

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 cottonball like
3. **Cirrostratus (CS)** - thin, high sheet
 - produces "Halo" effect
 - often indicates the approach of a warm front

MIDDLE CLOUDS

1. **Alto cumulus (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. **Alto cumulus Castellanus (ACC)** - alto cumulus with turrets

