

# Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)

at Crittenden Middle School

6158 Jefferson Ave. • Newport News, VA 23605



## What is the STEM Magnet Program?

The STEM Magnet Program at Crittenden Middle School empowers students to explore their potential by developing future-ready skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Our students maintain academic excellence while becoming innovative problem solvers and leaders, prepared to make meaningful contributions to society.

## What makes the STEM Magnet Program distinctive?

STEM Magnet students benefit from a curriculum that fosters curiosity, critical thinking, and collaboration through hands-on, real-world applications. Key features include:

- **Innovative Instruction** - Core subjects taught by dedicated STEM-focused teachers who encourage students to apply engineering design, design thinking, and computational thinking in solving real-world problems. This approach aligns with the Virginia Standards of Learning and integrates STEM careers, preparing students for future opportunities.
- **Professional Partnerships** - Through field experiences and in-school career connections, students learn from local STEM professionals and organizations including Newport News Shipbuilding, Virginia Space Grant Consortium, and Jefferson Lab.
- **Advanced Technology** - Students have access to cutting-edge tools like 3D printers, rapid prototyping technology, programmable robots, and virtual reality. These resources are integrated into specialized courses, some of which are unique to Crittenden Middle School.
- **Enrichment Opportunities** - By participating in STEM clubs, competitive robotics, invention conventions, and science and engineering fairs, students deepen their experience and build resilience, adaptability, and a passion for continuous learning.



## Who is eligible?

All rising sixth, seventh, and eighth-grade students with a strong interest in STEM are welcome to apply. Rising 6th-grade magnet students from Deer Park, Newsome Park, and Discovery STEM Academy are given priority for enrollment. If applications exceed available spaces, students will be selected through a lottery process.



## What is required of STEM magnet students?

Students in the STEM Magnet Program are expected to:

- Sign and adhere to the Crittenden Magnet Contract.
- Participate in the annual Science and Engineering Fair.
- Submit a project to the school-based STEM EXPO by the 8th grade.
- Enroll in at least two STEM elective courses.
- Participate in a STEM, STEAM, or computer science club each year.
- Maintain high standards in academics, attendance, and behavior.

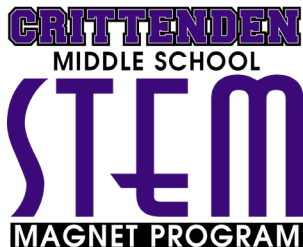
## Enrichment Opportunities Beyond the Classroom:

**STEM Clubs:** Girls Who Code, Drone Club, Robotics Club, Master Gardeners Club, Cooking with Science.

**Community Programs:** After-school STEM initiatives with community partners.

**Regional & Division-wide STEM Impact:** Student opportunities for leadership and active participation in impactful STEM events, including the regional FIRST Lego League (FLL) Tournament and the Division-wide Secondary Engineering Design Challenge.

The STEM program at Crittenden Middle School builds upon itself each year, guiding students from foundational skills to advanced, real-world applications, in alignment with NNPS's commitment to preparing students to be *college, career, and citizen-ready*.



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## STEM Magnet Program Progression: Building Future Innovators

Grade Level	Core STEM Experience	Focus Areas & Competitions	Community & Career Engagement
6	Introduction to iSTEM	<b>STEM Fair Year 1:</b> Establishing Essential STEM Foundations <b>6th Grade STEM Design Challenge:</b> Engaging students in hands-on problem solving	<b>Specialized Instruction:</b> Integrating Emerging Technologies with Social Studies and Science <b>STEM Town Hall:</b> Creating a vibrant STEM community and culture <b>Field Experiences:</b> Unique explorations tailored for 6th graders
7	Deepening STEM Skills	<b>STEM Fair Year 2:</b> Advancing Foundational Skills <b>7th Grade STEM Design Competition:</b> Applying STEM knowledge to more complex challenges	<b>Specialized Instruction:</b> Advanced use of Emerging Technologies, with a focus on Math <b>STEM Town Hall:</b> Strengthening the STEM community <b>Field Experiences:</b> Expanding into new STEM fields
8	Mastering STEM Concepts	<b>STEM Fair Year 3:</b> Culminating in a Showcase of Innovation <b>8th Grade STEM Design Challenge:</b> Showcasing mastery in STEM and leadership	<b>Specialized Instruction:</b> Focus on Science through advanced technologies <b>STEM Town Hall:</b> Leading discussions within the STEM community <b>Field Experiences:</b> Capstone experiences with career connections

Note: Students must take iSTEM in either their 7th or 8th grade year.

## How to Apply:

Interested students must submit a Magnet School Application by the December deadline. Applications are available online at [www.nnschools.org/magnet](http://www.nnschools.org/magnet). For assistance, contact the NNPS Magnet Office at (757) 283-7850 ext. 10206.

Transportation is provided for all magnet program students residing in Newport News.

## How can I find additional information?

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Learn more about Newport News Public Schools at [www.nnschools.org](http://www.nnschools.org)



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