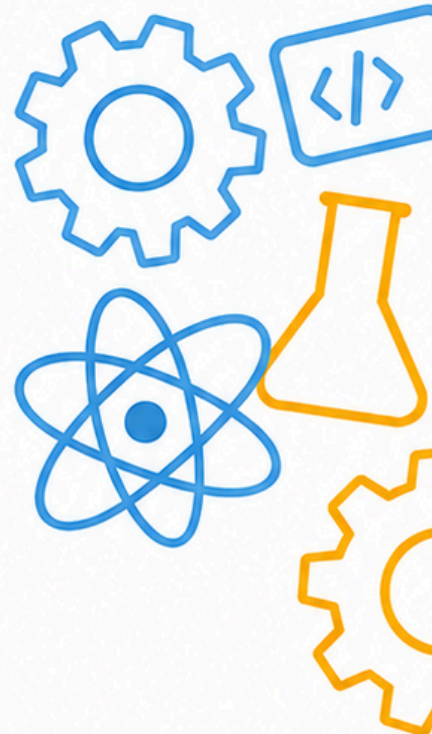




STEM

HOMESCHOOL
ENRICHMENT

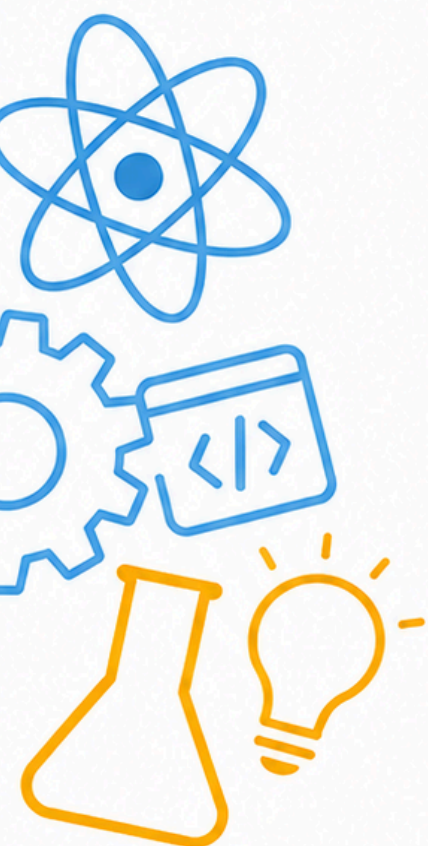


PROGRAM HANDBOOK

2026-27

*Innovation Starts Early.
Discovery Begins Here.*

STEM SCHOOL
HIGHLANDS RANCH



WELCOME TO THE STEM HOMESCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM!

We're thrilled to partner with homeschool families to provide students in Kindergarten through 8th grade with opportunities to explore Science, Engineering, Computer Science, and Robotics through hands-on, problem-based learning.

Our enrichment program brings the excitement of STEM to life—encouraging students to ask questions, experiment, build, and problem-solve in a collaborative, supportive environment. Each class is designed to spark creativity, develop critical thinking, and inspire lifelong curiosity.

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY & GOALS

The Homeschool Enrichment program is built on the belief that children learn best through exploration, discovery, and creativity. We focus on three guiding principles:

1. Hands-On Learning – Students actively build, test, and create to deepen understanding.
2. Real-World Connections – Lessons tie directly to the world around us, preparing students for future innovation.
3. Growth Over Grades – We celebrate curiosity and effort through feedback and reflection instead of traditional grading.

Our goal is to inspire students to see themselves as scientists, engineers, coders, and creators who can make a real difference in their world.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Homeschool Enrichment program offers weekly sessions in:

- Science & Engineering: Experiments, natural phenomena, and creative design using the engineering design process.
- Computer Science & Robotics: Coding and robotics projects using tools such as Scratch, micro:bit, LEGO® SPIKE™, and VEX.
- We integrate STEM Challenges and problem-solving that connect science, technology, engineering, and math in authentic ways.

All learning happens during class time, with optional take-home resources for families who wish to extend learning at home. Our units combine in class and out of class- field experience where students bring their learning to life.

HOMESCHOOL INTENT NOTIFICATION & ENROLLMENT POLICY

All families participating in the STEM School Highlands Ranch Homeschool Enrichment program must comply with the Colorado Department of Education's homeschool requirements.

