



Dr. Ronald E. McNair Middle School STEM Innovation Academy Requirements

Student Eligibility & Expectations (Grades 6–8)

This framework balances rigor and support while emphasizing the skills and character traits essential for success in STEM fields.

Academic Requirements

Students enrolled in the STEM Innovation Academy are expected to:

- Maintain an overall **80** or higher in all core classes.
 - Earn **no failing grades** in any class each grading period.
 - Maintain a STEM Portfolio that documents STEM projects, research, competition participation, certifications, reflections, and evidence of academic growth throughout the school year.
 - Complete all major assignments and projects on time.
 - Participate actively in STEM Academy projects, labs, and competitions.
 - Demonstrate strong critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
 - Attend tutoring or academic support if grades fall below expectations.
 - Read independently for at least **20 minutes daily** to strengthen literacy and research skills.
 - Use technology responsibly and ethically.
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Attendance Requirements

Students must:

- Maintain **90% attendance** or higher.
 - Arrive at school and class on time.
 - Have no more than **(2)** unexcused absences or tardies per semester.
 - Make up missed work promptly following absences.
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Behavior Expectations

Students are expected to:

- Follow the DCSD Code of Conduct.
 - Demonstrate respect toward peers, teachers, staff, and visitors.
 - Show integrity by completing original work and avoiding plagiarism or cheating.
 - Use appropriate language at all times.
 - Be responsible with STEM equipment, technology, and classroom materials.
 - Work collaboratively and contribute positively during group activities.
 - Display leadership, perseverance, curiosity, and creativity.
 - Accept constructive feedback and use it to improve.
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Disciplinary Expectations

To remain in the STEM Academy, students should:

- Have **no Level III or IV discipline referrals (Administration's Discretion)**.
 - Avoid repeated classroom disruptions.
 - Have no suspensions during the school year **(Administration's Discretion)**
 - Follow all digital citizenship expectations when using school technology.
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STEM Academy Commitment

Students agree to:

- ✓ Participate in at least one STEM showcase, competition, research presentation, engineering design challenge, or capstone project per semester.
 - ✓ Participate in STEM career exploration activities, guest speaker presentations, college awareness programs, and career readiness experiences.
 - ✓ Be curious and ask thoughtful questions.
 - ✓ Take intellectual risks.
 - ✓ Learn from mistakes.
 - ✓ Collaborate respectfully.
 - ✓ Think creatively to solve real-world problems.
 - ✓ Represent Dr. Ronald E. McNair Middle School positively at all STEM events.
 - ✓ Participate in STEM showcases, family nights, and community events whenever possible.
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Parent/Guardian Commitment

Parents agree to:

- Encourage regular attendance.
 - Monitor grades through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal.
 - Support completion of homework and projects.
 - Attend STEM Academy meetings and showcases when possible.
 - Communicate with teachers regarding academic concerns.
 - Encourage perseverance and a growth mindset.
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Parent Volunteer Hours

STEM parents are required to volunteer 10 hours during the school year through activities such as:

- Classroom or Event Support

- STEM nights
 - Field trips
 - Service projects
 - Fundraising
 - After-school STEM clubs
 - Coordinating/Presenting guest speakers
 - Concession Stand
 - Gardening
 - Career Day
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Probation Policy

Students who do not meet STEM Academy expectations may be placed on **Academic or Behavioral Probation**.

Academic Probation

A student may be placed on probation if they:

- Fall below an 80 average in any core class.
- Receive a failing grade in any course.
- Frequently do not complete assignments or participate in STEM projects

Behavioral Probation

A student may be placed on probation for:

- Multiple discipline referrals.
- Excessive tardiness or absences.
- Inappropriate conduct.
- Misuse of technology or STEM equipment.

Intervention and Parent Conference

Prior to removal from the STEM Innovation Academy, students and parents/guardians will be notified of concerns and may be required to participate in a conference and academic and/or behavioral intervention plan designed to support student success whenever appropriate.

Students will be placed on probation after the first 9-week grading period. Students must bring academic and/or behavioral achievement up to the required standards by the end of the semester, or ***they will be removed from the STEM Innovation Academy.***

Academic Integrity

Students will not engage in any act of academic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, providing false information, falsifying school records, forging signatures, or using an unauthorized computer user ID or password. See the Code of Student Conduct - Student Rights and Responsibilities and Character Development Handbook.

Dress Code

Every Monday, on field trips, or when speakers are presenting at the school, STEM Academy students are required to wear uniforms. Except on Mondays, parents will be given advance notice of when students must be dressed in uniform. The colors are:

- 6th Grade-**Red polo shirt**, black or khaki pants
 - 7th Grade-**Gray polo shirt**, black or khaki pants
 - 8th Grade-**Black or White polo shirt**, black or khaki pants
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STEM Clubs under the TSA Umbrella

Students are required to join and participate actively in a STEM Club under the TSA Umbrella: LEGO League, TSA, MMS News, Science Olympiad, Gardening, Drones, and the Technology Team.

STEM Academy Recognition

Students who demonstrate excellence in academics, leadership, attendance, service, and STEM participation may be recognized throughout the school year through:

- STEM Scholar Recognition
- Academic Excellence Awards
- STEM Innovation Awards
- Leadership Recognition
- Competition and Showcase Recognition
- Perfect Attendance Recognition

These are recommendations intended to build upon the strong foundation that has already been established.

-Thank you again for your dedication and commitment to our students.

Student & Parent Acknowledgment of STEM Innovation Academy Expectations

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the expectations, requirements, and responsibilities outlined in the **Dr. Ronald E. McNair Middle School STEM Innovation Academy Requirements** document. I understand that participation in the STEM Innovation Academy is a privilege and that students are expected to maintain the academic, attendance, behavioral, and participation standards described in this document.

I understand that failure to meet these expectations may result in academic or behavioral probation and, if sufficient improvement is not demonstrated within the established timeline, may result in removal from the STEM Innovation Academy in accordance with school and district policies and administrative discretion.

My signature indicates that I have had the opportunity to ask questions regarding these expectations and agree to support the goals and standards of the STEM Innovation Academy.

Student Acknowledgment

I understand the expectations of the STEM Innovation Academy and agree to do my best to uphold its academic, behavioral, attendance, and character standards.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Acknowledgment

I have reviewed these expectations with my child and understand my role in supporting their success in the STEM Innovation Academy.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

School Representative

STEM Academy Coordinator: _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____