

STEM³ GRADES K-12 ACADEMY

OUTSIDE OF THE BOX: STUDENTS, LEARNING, RESULTS



For bright, curious, technology-driven students grades K–12 who have social and/or learning differences

VALLEY GLEN • CULVER CITY • SHERMAN OAKS



LOWER SCHOOL

Young children are natural scientists, engineers, and problem-solvers as they explore the world by touching, observing, building, and discovering. STEM³ Academy lower school years are a time for cultivating a love of learning and satisfying the child's boundless curiosity and need to find out how things work.

Through play and fun-based activities, students develop relationships with others and prepare the foundation for greater responsibilities that await them in middle school.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

STEM³ Academy Middle School provides students from 6th through 8th grades a rich STEM environment in which they can flourish academically, socially and emotionally. Teachers mentor each student within small communities of learners and encourage active and personal learning.

HIGH SCHOOL

STEM³ Academy is rooted in an asset-based model, which matches the key skills and abilities of students with the demands of the contemporary marketplace.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Opportunities for deep exploration in an area of interest over more than one academic year to develop a product, a skill, or an expertise
- More than seven AP courses offered in subjects such as Calculus, History, English, Biology, and Computer Science
- A Speakers Series that brings professionals to the campus to engage students in areas as diverse as software engineering, cybersecurity, species diversity, and cancer research



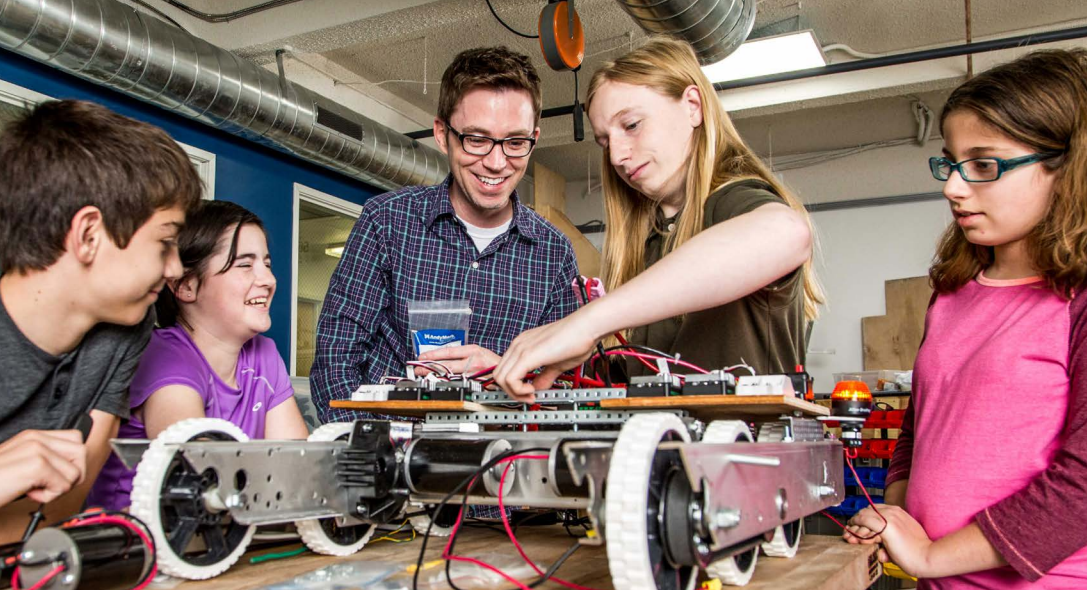
STEM LEARNING

STEM is a curriculum based on the idea of educating students in four specific disciplines — science, technology, engineering, and mathematics — in an interdisciplinary and applied way. Rather than teach the four disciplines as separate subjects, our school integrates them into a cohesive learning paradigm grounded in real-world applications.

21ST CENTURY SKILLS

At STEM³ Academy, students are exposed to essential critical thinking and problem-solving skills that can be used throughout their lives. Research shows that intelligence is just one factor for success in school or career. Equally important are the life skills essential in the 21st Century: social interactions, creativity, problem-solving, mindset, attitude, and collaboration. These skills are inherent in many of our hands-on, project-based activities. Our students learn as they collaborate, share ideas and materials, and assist each other on projects, assignments and builds, and resolve conflicts and disagreements amicably.





ADMISSIONS

We accept applications year-round for grades K–12. The process begins with a brief phone interview and a tour of the school.

WE ACCEPT STUDENTS:

- With social and learning differences, including autism spectrum disorder
- Who have achieved at least a B average in STEM related classes, or have significantly demonstrated skills in a STEM related area
- Who can benefit from an experiential, hands-on, problem-solving approach to learning

RESIDENTIAL OPTION AVAILABLE

Students who are not local to the Los Angeles area may reside in The Help Group's dorms — complete with an art and music studio, computer lab, fitness center, indoor basketball court and a large gymnasium. On-going communication between STEM³ Academy and the residential staff ensure a full integration of the educational program into the residential setting.



OVERVIEW

Welcome to The Help Group's STEM³ Academy! We are dedicated to educating students who are bright, have a passion for STEM-related fields, and who may benefit from alternative learning methods.

Our pioneering K-12 school cultivates a passion for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) by engaging students in projects where they build and create, hone critical thinking skills, communicate and collaborate through science-based inquiry.

Our curriculum was designed to cultivate the natural affinity of many special learners for technical work into a lifelong love of STEM pursuits. We view the learning characteristics of many children diagnosed with autism, ADHD, autism spectrum disorder and other social and emotional challenges as strengths that, with training and motivation, can help them achieve success in college and career.

OUR APPROACH

- Teachers and administrators identify student interests and strengths, encouraging them to develop strengths into areas of excellence, while at the same time supporting areas of need
- Students collaborate on projects that address contemporary problems, developing and building prototypes and creating solutions to gain a deeper understanding of the world in which they live
- We develop relationships with colleges and universities, industry and commerce, and parents and the community to ensure that the education of our students is the shared responsibility of all stakeholders
- Recognizing the importance of social and emotional learning to the success of every individual, we embed evidence based skill development opportunities into the curriculum



OUTSIDE OF THE BOX STUDENTS

There are significant advantages to providing our students with an integrated curriculum from kindergarten through high school. Not only can our students accelerate in certain areas as appropriate, they can collaborate on projects and activities across grades and even across disciplines.

OUTSIDE OF THE BOX LEARNING

Our unique and accelerated curriculum is project-based, experiential, and has been designed specifically for special learners, assisting them in ways they learn best. We offer:

- Personalized Learning
- Innovation Labs
- Robotics
- Science Challenges and Other Competitive Events

OUTSIDE OF THE BOX RESULTS

We graduate courageous, committed and ethical young men and women who take responsibility for their own well-being and future success.

Students thrive at a wide variety of colleges, have access to an even wider variety of careers, and aspire to be at the forefront of their professions with boldness and assurance.

For more information please contact Dr. Ellis Crasnow at
818.623.6324 or ecrasnow@stem3academy.org

Ellis Crasnow, PhD

Director, STEM³ Academy and STEM Education, The Help Group

David Ewart, MEd Principal, Valley Glen
Larry Ross, Assistant Principal, Culver City
Megan Davis, MA Principal, Sherman Oaks

Valley Glen: 6455 Coldwater Canyon Ave, Valley Glen, CA 91606
Culver City: 12095 West Washington Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90066
Sherman Oaks: 13130 Burbank Blvd, Sherman Oaks, CA 91401
www.stem3academy.org | www.thehelpgroup.org