STEM Academy Program

K-12 STEM Department

Pinellas County Schools

2020-2021 STEM Academy Student Application Packet
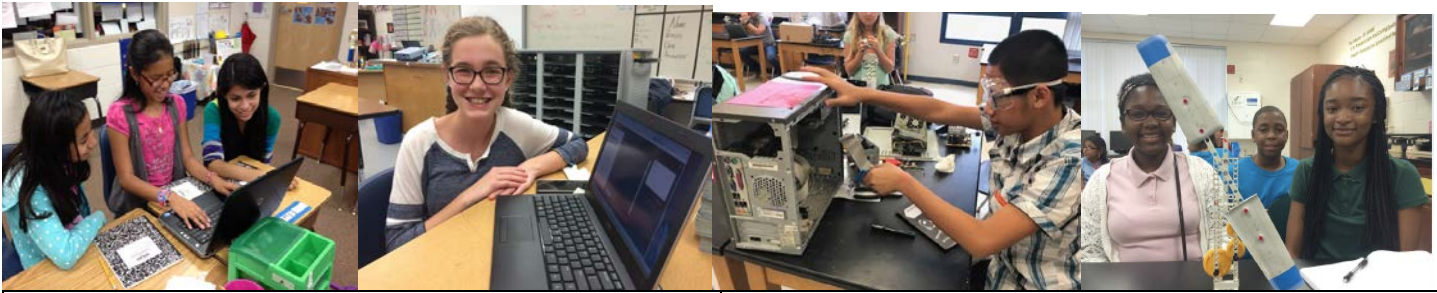
FREE After-School STEM Academy Program

The VISION of the PCS K-12 STEM Department is to increase STEM opportunities for Pinellas County students, preparing them to excel in STEM fields of study, allowing them to meet the challenges of the global society through innovation, collaboration and creative problem solving.

The **FREE** PCS STEM Academy Program will offer your child opportunities to conduct hands-on STEM investigations (following all social distancing guidelines), learn about the engineering design process, improve team building/leadership skills, explore STEM career pathways and interact with community business partners!

To learn more about the K-12 STEM Dept. initiatives and PCS STEM Academy program, please visit
www.pcsb.org/STEM

Who?

We are accepting 6th through 8th grade students. 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 20 students in 4th - 12th grades can be enrolled into each STEM Academy.

Due to increased demand to participate in this FREE program hosted by the PCS K-12 STEM Department, all students who submit a completed application by December 2nd will get an equal chance at enrollment using the lottery process listed below. Per PCS guidelines, students who are virtually learning from home are permitted to come to the school in order to participate in the STEM Academy Program in-person. No virtual STEM Academy programs or simultaneous teaching is being offered since this program is free and optional.

Completed applications will be collected and divided into two piles (female and male). Using the process of random lottery, 10 females and 10 males (as close as possible) will be selected per STEM Academy. If more than 20 students in both 6-7th grades or 8th grades apply, remaining students will be placed on a wait list. ALL families will be notified of their status, enrolled or wait listed.

- Middle Grades STEM Academy offerings at Bay Point Middle
  - ✓ 6th - 7th grades (total of 20 students)
  - ✓ 8th grade (total of 20 students)

When?

This 22-week program will begin during the week of December 7th and will continue through the week of May 24th. Your child's STEM Academy will meet once per week for 60 minutes after school.

STEM Academy at your school will be held on Tuesdays from 4:20 pm to 5:20 pm.

The STEM Academy will be held at your child's school and transportation MUST be provided by the parent/guardian each week. Students will only be permitted to walk/bike home if a parent/guardian is present. Students will not be allowed to walk/bike home without an adult escorting them. If picking your child up by car, you must wait in the car circle and your child will be escorted out by the STEM Academy teacher at 5:20 pm. Please be on time and waiting in the car circle to pick up your child.

Cost?

The PCS K-12 STEM Department offers the STEM Academy Program at your child's school, FREE of charge.

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 a STEM engineering design project, learn from business and community partners all while following social distancing guidelines. STEM projects completed by students throughout the year will be displayed during the annual STEM Expo which is scheduled to be held on Saturday, May 15, 2021 at the Pinellas Technical College, St. Petersburg campus.

Attendance Requirements

Attendance is a critical component to the success of this program considering the amount of work (building, coding, completing challenges, etc.) completed in each week. Due to the overwhelming interest in the STEM Academy Program and the rigor of the planned activities, it is highly suggested that your child tries to attend each session. If your child misses more than 4 unexcused sessions (sick absences are an exception), they will be removed from the academy and replaced by one of the students on the wait list. After the 3rd unexcused absence, the STEM Academy teacher will call or speak with you in person to provide an attendance reminder.

Family Involvement

Later in the year, 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 Saturday, May 15, 2021 at the Pinellas Technical College, St. Petersburg campus. During the 2019 STEM Expo we had more than 3,200 people attend! More information will be provided to families later in the year.

Additional STEM related events will be shared with you using the email provided on Page 3 of this application.

Questions?

If you have questions, please contact the STEM Academy teacher at your school, Mrs. Giuffré at giuffrej@pcsb.org

Application Process

Fill out this application and submit it to your child's classroom teacher and/or drop it off in any grade level office who will then give it to the STEM Academy teachers no later than Wednesday, December 2, 2020. 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.

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

STEM ACADEMY BACKGROUND

Did your child participate in the PCS STEM Academy program during the 2019-2020 school year?   YES   or   NO

If yes, provide the following information:

Grade your child was in last year (19-20): _____

Name of school attended last year (19-20): _____

Name of STEM Academy teacher last year (19-20): _____

2020-2021 GENERAL STUDENT INFORMATION (please print clearly)

STUDENT NAME (FIRST, LAST)	
CLASSROOM TEACHER'S NAME	
GRADE CURRENTLY ATTENDING	
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 *Email addresses will be used to send STEM Academy newsletters and communicate upcoming STEM events.		EMAIL ADDRESS *Email addresses will be used to send STEM Academy newsletters and communicate upcoming STEM events.	

Additional Information (if needed):

I, _____, hereby give permission for _____ to participate in the STEM Academy program.

Parent/Guardian - Print   Student's Name - Print

Our STEM Academy teachers are passionate about your child; however, to honor their time (planning, teaching, family obligations) we ask that students are picked up **promptly** at the conclusion of each STEM Academy's session. After 3 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 4th late pick-up/unexcused absence and a new student from the wait list will fill his/her spot.

I acknowledge that I will be responsible for providing pick-up transportation each week for my child.

_____   _____

Parent/Guardian Signature   Date

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