

Avi8cando is a program for 12 to 19 year old students to become acquainted with aviation, learn skills and receive training towards learning how to fly or maintain aircraft. Avi8cando was started about 12 years ago by the Fortuna Chamber of Commerce, including Bob Ziegler, and Ray Wickel and George Jutila. Other adults have joined the program and spend a lot of time working with the program to provide a wonderful opportunity for kids interested in aviation.

The new year is starting Oct. 8 at the Rohnerville Airport at 1:00 and will last for 2 hours. There will be a introductory class taught by Ray Urback. The basic format of the program, goals and expectations will be outlined. Students are expected to have a minimum of a B Average. Parents or guardians will need to attend at least this first session and are encouraged to attend all sessions.

Each student will have to have a permission slip and release of liability signed by parents or guardians. If the weather permits and there is an availability of planes all students will get to go for a flight where they will also learn some of the principles of flying.

The release of liability that parents sign also promises that the student will not use alcohol, tobacco, or drugs, or involvement in gang activity. Any of those things would make the student ineligible to continue the program.

Some students in the past have gone on to work in the aviation industry, others have gotten their pilot's license for recreational flying. Avi8cando also has a flight simulator that was purchased through a grant from the McLean Foundation to give simulated flying experience.