

Jerry Knight STEM Academy FAQ

The purpose of the Jerry Knight STEM Academy (JKSA) is to teach learners to explore, create and innovate by engaging learners in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) with an advanced academics focus. Learners will be immersed in real-world problem-solving using the Engineering Design Process.

Design time will be built into the master schedule and will allow learners to work on project/problem-based learning, incorporating design thinking within an innovative learning environment. During their eighth-grade year, learners will be able to identify a real-world problem they are passionate about and develop innovative solutions as their capstone project. They will also be engaged with industry professionals through presentations and feedback protocols.

The Jerry Knight STEM Academy will ultimately prepare learners to pursue STEM interests and advanced academics in high school and postsecondary education. Roughly 60% of the future jobs which will be available for current elementary school students when they graduate will involve skill sets associated with science, math, engineering or technology.

CURRICULUM

What does STEM stand for?

STEM is an acronym for science, technology, engineering and math.

Will the Jerry Knight STEM Academy be different than a traditional school?

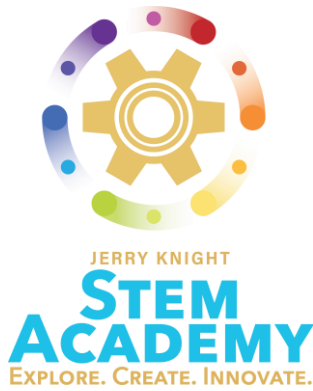
Yes. The Jerry Knight STEM Academy is an advanced academic program located at Brooks Wester Middle School. The academy is designed to provide a rigorous and focused course of study emphasizing STEM. Learners are challenged to create, build and to think “outside of the box” as they learn vital 21st century skills, including collaboration and critical thinking, to succeed in life. Coursework is advanced with a Pre-AP concentration and integrates project/problem-based learning, maker space and 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.

Will learners follow the State Standards and MISD Curriculum?

Yes. By law, the Jerry Knight STEM Academy must follow the state standards. However, the Jerry Knight STEM Academy modifies the scope and sequence of the MISD curriculum to allow for academic acceleration and cross-curricular instruction. Additionally, instructional staff integrates STEM instruction within all core and elective classes.

Will my child have access to clubs and extra-curricular activities?

Yes. The Jerry Knight STEM Academy will have a variety of clubs to experience during the school day and after school.



Will my child participate in PE, Fine Arts?

Yes. Learners at this Academy will continue to participate in PE and select Fine Arts as required by the Texas Education Agency.

ENROLLMENT/APPLICATION

Who can apply for the Jerry Knight STEM Academy?

Any MISD learner going into the sixth grade can apply for the Jerry Knight STEM Academy. See the application for details.

What are the qualifications for acceptance into the Jerry Knight STEM Academy?

We are looking for learners who are inquisitive and excited about learning more about science, technology, engineering and math. Because the Jerry Knight STEM Academy is an advanced academics program, we have detailed information about academic criteria that can be found on the application.

Is this Academy free?

Yes. There is no cost to attend the Jerry Knight STEM Academy.

How do I apply?

Applications will be completed online. When available, a link will be posted on the [MISD School Choice web page](#).

What is the time line for the application process for this Academy?

Applications will open in late fall of 2020. Specific dates have not been determined at this time.

How will I know if I was accepted, and when will I find out?

Each applicant will receive a decision letter by email and will be required to return a commitment letter to the Academy. Dates are to be determined.

How are learners selected?

Selection is based on the criteria rubric that looks at academic performance. Consideration is made for representation from all areas of the Mansfield school district.

How many learners will be accepted in each grade?

There will be 100 learners accepted for the sixth grade. These learners will continue enrollment at the school for the seventh and eighth grade.

Will transportation be provided?

Yes. Transportation will be provided to any learner accepted who resides in the MISD attendance zone.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Are there any information meetings scheduled for me to get more information?

Yes. Parent information meetings will be held in the fall of 2020. Dates will be announced, when available, on the [MISD Power of Choice web page](#).

What will the school hours be for my child?

The Jerry Knight STEM Academy will follow the MISD middle school arrival and dismissal times.

Whom do I contact for more information?

Please feel free to contact Victoria Webster, associate principal of the Jerry Knight STEM Academy, at VictoriaWebster@misdmail.org if you have any other questions.