

MEAD ELEMENTARY STEM PROGRAM FAQ

- 1) If we were not selected for the STEM program at MEAD last year, can we still apply this year?
Yes!
- 2) How do we check where we stand in the wait list?
Call the Mead office to find wait list status.
- 3) Do waitlisted folks have higher chances than new applications? Or does everyone have equal chances by lottery?
The waitlists carry over from year to year. A student who joined the waitlist for a cohort in kindergarten will gain access to STEM before a student who joined the same waitlist in first or second grade. Once on the waitlist, new applications cannot jump ahead of you;
- 4) Is it correct that number 21 in the lottery result would be number 1 on waitlist?
Yes, for the first grade STEM class that will begin the next fall.
- 5) If somebody leaves during the middle of the school year, the next student on the waitlist gets in?
Yes.
- 6) Once you get in STEM program, you'll always remain in STEM program?
Unless their parents choose to remove them from the program, students selected for STEM remain in the program until the end of 5th grade. If the family of a STEM student moves from the Mead attendance area, the student would need to unenroll from STEM.
- 7) What is the reason for having a limited STEM capacity given the high interest level in the program?
Based on the 2016 discussion and design, the district authorized just one STEM class at each grade level.
- 8) Are there any plans to allocate a separate quota for kids with special health conditions?
No. Any student that lives within the Mead attendance area may apply for the STEM program via the lottery. The class includes students with IEPs, 504 plans, EL supports, or pull out Quest.
- 9) Does LWSD have STEM programs for middle and high school?
Currently there is not a middle school STEM program. TESLA STEM High School is a LWSD Choice School located in Sammamish.
- 10) If we opt for STEM in elementary school will we get preference in middle/high school as well?
Participation in the Mead STEM program does **not** result in preferential admittance to TESLA STEM High School.

11) How different is the STEM program to QUEST program?

Quest is an accelerated program for students who demonstrate reasoning ability well above their grade level and perform well above their grade level in reading and/or math achievement on standardized tests.

STEM is for students of all abilities who have a special interest in science, technology, engineering and math. STEM is not an accelerated or gifted program.

12) Does it translate to more homework too?

Because of the nature of the STEM program, at times students may experience more homework in the form of projects or presentations from time to time.

13) Will it be a big learning curve for kids joining STEM directly in grade 2?

No. Students who have joined the STEM program in later grades have assimilated quickly.

14) Will it be a big learning curve for kindergarteners who get selected for STEM?

No. The STEM standards are the same as the general education classes. The main difference between STEM and gen ed is the additional focus on STEM subjects and the collaborative, project-based work that students do together.

15) Do STEM classes have fewer students than gen ed classes?

No. Class sizes will follow the same guidelines as gen ed classes.

16) Does stem program need parent volunteers like regular programs do?

Yes, the STEM teachers appreciate parent volunteers – especially for field trips, projects and celebrations.