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## 2021-2022 Middle Grades STEM Academy Student Application Packet

**FREE** Before-School STEM Academy Program

*The VISION of Pinellas County Schools Middle Grades STEM programs is to nurture creative thinking in the STEM fields through exploration, inquiry, and collaboration.*

*The **FREE** PCS STEM Academy Program offers opportunities to conduct hands-on STEM investigations, learn the engineering design process, improve team building and leadership skills, explore STEM career pathways and interact with community business partners.*

To learn more about the K-12 STEM initiatives and the PCS STEM Academy program, please visit [www.pcsb.org/STEM](http://www.pcsb.org/STEM)

**Deadline to apply:** Completed applications are due as soon as possible.

### What?

During the FREE STEM Academy Program, students will conduct hands-on activities related to STEM concepts (science, technology, engineering and math), explore careers in STEM, complete STEM engineering design projects, and learn from business and community partners.

STEM projects completed by students throughout the year will be displayed during the annual STEM Expo which will be held in May 2022 (time and date to be announced soon). Students may also participate in their school or regional science and engineering fair.

### Focus Areas

We will have 2 different STEM Academy Focus options this year.

**STEM in Action (Tuesdays)** – Students will investigate a variety of STEM topics that include: solar energy, environmental science exploration, and innovation design challenges.

**Robotics (Thursdays)** – Students will learn to build and code a variety of robots ranging from Sphero, Vex, Hummingbird Birdbrain, Lego EV3 and Robotis.

### Who is eligible?

All students in grades 6 through 8 are eligible to apply. We look for students who work hard, have an interest in STEM concepts, and will participate for the full 22 weeks. There is no academic performance requirement, however only 25 students can be enrolled into each STEM Academy.

Students **must** complete an application and submit it to the STEM Academy facilitator.

Each STEM Academy can accept up to 25 students. If more than 25 students apply, schools will make every effort to add an additional STEM Academy for those students.

### When?

This 22-week program will begin during the week of November 1<sup>st</sup> and will continue through the week ending April 29<sup>th</sup>. Your child’s STEM Academy will meet once per week for 60 minutes before school.

The STEM Academy at Bay Point Middle will be held on from 7:45 am – 8:45 am. Students will be sent to the cafeteria for breakfast at the end of meeting time.

The STEM Academy will be held at Bay Point Middle School and transportation **MUST** be provided by the parent/guardian each week. Students will wait in the front of school until the teacher arrives to take them to 2/103.

<p><b>Deadline to return completed application</b></p> <p>STEM Academy will begin meeting the week of November 1. We will notify families as we receive applications until we are full. We will keep a wait list through the year and notify families when we have openings.</p>	<p><b>Cost?</b></p> <p>The PCS Middle Grades STEM program offers the STEM Academy Program at your child's school, FREE of charge.</p>
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<p><b>Attendance Requirements</b></p> <p>Attendance is a critical component to the success of any program. This is especially true of the middle grades STEM program, which consists of weekly building, coding, completing challenges, and other activities within the engineering design process. Due to overwhelming interest in the STEM Academy Program and the rigor of planned activities, students are expected to attend each session. If a student misses more than 4 <b>unexcused</b> sessions, they will be removed from the academy. After 2 unexcused absences, the STEM Academy teacher will send an attendance reminder.</p>	<p><b>Family Involvement</b></p> <p>In May, students enrolled in the STEM Academy Program will receive an invitation to attend and present at the annual FREE STEM Expo that will be held on a Saturday in May. The time, date, and location for this event will be announced soon. This annual event attracts more than 3,200 people every year! More information will be provided to families later in the year.</p> <p>Additional STEM related events will be shared with you using the email provided on the of application page.</p>
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### Questions?

If you have questions, please contact the STEM Academy facilitator at your school,  
Jennifer Giuffre at [giuffrej@pcsb.org](mailto:giuffrej@pcsb.org)  
OR  
Marie Sammons at [sammonsm@pcsb.org](mailto:sammonsm@pcsb.org)

### Application Process

Fill out the attached application (page 3) and submit it to any grade level office, who will then give it to Mrs. Giuffre or Ms. Sammons (the STEM Academy facilitators). Please enter information for every area on the application, especially the email section, as this will be used as the main form of communication to receive STEM Academy updates and opportunities.

\*FAMILIES KEEP PAGES 1 & 2 AND RETURN PAGE 3 TO THE GRADE LEVEL OFFICE, WHO WILL HAND IT IN TO THE SCHOOL'S STEM ACADEMY TEACHER.

**STEM ACADEMY BACKGROUND**

Return to Grade Level Office

<p><b>Did your child participate in the PCS STEM Academy program during the 2020-2021 school year? YES or NO</b></p> <p>If yes, provide the following information:                  Grade your child was in last year (20-21): _____                  Name of school attended last year (20-21): _____                  Name of STEM Academy teacher last year (20-21): _____</p>
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2021-2022 GENERAL STUDENT INFORMATION (please print clearly)	
STUDENT NAME (FIRST, LAST)	
1 <sup>ST</sup> PERIOD TEACHER'S NAME	
CURRENT GRADE	
HOME ADDRESS: STREET ADDRESS CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE	
STUDENT'S GENDER	
ETHNICITY (OPTIONAL)	
BIRTH DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)	

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION (please print clearly)			
PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION		SECONDARY CONTACT INFORMATION	
PARENT/CAREGIVER NAME		PARENT/CAREGIVER NAME	
RELATIONSHIP TO STUDENT		RELATIONSHIP TO STUDENT	
STREE ADDRESS CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE		STREET ADDRESS CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE	
PHONE NUMBERS	Cell: Home: Work:	PHONE NUMBERS	Cell: Home: Work:
EMAIL ADDRESS <small>*Email addresses will be used to send STEM Academy newsletters and communicate upcoming STEM events.</small>		EMAIL ADDRESS <small>*Email addresses will be used to send STEM Academy newsletters and communicate upcoming STEM events.</small>	
FOCUS AREA ranked 1, 2, 3			
STEM in Action (Tuesdays) _____ Robotics (Thursdays) _____ Both (if room) _____			

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby give permission for \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent/Guardian - Print Student's Name - Print

to participate in the 2021-2022 STEM Academy program.

Our STEM Academy teachers are passionate about your child; however, to honor their time (planning, teaching, family obligations) we ask that students are dropped off **promptly** at the beginning of each STEM Academy's session. After 2 late pick-ups and/or unexcused absences, you will be contacted by the STEM Academy teacher who will provide a reminder that your child will be removed from the program following the 4<sup>th</sup> late pick-up/unexcused absence and a new student from the wait list will fill his/her spot.

I acknowledge responsibility for providing drop off transportation each week for my child.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date