



NIKOLA TESLA STEM HIGH SCHOOL ... PYTHONS ...

2026-27 SCHOOL PROFILE

NIKOLA TESLA STEM HIGH SCHOOL

INSPIRE INNOVATE EDUCATE

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CLASS OF 2027

- CLASS SIZE: 144
- AVG GPA: 3.67

Class of '27 GPA Distribution

4.00	16%
3.90-3.99	24%
3.80-3.89	14%
3.70-3.79	10%
3.50-3.69	16%
<3.50	20%

GPA's are unweighted
Tesla STEM does not rank

SCHOOL, ADMISSION, AND COMMUNITY

Nikola Tesla STEM High School is a **public, four-year choice school** in Lake Washington School District, serving approximately **600 students** from across the district on the Eastside of the Seattle metropolitan area. Admission is through a **random lottery**, without academic screening. We offer a **focused STEM curriculum** emphasizing interdisciplinary learning, scientific inquiry, and engineering design. Our location within a region with major technology, engineering, and health sciences employers provides context for this focus. Students bring varied cultural, linguistic, and family backgrounds, and access to resources and outside opportunities varies within our community.

STUDENT BODY | 2025-26

- 3.9% low-income
- Asian 75.9%
- Hispanic/Latino 2.6%
- 43.5% female
- White 14.7%
- Black 1.0%
- 56.5% male
- Multiracial 5.7%
- American Indian/Alaska Native 0.2%

Source: OSPI, June 2026. Percentages rounded.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

9th & 10th Grade: Foundational Years: Interdisciplinary sequence in science, engineering, and humanities | Authentic Research | Primary Source Analysis | Scientific Investigation | Engineering Design Process

11th & 12th Grade: Application Years: Students specialize through STEM Lab Concentrations and Pathways, pursuing inquiry, original research, and projects.

Course offerings are focused:

- Students complete an average of 6 science and 4 math courses
- Signature Lab enrollment is limited by grade level and career pathway
- Humanities course offerings are limited to the state minimum requirements
- Credit requirements for all grade levels: <https://www.lwsd.org/students-families/students/high-school-guide>

STEM LAB CONCENTRATIONS & PATHWAYS

Our Signature Lab Concentrations & Pathways address the goals of [UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) to support a bright and sustainable future on a global scale. *Signature Labs are not required. Students may enroll in one Signature Lab per year*, based on their career interests. Enrollment is lottery-based if demand exceeds space. STEM pathways do not have limitations.

11TH GRADE SIGNATURE LABS (STUDENTS MAY CHOOSE 1)

Environmental Engineering & Sustainable Design: Examines causes and effects of climate change w/emphasis on engineering and sustainability solutions.

AP Psychology & Forensics: Integrates forensic science and AP Psychology to study crime, behavior, and systems biology. Students design crime maps, analyze data, and explore brain/behavior connections.

12TH GRADE SIGNATURE LABS (STUDENTS MAY CHOOSE 1)

Advanced Physics Lab: AP Physics C: Mechanics & AP Physics C: EM: Calculus-based modeling and problem solving. Students design and test new devices through hands-on investigation.

Advanced Biomedical Lab: Anatomy & Physiology & Biomedical Engineering: Project-based research on health, sustainability, and the human body.

STEM PATHWAYS (GRADES 9-12)

Engineering 1->Engineering 2 (optional)-> Engineering 3/STEM Startups: Hands-on design, rapid prototyping, and large-scale projects.

Computer Science: Sequence of 4 courses from introductory programming to advanced mobile app development. Focus on computational thinking, data abstraction, and problem solving. Students participate in coding competitions.

GRADING SCALE

NEW OLD
2025-2026 (prior to 2025-26)

A	90-100	A	90-100
B+	87-89	B+	87-89
B	83-86	B	83-86
B-	80-82	B-	80-82
C+	77-79	C+	77-79
C	73-76	C	73-76
C-	70-72	C-	70-72
D+	67-69	P *	60-69**
D	60-67	N *	<59
N *	<59		

* N (No credit) and P grades are GPA-neutral

**P grade was also used (and is now only used) for non-graded courses such as peer tutor, TA

TEST SCORES

SAT | Class of 2026

- 142 students tested
- Mean: **1426**
- Middle 50%: **1370-1520**

2027 Nat'l Merit Semifinalists: 15

AP EXAMS

AP Courses Offered at Tesla STEM	% of AP Exams with score of 3 or higher
Biology	91%
Calculus AB	92%
Calculus BC	94%
Chemistry	97%
Computer Science A	93%
CS Principles	86%
English Lang & Comp	92%
Environmental Science	97%
Physics C: EM	74%
Physics C: M	86%
Psychology	100%
Statistics	93%

All School AP Exam Participation Rate = 95%

ADVANCED COURSE OFFERINGS

- Every Tesla STEM schedule is rigorous by default
- Many classes are only offered at the Honors, AP/ Dual Credit/ post-AP level/ accelerated level.
- This list includes all AP and College in the High School courses offered as well as the *most* advanced options available to students by subject area.

