

**Kyle Spinks
234 Rocky Ridge Dr.
New Braunfels, TX 78130
830-624-5692**

College Decision and Goals

As long as I can remember, I have been fascinated by how things work and are built. Legos, erector sets, motors, and circuits took up much of my time and curiosity as a child. I also was, and still am, an avid reader and fan of history and other humanities. This love of science, math, and creative and innovative thought crystalized in my choice of majors and my ultimate career goals after a late night newscast of an extraordinary human achievement.

Standing in my living room, well past midnight, staring fixedly at the TV, I watched as the team of scientists and engineers at NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab (JPL) all waited anxiously for Curiosity to touch down on the surface of Mars. With confirmation that the sky crane had safely deployed the rover, the JPL team erupted with excitement. Some cried tears of joy, others jumped up and down, but as the first flickers of transmitted images from Mars appeared, everyone, including me, stopped for one silent moment, in awe. I stayed up until three o'clock that morning watching the press conference where members of the project design and development teams shared their excitement and inspiration. It was this experience that brought into focus my plans for the future and started me down the path to a career in Aerospace Engineering.

With that end in mind, I have pursued an academic trajectory that includes all Advanced Placement courses and have doubled up on science and math opportunities. My Chemistry and Physics courses have provided me with a greater depth of knowledge and reinforced my desire to go deeper into the hard maths and sciences. I enjoy learning how Algebraic functions and Statistical analysis provide the structure to support scientific inquiry. This year, I have chosen to pursue AP Calculus BC to begin to meld mathematics and engineering for a deeper understanding of how they occur in tandem. My desire to explore the junction of where math and science meets creativity and where the theoretical becomes reality, has directed me towards higher-level courses in English, History, Human Geography and other Humanities as well. I enjoy the intellectual challenge offered by the abstract nature of many of these classes and believe that they are better preparing me for my future because it will take a broad, global, and creative perspective to envision and define the future of the aerospace field, not just an understanding of advanced mathematics and science.

Once I decided on Aerospace Engineering as my chosen major, I researched the best programs in the nation. I visited Texas A&M, and spoke with an Aerospace professor and students. The Texas A&M Aerospace Program provides the strong academic core, undergraduate research opportunities, extensive internship connections, and