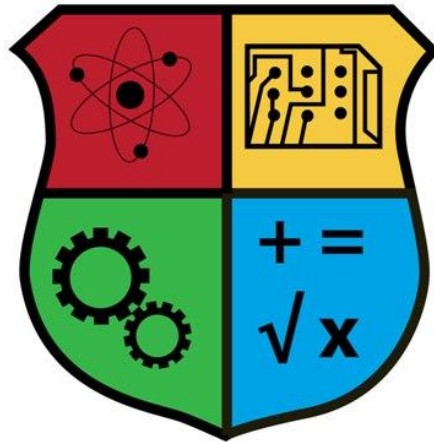


Kindergarten Information Packet

STEM Magnet Academy



science • technology • engineering • math

STEM
Magnet
Academy
Kindergarten

STEMKindergarten.weebly.com

Homework

Homework is essential in providing our kindergartners with the opportunity to develop skills that compliment those learned in the classroom, as well as help them be prepared for 1st grade. It enables parents to involve themselves directly in the learning program. Homework should enhance the child's growing independence as a learner and help them to develop self-discipline and organizational skills. You should expect that in the beginning of the year, your child will need a lot of assistance in staying focused as they do their homework. As the year progresses, they will become more independent in completing these tasks.

Weekly Homework

Homework packets and reading logs will be sent home with students on the first day of each week, and are *due every Friday morning by 9a.m.*, or whatever the last day is of that week. Homework will not be passed out early, i.e. the week(s) or day(s) before. If you know that your child will be out of school, they will receive their homework upon their return. Students must be present in order to turn in their completed homework packets. **Homework packets will not be distributed nor accepted electronically.** If your child has an **excused** absence on the day their homework packet is due, they may turn it in when they return to school for credit. Please make sure to review the homework with your child before Friday and sign it so we know that you have thoroughly looked it over before they turn it in. Any homework packets or portions of packets turned in late will not be accepted (including homework for other classes).

Assessments

Students will be assessed, formally and informally, throughout the year. Formally with NWEA and informally with their teachers routinely.

Projects-PBL

During the 2nd and 4th quarters, your child will receive a complete Problem-Based Learning project packet including a description of the problem to be solved and a rubric to help you to understand how the project will be assessed. These projects are due on the last day of the quarter. Students will learn key information and material related to the project in the classroom and will have homework assignments throughout the quarter to demonstrate their mastery of the material. Each PBL assignment will include a cumulative project, which your child will have 10 weeks to work on. Specific due dates will be included in the project description. Due to the time provided to complete this work, *no late projects will be accepted.*

Grades

Kindergarten students are not given formal letter grades. Instead, students will receive a W (Well Developed), P (Progressing), or a B (Beginning) in each subject area. Students will receive 4 report cards throughout the year. The 1st and 3rd report card will need to be picked up from the school on the designated dates on the CPS calendar. The 2nd and 4th report cards will be sent home with your child. Since kindergarten students do not receive typical academic grades, parent portal will not reflect any of their grades throughout the year.

Classroom volunteers

In order to be a volunteer at STEM Magnet Academy, you must obtain a volunteer packet from the office. This is a requirement of Chicago Public Schools. In order to allow time for our students to adjust to the classroom, we are requesting that there are no parent volunteers in the classroom for the first 2 weeks of school. This will also give you time to complete the volunteer packet and complete all of the necessary requirements. ***Parents will not be allowed to volunteer in their own child's classroom, but are greatly needed during lunch times.***

Field Trips

As a field trip volunteer, you will be responsible for a small group of children, not just your own. Siblings are not permitted to come on field trips. Chaperones are only allowed to attend the field trip if they ride the bus with the class to/from our destination and have been given permission by their child's teacher to chaperone. While you are volunteering on a field trip, please do not allow children to share their food or give them any food that their parent has not packed for them due to different food allergies, some severe. Also, to be fair to all students, chaperones are not allowed to buy items/souvenirs for other students while on a field trip. Parent volunteers will be assigned a group of students that they must supervise at all times. We will send home information throughout the year about upcoming trips. Students who display unfavorable behavior in the weeks before a field trip, may not be allowed to go on the field trip. Thank you in advance for understanding, as we will be publicly representing STEM and do not want to misrepresent our school in a negative manner.

