



STEM High School FAQs

Q: What does the acronym STEM stand for?

A: Science, Technology, Engineering, Math

Q: Does the Riverside STEM Academy (RSA) follow the California Standards?

A: Our teachers incorporate the CA Standards and go beyond them to prepare students for advanced classes. We offer an engaging, challenging, content-rich curriculum that builds a solid foundation and grows from year to year.

Q: How is STEM Academy HS different than other High Schools?

A: The HS curriculum is constructed around the STEM focus of the school. All students at RSA develop content knowledge in the core sciences (Chemistry, Physics and Biology), Mathematics, Engineering Design, and problem solving. Courses in the Humanities also integrate STEM content into the curricula and feature problem solving and design challenge opportunities for students to collaborate across content areas. Students are provided support and enrichment time (STEMWorks) during their school day to engage in a wide range of co-curricular activities and academic opportunities. STEM HS offers a full range of Honor's and Advance Placement courses (AP courses) in all academic areas. STEM HS has very close ties to the University of California, Riverside and it is involved in the continued development of RSA.

Q: What is STEMWorks?

A: RSA has a modified bell schedule with block class sessions that meet 3 days per week. Each afternoon on M, T, Th and F from 1:56-3:20 pm and W from 1:56-2:35 pm, students can choose from a variety of co-curricular activities (Science Competitions, Science Olympiad, Leadership, Yearbook, Arts, Intramurals), and academic activities (Peer Tutoring, Study Groups, Office Hours, Self-Study, Engineering Design Challenges) to participate in. Students are provided the opportunity to determine how best to manage their STEMWorks time each week to support and enrich their academic experience at the RSA.

Q: Will all the UC A-G college requirements be satisfied?

A: Yes, the STEM HS offers all of the courses for students to complete all UC-A-G requirements.

Q: How many students attend STEM HS?

A: Enrollment for the 2019-2020 school year is approximately 230 students.

Q: Who is the principal for the HS?

A: Dale Moore is the principal for both the Middle and High School programs.

Q: How can students participate in athletics?

A: The STEM HS currently does not have its own sports program. However, Riverside STEM Academy students may go to their home school in Riverside Unified School District to participate in a sport.

If your student wishes to participate in a fall sport, please contact the Athletic Department or Athletic Director at your home school (within RUSD) to request a "sports packet" so that you may begin the process of getting your physical release from the doctor.

Q: What foreign language will be offered?

A: Students at the Academy take Spanish.

Q: What are the basic requirements for students that are interested in applying for the STEM HS?

A: Students must be prepared academically to enter Honors Chemistry and Math 2.

Q: Do current Academy students have to go through a lottery to be accepted?

A: Our current 8th grade students who meet the criteria (based on a consensus from teacher/parents who determine if the student is ready for the next level and will be successful) will get first preference. However, all students will be accepted based upon their academic readiness to participate successfully at STEM HS.

Q: Can parents be notified in advance whether or not their student is a candidate for the 9th grade program?

A: Current RSA 8th grade students will receive either a letter of acceptance or an invitation to meet with Riverside STEM High School Enrollment team for a consultation to review the student's performance at RSA and to determine the best placement for the student. Notification is typically sent in March each year.

A: For students applying who are new to STEM, letters of acceptance, non-acceptance or an invitation for a consultation meeting with the RSA enrollment team are typically sent out in April.

Q: Will there be opportunity for community service projects?

A: Yes, we plan to have students involved in community service as part of a STEM Diploma.