Subject Area	Course Name	Level	Notes
English	AP Language & Composition	AP	
Lab Science	AP Environmental Science	AP	Standard 10th grade placement
	BIOL&160 HNR Honors Biology	Dual Credit- Bellevue College	
	AP Biology	AP	
	AP Chemistry	AP	
	ATMS100 ENV ENGR & SUST DESIGN (Signature Lab)	Dual Credit - U of Washington	11th grade; limited seats
	BIOL100 FORENSIC SCIENCE (Signature Lab)	Dual Credit - U of Washington	11th grade; limited seats
	ANAT & UW BIOL 118 & 119 (PHYS) + Advanced Biomedical Lab (Signature Lab)	Dual Credit - U of Washington	12th grade; limited seats
	AP Physics C: EM + AP Physics C: M (Signature Lab)	AP	12th grade; limited seats
Math	MATH&254; MATH&153 Multivariable Calculus	Dual Credit - Bellevue College	
	AP Calculus AB	AP	
	AP Calculus BC	AP	
	AP Statistics	AP	
Social Studies	AP Psychology (Signature Lab)	AP	11th grade; limited seats
World Language	Honors Spanish III/SPAN103	Dual Credit only in 25-26 - UW	
Career & Tech Ed	AP Computer Science Principles	AP	Standard 9th Grade Placement
	AP Computer Science A	AP	CS Pathway Option- 10th grade
	Data Structures	Accelerated (Post-AP)	CS Pathway Option- 11th grade
	Advanced Projects in CS	Accelerated (Post-AP)	CS Pathway Option- 12th grade
	Engineering II	Accelerated	Engineering Pathway Option
	Engineering III - STEM Startups	Accelerated	Engineering Pathway Option

Students cannot take every advanced course for which they are qualified.

INTERNSHIPS/MENTORSHIPS

As a critical component in STEM education, our students work in partnership with school staff, college professors, industry experts, and community leaders in a combined effort to further support and enrich students' interests and curiosity. Currently our Internship & Mentorships opportunities are embedded within our STEM labs and business classes.

Some past and present business partners include:

Aerojet- Institute for Systems Biology | Genie/Terex Corp | VA Ventures-Starbucks | Inventcor -Integrus Architecture | MicroGreen-Microsoft | Sustainability Ambassadors/Redmond | WA State Patrol Crime Lab | Waste Management

OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM

Students enrich their learning and community life through **40+ student-led clubs**, independent research, and STEM pathways.

Students who pursue athletics do so through their neighborhood high schools. Central to our school mission is to develop students' ability to apply learning with an integrated and problem-based approach. Students practice the presentation of long-term projects in all classes and demonstrate these skills outside the classroom with the following examples:

Competitions & Projects

Intel ISEF International Science & Engineering Fair | Washington State Science & Engineering Fair | Central Sound Regional Science & Engineering Fair | Hunt The Wumpus Microsoft Competition | National History Day Congressional Apps Challenge | Technology Student Association | Verizon Apps challenge

Presentations:

Model UN: Outstanding Delegate | FBLA: National and State awards

Other Notable Student Organizations: *Equity Board | STEM Startups | Maker Club | Science Olympiad | STEM Reach | Key Club | National Science Bowl Club | Art Honor Society*

RECENT LWSD POLICY UPDATES

Update to the Number of Periods in the School Day:

LWSD moved from a 7 to a 6 period day beginning in 2025-26

Update to Out of District/Online Coursework Grading Policy:

Beginning with the Class of 2027 and implemented in 2025-26 school year, all out of district/online courses taken for initial credit will be issued a "P" grade on the LWSD transcript.

POST-SECONDARY OUTCOMES

95% go on to attend a 4-year college , 4% go on to attend a 2-year college

PAST 5 YEAR COLLEGE ENROLLMENT INCLUDES:

200+ Students

University of Washington (All campuses)

10+ Students

Bellevue College | Northeastern University | Purdue | UC-Irvine | UC-Davis | UCSD | UIUC | Washington State | WWU

5+ Students

California Polytechnic State University | Carnegie Mellon | Case Western Reserve University | Cornell University | M.I.T. | New York University | Oregon State University | San Diego State University | Seattle University | Stanford University | UC- Berkeley | University of Massachusetts at Amherst | University of Michigan | University of Minnesota | University of Wisconsin