



Brenda Norwood STEM Academy FAQ

The purpose of the Brenda Norwood STEM Academy is to create an environment where learners explore, create and innovate by engaging in problem-solving using the Engineering Design Process. Learners will be immersed in hands-on learning with STEM integration in core content and have opportunities to work on design challenges and explore STEM within an innovative learning environment.

CURRICULUM

What does STEM stand for?

STEM is an acronym for science, technology, engineering and math.

Will the Brenda Norwood STEM Academy be different than a traditional school?

Yes. The STEM lessons are designed to give learners hands-on learning experiences that challenge learners to think critically, value mistakes and learn from them. Learners are encouraged to create, build and think “outside the box” as they learn 21st century skills vital to success in life – communication, collaboration, creativity, character and citizenship. Critical thinking skills are incorporated into the curriculum along with STEM field trips and integrated lessons designed by the teachers.

Will learners follow the state educational standards and MISD curriculum?

Yes. By law, MISD must follow the state standards. Brenda Norwood STEM Academy will follow the MISD curriculum, which is aligned with the state standards. Teachers will integrate STEM instruction within the core classes.

Will my child have access to clubs and extracurricular activities?

Yes. The STEM Academy will have a variety of clubs to experience during the school day and after school.

Will my child participate in P.E. and Fine Arts?

Yes. Learners at this Academy will continue to participate in P.E. and Fine Arts as required by the Texas Education Agency.

ENROLLMENT / APPLICATION

Who can apply for the Brenda Norwood STEM Academy?

Any MISD learner going into the third or fourth grade can apply for the Brenda Norwood STEM Academy.

What are the qualifications for acceptance into the Academy?

The STEM Academy is looking for learners who are inquisitive and excited about learning more about science, technology, engineering and math. STEM learners would be most successful if they are reading on grade level and performing on grade level in core subjects.

Is this Academy free?



Yes. There is no cost to attend Brenda Norwood Elementary School or its STEM Academy program.

How do I apply?

Applications will be completed online. When available, a link to the application page will be posted on the [MISD Power of Choice web page](#).

What is the timeline for the application process for this Academy?

Applications will open in the spring of 2021. Specific dates have not been determined at this time.

How will I know if my child was accepted, and when will I find out?

Each applicant will receive a decision letter by email and will be required to return a commitment letter to the Academy. Dates are to be determined.

How are learners selected?

A random lottery will be completed for all learners who follow the requirements of the application process. Consideration will be made for equal representation from all areas of the Mansfield ISD.

How many learners will be accepted in each grade?

There will be 44 learners accepted for the third grade and 44 learners accepted for the fourth grade.

Will transportation be provided?

Yes. Transportation will be provided to any learner accepted who resides in the MISD attendance zone.

Are there other schools I can apply to if my child does not get accepted?

Yes. Any MISD learner can apply for a transfer to any of the [choice schools](#), as space is available. If you are interested in attending other choice schools, please contact MISD Student Services at 817-299-6388.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Are there any information meetings scheduled for me to get more information?

Yes. Parent information meetings will be held in the fall of 2020. Dates and locations will be announced, when available, on the [MISD Power of Choice web page](#).

Whom do I contact for more information?

Please feel free to contact Christie Alfred at ChristieAlfred@misdmail.org if you have any other questions.