

Jerry Knight STEM Academy FAQs

The purpose of the Jerry Knight STEM Academy 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. During their time at JKSA, learners will 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 post-secondary education. Roughly 60% of future jobs which will be available for our current elementary school students when they graduate will involve skill sets associated with science, math, engineering, or technology.

CURRICULUM

What does STEM stand for?

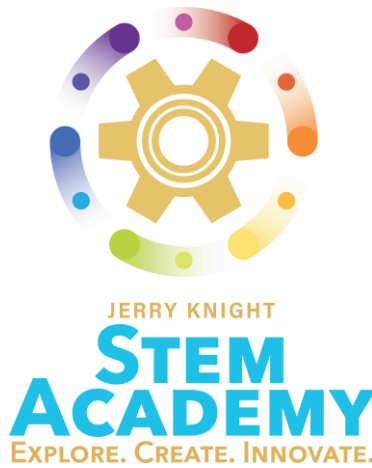
STEM is an acronym for science, technology, engineering and math.

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 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 21st century skills vital to success in life. Coursework is advanced with a Pre-AP concentration and integrates project/problem-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. Learners will use 21st century skills, including collaboration and critical thinking, while learning academic content. Through this unique approach to education, learners will grow to think critically, value mistakes and be reflective on their work. Learners will experience different aspects of STEM through field trips, integrated lessons, 21st century skills development, electives, project/problem-based learning, and collaboration with industry professional to help advance their interest in STEM fields.

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 Fine Arts as required by the Texas Education Agency. It's important to note that the Fine Arts credits offered may be unique to Jerry Knight STEM Academy and are not the same Fine Arts courses found at comprehensive campuses.

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 solving real world problems using creative innovation, critical thinking and STEM. 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?

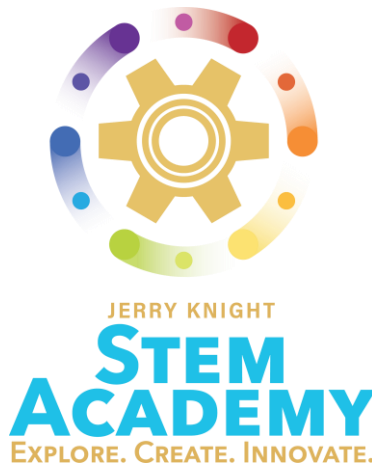
Applications will open each Spring semester. An application timeline will be posted to the [MISD Power of Choice page](#) each fall.

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. All dates are part of the application timeline posted to the MISD Power of Choice website.

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 their 6th grade year. These learners will continue enrollment during their 7th and 8th grade years.

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. 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 contact the Jerry Knight STEM Academy front office for additional information at 817-299-5090.