

Ready Rangers After School STEM Program



Student Handbook Parent/Guardian Information

Hamilton Local School District/The PAST Foundation
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Welcome to Ready Rangers After School STEM!

We are excited to welcome your student into the Ready Rangers After School STEM Program at Hamilton Elementary School. Throughout this packet you will find information that is essential for your student's success in participating in this program. Our overall goal for this school year is for students to have fun learning and growing their STEM identity through our programming!

What is the Ready Rangers After School Program?

Ready Rangers is an innovative FREE after-school STEM program for Kindergarten to 3rd graders, designed to explore the exciting worlds of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. Every child is encouraged to be curious and creative in a secure and supportive environment. This program is part of a collaboration between the PAST Foundation, an education non-profit located in Columbus, and Hamilton Local School District. The program is entering into its fourth year of existence at the elementary school.

Why is the Ready Rangers Program so Important?

Inspiring Young Minds: The Ready Rangers After School Program offers engaging activities that make STEM fun and accessible, sparking a passion for learning!

Future-Ready Skills: The activities that the students engage in during the Ready Rangers program fosters creativity, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills, preparing students for the challenges of tomorrow.

Inclusive Environment: Hamilton Local School District and the PAST Foundation have partnered together to provide a safe space where every student has the opportunity to explore and grow, embracing diversity and inclusion.

Community and Tech Integration: The Ready Rangers After School STEM Program utilizes the latest technology and community resources, providing a rich, comprehensive learning experience.





Program Schedule

The Ready Rangers After School STEM Program runs on three week sessions, with a total of six sessions scheduled in the 2026-2027 school year. Once your child is accepted into the program it is the **expectation that the student will participate in each session throughout the year.**

During the sessions, programming will take place **Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays starting after school and running until 5:30pm.** There are some exceptions where programming is unable to take place on a particular Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday during a session. Please note these exceptions in the dates listed below.

Session	Session Dates	Program Time
1	Week 1: Tuesday, October 6, Wednesday October 7, & Thursday, October 8 Week 2: Tuesday, October 13, Wednesday October 14, & Thursday, October 15 Week 3: Tuesday, October 21 & Wednesday, October 21 (No Thursday session)	After School - 5:30PM
2	Week 1: Tuesday, November 3, Wednesday, November 4, & Thursday, November 5 Week 2: Tuesday, November 10 & Wednesday, November 11 (No Thursday session) Week 3: Wednesday, November 18 & Thursday, November 19 (No Tuesday session)	After School - 5:30PM
3	Week 1: Tuesday, January 12, Wednesday, January 13, & Thursday, January 14 Week 2: Tuesday, January 19, Wednesday, January 20, & Thursday, January 21 Week 3: Tuesday, January 26, Wednesday, January 27, & Thursday, January 28	After School - 5:30PM
4	Week 1: Tuesday, February 9, Wednesday, February 10, & Thursday, February 11 Week 2: Tuesday, February 16, Wednesday, February 17, & Thursday, February 18 Week 3: Tuesday, February 23, Wednesday, February 24, & Thursday, February 25	After School - 5:30PM
5	Week 1: Tuesday, March 9 & Wednesday, March 10 (No Thursday Session) Week 2: Tuesday, March 16 & Wednesday, March 17 (No Thursday Session) Week 3: Tuesday, March 23, Wednesday, March 24, & Thursday, March 25	After School - 5:30PM
6	Week 1: Tuesday, April 13, Wednesday, April 14, & Thursday, April 15 Week 2: Tuesday, April 20, Wednesday, April 21, & Thursday, April 22 Week 3: Tuesday, April 27, Wednesday, April 28, & Thursday, April 29	After School - 5:30PM





Program Staff Contacts

Madison Hudson, Onsite Coordinator - Hamilton Local School District

Email: mhudson@hlsd.org

- Contact for any questions regarding program attendance, behavior, student pick up, or any other concerns.

Sam Kula, Lead Instructor - The PAST Foundation

Email: skula@pastfoundation.org.

- Contact for program content questions.

Alyssa Reder, Project Manager - The PAST Foundation

Email: areder@pastfoundation.org

Program Attendance Policy

Consistent attendance in the program from your student is a vital part of their success when engaging in the program content. We understand that there are circumstances that may keep your student from attending the program on a particular day or week of a program session. **Consistent lack of attendance during a program session is grounds for a student to be released from the program.**

If you know that your student will not be attending the after school program on a particular day or if you have an attendance question please email Madison Hayes at mhayes@hlsd.org.

Student Illness Policy

If a student gets sick during the program, we will have an identified area where they can rest, be watched after, and safely isolate from others. We will notify the student's parent or guardian as soon as we possibly to come and pick up their student from the program.

Snacks

Please send a healthy snack each day for your student to eat. We find that if students do not have a snack immediately following school time they are unable to focus in the after school program space. During the first 15 - 20 minutes of the program time students will be given the opportunity to unwind a bit as well as eat a snack before starting our programming content for the day.



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Student Pick Up

Transportation is not provided by the school district for participating students. All families will be required to arrange transportation for their student to be picked up from the program. **The program ends at 5:30PM EST** and students will need to be picked up at this time at the front of the elementary school building. Families will be provided with car signs to place in their front windows and students will be properly dismissed to vehicles by the program staff.

If there is a change in the designated/authorized pick up person for your student, please notify our staff immediately. Please be aware that ID may be checked for release of the student at pick up. Prompt pick up from the program is required for participation.

Consistent or lack of prompt pick up of your student could result in your student being released from the program.

