



2022

## Aerospace Education Teacher of the Year

Dennis J. Borgerding

Old Donation School, Virginia Beach, VA

Dennis Borgerding has been a Senior member of CAP since 2009 and an educator for over 25 years. He currently teaches history to gifted students in grades 5-8. He finds ways to weave science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and aerospace concepts into history, geography and even the visual arts. Borgerding's school administrators and colleagues rely on him as an invaluable resource to bring aerospace science and other STEM-related curriculum across grades and disciplines. As one fellow educator stated, "He can take any educational subject and show how aerodynamics are a part of it." Borgerding also serves as club sponsor for the school's Aeronautics Club and is a regular STEM speaker in classrooms.

Borgerding assisted the visual arts teacher with writing and implementing a grant to fund a STEAM (STEM + art) lesson involving aerodynamics. Due to COVID-19 social distancing restrictions, he devised a virtual field trip to a local aviation museum to teach the students about the fundamentals of flight. The students used the information they learned to create their own innovative aeronautical machines.

In another visual arts lesson, Borgerding taught the students the technical logistics of flight while showing them aerial photographs taken by CAP. He challenged the students to create artwork inspired by the aerial photographs and their newfound knowledge of flight. He later arranged to have their artwork displayed at a CAP facility in Richmond.

He volunteered to assist as a subject matter expert when he observed third-grade students working with paper airplanes as part of a scientific investigation lesson. Through questions and guidance, he helped them understand the concepts of aerodynamic design and think through their paper airplane design choices.

Borgerding regularly serves as a guide in the annual naval air show and provides the school's fifth-graders with instruction and support in all aspects of the STEM program in relation to the event. He is the club sponsor for the school's Aeronautics Club and leads the school's Color Guard.