## **ISTEM**

The ISTEM magnet program is accessible for students that are zoned for the five north county High Schools (Countryside, Dunedin, East Lake, Palm Harbor, Tarpon Springs) during the <u>initial</u> District Application Period. Students that are zoned for other high schools in Pinellas County can apply during the <u>late</u> application period. ISTEM students are required to take one ISTEM class a year, however they can take more than one if they choose to do so. Students can change strands too to better meet the student's wants and needs. However, by the time a student is an 11<sup>th</sup> grader, we ask that students take the same strand for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Students are required to maintain an unweighted 2.3 GPA per semester and may not earn any F's per semester.

The ISTEM (Institute for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) program offers two tracks: our technological and our scholar track. Pathways will be based on academic profiles and discussions with the parent and student. Our technological track is a career/college preparatory program that provides students with the skills needed in the IT field. Students choose to focus on one of four strands while in the program: Computer Systems and Information Technology (CSIT), Game and Simulation, Web Application Development & Programming, or Digital Design. All of the strands have the opportunity to earn multiple industry certifications.

Our scholar track provides students rigorous, college preparatory academic opportunities across all academic subjects while providing an emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). The interdisciplinary curriculum prepares students for postsecondary education and careers at the forefront of research, innovation, and technology while also allowing the opportunity to earn college credits and industry certifications. Students have opportunities to study and apply emerging technologies in real-world scenarios while focusing on one of three fields of study: Cybersecurity, Biotechnology, or Engineering Technology.