School Accountability Report Card

STEM³ Academy
Reported For School Year 2018-19 (estimated)
Published During 2018–19

SCHOOL INFORMATION

School Name: STEM³ Academy
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SCHOOL DESCRIPTION

STEM³ Academy serves students with social and learning differences who are bright and have a passion for STEM-related fields. Students in this program are typically challenged with one or more of the following diagnoses: high functioning autism, Asperger's Syndrome, pervasive developmental disorder, nonverbal and specific learning disabilities. Students range in cognitive ability from average to gifted. STEM³ Academy's programs are highly structured with a varied curriculum that is designed to meet each student's individual needs. Educational programming is determined by grade level, the individualized education plan, framework in core content areas and well-researched methodology. A unique aspect of the STEM³ Academy curriculum is the focus on essential skills. Due to the atypical social/emotional development of the student population, social facilitation is necessary for the students to maximize their full potential.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENT INVOLVEMENT

STEM³ Academy facilitates a very active Parent Association to enhance our school program. There are opportunities for the Parent Association to be very active in the school, from fundraising for our Annual Giving Campaign to participating in Career Day to making suggestions for meet-ups on our Facebook page. Parents are an integral part of the school and are part of the process of ensuring the best educational and social experiences for their child. Parents are encouraged to donate funds which will be earmarked for special projects that augment technology, creative arts, and additional resources through the Annual Giving campaign. STEM³ Academy parents can also support their child's individual classroom teachers by acting as Room Parents. Parent Support Nights, run by a therapist and a parent help to disseminate current research and information regarding Autism, and to lend support to our parents.

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Student Enrollment by Grade Level

Grade Level	Number of Students
K	0
1	0
2	1
3	3
4	2
5	2
6	7

Grade Level	Number of Students
7	6
8	14
9	7
10	15
11	13
12	15

STUDENT ENROLLMENT BY GROUP

This table displays the percent of students enrolled at the school who are identified as being in a particular group.

Group	Percent of Total Enrollment
Black or African American	1%
Asian	7%
Hispanic or Latino	7%
Native American	0%
White (not Hispanic)	85%
Two or More Races	1%
Sutdents with Disabilities	100%

Average Class Size and Class Size Distribution

This table displays by grade level the average class size and the number of classrooms that fall into each size category (a range of total students per classroom).

2018–2019

Grade Level	Average Class Size	Number of Classrooms		
		1–22	23-32	33+
K-5	8	1		
6/7	13	1		
7/8	13	1		
9	7	1		
10	13	1		
11	13	1		
12	14	1		

Average Class Size and Class Size Distribution (Secondary)

This table displays by subject area the average class size and the number of classrooms that fall into each size category (a range of total students per classroom).

Subject	Average Class Size	Number of Classrooms		
		1–22	23-32	33+
English	14	6		
Mathematics	14	9		
Science	14	9		
Social Science	14	6		

SCHOOL CLIMATE

School Safety Plan

STEM³ Academy makes every effort to provide a safe environment for learning. Students participate in emergency drills held on a monthly basis for earthquake and fire preparedness. All staff receive mandatory yearly training regarding Child-Abuse Reporting, Sexual Harassment, Bullying, and ensuring safety from blood-borne infections. The Safety Committee meets monthly to discuss concerns and correct safety issues. Earthquake supplies are available on site. Staff members practice emergency drills and are assigned to stations such as triage, search and rescue, and first aid. The front gate is kept closed and there is a guard who attends it. Staff vehicles are identified by numbers decals and visitors are guided to the front office where they fill out a form regarding their identity and purpose at the school and are supplied with a badge. All staff are identified by a photo-ID badge. Teachers are aware of lock-down procedures and procedures for requesting immediate assistance.

SCHOOL-BASED BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Philosophy:

STEM³ Academy believes that students show the most growth in their academic, social, communication, emotional and behavioral skills when they are provided with a safe, predictable and structured learning environment. The most effective manner that this is achieved is through the establishment of "clear-cut" rules and expectations.

