

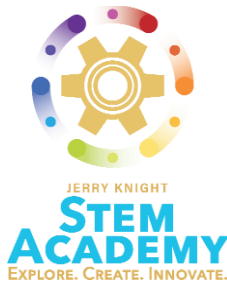
## Jerry Knight STEM Academy Frequently Asked Questions

### General Information

- **When did the Jerry Knight STEM Academy open?**  
The stem middle school opened in the fall of 2017
- **How many students can attend the STEM Academy at full capacity?**  
At full capacity in the year 2019-2020 with approximately 275 in grades 6, 7 and 8
- **Who will attend the Jerry Knight STEM Academy?**  
Each year the Jerry Knight STEM Academy opens applications for incoming sixth-graders.
- **How many students will be accepted for the 2018-2019 school year?**  
100 sixth-graders will be selected for the 2018-2019 school year.
- **Where will the STEM Academy be located?**  
The STEM Academy will be located at Wester Middle School in the annex building.
- **What will the school hours be for my child?**  
We will follow the MISD middle school arrival and dismissal times.

### Why a STEM School?

- **Why did the MISD decide to offer a STEM Academy for middle school?**  
Roughly 60 percent of future jobs which will be available for our current elementary school students when they graduate will involve skill sets associated with science, math, engineering, or technology. While STEM curriculum is available in ALL of our schools. The opportunity to build a STEM program that incorporates facilities that lend themselves to these instructional strategies is important to the Mansfield Independent School District and the children and families that it serves.
- **What makes this a STEM school and why is it unique?**  
The STEM Academy is an academic program located at Wester Middle School. The academy is designed to provide a rigorous and focused course of study emphasizing STEM. Coursework is advanced with a Pre-AP concentration and integrates project based learning and maker space as well as open learning environments. The learning environment at the academy gives students “voice and choice” to create, invent, tinker, and



explore with the result being high quality and authentic products. Students will use 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, including collaboration and critical thinking, while learning academic content.

- **Will you still offer classes in band/orchestra and physical education/athletics?**

The new program will still offer a comprehensive foundation in reading and writing, and instruction in physical education. Limited non-STEM electives will be available as they fit into student schedules with the focus of scheduling being STEM courses.

- **What other elective options will be made available to my child?**

Elective options will vary depending on the grade level of the student. Academic plans will outline the elective options open to students in the STEM Academy. The focus of several electives will be STEM related in all three grade levels. Students will have access to Wester Middle School electives in seventh and eighth grade on a limited basis as they will fit into the student's schedule.

- **What kinds of extra-curricular activities will the school have?**

The identification of extra-curricular activities is based on student and staff interest. However, a number of clubs will be related to STEM topics such as: Robotics, Destination Imagination, Academic UIL, Math Pentathlon, etc. Additionally, students will be allowed to try out for sports and participate in school activities on the Wester Middle School campus in accordance with campus, district, and UIL rules and regulations.

## **Enrollment and Transportation**

- **I am interested in having my child attend the new STEM Academy. When can I enroll my child?**

The application process has not started yet; however, this school has no attendance boundaries and students from any MISD school are eligible to apply for enrollment. Information regarding the dates and timelines associated with enrollment will be posted on MISD homepage.

- **How do I find out what the enrollment requirements are?**

The enrollment requirements can be found on this MISD homepage.

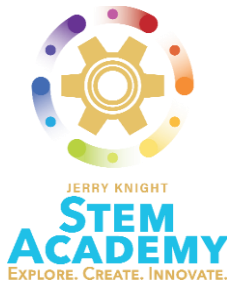
- **Will the district provide bus transportation to the STEM Academy?**

District transportation is provided to and from the STEM Academy.

## **Employment**

- **Have you hired a principal?**

Yes, Mrs. V. Webster has been hired as the Associate Principal for the new STEM Academy. She has been hired a year before the school is to open in order for her to be involved in the facility decisions, the hiring of staff and teachers, and the professional development needs of that staff. This person will also communicate with the



community and parents and will develop the philosophy of the STEM Academy.

- **When will you begin hiring teachers?**

While no dates are currently firm, we anticipate hiring to expand our instructional staff in the spring of 2018. Once we have an idea of the number of students who will be enrolled at the time the school opens. We hope to have the teachers identified and hired so they can work with colleagues and the principal during the spring and summer on professional development activities related to STEM instructional strategies.