Homeschool Intent Notification

Families are required to submit an annual Notice of Intent to Homeschool to a Colorado school district prior to participation in this program. This notification must include:

- The student's name, age, and grade level
- The number of instructional hours planned for the academic year
- The name, address, and signature of the parent or guardian supervising the education

It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to ensure that this Notice of Intent is filed according to district deadlines and state law (C.R.S. 22-33-104.5). The STEM Homeschool Enrichment program does not replace or fulfill this legal requirement.

Failure to provide an updated Intent to Homeschool form to your local district may result in ineligibility to participate in the enrichment program.

Single Program Enrollment Acknowledgment

Per Colorado state policy, a homeschooled student may only be enrolled in one publicly funded homeschool enrichment program at a time.

By enrolling in the STEM Homeschool Enrichment program, families acknowledge that:

- Their child will not be concurrently enrolled in another public school or publicly funded homeschool enrichment program.
- This program is designed to supplement, not replace, the family's homeschool instruction. Students remain classified as homeschool students under state law, and parents retain primary responsibility for their child's education.

Parent Acknowledgment:

All families must sign an annual acknowledgement confirming that they have submitted their Notice of Intent to their resident district and that their student is enrolled exclusively in the STEM Homeschool Enrichment program.

SPECIAL EDUCATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

The STEM Homeschool Enrichment program is a part-time enrichment opportunity designed to supplement a family's homeschool instruction. As such, students participating in this program are considered homeschool students under Colorado law (C.R.S. 22-33-104.5).

Because this is a homeschool enrichment program and not a full-time public school enrollment, STEM Homeschool Enrichment is not obligated to provide special education services, accommodations, or modifications under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The Homeschool Enrichment

program will still meet its applicable obligations under Child Find and non-discrimination laws, including applicable requirements under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

Families of students with special needs are welcome to participate in enrichment activities; however:

- The program cannot develop or implement Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) or 504 Plans.
- Specialized services (e.g., occupational therapy, speech-language support, counseling, or academic intervention) are not available through this program.
- Parents remain the primary educators and are responsible for arranging any needed evaluations, therapies, or supports through their local school district or private providers.

STEM Homeschool Enrichment will make reasonable efforts to create an inclusive environment and to ensure student safety and participation to the extent possible within the program's structure and resources. *By enrolling in the STEM Homeschool Enrichment program, families acknowledge that:*

- The school is not required to provide or fund special education services.
- Enrollment does not grant eligibility for public school special education resources.
- Parents maintain full responsibility for their child's individualized educational needs.

IDENTIFICATION, ASSESSMENT, AND SUPPORT FOR HOMESCHOOL ENRICHMENT STUDENTS

Child Find Process

Under federal and state law, all public schools are required to engage in Child Find — a process designed to identify and evaluate children who may have disabilities that impact learning.

- STEM Homeschool Enrichment will work with participants' home District's Child Find program to ensure compliance.
- If a parent, teacher, or staff member suspects that a homeschool student may have a disability, the family will be provided with information about the Child Find process and how to request an evaluation through the district.
- Evaluations are conducted by the district's Child Find team, not by the STEM Homeschool Enrichment program.

Assessment and Academic Data

Because homeschool students are not enrolled full-time, the enrichment program does not conduct or administer formal academic assessments (e.g., CMAS or district benchmark testing).

- Parents remain responsible for tracking student academic progress in accordance with Colorado homeschool law (C.R.S. 22-33-104.5).
- Teachers may conduct informal assessments or observations within enrichment activities to guide instruction and provide feedback.

Supports and Classroom Accommodations

While the STEM Homeschool Enrichment program is not required to provide special education services, staff will make reasonable efforts to support student participation and inclusion in classroom activities.

- Teachers may adjust materials, pacing, or instructional strategies as appropriate within the general education setting.
- These supports are informal and do not constitute an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan.

Parental Responsibility

Parents maintain primary responsibility for:

- Initiating contact with their resident district for Child Find evaluations.
- Providing necessary documentation regarding identified needs (if applicable).
- Coordinating any private or district-provided therapies, tutoring, or specialized instruction.

By enrolling in the STEM Homeschool Enrichment program, families acknowledge that STEM Homeschool Enrichment fulfills its legal obligation to identify and refer potentially eligible students through the Child Find process, but is not required to provide direct special education or related services within the enrichment setting.

