons, as well. My students love days that we do ACE lessons. They are very engaged and behave much better when they know we will be doing an ACE lesson.





**We sincerely applaud this soaring school and appreciate their work with
CAP's STEM programs!**

**Friendship Elementary School will host the 2019-2020 National ACE Lift-off
Event in October! Stay Tuned!**

CONGRATULATIONS, FRIENDSHIP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!



TWO National ACE Students of the Year:

Joy Evans, 6th grade

**Nominated by Teacher, Tammy Clingenpeel
School Administrator, Kevin McAlvey
Fellowship Baptist Academy, Carson City, MI 48811**

Said teacher, Tammy Clingenpeel, “I believe Joy deserves to be the ACE student of the year because she has developed into an amazing participant in our aerospace and STEM activities. She has learned how to be a good leader. More importantly, she has learned to allow others to participate in the process. She has learned how to lead a group and step back and let others try even when she knows she has a better way of accomplishing the goal. Joy has a natural ability in the STEM and aerospace content. I have enjoyed watching her grow over the last two years!

Hunter Haverly, 2nd grade

**Nominated by Teacher, Elaine Mountain
Mo Geuernon, Principal
Sacred Heart School, Providence, RI 02914**

Said teacher, Elaine Mountain “I would like to nominate Hunter as he has demonstrated an authentic enthusiasm for each lesson presented to the class. He has also shown the mental capacity to understand and relay the concepts to me and other students. He has completed his work in a quality manner and then assisted others in making their projects, i.e. the gliders and rockets. He has demonstrated leadership qualities by helping others, and assisting in the rocket song- getting up in front of class, singing the words and doing the motions. He genuinely enjoyed each ACE lesson and was eager to have more each week.”

(Photos were not submitted of students.)

**Congratulations, Joy and Hunter!
You epitomize the heart, mind and STEM
initiative of true ACE students!
We are proud of you!**

National First-Year Outstanding ACE Teacher Award:

Jeanette Gonzales

Ranchito Ave Elementary School

School for Advanced Studies

Panorama, CA 91402

Principal, Song Lee

As a first-year ACE teacher, Jeanette Gonzales led her kindergarten students to new heights in aerospace education this year. Jeanette seamlessly intertwined CAP's STEM Kits and ACE program into her curriculum and allowed the school to become a part of this excitement. *THANK YOU, Mrs. Gonzales!*

Jeanette's young ACE students became meteorologists and shared the daily weather after the "Flag Salute," and, even worked with the 3rd graders on the computer weather output. Jeanette taught 15 of the 21 K ACE lessons to her students!

Jeanette introduced the ACE program to other teachers at her school along with two who joined in on the experience: Sunwha Choi and her 1st graders; and Hasmik Nazarian Avanesian, and her 2nd graders! * *Mrs. Nazarian Avanesian nominated Mrs. Gonzales for this award!* 😊

Jeanette reached out to the local San Fernando Cadet Squadron 137 located at Whiteman Airport in Pacoima. Lt Col James Miller, Deputy Commander, presented the ACE Certificates of Completion to all the K-3rd grade ACE students. (*Mrs. Gonzales had not been selected for this award at that time, so he is going to have to return to present this award!.*)

The school placed photos of the ACE Certificate presentations by CAP on their website:



Jeanette stated on her ACE completion form:

The ACE Program was fantastic. I highly recommended it to the rest of my grade level, as well as other teachers who inquired about the activities. I think it supplements our science curriculum with fun, hands on, engaging activities. One recommendation I'd make is to include art activity lessons so that the program doesn't only reflect STEM activities but STEAM activities to be able to reach more students with different abilities and interests. (Jeanette, we agree!)







ACE students (in purple ACE shirts) and their parents eagerly await their turn to receive their ACE certificates from Lt Col Miller, CAP.



Thanks, Lt Col Miller and Principal Lee, for supporting CAP's ACE program!



National ACE Sustained Excellence Awards (3):

Two educators and one school are being highlighted as having started the program in 2007, when the ACE program was called the CAP Jr Cadet Program. This was our Beta Test year and these amazing educators have remained with the program when, in 2008, the name changed to the ACE program, and throughout each and every year since. Each recipient has been an example of a hidden treasure and a dedicated CAP ACE program participant. Hats off to these three amazing educators and school!

