

Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics (STEM) Academy

Through special collaborative agreements between Cecil County Public Schools and Cecil College, eligible students can be involved in advanced studies in science and mathematics. At the same time, they can earn as many as 18 college credits while still in high school. Courses will be taken at both the local high schools and Cecil College. To be eligible for the STEM Academy, students must be enrolled in Geometry or higher mathematics in the eighth grade. In order to continue at Cecil College and be eligible for tuition reductions, students must meet and complete established admission criteria.

The purposes of the STEM Academy are to attract talented students to the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and to prepare them for the advanced studies in these rigorous areas. Currently, 27 percent of regional employment is in the science and engineering sector. Employment in this sector will increase dramatically over the next 10 years as a result of the Army's expansion at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

STEM Academy students should register for the course sequence outlined in the [Student Education Planning Guide](#).

For further information, contact:

Mr. Vincent Cariello
Executive Director for High School Education

Dr. Peter McCallum
Executive Director for Middle School Education

(410)-996-5455

Frequently Asked Questions...

Is there a GPA requirement for admittance into STEM?

There is no GPA requirement at this time.

What are the minimum requirements for acceptance into the STEM Academy?

The minimum requirements to enter the STEM Academy are successful completion of Algebra I and Geometry prior to entering 9th grade.

How do students apply for the STEM Academy?

Students currently enrolled in 8th grade at any Cecil County public middle school will be invited to an information meeting with their parents to learn about the STEM Academy and schedule their educational plan. Students outside the public school system may contact Mr. Vince Cariello, Executive Director for High School Education, at vcariello@ccps.org or 410.996.5455.

Will students be committed to stay in the STEM Academy once they are accepted?

Withdrawal from the STEM Academy is always an option for a student. However, the student may be required to take additional courses in order to meet graduation requirements. Requests for opting out of the STEM Academy will be evaluated on an individual basis.

Will the classes at Cecil College interfere with classes/activities at the student's home school?

Students will meet with their guidance counselors to develop a schedule to meet their individual needs.

How will participation in the STEM Academy impact student athletes?

We do not anticipate any adverse impact for STEM Academy students regarding athletics.

Who will advise the students as they schedule their classes?

Eighth and ninth grade guidance counselors are responsible for working with the students to schedule their classes.

Will there be STEM only classes?

No, there will not be STEM only classes. STEM Academy students will be in classes with upper classmen and students from other career pathways.

Can students enter the STEM Academy later than grade nine?

Students can enter the STEM Academy at a later date; however, they will have to meet all the course requirements for the science and math pathways.

Will parents be notified if a student is struggling?

A committee of school-based educators will be mentoring the STEM Academy students. Members of the committee will also be available to discuss parental concerns and to act as advisors to STEM students. In addition to the school-based committee, parents have access at all times to the Grades Online (GO) program to review their student's academic performance.

Who will be covering the costs of the college courses?

The cost of the Cecil College tuition will be shared equally among the parents, Cecil College, and Cecil County Public Schools while STEM Academy students are enrolled in the Cecil County Public School system. Only college courses specifically outlined in the student's STEM Academy pathway will be considered acceptable for the shared tuition costs.

Will students be guaranteed acceptance to the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) after completing the STEM Academy?

Acceptance into UMBC is not guaranteed for those completing the STEM Academy. However, acceptance to college is based on the successful completion of rigorous high school academic programs. STEM is a nationally recognized rigorous academic program.