



Discovery STEM Academy

1712 Chestnut Ave. • Newport News, VA 23607



What is Discovery STEM Academy?

The Discovery STEM Academy's curriculum features an innovative, problem-based learning design rooted in STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Each unit includes a real-world problem that students must solve by assuming a potential career and applying learning gained throughout the unit of study. Students work collaboratively using a design process that encourages critical thinking and problem solving.



Our educators prepare young learners to be accomplished problem solvers, with strong communication and computer skills, ready to become socially responsible citizens. We create innovative learning experiences to connect ideas across subject areas for deeper learning, inspiring our students to be *college, career, and citizen-ready*.

What is distinctive about the magnet program?

At Discovery STEM Academy, we use the design process to guide every day learning. We are one of the few schools that fully integrates our STEM program within our curriculum. Our curriculum, instruction and classroom management are all tied to the design process to allow students to lead their own learning and to make relevant connections every day.

The Discovery STEM Academy is designed to allow students to discover how, when and where they learn best. The campus features:

- 36 classrooms
- Collaborative learning zones for each grade level for break outs and group instruction
- Nutrition Lab with kitchen and dining area
- Student Gallery and Success Wall for displaying projects
- Two-level media center with a project-based learning area
- Courtyard with outdoor learning spaces
- Amphitheater with a stage that connects to the fitness lab for indoor and outdoor performances
- Individual reading nooks and a student lounge
- I-Wonder Walls where students can write questions or engage in online research
- Community resource area
- Edible garden located adjacent to the nutrition lab



Who is eligible?

All students are welcome to apply for the Discovery STEM Academy, which will accept applications for students who will be in grades 3 - 5 for the upcoming school year. This magnet program is well-suited for students who have an interest in hands-on science, technology, engineering and math. Students are selected by computer lottery.

Second through fourth grade siblings of current third and fourth grade magnet students will receive priority admission if an application is submitted.



How do I apply for the magnet program?

All students who wish to attend magnet programs must submit a Magnet School Application by the December deadline. Magnet applications must be submitted electronically. Links to magnet applications are available on the Newport News Public Schools website at www.nnschools.org/magnet. For additional assistance, please contact the NNPS Magnet Office at 757-283-7850 ext. #10314.

Transportation is provided to all magnet program students who reside in Newport News.

What does the program require of parents?

Families are expected to be partners in education at the Discovery STEM Academy and sign an agreement to:

- Be involved in their child's education;
- Support the magnet program;
- Communicate regularly with teachers;
- Support regular and timely attendance;
- Volunteer regularly; and
- Support positive discipline.



Where do students go after Discovery STEM Academy?

Students from the Discovery STEM Academy magnet program are well prepared for any middle school. They have priority for admission to the STEM magnet program at Crittenden Middle School. Those students, in turn, have priority for admission to the Heritage High School Governor's STEM Academy. Students must submit an application for priority admission.

How can I find additional information?

Travis Humble, Principal
travis.humble@nn.k12.va.us

Charlotte Bordino, Assistant Principal
charlotte.bordino@nn.k12.va.us

Discovery STEM Academy
1712 Chestnut Avenue
Newport News, Virginia 23607
(757) 928-6838
Fax: (757) 247-0422

discovery.nn.k12.va.us/



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