**CLOUDS**

## TYPES

* **Cumulus**  forms in rising air currents and indicates ***unstable air***.
* **Stratus** forms in horizontal layers and indicates ***stable air***.

**FAMILIES HEIGHT OF BASES**

* LOW (STRATO) surface - 6,500 ft
* MIDDLE (ALTO) 6,500 ft - 23,000 ft
* HIGH (CIRRO) 16,500 ft - 45,000 ft
* VERTICAL DEVELOPMENT 1,500 ft & above

**HIGH CLOUDS**

1. **Cirrus (CI)** - thin delicate wisps

2. **Cirrocumulus (CC)** - thin cotton ball like

3. **Cirrostratus (CS)** - thin, high sheet

 - produces "Halo" effect

 - often indicates the approach of a warm front

**MIDDLE CLOUDS**

1. **Altocumulus (AC)** - layers of rounded masses of cloud

2. **Altostratus (AS)** - thick grey clouds that often cover the entire sky.

 - may give some light rain or snow.

3. **Altocumulus Castellanus (ACC)** - altocumulus with turrets

**LOW CLOUDS**

1. **Stratus (ST)** - a uniform layer, like fog, but not resting on the ground

 - drizzle often falls from stratus

2. **Stratocumulus (SC)** - a thin layer of rounded masses of cloud

3. **Nimbostratus (NS)** - a low layer of uniform, dark grey cloud

4. **Stratus Fractus (SF)** - pieces of stratus

**CLOUDS OF VERTICAL DEVELOPMENT**

1. **Cumulus (CU)**

* thick
* rounded and lumpy
* resemble cotton balls

2. **Towering Cumulus (TCU)**

* cumulus that builds up into high towering masses
* rough air underneath
* heavy icing in cloud

3. **Cumulonimbus (CB)**

* heavy masses of Cumulus
* anvil top
* violent vertical currents
* B clouds should be avoided by all aircraft

4. **Cumulus Fractus (CF)**

* broken cumulus

**Clouds of Vertical Development**

 - bases as low as 1500 feet

 - composed of:

* water droplets
* supercooled water droplets
* ice crystals.