

STEAM PROGRAM HAND BOOK





OUR MISSION

The purpose of the STEAM Academy is to increase student achievement by engaging students in innovative science, technology, engineering, arts, and math instruction.

OUR VISION

The STEAM Academy will provide a continuous pathway of educational opportunities that will prepare STEAM-literate graduates to accept the challenges of advanced education beyond high school and meet the needs of the future workforce.

STEAM PROGRAM DESIGN

The DISD STEAM Academy is designed as a rigorous academic cohort model for students in grades 5 – 8 who enjoy challenges and investigating the world around them. All students explore STEAM concepts through hands-on learning experiences, research, and exploration of every content. Teacher collaboration within team planning produces cross-curricular lessons allow students to focus on content through the lens of STEAM. Within the STEAM program, academic courses offered vary based on students' academic achievements during the application process and reevaluations each year.

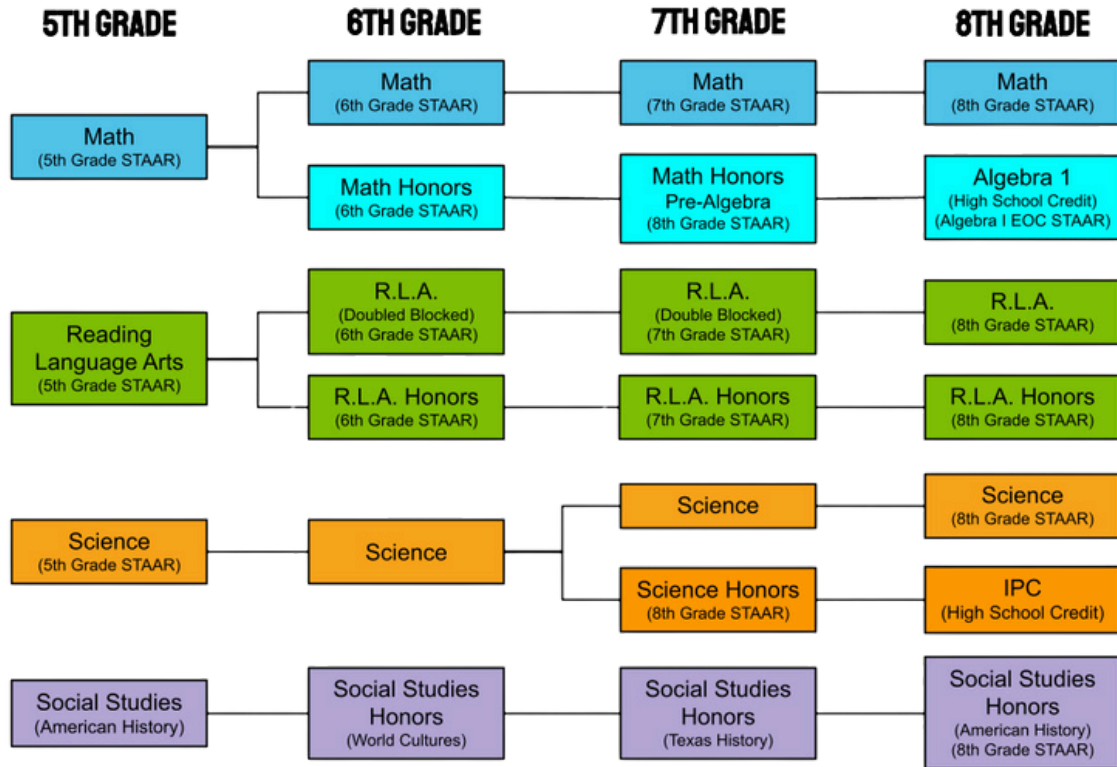
Advanced/Honors and On-Level courses are both offered within the program. A student enrolled in STEAM classes is not guaranteed to be placed on the advanced track, which can lead to high school credits in junior high.

See the Course Pathway Chart for more information.