Program Behavior Expectations

Participants may expect:

- To have a safe, supportive, and engaging environment.
- To use the program equipment, materials, and facilities on an equal basis.
- To receive respectful treatment.
- To have discipline that is fair and non-punitive.
- To receive nurturing care from staff members who are actively involved with the children.

Hamilton Local School District & The PAST Foundation expects that the participants will:

- Be responsible for their actions.
- Follow the directions provided by the program staff.
- To show respect for others, including Hamilton Staff, PAST Staff, and their peers.
- Not engage in any behavior that is harmful to themselves or others.
- Remain within the designated program areas throughout their time in the program.
- Care for the materials and equipment properly and return them to their proper place when finished.

The program staff will set up clear expectations for the students at the start of the program. Program staff will engage students in a discussion and possibly provide a verbal warning to a student when any behavior is first exhibited. If behaviors continue following this discussion, then an email to the parent/guardian will be sent. If behaviors continue following both of these interventions then dismissal from the program will take place.



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Program Bullying Policy

The Ready Rangers After School STEM Program has a zero tolerance policy when it comes to bullying of any sort. Bullying, harassment and intimidation is an intentional written, verbal, electronic or physical act that a student has exhibited toward another particular student more than once. The intentional act also includes violence within a dating relationship. The behavior causes both mental and physical harm to the other student is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive education environment for other students. This behavior is prohibited and is cause for immediate release from the program.

- **Physical Bullying**- the repeated use of force towards a person's body or personal belongings. Examples include but are not limited to, hitting, punching, shoving, kicking, tripping, spitting, elbowing, shoulder checking, pinching, flicking, throwing objects, hair pulling, restraining, inappropriate touching, and damaging physical property.
- **Verbal Bullying**- repeatedly using negative and/or damaging words (including both spoken and written) toward or in regard to another person (with mal-intent). Examples include, but are not limited to, negative comments, name calling, lies, rumors, racial slurs, teasing, cussing, threats, fake compliments and sexual orientation attacks.
- **Cyber Bullying**- repeatedly using social media, email or electronic devices in a negative manner toward or in regard to another person. Examples include, but are not limited to, posting negative comments, fake profiles, sexting, making fun of photos, tagging photos, Twitter fights, posting negative videos, texting photos, negative status posts, hate blogs, hate pledges, texting rumors, hacking profiles, nasty emails and sending mean forwards.





Acknowledgment

By signing below the parent/guardian is acknowledging that they have read and understand the information provided in this handbook.

Name of Student Participating: _____

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

✱ Please sign and remove this page from the packet and return to Mrs. Hudson ✱





Exploring the Wonders of STEM: A Research Adventure!

We're excited to invite your child to be part of a special research project that explores the amazing world of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) through their participation in the Ready Rangers after school program!

What's This All About?

At the PAST Foundation, we want to understand how our STEM programs, like Ready Rangers, help your child learn and grow. This research will help us make our programs even better and more fun for all kids!

How Will My Child Participate?

Your child may:

- Take fun surveys about their STEM knowledge and experiences
- Be observed participating in STEM activities

Why Is This Important?

This research will help us:

- See how kids engage with STEM subjects
- Understand if children see themselves as future scientists or engineers
- Improve our programs to make STEM even more exciting for everyone

What You Need to Know:

- It's completely voluntary
- All information is kept confidential
- There's no risk to your child
- We won't use any names or personal information in our results

The Big Picture

By participating, your child is helping to shape the future of STEM education! We may share what we learn in publications and at educator conferences to help make STEM fun for kids everywhere.

Together, we can inspire the next generation of innovators and problem-solvers!

If you **DO NOT** want your student to participate in the PAST Foundation Research Project, please enter your information and check the corresponding boxes on the **NEXT PAGE**. Signed copies can be emailed to **research@pastfoundation.org** or you can print out the next page and turn it in to the program facilitator.





IRB Protocol Number: #2017-04-0015ETH and #2017-11-06ETH
IRB Approval date: February 5, 2024

PLEASE READ: Complete this form ONLY if you intend to WITHDRAW your student from participating in Research.

Parental Request to WITHDRAW Minor from Participation in Research

Your child has been selected to participate in a research study examining the impact of STEM programming on students. Your minor's participation is voluntary, confidential, and involves no risk to your child.

Research activities may include students from grades K-12 taking surveys, participating in interviews or group discussions, and/or classroom observations. All results are anonymous and will not include identifying information. This research will provide an understanding of the benefits of the PAST Foundation's programs on STEM learning and identity. These research methods are designed to measure how your child engages with STEM and whether they recognize themselves as belonging in STEM fields. The insights we gather from the research activities will help us improve our programming and provide a better experience for your child. The insights may also be shared in magazine articles and at teacher conferences to help improve STEM learning experiences for all children.

You may contact PAST Staff members Kayla Galloway, Research Field Manager, Dr. Lane Fargher Navarro, Director of Research, or Maria Green Cohen, Impact Officer at telephone number 614-340-1208 any time you have questions about the research or the IRB approved project.

Your child's participation in this research is voluntary, and no one will be penalized or lose benefits if you refuse permission to participate or decide to stop.

Parental/Guardian Withdrawal from Research

If at any time you do not want your child to participate in this research, please fill out the bottom section, sign it, and send it to research@pastfoundation.org.

PRINTED NAME OF CHILD

PARENT/GUARDIAN (PRINT NAME)

PARENT/GUARDIAN (SIGNATURE)

1003 Kinnear Road, Columbus, OH 43212 USA | PASTFoundation.org

