

School of Science and Engineering Community Compact 2023-2024

Part 1: Fundamental Commitments

All stakeholders--teachers, administrators, students and families

Commit to curiosity. We all commit to the belief that one of the most important elements of a complete life is active discovery of all that is wonderful in the world around us; that learning, problem solving, and sharing knowledge are profound experiences.

Commit to capability. We all commit to continuous self-improvement. SEM students leave this institution packed with skills and knowledge. They are ready for any challenge, capable of reaching for any ambition.

Commit to respect and civility. We all commit to the assumption that all parties share the same goals and are acting in good faith. We promise to approach potential conflicts as problems to be solved collaboratively.

Commit to using shared communication channels. We all commit to monitoring official school email, Google Classrooms, and Remind. We all promise to provide accurate phone numbers and email addresses. We all prioritize responding to communications within two business days.

The School of Science and Engineering . . .

- Commits to supporting high quality teaching and learning.
- Commits to supporting all students throughout the college application process
- Commits to providing opportunities for all students and families to be engaged.
- Commits to being receptive to feedback from students, families, and community.
- Commits to monitoring student progress/attendance
- Commits to monitoring that all students are on track to graduate on time.

Dr. Palacios, Principal

Ms. McCray, Counselor

Ms. Martinez, Office Manager

Teachers at the School of Science and Engineering . . .

Commit to providing effective lessons and instruction. SEM teachers prepare lessons that meet or exceed state and national standards. They refine their teaching based on the latest research and training. They craft assessments and deliver feedback that allows students to accurately assess their progress. SEM teachers prepare students to excel in any post-secondary environment.

Commit to setting clear expectations. SEM teachers ensure that Instructions and due dates are clear and consistently posted. Classroom policies and procedures are communicated and maintained.

Commit to supporting learning beyond the classroom. Opportunities for extra support will be provided. Outside-of-class assignments will be targeted and meaningful. Communication turn-around will be no longer than two school days.

Commit to communicating student progress. Teachers will record missing assignments in the Parent Portal within two school days. Grades will be updated regularly. Parent conferences will be available upon request.

Signatures of teachers are attached.

Students at the School of Science and Engineering

Commit to doing their best work in a constant quest for self-improvement. Students approach every task as an opportunity for growth and they pay attention to details. They accept mental discomfort as part of the process. Students here reflect on mistakes. They participate in all AP preparation and exams offered.

Commit to integrity. SEM students do not claim work that is not their own; they do not help others claim work they did not accomplish. They do not use electronic resources, such as AIs, without permission. If they are unsure if something is honest, they ask. They understand that honest representation of their understanding is the key to success in our program.

Commit to following our program as it is outlined. The specific course expectations for each year are listed below. Our program works because of the synergy and efficiency created when all students move together.

Commit to supporting each other. Students here learn names, form study groups, and encourage each other to ask questions. They share resources. They strive to be a good example to others.

Commit to active participation in their education. SEM students pay attention in class, participate in discussions, and ask questions. They monitor their progress: they read all

feedback from teachers, reflect on errors and ways to improve. They communicate with their teachers when they are absent or having difficulty.

Commit to their community. SEM students volunteer to help their school community. They attend fall and spring community meetings. They participate in after school social events.

Commit to maintaining a minimum of a B average in each class. SEM students who find their grades are dropping seek out help or adjust their lives--reduce distractions or develop routines--to improve.

Student Name _____ Student Signature _____

Date _____

Families at the School of Science and Engineering

Commit to supporting your student's academic journey. SEM families make sure their students have time and space to study. SEM families monitor student grades through Parent Portal, and help their student reach out for help if they fall below a B. SEM families respect the importance of class time and minimize absences.

Commit to supporting your student's participation in the SEM community. SEM families prioritize participation in school events by helping students discover activities and providing transportation when possible. SEM families encourage their student to develop friendships within our school community.

Commit to supporting your student's mental and emotional well-being. SEM families encourage activities, relationships and responsibilities for students that support mental health. SEM families provide guidance to students who are overcommitted or under-engaged.