- **Gwyn Bray, Walt Disney Elementary, Alvin, TX**



- **Linda Crane, Northwest Florida Ballet Academie, Ft Walton Beach, FL**



- **Bear Exploration Center, Liz Hill, Principal, Montgomery, AL**



For all the years of ACE commitment, we *applaud and honor* each of you!

Gwyn Bray
Walt Disney Elementary
Alvin, TX 77511
Principal, Dale Tribble

Gwyn stated when registering for the 2018-2019 Ace program: “Having access to this program has brought my students out of the textbook and into reality. The students are able to apply true engineering application to the science classroom.

- **My state scores have improved from an average of 80% passing to 95% passing the 5th grade science test.**
- **I have used the leadership lessons to develop a classroom student council body.**
- **The physical education activities are used during a family fun night.**

This program has encouraged many students to continue being engaged in science education.” Gwyn taught almost 200 3rd and 4th grade students, and over 200 5th grade students this year; impacting 400 students with her individual commitment to the ACE program in this year alone.



Linda Crane
Northwest Florida Ballet Academie
Ft Walton Beach, FL 32548
Principal, Kelly Day

Linda began the CAP ACE program while at another elementary school. She said, "I was a CAP Teacher when I was a teacher at Kenwood. I saw great results from my students and improvement in science, math and general excitement in STEM. I now work at the Ballet Academie and I want to get these students who favor the Arts to ALSO enjoy STEM! It's a fabulous program!" Linda will be retiring after next year, and states, "I love the ACE program. Thank you for all the wonderful lesson and activities for my students over the past 11 years!"



Bear Exploration Center

Liz Hill, Principal
Montgomery, AL 36111

Bear Exploration Center Principal, Liz Hill, jumped at the chance to be a Beta-testing school for the original CAP Jr Cadet Program. “This program fits perfectly with our STEM-oriented school,” stated Mrs. Hill. When the program changed to the Aerospace Connections in Education (ACE) program, the program fit the school even better, as Mrs. Hill wanted a program theme that could be used across the curriculum. Aerospace was that theme. From ACE lift-off and end-of-year school events, to having helicopters and hot air balloons at the school, Bear’s students and staff have had the opportunity to be immersed in aerospace education with the help of the CAP and the Montgomery Chapter of the Air Force Association. Said Bear Exploration’s Science Lab teacher, Sheila Sealy, “Students’ interest in regard to careers involving aviation or science have increased after learning and participating in all the activities provided with ACE.”





CAP ACE Program



How are our ACE Awards determined?

First, we accept nominations for our major awards of National Teacher, School and Student of the Year.

Then, we work as a team at the CAP National HQ in Montgomery, AL, to decide which school has gone above and beyond; which school coordinator has worked tirelessly to ensure the teachers conduct the ACE program; and which individuals have uniquely stood out (with our knowledge by keeping us updated on what they are doing via photos and communications).

We know many teachers and schools have worked very hard this year, but if we do not hear from you during the year, or in a nomination, we do not know this! SO- please join us again for the 2019-2020 ACE program and keep us informed of all you are doing with our youngest students, ACE kids!

Thanks to the Air Force Association for our national ACE award grants!

Points of Pride for 2018-2019

We had a record number of participants this year!

Schools: 344 (65%↑) Teachers: 920 (47%↑) Students: 51,170 (52%↑)

46 states+ Europe (DoD)

- 98% educators view ACE as fitting well with standards; supporting STEM education; a valuable use of time; and a positive influence on behavior and learning

Eleven Years- By the Numbers

Schools: 1,438 Teachers: 5, 117 Students: 221,092

47 states + PR + Europe (DoD)

The Air Force Association has been a steady partner, providing grants, shirts and awards!



News about 2019-2020

We will have revised curriculum online for next year; updated by past ACE teachers with more interactive options to enhance each lesson. Registration will open August 1st, and we hope to see YOU again as a FACE of ACE!