The STEM³ Academy philosophy is that the way to strengthen all skills is to highlight what a student is doing correctly, by attending to appropriate behaviors rather than inappropriate behaviors. Once a student knows how to respond appropriately, and receives positive feedback for such, the likelihood is that he/she will continue to respond appropriately. When too much attention is focused on a student's poor behavior or academic failure, motivation decreases and maladaptive (negative/inappropriate) behaviors increase.

In any school setting it is often found that children display negative behaviors because the more severe their outburst: 1) the more attention they receive; 2) the more likely staff are to withdraw demands; 3) the more assistance they will be given and 4) the more likely staff are to allow the student increased time with a preferred adult or activity (such as letting a child avoid a task while "taking a walk").

What is missing in many programs are increased attention, assistance, and preferred activity time for appropriate behaviors. The behavior management system at STEM³ Academy seeks to change this way of responding. STEM³ Academy students will receive desired reinforcement for "good" behaviors and following rules, and not for undesirable behaviors.

In order to accomplish this, students work toward building up the necessary skills to deal effectively with their need for attention, assistance or break-time, handling anger, frustration and over-excitement appropriately, and develop social and problem-solving skills which allow them more control in dealing with negative situations.

STEM³ Academy employs a proactive approach, which means that we attempt to deal with any situation we know will lead to negative behaviors BEFORE the problem behavior occurs. We also work on building up any necessary skills that the student requires in order to handle such situations/ environments. When students feel comfortable and understand the rules of their environment, a positive learning situation is created, and disruptive behaviors decrease dramatically.

STEM³ Academy adheres to a proactive classroom management system philosophy that believes that any behavior plan will be more effective if it includes interactive strategies and or techniques.

SOCIAL SKILLS CURRICULUM

STEM³ Academy takes a multidisciplinary approach to helping our students succeed both academically and socially. Social/emotional learning is embedded in every class as much as is practical. Almost all of the activities that are part of our curriculum require interaction, communication and participation. They require students to share ideas and materials, to assist each other on projects, assignments and builds, and to resolve conflicts and disagreements amicably. This is equally true of scientific experiments and research, that often require teams if not entire laboratories of researchers and the sharing and presentation of results. Applied tasks like a robotics build also require cooperation and communication—the build would be impossible without them as each team member relies on the expertise and participation of every other. Team members are expected to be considerate, compassionate, and respectful of others on their own team and of other teams too. Our curriculum, therefore, engages students directly, challenges them to participate and interact, and to share and strive to overcome personal differences.

BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT

STEM³ Academy emphasizes a positive behavior management system. The Behavior Management System is designed to target behaviors that impede academic success in the classroom and reinforce positive behaviors. Our school believes that students experience increased motivation both in the classroom and in social settings when they are provided with consistent positive reinforcement from the staff. STEM³ Academy recognizes that is often difficult for students with autism, learning differences and attentional deficits to comply with classroom and social expectation at all times, and believes that each day is a fresh start for our students. This system includes:

- Classroom Management Techniques
- Individual Student Target Goals
- Student of the Month assemblies that recognize students who have shown growth in academics, behavior and/or social skills.

Consequences for Inappropriate Behavior

- Self time-out
- Teacher Initiated time-out
- Quiet Area
- In-house suspension – loss of privileges

SCHOOL FACILITIES

STEM³ Academy maintains a clean, safe physical plant. School facilities are cleaned daily. Repairs are made in a timely manner. There is a maintenance crew on site to provide immediate assistance to staff and students. Floors are cleaned and waxed thoroughly during pupil-free days. There is an on-going schedule of touch-up and repairing to ensure upkeep of the facility. The school receives annual inspections and clearances from the Health and Fire Departments. Our staff has the ability to submit Maintenance Requests on the intranet.

