STEM Academy for Environmental Studies

at Memorial Middle School

Rockdale County Public Schools
RCPS
Specialty & Choice Options

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@MemorialMS

Program Overview

Today's society has become increasingly complex and competitive. Success is not only based on what you know, but also on what you can do with what you know. It's more important than ever for our youth to be equipped with the knowledge and skills to solve tough problems, gather and evaluate evidence, and make sense of information. These are the types of skills that students develop by studying science, technology, engineering, and math — STEM.

STEM education is an integrated, interdisciplinary approach to learning that provides hands-on and relevant learning experiences for students. STEM teaching and learning goes beyond the mere transfer of knowledge; it engages students and equips them with critical thinking, problem solving, creative and collaborative skills, and ultimately establishes connections between the school, work place, community and the global economy. STEM also helps students understand and apply math and science content, the foundations for success in high school, college, and careers.

6th grade - Introduction to Environmental Science and Engineering

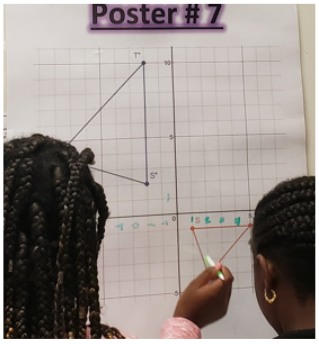
This is the first time students will have a dedicated research class and rigorous lab equipment set up to allow exploration in STEM. Students will work on projects aligned to Science and Technology competitions. The primary focus of student learning coincides with the 6th grade Georgia Standards of Excellence curriculum in Earth Science with an emphasis on weather, soil/water/air quality, and engineering.

7th grade - Citizen Science & Bioengineering

This grade level focuses on environmental factors that affect health and wellness with an emphasis on agricultural and bioengineering inquiry research. Students will be required to focus on enhancing their research skills in critical writing, critical thinking, and problem-solving to collaborate with our partner organizations. Students will work on projects aligned to Science and Technology competitions. This class coincides with the 7th grade Georgia Standards of Excellence curriculum in Life Science.

8th grade - STEM College and Career Readiness

This grade level focuses on preparing for high school rigor and post-secondary STEM careers. Students will be provided a choice of competitions, projects, and problems that investigate the potential for alternative and green energy sources. They will work cooperatively and collaboratively with peers, community members, and partner organizations to complete a project with the goal of applying research skills, content knowledge, and interpersonal social skills to produce a solution that creates a change in their community or partner organization's mode of operation. This course coincides with the 8th grade Georgia Standards of Excellence curriculum in Physical Science with an emphasis on Engineering fields of study.



Application, Eligibility, and Lottery

RCPS will use an electronic application process for 2026-2027 School Choice programs. Students may apply for **one** School Choice program only for the 2026-2027 school year. ***The application window is November 7 through December 12, 2025, to apply for the 2026-2027 school year.*** The online application will be available on the district website at: **rockdaleschools.org**

Only completed applications will be accepted.

Eligibility Criteria

- Students must meet standards in ELA, Reading, Math, Science, and Social Studies on the Milestones assessment. If Milestones results are not available, other assessment data may be considered.
- Students with strong math and science skills are encouraged to apply.
- Students must meet the student registration requirement for Rockdale County Public Schools.
- Students and parents must agree to the Choice contract.

Lottery

In the event there are more eligible applicants than space available, students will be selected via a random lottery drawing. If needed, a lottery will be held in January.

STEM Academy for Environmental Studies at Memorial Middle School

A Message from the Principal

Middle school presents challenges for students every day. The Memorial Middle School (MMS) faculty and staff are committed to helping students navigate these challenges successfully. MMS students are required to be respectful, responsible, and resourceful. Treating others with respect fosters the creation of positive relationships. Developing and maintaining these relationships leads to success inside and outside of the classroom. A responsible student takes ownership of personal success academically and behaviorally. The intentional act of meeting or exceeding expectations is a key component to student success. The daily challenges of life often present new and different problems to solve. The resourceful student uses knowledge, skills, abilities, and relationships to overcome these difficulties.

The focus of the MMS STEM Academy for Environmental Studies is to expose students to the skills, knowledge, and methodology required for success in a variety of STEM-focused careers. Students accepted into the program engage in authentic learning experiences via outdoor classroom activities, research, educational field trips, STEM lab exposure, on-site/distance learning from STEM professionals, and STEM-focused extracurricular activities. Along with increased academic rigor, the program focuses on soft skills that are critical to success in the workplace. STEM methodology is infused in all content areas. This early exposure will prepare students to make informed decisions regarding possible STEM pathways at the high school level.

We look forward to accepting a new group of students and working with you to ensure that the program is of benefit to your child and the Memorial Middle School community.

Dr. Christopher Stoudmire
Principal

Our students are well informed to make decisions that will help them progress in STEM in the following RCPS high school options:

Rockdale Magnet School for Science & Technology
Advanced Science Research, Engineering, Ivy League College and Career Preparation

Rockdale Career Academy
Healthcare, Biotechnology, Agriculture, Engineering

Rockdale Institute for Advanced Technology
Computer Programming and Gaming Design

Heritage High School
Computer Graphic Visual Arts, Engineering Pathway Courses

Recent MMS Accolades

- Recipient of Project STEM Amazon Future Engineer course curriculum
- Hope for Youth HYPE Project participants
- Malcolm Mitchell Read Bowl: 1st place winners
- E-cyber mission: 2nd Place State Champions
- Broadcom Masters Awards at Regional Science Fair; winners eligible to apply for nationals
- Duke TIP state and national recipients – scored 3rd in the nation in English/ Language Arts
- Numerous placings at Regional Science Fair
- Grand Champions at Regional Science Fair advancing to state
- DART Grant Recipient
- Recipients of Dyson Foundation Program
- Recipients of Bird Brain Finch Robotics Program
- Recipients of PBS Kids SciGirls-STEM Program Curriculum
- Snapping Shoal Grant Recipient
- RCPS Tech Fair Awards and Recognitions

Exploratory, Extracurricular, Additional Academic Services

- Art
- AVID
- Band
- Basketball
- Cheerleadering
- Chorus
- Dance
- Flag Football
- Football
- GLOW
- Physical Fitness
- Reading Bowl
- Spelling Bee
- Softball
- Technology Student Association
- Track
- Wrestling