Commit to joining the SEM community. SEM families attend PTSA meetings and read PTSA communications. They attend community meetings in the fall and spring. They contribute time and resources as their situation allows.

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent/guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Part 2: Grade-Specific Commitments

Rising Freshmen at the School of Science and Engineering

Commit to taking the SEM Freshman program: Honors Geometry, Honors English 1, Honors English 2, AP Human Geography, Engineering, Honors or AP Biology, and the math placement determined by our assessments. Students who are unsuccessful in any courses required for graduation must remediate the credit before returning to SEM the following year.

Commit to attending NeSt camp orientation.

Commit to attending Algebra camp if invited.

Commit to the community: **Explore** at least one extracurricular activity at SEM and volunteer at or attend **one** SEM event.

Student Name _____ Student Signature _____

Date _____

Rising Sophomores at the School of Science and Engineering

Commit to taking the SEM Sophomore program: AP Seminar, AP Physics 1, Honors Chemistry, AP Computer Science Principles, the math course determined by SEM placement, and any electives required for graduation recommended by the counseling department. Students who are unsuccessful in any courses required for graduation must remediate the credit before returning to SEM the following year.

Commit to completing the AP Seminar and AP Computer Science Principles performance tasks by the deadline set by the instructor in the course.

Commit to attending summer Physics camp if invited.

Commit to the community: Regularly **attend/participate** in at least one extracurricular activity at SEM and volunteer at or attend **one** SEM event.

Student Name _____ Student Signature _____

Date _____

Rising Juniors at the School of Science and Engineering

Commit to taking the SEM Junior course sequence: AP US History, AP English Language, and AP Computer Science. In addition to those, commit to taking at least one AP Math and one AP Science, and any electives required for graduation recommended by our counseling program. In addition, students who commit to the AP Superlab course commit to completing that sequence senior year by taking AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism. Students who are unsuccessful in any courses required for graduation must remediate the credit before returning to SEM the following year.

Commit to the community: Regularly attend/participate in at least one extracurricular activity at SEM and volunteer at or attend **two** SEM events.

Commit to preparing for the SAT.

Commit to completing any assignments related to college applications.

Student Name _____ Student Signature _____

Date _____

Rising Seniors at the School of Science and Engineering

Commit to taking the SEM Senior course sequence: AP US Government, AP English Literature, and AP Macroeconomics. In addition to those, commit to taking at least one AP Science and one AP or post-AP Math. (Students who have not completed AP Calculus BC must take BC). Students who take Superlab as juniors must commit to AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism. All students must take any remaining electives required for graduation.

Commit to the community: Regularly attend/participate in at least one extracurricular activity at SEM and volunteer at or attend **two** SEM events. Take a leadership role in one of these activities.

Commit to attending a one-day college application workshop in the summer.

Commit to meeting with college advisors as needed

Commit to meeting all deadlines related to college applications

Student Name _____ Student Signature _____

Date _____

Accountability

School Commitments

If the school does not satisfy the commitments it has made, stakeholders are encouraged to schedule meetings with the administration, either as individuals or through groups such as the Site Based Decision Making Committee or the Parent Teacher Student Association. All stakeholders are encouraged to use the language of this compact to clarify their concerns.

Teacher Commitments

If a teacher does not satisfy the commitments they have made, stakeholders are encouraged to first reach out directly to the teacher. If the situation cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of all, any stakeholder is encouraged to reach out to administration for help in mediating the concern.

Student Commitments

If a student does not satisfy the commitments they have made, this will be brought to their attention by teachers and/or administration. This may be done informally or through a formal, written communication using the language of this compact. If the behavior persists, parents, teachers, and administration will meet and work collaboratively to find a resolution. If the behavior continues to occur, consequences can include probation, or, in extreme cases, removal from the program. Removal is only called for when the offense is severe and repeated and all other avenues have been exhausted.

Family Commitments

If a family does not satisfy their commitments, this will be communicated either informally or through a formal, written communication using the language of this compact. If the behavior persists, the family will be asked to attend a conference with teachers and administration to discover a mutually satisfactory way to resolve all concerns. Families are expected to attend this conference and discuss concerns with good faith.