



STEM Academy at Brooks Wester Middle School Frequently Asked Questions

General Information

- **When will the STEM Middle School Academy open?**
The STEM middle school will open in the fall of 2017.
- **Who will attend the new STEM Middle Academy in the fall of 2017?**
The STEM school will open to only sixth-graders in the fall of 2017. The school will phase in seventh then eighth grade in the following years. Full capacity will be reached in the fall of 2019.
- **How many students will be accepted the first year?**
Seventy-five (75) students will be selected the first year.
- **Where will the new STEM Academy be located?**
The new STEM Academy will be located at Wester Middle School in the annex building. It is important to note that the Wester annex will have numerous construction modifications that will support a STEM learning environment.
- **Do I need to live in the attendance zone of the program to attend?**
Mansfield ISD resident parents and students have the opportunity to apply for the specific programs even if the program is located outside of their designated attendance zone.
- **If I already reside in one of the program school attendance zones, may I continue to attend that school?**
Yes, a student shall be assigned to the campus designated by the residence of the parent or legal guardian in accordance with Board-adopted attendance zones. FDB (LOCAL)
- **If I reside in MISD but currently attend a private, charter, home school, etc... May I still apply for one the Power of Choice programs?**
Yes.
- **What will the school hours be for my child?**
We will follow the MISD middle school [arrival and dismissal times](#).
- **How many students can attend the STEM Academy at full capacity?**
At full capacity in the year 2019-2020, the STEM Academy will be able to enroll approximately 275 students in grades 6-8.

Why a STEM School?

- **Why did the MISD decide to offer a STEM Academy for middle school?**
Roughly, 60 percent of future jobs, which will be available for our current elementary school students when they graduate, will involve skill sets associated with science, technology, engineering or math. While STEM curriculum



is available in ALL MISD schools, the opportunity to build a STEM program that incorporates facilities that lend themselves to these instructional strategies is important to Mansfield ISD and the children and families that it serves.

- **What makes it a STEM school and why is it unique?**

The STEM Academy is an academic program located at Brooks Wester Middle School. This academy is designed to provide a rigorous and focused course of study emphasizing STEM. The coursework is enhanced with a Pre-Advanced Placement (AP) concentration and integrates project-based learning and maker space as well as open learning environments. The learning environment at the academy gives students “voice and choice” to create, invent, tinker and explore with the end result being high quality and authentic products. Students will use 21st century skills, including collaboration and critical thinking, while learning academic content.

- **Will you offer classes in orchestra for STEM Academy students in the sixth grade?**

No, orchestra will not be offered at the STEM Academy.

- **What other elective options will be made available to my child?**

Elective options will vary depending on the grade level of the student. Academic plans will outline the elective options open to students in the STEM Academy. The focus of electives at the academy will be STEM related in all three grade levels. Students will have access to Wester Middle School electives in seventh and eighth grade on a limited basis, depending on how it fits into the student’s schedule (including band and athletics).

- **What kinds of extra-curricular activities will the STEM Academy have?**

The identification of extra-curricular activities is based on student and staff interest. However, a number of clubs will be related to STEM topics such as: Robotics, Destination Imagination, Future City Engineering Competition, Science Fair, etc. Additionally, in seventh and eighth grade, students will be allowed to try out for sports and participate in school activities on the Wester Middle School campus in accordance with campus, district, and UIL rules and regulations.

Enrollment and Transportation

- **I am interested in having my child attend the new STEM Academy. When can I enroll my child?**

The application timeline begins January 30, 2017 and closes March 3, 2017. The STEM Academy has no attendance boundaries, meaning that students from any MISD school are eligible to apply for enrollment. Additional information regarding the dates and timelines associated with enrollment will be posted on the MISD website.

- **Where do I turn in applications?**

Applications can be turned in at the MISD Student Services office, located at 609. E. Broad Street, Mansfield TX 76063.

- **Will the district provide bus transportation to the STEM Academy?**

Yes, transportation will be provided to the STEM Academy.



Employment

- **Have you hired a principal?**

Yes, Mrs. Victoria Webster has been hired as the associate principal for the new STEM Academy. She was hired a year before the school opened so that she can be involved in the facility decisions, the hiring of staff and teachers and the professional development needs of that staff. She will also communicate with the community and parents and will develop the philosophy of the STEM Academy.

- **When will you begin hiring teachers?**

While no dates are currently firm, we anticipate beginning the hiring process in late spring 2017 so that there is a better understanding of the number of students who will be enrolled at the time the school opens. We hope to have the teachers identified and hired so they can work with colleagues and the principal during the spring and summer on professional development activities related to STEM instructional strategies.