

Expectations for the School

STEM education is an approach to teaching and learning that integrates the content and skills of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Along with content knowledge, a strong STEM program establishes student behaviors, which include engagement in inquiry, logical reasoning, collaboration, and investigation. The goal of STEM education is to prepare students for post-secondary study and the 21st century workforce.

STEAM fuses Arts and creativity with STEM to engage the whole child and foster high achievement in all areas by blending the arts and sciences. Both STEM and STEAM employ the artistic process and scientific method relying on exploration of ideas and possibilities. Both require high student engagement in exploring creative and critical thinking, which supports collaborative learning. STEAM complements 21st century skills, particularly the “4 C’s” of creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and communication.

Expectations for the Teacher

STEM/ STEAM educators in grades 6-12 participate in local, regional, and national training to provide students a solid academic experience addressing the requisite standards, goals and objectives of the Common Core / NC Essential Standards (formerly NC Standard Course of Study) while focusing upon STEM/ STEAM issues and concepts as catalysts for instruction. Unique opportunities to extend student learning will be provided through exposure to special magnet theme-related activities through an interdisciplinary approach.

Expectations for the Student/Family

STEM / STEAM students are expected to demonstrate conscientious academic effort by regularly completing assignments and by participating constructively in lessons, activities, etc. Students must demonstrate a strong commitment to learning, be self-motivated, and have a desire to excel. All STEM / STEAM students must be willing to work on assigned projects and research in addition to regular homework and classwork. Students should also be intellectually curious, independent thinkers, able writers and have an interest in STEM / STEAM issues facing the community. Families are encouraged to actively support each student’s participation in the STEM / STEAM program.

Requirements for Magnet Program Continuation

- Participate in a STE(A)M Co-curricular every year;
- Pass STE(A)M elective every year / Project Lead the Way (PLTW)

Note: Students who do not complete these requirements may be exited for the following school year and reassigned to their home school.

Student Name: _____ **Student Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

Parent Name: _____ **Parent Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____