In addition to core advanced academic study, students explore STEAM concepts through Brainiac Enrichment. Students experience modules and project-based learning within the Texas Performance Standards Project. Students also participate in field experiences, guest lectures, and more thought the school year.



POSSIBLE PROGRAM PATHWAYS



NOTE: Students enrolled in Math Honors will also be in enrolled in Science Honors.

Last Edit 4/5/23 by N. Robinson

ZONED CAMPUSES

Each DISD Middle School and Junior High offers STEAM. All STEAM students are required to attend their “Zoned Campus.” You may check the district's website for school zoning and transportation routes.

If a Dual-Language student is accepted in the STEAM program, they will attend Dunbar Middle School with provided district transportation. This will be determined and communicated individually to families.

For more information visit the link

[DICKINSONISD.ORG/STEAM](https://dickinsonisd.org/STEAM)



APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Currently enrolled in DISD at the time of application
- Grades above 70 in Math, Science, Reading or Language Arts, and Social Studies
- Meets or Masters Grade Level on STAAR, MAP, and other objective test data available
- Students may be entered into the STEAM program based on a district data search of students who meet program criteria but did not apply.
- For NEW to DISD students: Applications will be accepted prior to the start of the school year. New students may also apply during back-to-school registration to be evaluated for their grade level and zoned campus
- Students not accepted the previous year may re-apply to the STEAM Academy in the spring of each year.

GRADE 5

- Students are selected from the Applicant Pool for the initial Grade 5 cohort during the spring semester preceding their 5th-grade year.
- The highest-ranked students in 4th grade who have met the minimum eligibility criteria will be accepted into the STEAM Academy beginning their 5th grade year.

GRADES 6-8

- Students may apply during the spring semester to be evaluated and placed based on any openings within their grade level at their zoned campus.
- Students in all grades who qualify will be notified and moved into the program as openings occur.
- No student will be moved into the STEAM Academy beyond the First 9 weeks of school.

For more information visit the link

[DICKINSONISD.ORG/STEAM](https://dickinsonisd.org/steam)



STUDENT PARTICIPATION

Academic success and integrity are the priority for all students in Dickinson ISD. Students accepted into the STEAM Academy are met with rigorous courses that challenge thinking and learning. To ensure students succeed in this environment, the STEAM Specialist, STEAM teachers, and administration carefully monitor students to provide early support and interventions to ensure student success in the STEAM Academy. Each campus will make intervention decisions and provide targeted intervention when any student is in danger of not meeting the minimum criteria.

EXIT FROM THE STEAM PROGRAM

Educational needs, academic integrity, and success are the basis for a student's need to exit from the STEAM Academy. A request for a student to be exited may be initiated by a school administrator, parents, or the student themselves. The STEAM specialist and campus administration will collaborate with guardians to make the final recommendation for exit.

Students whom have exited the program for reasons other than academic may reapply the following school year if they choose to reenter the program.

WHO TO CONTACT



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For more information visit the link

[DICKINSONISD.ORG/STEAM](https://dickinsonisd.org/STEAM)



STEAM Academy Student Participation Contract

Student Name: _____

Student ID #: _____

Current Grade: _____

Current Campus: _____

Dickinson ISD's goal is for students to be successful at the highest possible level. All coursework within the STEAM Academy stimulates and challenges students to perform at an advanced academic level. Courses are not only rigorous but accelerated curriculum is available, allowing students to pursue more advanced coursework in later years. We are pleased you are accepting the challenge of this program.

Parental Support:

Parental support is the key to the success of STEAM students; therefore, please read and discuss the following points:

- STEAM courses require more individual study time per week than a regular class. Students will need to read and prepare outside of class to participate effectively in classroom discussions and activities.
- Tutoring will be available for all students and required for all intervention and support plans.
- All STEAM Academy students are expected to complete a rigorous independent project (TPSP) that may require work outside of class, including research, writing, and project completion.

