

## Little Falls Community High School Aviation Class Takes Behind-The-Scenes Tour at MSP Airport - by Hayden Nordlund

Students in the Little Falls Community High School Aviation Class recently had the opportunity to step into the world of commercial aviation during an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of Minneapolis St. Paul International Airport (MSP). The visit included hands-on exposure to several aviation careers, state-of-the-art technology, and real-world operations.

Throughout the day, students visited several important areas of the airport, including a tour of the Air Traffic Control Tower, where they experienced what it is like to work in the M98 radar room and at the top of the tower as an Air Traffic Controller. Students also had the privilege of going out onto the catwalk while up in the tower, watching planes take off and land in the distance. Before leaving, the group toured the ATCT Simulator, where new air traffic controllers are trained in high-pressure decision-making.

The tour continued with a stop at the Delta Air Lines facility on airport grounds, where students had the chance to see firsthand the manufacturing and engineering that support modern flight technology. They also visited several hangars, where they got to see different types of Delta aircraft along the way.

One highlight for students was the opportunity to step inside one of the aircraft and lounge in the luxury of first class. While doing so, students took turns in pairs, going up front to see the plane from the pilot's perspective in the cockpit. Students also received information about what a pilot would experience in the cockpit during flight.

At the end of the tour, students received an in-depth explanation of the various jobs Delta Air Lines offers, including the wonderful benefits that come with them. Finally, the students received goody bags from the tour guide, Tom, who also handed out a paper explaining where to go if the students were interested in working for Delta one day.

The Little Falls Community High School Aviation Course is a growing program where new students get hands-on learning with the flight simulator located inside the school. Students also receive in-depth classroom instruction on how a plane works, weather, flight patterns, and more within a semester-long period. The course opens up new pathways for students who are willing to reach for the sky in one of Minnesota's most dynamic career fields.