



Brenda Norwood STEM Academy FAQs

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 and Design Thinking. 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, critical thinking, creative innovation, and character. 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 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 to 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 PE, Fine Arts?

Yes. Learners at this academy will continue to participate in PE and Fine Arts as required by the Texas Education Agency. It is important to note that the Fine Arts class offered may be unique to Brenda Norwood STEM Academy and may not include the same activities found at comprehensive campuses.

Enrollment/Application

If my learner is currently enrolled in 3rd grade at Brenda Norwood STEM Academy, will they need to reapply for 4th grade?

No, learners who currently attend Brenda Norwood STEM Academy will roll up to 4th grade as long as they are achieving expected academic progress and behave according to the expectations outlined in the STEM handbook.

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, the link will be posted on the [MISD Power of Choice page](#).

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

Applications will open each Spring semester. An application timeline will be posted to the [MISD Power of Choice page](#) each fall.

How will I know if I 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 provided on the MISD Power of Choice website.

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 MISD school district.

How many learners will be accepted?

There will be 44 learners accepted for the third grade. Fourth grade spots will be filled as they become available. If we do not have fourth grade spots available, applicants will be placed on a wait list for that academic school year.

Will transportation be provided?

Yes. Learners residing within the north and south boundaries of Mansfield ISD will be provided transportation to their academy location. Brenda Norwood STEM will serve learners living south of the bold boundary line. [View the boundary map here](#). Current 3rd graders who live north of the boundary line and will be rolling up to 4th grade at Brenda Norwood STEM can choose to stay at Brenda Norwood STEM for the 25-26 school year or they will be guaranteed a seat at Carol Holt STEM for the 25-26 school year.

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 [branded schools](#) (Leadership and STEAM Academies) as space is available. If you are interested in attending one of our branded schools, please contact the MISD Student Service office at 817-299 -6378.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



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

Yes. Dates and locations will be announced on the [MISD Power of Choice web page](#).

Whom do I contact for more information?

Please reach out to Brenda Norwood STEM Academy front office for additional information at 682-320-9400.