



Discovery STEM Academy

1712 Chestnut Ave. • Newport News, VA 23607



What is the STEM Magnet Program?

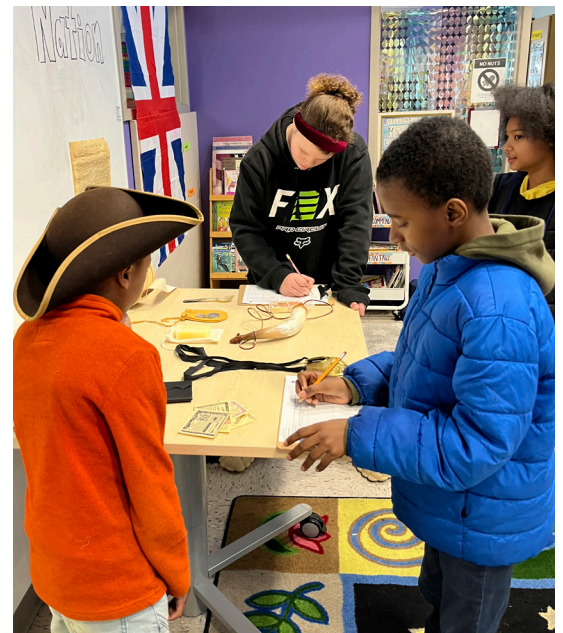
At Discovery STEM Academy, we inspire the next generation of innovators, problem solvers, and leaders through a learning experience rooted in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Uniquely designed with STEM education in mind, our state-of-the-art building features educational signage and specialized learning spaces, including Collaborative Learning Zones (CLZs) for each grade level. These spaces encourage teamwork, creativity, and hands-on problem-solving. More than just academics, Discovery STEM Academy empowers students to think critically, solve real-world challenges, and make meaningful connections to the world around them in an innovative, dynamic environment.



What makes the STEM Magnet Program at Discovery STEM Academy distinctive?

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

- **Building Design** – Students learn in an innovative architectural environment that encourages exploration and collaboration, featuring unique outdoor learning spaces like a watershed garden, pollination plants, a water feature, and natural rock formations. These spaces inspire hands-on exploration, scientific inquiry, and collaborative learning, creating an adaptable and engaging learning experience both inside and out.
- **Innovative Instruction** - Students attending DSA participate in a unique iSTEM class weekly. This class is taught by a dedicated STEM-focused teacher who encourages students to apply engineering design, design thinking, and computational thinking skills to solve 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 outreach programs, students learn from local STEM professionals and connect with organizations including The Mariners' Museum and Park, Jefferson Lab, James River Association, The Hampton History Museum, and Newport News Shipbuilding.
- **Advanced Technology** - Students have access to cutting-edge tools like 3D printers, programmable robots, and virtual reality. These resources are integrated into innovative classroom learning opportunities.
- **Enrichment Opportunities** - Magnet students have the opportunity to try out for the competitive robotics team. Students may also showcase leadership skills through the STEM Ambassador program.



Who is eligible?

All rising third, fourth, and fifth-grade students with an 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 middle school enrollment into the STEM magnet program at Crittenden Middle School. Student applicants will be selected through a lottery process.

What is required of STEM Magnet students?

Maintain high standards in academics, attendance, and behavior.



How to apply:

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



Enrichment Opportunities Beyond the Classroom:

- **STEM Clubs:** Robotics Club, Master Gardeners Club, Coding
- **Community Partners:** Brooks Crossing Innovation Lab, Jefferson Lab, James River Association, Hampton Roads Sanitation Department, Newport News Waterworks, The Mariners' Museum and Park, Hampton History Museum
- **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 Elementary Engineering Design Challenge

The STEM program at Discovery STEM Academy prides itself on 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*.

How can I find additional information?

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