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Canyon student takes to skies alone



Mia Kuyumjian, a Canyon High School junior in the Aviation Program, took off for her first solo flight. (Courtesy of Canyon Aviation)

By [ANDREA MILLS](#) | OCSchoolNews@aol.com | In Our Schools
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While some students were lazing over the winter holiday break, Mia Kuyumjian reached a milestone: the Canyon High School junior completed her first solo flight at Fullerton Airport.

Mia is part of the CHS Aviation Program headed by Steve Smith, and completed Aviation I and II classes at Canyon before passing her FAA private pilot written exam last spring.



After the first solo flight, a flight training tradition is to cut the back of the new pilot's shirt, and mark it to commemorate the event. Mia Kuyumjian proudly holds her commemorative shirt. (Courtesy of Canyon Aviation)

After the written exam, she completed hours of flight training with an instructor, and earned the instructor's endorsement for a solo flight. After additional training with an instructor, the aviatrix was ready to take a ride with an FAA-approved examiner, consisting of a multiple-hour oral exam and a flight test.

Mia passed with flying colors, and is on track to be a licensed pilot before beginning her senior year.

She said she will continue to pursue her pilot's license, with the goal of a career as an aerospace engineer.