Student Expectations:

1. All STEAM Students will abide by the DISD Student Code of Conduct, and the Campus Handbook.
2. STEAM Students are expected to complete all in-class and out-of-class assignments with care and in a timely manner.
3. Late work in a STEAM course will be graded in accordance with the Instructional Grading & Reporting Procedures for DISD. Extenuating circumstances may allow for extensions when communicated to your teachers.
4. Students who do not meet learning standards in any STEAM course will be provided with targeted intervention.
5. In addition to the above guidelines, each STEAM course may have additional specific requirements. All course requirements will be communicated in writing at the beginning of the course.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____



Request to Exit Student from STEAM

Student Name: _____

Student ID #: _____

Current Grade: _____

Current Campus: _____

This form constitutes a request for the exit of a student from the STEAM Program. A student can be removed from the program at any time if it is determined to be in the student's best interest. Written parent notification including the date and time of the meeting to review the request will be sent. If a student or parent requests removal from the program, they shall meet with the parent and student before honoring the request.

Reason for student exit:

- the student's overall performance does not meet the academic expectations of the program (i.e. grade below 70 or failing score on STAAR assessment);
- the student's overall behavioral performance does not meet the expectations of the program (i.e. DAEP, ISS or OSS placements; excessive absences);
- the student, parent, or campus principal (or designee) does not view the placement as appropriate to meet the needs of the student.
- Other (Describe):

When a parent, guardian, student, or administrator requests that a student exit from the STEAM Academy, a conference with the parent will be held. At this conference, the most appropriate educational placement for the student will be determined. Once a student is exited from the program, he/she must adhere to the identification procedures to be readmitted.

Reason for Removal:

Campus Administrator: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____



STEAM Academy Honor Code

Respect: Be Kind and supportive of yourself and others.

Because we believe in **respect**, students will:

- Listen, behave, and speak respectfully to fellow students and all staff members.
- Collaborate effectively and equitably with all classmates, solving problems peacefully to maintain a heightened learning environment.
- Always strive to be polite, kind, and supportive, respecting the learning needs of other students in your environment.
- Show pride and respect for their campus, district, and community.
- Value and learn from diverse opinions and lifestyles among their classmates and staff

Perseverance: Push through until the end despite difficulties.

Because we believe in **perseverance**, students will:

- Exemplify commitment, pride, and a positive attitude in completing tasks, demonstrating their best effort.
- When faced with obstacles, consistently problem-solve and try new solutions or a unique approach.
- Effectively manage time and materials to ensure academic and personal goals will be met.
- Take the initiative to seek out help and support when needed to ensure academic success.
- Keep your mind open to every subject/assignment and commit to learning each day.

Integrity: Doing the right thing, even when no one is looking.

Because we believe in **integrity**, students will:

- Admit to, and take responsibility when they have done something wrong.
- Submit authentic work and credit sources used in formal writing.
- Use technology appropriately and as instructed for classroom learning.
- Diligently uphold all rules and requirements for the classroom, school, and district.
- Use all school materials and facilities for academic learning, adhering to all guidelines provided.

Leadership: Be a model example for others.

Because we believe in **leadership**, students will...

- Lead by positive example through their work and actions, exceeding campus and district expectations.
- Strive to work at high levels, performing beyond minimum requirements.
- Empower fellow classmates to express their thoughts and take academic risks.
- Advocate for what they know is right by standing up for themselves and others.
- Consider how your words or actions will affect others before communicating or taking action.
- Behave in an encouraging and collaborative manner when working with others.

Responsibility: Own your choices, taking responsibility for your words and actions.

Because we believe in **responsibility**, students will:

- Independently monitor and manage classwork, homework and late/make-up work.
- Actively participate in their own learning.
- Strive to be on time, rested, prepared, and attentive for class.
- Be mindful of how their actions affect others.
- Do their best to fix mistakes, asking for help when required.