Repair Status

Item Inspected	Good	Fair	Poor	Repair Needed & Action Taken or Planned
Gas Leaks	X			
Mechanical Systems	X			
Windows/Doors/Gates (interior & exterior)	X			
Interior Surfaces (walls, floors, and ceilings)	X			
Hazardous Materials (interior & exterior)	X			
Structural Damage	X			
Fire Safety	X			
Electrical (interior & exterior)	X			

Item Inspected	Good	Fair	Poor	Repair Needed & Action Taken or Planned
Pest/Vermin Infestation	X			
Drinking Fountains (inside & outside)	X			
Restrooms	X			
Sewer	X			
Playground/School Grounds	X			
Roofs	X			
Overall Cleanliness	X			

TEACHERS

Teacher Credentials

All STEM³ Academy special education teachers hold a full California Teacher Commission credential authorizing service for our student population or are Internship Permits or Short Term Staff permits that are also authorized by the California Teacher Commission.

Teachers	2018–2019
With Full Credential	11
Without Full Credential	0
Teaching Outside Subject Area of Competence	0

Substitute Teacher Availability

STEM³ Academy uses our instructional aides who have passed the CBEST and have substitute credentials to cover teachers when they are absent. This system ensures familiarity with staff and continuity of curriculum for our students and causes the least disruption. We also call on regular substitute teachers that have taught previously at STEM³ Academy or similar schools that serve students on the autism spectrum, and are familiar with profiles of our students and the specialized teaching strategies we use.

Teacher Evaluation Process

Teachers and instructional aides are formally evaluated once a year by the director and principals. In addition, administrators conduct observations and classroom visits several times a year on an informal basis. Teachers receive feedback and suggestions regarding implementation of lessons, behavior management and addressing learning styles.

Designated Instructional Services Providers and Other Support Staff

Title	Number Assigned to School	Average Number of Students per Academic Counselor
Academic/Transition Counselor	2	
Nurse	1	
Speech/Language/ Hearing Specialist	1	
Occupational Therapists	1	

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Minimum days are scheduled once every month for staff development. In the 2017-18 school year, the following topics will be addressed during teacher-training workshops:

- 21st Century Skills Training
- Executive Functioning
- Using Assessments to improve learning outcomes
- School Wide Learning Goals
- Enriching Curriculum
- Alternative Assessments
- Differentiated Instruction
- Project Based Learning
- Curriculum and Technology
- College Board training

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

STEM³ Academy offers a core curriculum that meets or exceeds the California Common Core Standards. In addition to academic subjects, we are able to offer physical education, art and design, robotics, athletics, and computer technology. Daily Planners and homework organizers are used, and notebook organization is stressed and checked on weekly.

The scope and sequence of classes are based on the graduation requirements adopted by Los Angeles Unified School District. In addition to the minimum courses required for high school graduation, STEM³ Academy offers higher level courses such as Pre-Calculus, Chemistry, Physics, Digital Arts and Environmental Science. AP Statistics, AP US History, AP World History, AP Calculus BC, AP Computer Science Principals, and AP Computer Science are also offered. STEM³ Academy high school courses have been approved through the University of California and that enables our students to apply directly for admission to the UC system.

Mastery of content and access to curriculum are ensured through assessment and accommodations in testing, curriculum and presentation. Textbooks and curriculum materials are selected from the instructional resources reviewed and adopted by the California State Board of Education and the LAUSD approved textbooks list. In order to ensure that textbooks meet state standards, we purchase the California editions of textbooks when available.

LIST OF SUBJECT AREA COURSES BY GRADE LEVEL

Grade 2–5: English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Computers, Engineering and Design, PE, Health, Art

Grade 6: English, Mathematics, Earth Science, Computer Science, Engineering and Design, PE, Ancient History, Health, Art

Grade 7: English, Pre-Algebra, Physical Science, Computer Science, Engineering and Design, PE, World History, Spanish, Health

Grade 8: English, Algebra 1, Biological Science, Computer Science, Engineering and Design, PE, US History, Spanish

Grade 9: English, Algebra 1, Geometry, Biology, Computer Science, CAD, PE, Health, Spanish 1, Spanish 2, Habits for Success

Grade 10: English, Geometry, Pre-Calculus, Chemistry, AP World History, PE, Spanish 2

