



Charlene McKinze STEM Academy FAQs

The purpose of the Charlene McKinze STEM Academy is to teach learners to explore, create, and innovate by engaging learners in problem solving-using the Engineering Design Process. Learners will be immersed in experiential learning with STEM integration in the core courses. Learners will have design time built into the schedule that will allow them to work on design challenges and project/problem-based learning incorporating design thinking within an innovative learning environment. The Academy will ultimately prepare learners to pursue STEM interests in high school and post-secondary education.

CURRICULUM

What does STEM stand for?

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

Will the Charlene McKinze STEM Academy be different than a traditional school?

Yes. The STEM lessons are designed to give learners hands-on learning experiences that challenge learners to think critically, value mistakes, and learn from them. Learners are encouraged to create, build, and think “outside the box” as they learn 21st-century skills vital to success in life. Communication, collaboration, creative innovation, critical thinking and character. Critical thinking skills are incorporated into the curriculum along with STEM field trips and integrated lessons designed by the teachers. Learners will experience different aspects of science, technology, engineering, and math to help advance their interest in STEM fields.

Will learners follow the State Standards and MISD Curriculum?

Yes. By law, MISD must follow the state standards. Charlene McKinze STEM Academy will follow the MISD curriculum, which is aligned to the state standards. Teachers will integrate STEM instruction within the core classes.

Will my child have access to clubs and extracurricular activities?

Yes. The 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 Charlene McKinze STEM Academy and are not the same Fine Arts courses found at comprehensive campuses.

Will my 8th grader have access to Advanced Algebra I?

Learners who take advanced 7th grade math and show academic readiness on the DEKA will have the opportunity to enroll in Advanced Algebra I as an 8th grader. It is important to note that if a learner wants to be eligible to apply to Frontier STEM Academy as a 9th grader they must successfully complete Advanced Algebra I as an 8th grader.



ENROLLMENT/APPLICATION

If my learner is currently enrolled in 6th grade at Alma Martinez STEM Academy, will they need to apply for 7th grade at Charlene McKinze STEM Academy?

No. Learners who currently attend 6th grade at Alma Martinez STEM Academy will roll up to 7th grade at Charlene McKinze STEM Academy as long as they are achieving expected academic progress and behave according to the expectations outlined in the STEM handbook.

If my learner is currently enrolled in 7th grade at Charlene McKinze STEM Academy, will they need to reapply for 8th grade?

No, learners who currently attend Charlene McKinze STEM Academy will roll up to 8th grade as long as they are achieving expected academic progress and behave according to the expectations outlined in the STEM handbook.

Who can apply for the Charlene McKinze STEM Academy?

Any MISD learner going into the seventh or eighth grade can apply for the Charlene McKinze STEM Academy.

What are the qualifications for acceptance into the STEM Academy?

We are looking for learners who are inquisitive and excited about learning more about science, technology, engineering, and math. STEM learners will be most successful if they are reading on grade level and performing on grade level in core subjects.

Is this Academy free?

Yes. There is no cost to attend Charlene McKinze Middle School or its STEM Academy program.

How do I apply?

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

What is the timeline 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. Dates are to be determined.

How are learners selected?

A random lottery will be completed for all learners who follow the requirements of the application process. Consideration will be made for equal representation from all areas of the MISD school district.



How many learners will be accepted in each grade?

There will be 150 learners accepted for the seventh grade. Up to 100 spots can be taken by current 6th graders enrolled at Alma Martinez STEM Academy; no less than 50 spots will be open to new applicants. Eighth grade spots will be filled as they become available. If we do not have spots available applicants will be placed on a wait list for that academic school year.

Will transportation be provided?

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

Are there other schools I can apply to if my child does not get accepted?

Yes. Any MISD learner can apply for a transfer to any of the [branded schools](#) (Leadership and STEAM Academies) as space is available. If you are interested in attending one of our branded schools, please contact the MISD Student Service office at 817-299 -6378.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

Yes. Dates and locations will be announced on the [MISD Power of Choice web page](#).

Whom do I contact for more information?

Please reach out to Charlene McKinze STEM Academy front office for additional information at 682-320-9000.