

Nikola Tesla STEM High School (T-STEM)

Frequently and Very Frequently Asked Questions – 2021/22

What are T-STEM's regular hours-of-operation?

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday: 7:30 to 2:20 with two lunch sessions

Wednesday: 7:30 to 12:25 with one lunch offered from 12:25 to 12:50

What is the district's transportation plan for T-STEM?

Transportation options include parents, the district shuttle buses, and carpooling.

Regarding the district shuttle buses:

- This transportation option is at no charge to families.
- The shuttle buses start out at the four LWSD comprehensive high school sites each morning and end at these same sites each afternoon.
- Shuttle start and end times are determined by the LWSD Transportation Office and are mailed home to all families from our LWSD Transportation Office in August.

What is the T-STEM curriculum?

- For grade 9, Core Course Work: Honors Physics, Graphic/Visual Arts, English Language Arts, Math, Spanish, AP Computer Science Principles, and Entrepreneurship. Problem-Based Learning Innovation Project conducted in the second semester.
- T-STEM offers Spanish as our only world language option. Most students choose to take Spanish at T-STEM regardless of any middle school language courses. If you are a student who is already taking a world language other than Spanish and instead want to continue this language out-of-district, then summer school, online courses, and/or community colleges are all options. Students taking language through an outside source are still expected to maintain a full course load of 7 classes at T-STEM, and will work with their academic counselor once enrolled at T-STEM.
- For grades 10-12, Advanced Placement (AP) course offerings include: Physics (Mechanics, Electricity/Magnetism), Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Calculus (AB/BC), Statistics, English Language, Psychology, and Computer Science. Students do not need special permission or staff approval to enter into an AP course.

Can students take math over the summer to advance to the next level?

If you are considering taking a one-year math course over the summer, please contact your student's counselor as paperwork needs to be completed.

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What does T-STEM offer besides AP?

- Tesla STEM High School offers not only AP courses but also courses that are dual credited with the University of Washington.
- UW in the High School Program specifics:
 - Through the UW in the High School (UWHS) program, high school students can complete University of Washington courses — and earn UW credit — in their high school classrooms with their own teachers.
 - Students and teachers use UW curriculum, activities, texts, tests, and grading scales. Students earn a final grade over time; a grade does not depend on one exam. Students receive recognition for their UW work at most public institutions and many private ones.
 - Who teaches UWHS courses? UWHS courses are taught by very qualified high school teachers who have been approved and trained by UW academic faculty. UWHS teachers are selected based on an evaluation of their professional and academic credentials. UWHS teachers follow the same curriculum, tests, and grading standards required of a regular UW course. They are officially recognized as UW Professional & Continuing Education Lecturers.
 - Are credits transferable? Any credits earned through the UWHS program will be accepted at the UW. The UW cannot guarantee that another institution will automatically accept UWHS credit. Most public and private colleges and universities, however, will accept the credit. Before enrolling in a UWHS course, students should check with the institution they plan on attending to see if and how credits will transfer.
- STEM Lab Concentrations and the Two Pathways:
 - T-STEM High School Juniors and Seniors take STEM Lab Concentrations (SLCs) during their final two years at STEM.
 - These SLCs include Environmental Engineering and Sustainable Design (EESD), Forensics/Advanced Psychology, Biomedical Engineering, and Advanced Physics/Global Engineering.
 - The Two Pathways: Engineering and Computer Science. For the Engineering Pathway, T-STEM instructors (trained at the University of Texas, Cockrell School of Engineering for the Engineer Your World curriculum and instruction) offer Engineering 1, 2, and 3. The content is based on the Grand Challenges for Engineering, and students use the industry-standard engineering design process to complete the course work. For the Computer Science Pathway, students have a 4-year program that includes Advanced Placement courses.

- Finals required at the end of each semester
- Attendance required
- College Counseling Yes...early and often
- Academic Competitions Multiple opportunities
- Internships (PBL) Junior and Senior years
- Presentation of student work Yes...early and often
- Publication of student work Yes...early and often
- Academic Assistance Tutoring, study groups, faculty office hours
- PE See link below

PE <http://www.lwsd.org/programs-and-services/curriculum-instruction/high-school-guide/graduation-requirements/physical-education-credit-options>

Lottery Timeline

Application Available Online: 11/06/2020

Application Deadline, 4:pm: 12/11/2020

Lottery: 1/08/2021

Notification to Families: 1/15/2021

Responses due to Schools: 1/26/2021

Application available here...

<https://www.lwsd.org/schools/choice-schools>