



Middle Level School Choice

Any middle school-age student who lives within Independent School District 196 has the opportunity to apply for enrollment in the Valley Middle School of STEM magnet program. Non-resident students may also apply, but will only be considered after applications of students residing in District 196 are processed.

Visit <http://www.district196.org/District/departments/MagnetSchools/Index.cfm> for more information.

Transportation

- The student daily schedule runs from 7:40 a.m. until 2:35 p.m.
- Students who live in the designated attendance area will have regular routes provided to and from their home area bus stop.
- Students who live outside of the designated attendance area, but within District 196, will have the option to pick up a morning bus from the high school bus stop area and then take a shuttle from the high school to VMSS. In the afternoon, students who take this option will ride a shuttle from VMSS to their area middle school and then ride the designated middle school bus to their home area bus stop.

If America is to maintain our high standard of living, we must continue to innovate. We are competing with nations many times our size. We don't have a single brain to waste. Math and science are the engines of innovation. With these engines we can lead the world. We must demystify math and science so that all students feel the joy that follows understanding.

Dr. Michael Brown, former Nobel Prize winner for medicine and the Paul J. Thomas Professor of Molecular Genetics and Director of the Jonsson Center for Molecular Genetics at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas

The STEM Pathway

District 196 is proud to offer a strong STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) education for students from kindergarten through grade 12. There are many ways your child can experience science, technology, engineering and math in our schools. Valley Middle School of STEM welcomes students who are beginning or continuing their STEM Journey! Families interested in touring VMSS can take a tour by contacting the front office at the number below or attending our school spotlight nights in January.

Elementary STEM options

- Cedar Park STEM Elementary School
- Echo Park School of Leadership, Engineering, and Technology

Middle School

- Valley Middle School of STEM

High School

- Apple Valley High School - A STEM school dedicated to Academics, Arts & Athletics

STEM workers drive our nation's innovation and competitiveness by generating new ideas, new companies and new industries. Science, technology, engineering and mathematics workers play a key role in the sustained growth and stability of the U.S. economy, and are a critical component to helping the U.S. win the future.

STEM: Good Jobs Now and for the Future, U.S. Department of Commerce

Valley Middle School of STEM

900 Garden View Drive
Apple Valley, MN 55124
952-431-8300

www.district196.org/vms



**Valley Middle School
ISD196 Magnets**



**@valleymiddle
@ISD196Magnets**

District 196 does not discriminate in employment or in any of its programs and activities, including vocational opportunities, on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, familial status, membership or activity in a local human rights commission, disability, sexual orientation, age or genetic information. District 196 provides equal access to designated youth groups.

The Director of Human Resources, Tom Pederstuen (651-423-7859 – tom.pederstuen@district196.org) has been designated to respond to employment-related inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies. The Director of Elementary Education, Sally Soliday (651-423-7782 – sallysoliday@district196.org) and the Director of Secondary Education, Dr. Mark Parr (651-423-7712 – mark.parr@district196.org) have been designated to respond to student-related inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies. The Director of Special Education, Mary Kreger (651-423-7629 – mary.kreger@district196.org) has been designated to respond to inquiries concerning the rights of a student with a disability.

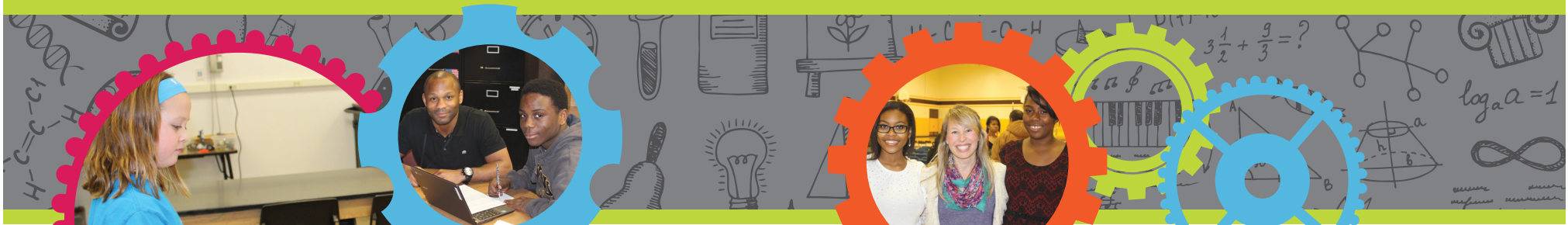
The mailing address for all directors is 3455 153rd Street W, Rosemount, MN 55068.

Valley Middle School of STEM

While only four percent of the nation's work force is composed of scientists and engineers, this group disproportionately creates jobs for the other 96 percent.

National Science Foundation

Rigor, Relevance, Relationships: Educating a Global Community of Innovative Thinkers

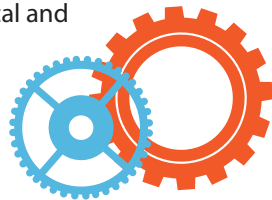


Why STEM in Middle School?

Valley Middle School of STEM is a magnet school that embeds the study of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics into a collaborative and diverse learning environment. Students receive a comprehensive education with a strong emphasis on experiential, hands-on, and inquiry-based activities that mirror the world around them. Through interactive lessons, teachers assist students in forming their identities as life-long learners and problem-solvers.

Benefits of a STEM Education

- Applies science – technology – engineering – mathematics (STEM) in conjunction with literacy, social studies, and the arts in a creative and innovative environment where students learn through authentic real-world experiences.
- Builds awareness of STEM careers and post-secondary educational experiences.
- Promotes habits of mind that have been identified as critical in successful business practices and in supporting a global society. Some examples of these skills include: persistence, flexibility, questioning, metacognition, interdependence, and empathy.
- Supports the development of critical and creative thinking skills.



What does STEM look like at Valley Middle School?

- **Fabrication Laboratory (Fab Lab)** – In this space, students have access to multiple 3D printers, laser engravers, vinyl cutters, and a CNC router in addition to other machines used in a traditional school-based Tech Ed program.
- **Inquiry-based Learning Classrooms** – VMSS teachers have been trained in inquiry instruction and embed the practice into all areas of the curriculum.
- **Collaborative Design Model** – Every classroom utilizes this VMSS critical thinking model to inspire students to be problem-solvers.
- **High Student Achievement & Service Organizations** – Students can qualify for National Junior Honor Society, apply for the Student Leadership Process, and participate in a wide variety of leadership experiences.
- **Strong Arts Program** – VMSS supports and infuses the arts into our educational programming in the form of music, drama, art, and family & consumer science.
- **College & Career** – Students are invited to attend various field trips where they are exposed to a variety of post-secondary opportunities.
- **STEMsday Activities** – VMSS students and staff collaborate in problem-based inquiry activities designed to promote creative and innovative thinking.
- **Makerspace** – Makerspace is a place in the Media Center where students learn with each other, explore materials and ideas, tinker around, invent, and support each other through a growth mindset.
- **Unique Courses** – Coding, Music in Technology, Basic Engineering, Mult Media Technology, STEM Innovations, Leadership Service and Cultural Issues, and STEM Applied Arts.

- **Robotics Program** – students work in teams and use the collaborative design process to design, build, and code robots that compete in tournaments around the state of Minnesota (First Lego League & First Tech Challenge).
- **School-wide Chess Events** – encourage critical thinking skills.

