

THE HELP GROUP'S

s+em³ academy

outside the box: students, learning, results

Finding Strengths in Differences

For bright, curious,
technology-driven
K–12th grade students
with social and/or
learning differences

GRADES K–12

Valley Glen
Irvine
Culver City





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, encourage them to develop those 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
- Recognizing the importance of social and emotional learning to the success of every individual, we embed evidence-based skill development opportunities into the curriculum
- Through relationships with colleges and universities, industry and commerce, and parents and the community, STEM³ Academy ensures that the education of our students is the shared responsibility of all stakeholders

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.

Highlights include:

- K-8 Innovation Lab which focuses on the basic skills of building and making
- Introduction to Computer Science
- A focus on identifying and developing each student's skills and interests

Middle School

Middle School curriculum holds the key to ensuring student success in high school.

By introducing high school level courses such as Algebra I, Foreign Language, Computer Programming, Robotics, Physics, Chemistry, and Biology in middle school, we ensure students have been introduced to the concepts by the time they enroll in advanced courses in high school.

Highlights include:

- Cutting edge technology to promote the highest level of learning
- Computer science instruction including programming in Scratch, Processing, and Java
- Interactions with STEM professionals through our mentoring program

High School

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

We provide a rigorous, integrated college preparatory curriculum that emphasizes the interconnections between science, technology, engineering, mathematics and the humanities.

Highlights include:

- Juniors & Seniors have the opportunity to intern in an area of interest
- More than nine AP courses offered in subjects including Calculus, History, English, Biology, and Computer Science
- A nationally recognized FIRST robotics team
- Professional speakers series in areas such as software engineering, cybersecurity, species diversity, and cancer research

STEM Learning

STEM³ Academy's curriculum educates students in four specific disciplines — science, technology, engineering, and mathematics — in an interdisciplinary and applied way.

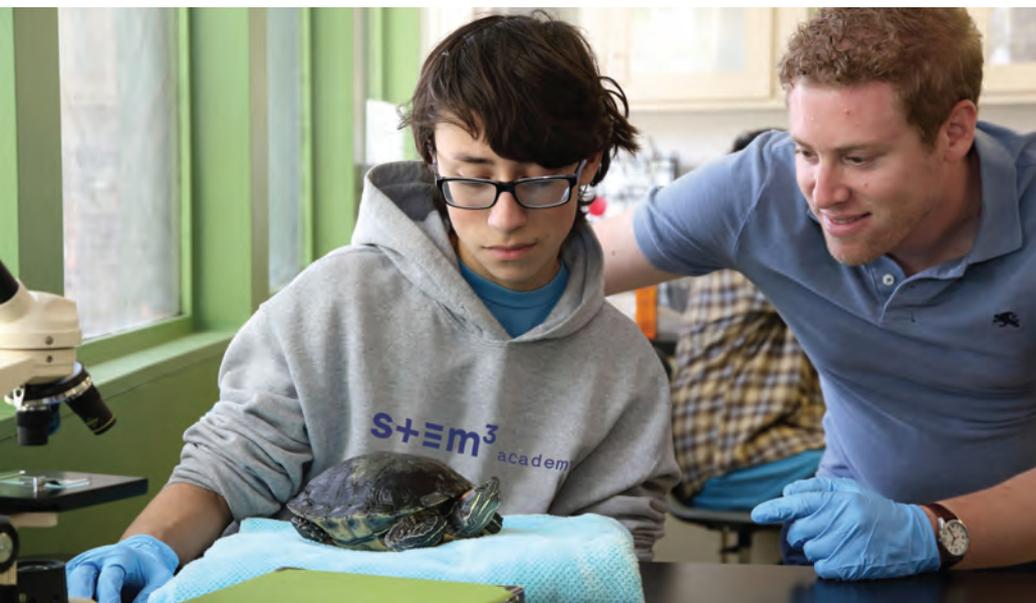
Students learn in a state-of-the-art innovation lab fully equipped with the latest technologies.

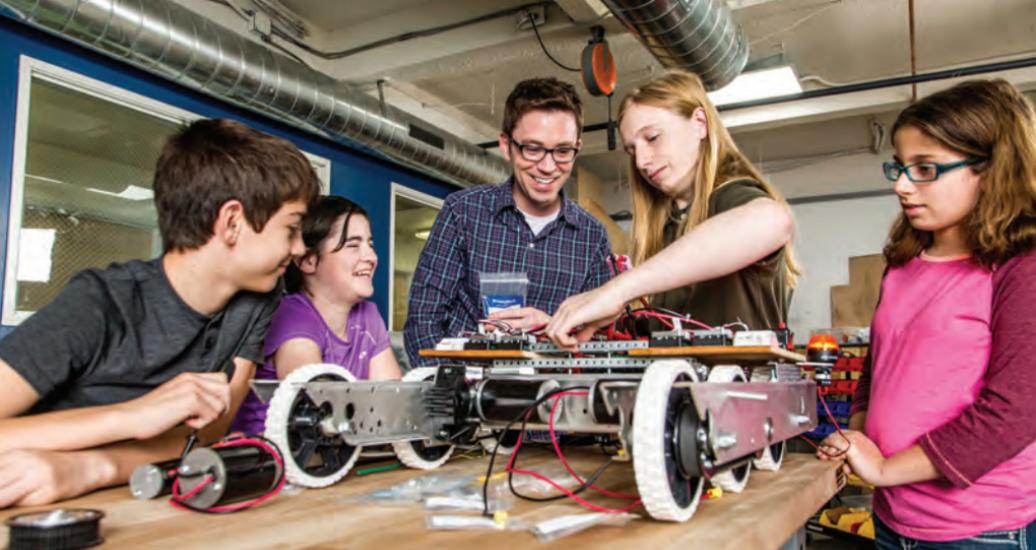
21st Century Skills

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 interwoven into 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 peacefully resolve conflicts and disagreements.





Admissions

Applications are accepted year-round for grades K–12 for students who have:

- A social and learning difference, including autism spectrum disorder
- At least a B average in STEM related classes, or have significantly demonstrated skills in a STEM related area
- The curiosity, motivation, and desire to learn through 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.

Outside the box **STUDENTS**

Our students are exceptional, not once, not twice, but thrice. They all have special needs, have an interest in STEM, but all have promise and passion too—and at STEM³ Academy we unlock that promise, and unleash that passion.

Outside 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 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:
888.943.1816 or ecrasnow@stem3academy.org**

Ellis Crasnow, PhD, Director, STEM³ Academy and STEM Education, The Help Group

Greg Constant, MA, JD, Principal, Valley Glen

Lisa Reid, PhD, Principal, Irvine

Larry Ross, Principal, Culver City

Valley Glen: 6455 Coldwater Canyon Ave, Valley Glen, CA 91606

Irvine: 17861 Von Karman Ave, Irvine, CA 92614

Culver City: 12095 West Washington Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90066

www.stem3academy.org | www.thehelpgroup.org