

# HIGH SCHOOL DRONE PROGRAM LAUNCH CHECKLIST



## DEFINE YOUR PROGRAM GOALS

- ☐ Decide whether your program will focus on STEM, CTE, workforce development, Part 107 preparation, or a combination
- ☐ Identify the students and grade levels the program will serve
- ☐ Define the skills students should develop by the end of the course
- ☐ Identify the career pathways or industries students will explore

## CHOOSE YOUR DRONE CURRICULUM

- ☐ Select a structured curriculum designed for high school students
- ☐ Confirm it includes aviation knowledge and FAA Part 107 preparation
- ☐ Include hands-on flight training and drone safety
- ☐ Include real-world missions, industry applications, and career exploration
- ☐ Confirm teachers have access to lesson plans, activities, assessments, and support resources

## PLAN THE SCHEDULE

- ☐ Choose a program format: semester, full-year, summer, after-school, or modular
- ☐ Determine the instructional time available  
Plan a balance of classroom learning and hands-on flight time
- ☐ Build in time for practice, projects, missions, and review

## PREPARE YOUR TEACHERS

- ☐ Identify the teacher or teachers who will lead the program
- ☐ Assess their current drone and aviation experience
- ☐ Determine any professional-development, Part 107, or flight-training needs
- ☐ Make sure teachers have curriculum resources, safety guidance, and ongoing support before launch

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You don't need to have everything figured out on day one. Use this checklist to identify your next steps and build your program over time.

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## SELECT EQUIPMENT & FLIGHT SPACE

- ☐ Determine how many students will participate
- ☐ Choose beginner training drones and any equipment needed for more advanced activities
- ☐ Plan for controllers, batteries, chargers, replacement parts, and storage
- ☐ Confirm students have access to any computers or tablets required for coursework
- ☐ Identify a safe flight area and establish basic equipment and safety procedures

## PLAN YOUR BUDGET AND FUNDING

- ☐ Estimate curriculum, teacher-training, and equipment costs
- ☐ Separate initial startup expenses from recurring costs
- ☐ Review funding sources available through your school, district, CTE program, grants, or other applicable programs
- ☐ Identify important budget or application deadlines
- ☐ Prepare a short explanation of the program's educational and career-readiness value

## INCORPORATE FAA PART 107 PREPARATION

- ☐ Determine how Part 107 preparation will fit into the program
- ☐ Introduce students to aviation topics such as regulations, airspace, weather, safety, and flight planning
- ☐ Connect Part 107 concepts to hands-on flight activities and real-world missions
- ☐ Give eligible and interested students opportunities to prepare for certification

## CONNECT LEARNING TO CAREERS & FUTURE GROWTH

- ☐ Introduce students to drone-related industries and career pathways
- ☐ Incorporate real-world missions or project-based learning
- ☐ Build student skills progressively from fundamentals to more advanced flight and applications
- ☐ Develop technical and professional skills such as planning, safety, data collection, communication, and decision-making
- ☐ Give students clear next steps toward Part 107 certification, advanced training, or additional drone coursework

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## NEED HELP BUILDING YOUR HIGH SCHOOL DRONE PROGRAM?

DARTdrones can help schools plan curriculum, teacher training, and program implementation.

Learn more at [DARTdrones.com](https://www.DARTdrones.com)