

On Track Academy's second-year instructor Trevor Stewart built a trebuchet for a project when he was a freshman at an engineering college. When he became a CTE teacher at OTA, he thought he'd try the same with his own students. The class is called Trebuchet Engineering. Students started by designing smaller models to learn some basics and then applied those lessons to building a life-size model. As part of a Spooky Science event at OTA last school year, Trevor and his students debuted the first trebuchet and launched a pumpkin 189 feet. This year, lessons learned were applied, changes were made, and a new trebuchet was built. Launch day was on November 22, 2024 in a steady rain, but that didn't stop the class from crushing last year's mark with a 350-foot pumpkin launch. This video's purpose was to demonstrate what project-based learning can look like and to show a project from start to finish. The target audience is the entire district community, but especially to those who are unfamiliar with the types of opportunities that On Track Academy provides. The video was very well-received on our social channels and even led to additional community partners reaching out to Stewart to donate materials for future projects.