Grade 11: English, Pre-Calculus, AP Calculus AB, Physics, AP US History, AP Computer Science

Grade 12: English, AP English, AP Calculus BC, AP Statistics, AP Environmental Science, Government, AP Computer Science B, Independent Project, Habits for Success

Core Curriculum Areas	Pupils Who Lack Textbooks and Instructional Materials
Reading/Language Arts	0%
Mathematics	0%
Science	0%
History – Social Science	0%
Foreign Language	0%
Health	0%

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

STEM³ Academy believes that their computer laboratories, science laboratories, and Innovation labs utilize the latest technology and equipment. It is expected that STEM³ Academy students be able to fully use the technology that is currently available in order to afford them the opportunity to become productive and independent participants in work, classroom and leisure settings. STEM³ Academy has a fourteen-station computer lab and four laptop carts. Elementary students have access to iPads and age/grade-appropriate robotic platforms. In addition, all classrooms are equipped with one or more computers and interactive white boards.

STEM³ Academy has purchased site licenses for the following programs:

Adobe
Adobe software empowers students to express ideas using the same design and production tools used by creative professionals worldwide. At STEM³ Academy we encourage our students to express themselves through digital content which can serve as a foundation for many careers. STEM³ Academy also plans to offer certifications in Adobe which prepares students for careers in graphic design, animation, motion graphics, web design, web development, architecture and more.

SOLIDWORKS
SOLIDWORKS is an engineering grade 3D CAD Design Software which has many applications in designing, prototyping, and custom making objects. STEM3 Academy teaches a class in CAD during which students custom design a variety of objects and then have the opportunity to print them out on the school's 3D printers or machine them on the school's CNC mill.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

STEM³ Academy offers many opportunities to support extracurricular activities on and off the campus during the school year. This is done to add enrichment and experiential opportunities that are not covered in the core curriculum. These activities promote self-worth, independence and the ability to generalize appropriate social skills within a mainstream environment.

On Campus Activities:

● Student Interest Clubs
● Student Government
● Internships
● Awards Ceremonies
● Art and Design
● Digital Arts
● Computer Science
● Fitness Room
● Robotics
● Afterschool Classes (digital arts; game design; character development; web design)

Off Campus Activities:

● Educational Field Trips (Raytheon, Northrop Grumman, CalTech)
● Odyssey of the Mind Competition

- FIRST Robotics Competition
- Opportunities for local transportation use
- Overnight Field Trips
- Art Exhibits of Student Work – Thomas Grey Gallery, Bergemont Station, Art Festival

CAREER PREPARATION AND INTERNSHIPS

All STEM³ Academy students complete an interest inventory and a teacher-initiated interview as part of their IEP process. During this interview the results of the inventory are discussed as well as student strengths as related to their interests.

STEM³ Academy offers the following career preparation classes and internship opportunities for students: Career Pathways Classes, 21st Century Skills guidance, On- and Off-Campus Internships, and Individual Transition Plans. STEM³ Academy also has an active mentorship program whereby professionals in a variety of commercial and industrial roles come to the school to guide and mentor students, both individually and in groups.

Our school has a college/transition counselor who works with all high school students and their families to help them make a smooth transition between high school and post – graduation studies and vocations. College tours, presentations from vocational schools, colleges and universities and outside services such as Regional Center and the Department of Mental Health are offered through the school year. Field trips are scheduled to college fairs, vocational institutions, and local community colleges and local universities.

SCHOOL COMPLETION AND POSTSECONDARY PREPARATION

Indicator
Graduation rate for 12th graders: 100%

Measures
Dropout Rate for high school students: 0%
Students who completed all courses required for University of California or California State University admission: 100%

INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS

This table displays a comparison of the number of instructional days offered at the school compared to the state requirement for each grade.

Instructional days with at least 360 instructional minutes

Grade Level	Offered	State Required
9	180 days	180 days
10	180 days	180 days
11	180 days	180 days
12	180 days	180 days