

John P. Odom Academy

Frequently Asked Questions about Testing into the Program

1. What types of students perform well in the Pegasus program at John P. Odom Academy?

Our students are diverse and come to Odom Academy from around the area. The Pegasus reading-language arts curriculum is accelerated one year ahead of the on-level 6th grade curriculum. The Pegasus math curriculum is accelerated two years ahead of the on-level 6th grade curriculum; therefore, students must demonstrate more than grade level proficiency in both reading and math on the entrance exam and meet all other requirements.

For example, if your current 5th grade student is reading on/above a 6th grade level, he/she/they will likely be successful in the reading-language arts program. If your current student is performing at or above a 6th grade level, he/she/they will likely be successful in the Pegasus program.

2. What tests do you use to determine eligibility?

If your student is a current Beaumont Independent School District [BISD] student, we look at the Middle-of-the-Year [MOY] STAR 360 scores for Reading and Math. We design the entrance exam for prospective students.

3. How can my student study for the entrance exam?

While there is no way to truly study for this exam, students currently excelling in their 5th grade core classes (Reading/Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies) have an advantage over students who are struggling.

4. When will we get the test results?

We should have all results by March 25, 2022.

5. Why did my BISD 5th grader not receive an invitation to take the entrance exam?

The Pegasus curriculum is rigorous and accelerated. Students who are accustomed to earning top grades in elementary school often struggle adjusting and meeting expectations at John P Odom Academy. Students who did not approach grade level on the STAAR 2020-2021 nor take the 2020-2021 STAAR are not invited to test.

6. If my 5th grader does not attend a BISD school, can he/she/they still apply to take the entrance exam?

Yes - please fill out an application, and submit it by the deadline.

7. My student received an invitation to take the entrance exam; however, he/she/they did not take the exam. Is he/she/they automatically accepted into the program?

No, only students who take the entrance exam are eligible to be accepted. An invitation to test is not an acceptance letter.

8. My student took the entrance exam and did not get an acceptance letter. Is he/she/they accepted into the program?

No, students who meet the criteria for admission will receive an acceptance letter from the school.

9. My student took the entrance exam and was accepted into the Pegasus program; however, he/she/they decided to attend his/her/their zoned campus. After the first semester, can he/she/they come to Odom to participate in the Pegasus program?

Unfortunately, students who attend a different campus for the first semester are no longer eligible to take advantage of the Pegasus program at Odom. Students accepted into the program must start the curriculum at the beginning of the first semester with the rest of their cohorts.

10. If my student is accepted into the Pegasus program, are there any projects or work he/she/they must complete during the summer break?

Yes, students are expected to complete math and reading projects during the summer months so they are ready to go at the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year. True Pegasus students enjoy the challenge of the summer assignments - do not let the idea of completing a summer project deter your student from taking advantage of the program.

11. What happens if my student does not complete the summer projects?

From the day students have classes with their reading-language arts and math teachers, they have one, full week to complete and turn in the summer projects. When students turn in work past the due date, ten points are deducted each day for the first three days past the due date. After the third day, late work is not graded, and students receive the grade of zero, which is averaged into the students' total grade for the semester. Projects, tests, and essays are considered major grades, which account for sixty percent of their total grade.