INDUSTRY CONNECTION

Our curriculum reflects what today's industries are seeking—creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving. By engaging in science, engineering, and computer science early, students develop the skills that fuel innovation in careers like technology, sustainability, and design. We incorporate industry experts and mentors into our curriculum so that students are solving real world problems.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Tuesday

Grades K-4		
9:00-11:30	Kindergarten	Science & Engineering
	1st & 2nd grade	Computer Science & Robotics
	3rd & 4th grade	Science & Engineering
11:30-12:30	Lunch/Recess	
12:30-3:00	Kindergarten	Computer Science & Robotics
	1st & 2nd grade	Science & Engineering
	3rd & 4th grade	Computer Science & Robotics

Thursday

Grades 5-8		
9:00-11:30	5th & 6th grade	Science & Engineering
	7th & 8th grade	Computer Science & Robotics
11:30-12:30	Lunch/Recess	
12:00-3:00	5th & 6th grade	Computer Science & Robotics
	7th & 8th grade	Science & Engineering

Location: STEM School Highlands Ranch

Address: 8920 Barrons Blvd | Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Enrollment in the Homeschool Enrichment program is open to homeschool families on a space-available basis. Priority is given to returning families, siblings, and families within Douglas County. To express interest, please complete the Homeschool Enrichment Interest Form on our website. You will be contacted with registration and session details when enrollment opens.

[STEM Homeschool Enrichment Enrollment Policy](#)

ATTENDANCE & ABSENCES

Because activities are hands-on and collaborative, attendance is vital.

If your student will be absent:

- Please notify the program coordinator by email or phone prior to class.
- Students who miss a session may request optional materials to complete at home.

If inclement weather occurs, the program will follow the weather policy of STEM School Highlands Ranch closure or delay announcements.

DRESS CODE

Students should wear comfortable, weather-appropriate clothing suitable for hands-on activities, outdoor play, and robotics work.

Guidelines:

- Closed-toe shoes are recommended.
- Clothing should be neat, functional, and free of inappropriate images or language.
- Long hair must be tied back for lab or robotics activities.

LUNCH & SNACKS

Students should bring a nut-free snack and water bottle each day. Students should also bring lunch. Please avoid sharing food due to allergy risks.

PARENT PARTNERSHIP

We value our homeschool families as essential partners in learning.

Parents receive:

- Optional home extension activities
- Quarterly newsletters with student highlights
- Invitations to Student Showcase Events

Families are encouraged to:

- Support curiosity and exploration at home.
- Communicate questions or feedback with staff.
- Celebrate their student's growth and creativity.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Our classrooms thrive on respect, teamwork, and curiosity.

Students are expected to:

- Participate actively and try new things.
- Show respect toward peers, staff, and materials.
- Follow safety procedures during experiments and robotics work.
- Work collaboratively, communicate kindly, and problem-solve constructively.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

The STEM Homeschool Enrichment program emphasizes positive, restorative approaches to behavior. Our goal is always restorative—helping students learn from choices and return positively to the group.

Behavior Standards:

- Show respect for self, peers, staff, and property.
- Use kind, inclusive, and encouraging language.
- Follow directions and class procedures.
- Handle tools and materials responsibly.
- Practice digital citizenship and use technology appropriately.

Behavior Interventions:

1. Verbal reminder and redirection.
2. Reflection break to reset and re-engage.
3. Parent notification if behavior continues.
4. Follow-up meeting if behavior persists, with an emphasis on reflection and problem-solving.

SAFETY PROCEDURES

Safety is our highest priority.

- Students will receive instruction on tool and equipment safety.
- Staff are trained in emergency procedures and first aid.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

The program follows the Standard Response Protocol (SRP) used by Douglas County School District:

- Secure: Threat or hazard outside the school.
- Lockdown: Threat inside the school—students remain quiet and out of sight.
- Evacuate: Students move to a designated safe location.
- Shelter: Students take protective action (e.g., during severe weather).

Parents will be notified through school communication channels in the event of an emergency or relocation as outlined by the [I Love You Guys Foundation](#).

ASSESSMENT & FEEDBACK

Students do not receive grades. The focus is on growth, engagement, and curiosity, not letter grades. Instead, teachers provide:

- Formative feedback during activities.
- End-of-session reflections on growth, collaboration, and creativity.
- Portfolio opportunities where students can showcase projects.

STUDENT SHOWCASE

Each session concludes with a Student Showcase Event where learners demonstrate their projects and share discoveries with families. This celebration highlights student innovation, teamwork, and perseverance.

INSPIRE. INNOVATE. IMAGINE.

Thank you for being part of the STEM Homeschool Enrichment program, where curiosity leads the way, creativity drives discovery, and learning is an adventure!

CONTACT INFORMATION

STEM Homeschool Enrichment

8920 Barrons Boulevard | Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

Website: [STEM Homeschool Enrichment](https://www.stemhomeschoolenrichment.org) | Email: info@stemhse.org | (720) 719-9385