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NASA HUNCH PROGRAM ACADEMIC YEAR SCHEDULE
High Schools United with NASA to Create Hardware & Software

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The NASA HUNCH program bridges high school STEM education with authentic space exploration. Student teams design, prototype, and manufacture hardware, software, textiles, and culinary projects bound for the International Space Station (ISS).

DOCUMENT DETAIL: Official Program Calendar & Requirements Profile
TARGET TARGET AGE: Grades 9–12 (High School CTE & STEM Classes)
OFFICIAL PORTAL: <https://nasahunch.com/>

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1. CHRONOLOGICAL MILESTONE SCHEDULE

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- PHASE 1: REGISTRATION & KICK-OFF (August – September)
 - * August 1: Student and team registration portals officially open.
 - * Late August: Project prompts released (Hardware, Software, Sewn Articles, etc.).
 - * Mid-September: NASA mentors distribute project constraints and safety briefs.

- PHASE 2: RESEARCH & IDEATION (September – October)
 - * Late September: Students form project teams and select an industry track.
 - * October 1: Mandatory Canvas learning resource modules completed by teachers.
 - * Mid-October: Initial market research and basic material brainstorming begins.

- PHASE 3: PRELIMINARY DESIGN REVIEW [PDR] (October – December)
 - * Early November: Initial regional feedback windows with engineering mentors.
 - * Late November: Teams deliver virtual or in-person slide presentation deck.
 - * Goal: Complete low-fidelity concept models (cardboard, basic 3D prints).

- PHASE 4: CRITICAL DESIGN REVIEW [CDR] (February – March)
 - * Late February: Regional live evaluation panels with NASA engineers.
 - * Mid-March: Structural analysis, assembly calculations, and software test checks.
 - * Goal: Final functional prototype built up to a 60%–90% completeness standard.

- PHASE 5: FINAL SHOWCASE & SELECTION (Late April)

- * Mid-April: Invitation notifications sent to top-tier national design teams.
- * Late April: Final Astronaut, Scientist, and Flight Doctor Review at JSC.
- * May / June: Top prototypes are kept by NASA for advanced spaceflight evaluation.

NASA HUNCH Program - Chronological Milestone Path



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2. MANDATORY TEAM DOCUMENTATION CHECKLIST

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Each student group must maintain and present these assets at regional reviews:

- [] Talent Authorization Forms: Must be fully completed during September setup.
- [] Interactive Engineering Notebook: Tracks problem definitions and daily logs.
- [] Standardized Technical Pitch Deck: PowerPoint format used for virtual reviews.
- [] Presentation Tri-Fold Board: Physical standard required for face-to-face CDRs.
- [] Multi-Page Marketing Brochure: Explains unique design value and testing logs.

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Generated for NASA HUNCH Educators & Competitors. For guidelines, see nasahunch.com

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