Spare Clothing

As requested in the supply list, please send a set of extra clothing in a one-gallon ziplock bag labeled with your child's name. Please include underwear and socks with the clothing, extra shoes are not necessary. Accidents happen and we want to be prepared.

Lunch

If your child is bringing a lunch, please make sure it is a complete lunch, including a beverage. Keep in mind that there will be no way to refrigerate or microwave items so please plan appropriately. Per CPS policy, all students, including kindergarten students have 22 minutes to eat their lunch. Please emphasize to your child that they make sure to eat during this time. It is their responsibility to ensure that they are eating and not leaving the cafeteria without eating or touching their lunch.

Snack

A healthy snack is permitted if brought in the morning with the student, must be handheld (no utensils required), no liquids, no candy, cannot be shared, and must be able to be consumed in the time allotted (5 minutes).

School Hours

The school day starts at 8:00 and ends at 3:00. Instruction will begin promptly, so please be punctual. If your child comes to school after 8:10, please sign them in as tardy in the office. If for any reason your child's mode of transportation or person who is picking them up is going to change, please notify the office and the classroom teacher with ample notice and inform the person picking your child up that they will be required to show identification. Also, please let your child know of any change in plans to alleviate stress.

Attendance

School attendance plays a critical role in the academic success or failure of students. If your child is sick please do keep them at home, but whenever possible, have your child at school and on time. We will work with students who have missed material whenever possible, but excessive absences will affect their grades and progress. Attendance is part of the student record that follows them throughout their school years. If your child is absent, send them with a note once they return from the absence acknowledging each date of absence and the cause. According to CPS policy, absences can be excused ONLY for the following reasons: student illness, family emergency, observation of a religious holiday, death in the immediate family, or circumstances related to a student's health or safety. The parent/legal guardian should email or write the school to inform them of the absence. Failure to send cause of absence notes will result in *unexcused* absences on your child's record. Please note, excused absences are still absences, and will count against perfect attendance.

Classroom interruptions

Each instructional minute of the day is important so in order to eliminate interruptions, all classroom observations and volunteering need to be cleared through the administration with advance notice. If you wish to meet with a teacher during school hours, please schedule an appointment and receive approval from administration and teacher in advance. Teachers may be emailed at SRTobiason@cps.edu or LECarlson@cps.edu. Teachers will reply back to your email within 24-48 hours between the hours of 8-5 p.m., M-F.

Recess

Kindergarten students have a 22-minute recess after lunch every day. They will go outside when the weather permits. Please dress your child appropriately for the weather.

Kindergarten Dress Code

The dress code at STEM Magnet Academy is red, yellow, blue, or green STEM logo polo shirts with black, blue, or khaki pants/bottoms. Skirts and jumpers will be allowed as long as they are an appropriate length. Please do not send your child to school with distracting jewelry, noisy watches, or toys. Children who bring these items will be asked to remove them, which puts them at risk for being lost and/or damaged. The uniform policy will be enforced from October 1 until May 31. All uniforms can be ordered online through Land's End. Gym uniform information will be sent home at the beginning of the year.

Special's Schedule

Specific schedules for special's classes vary depending on the classroom. You will receive a schedule when school begins. Students will be taking science, engineering, art, gym, music, and technology.

Birthdays

Unfortunately, due to CPS's new regulation, food may not be brought in to celebrate birthdays. If you would like to bring something in for your child's special day, there are also non-food options that the children may enjoy: individual pencils, stickers, books, or art supplies; an art project we can make, a song we can sing, music we can dance to, a game we can play, etc. Please communicate with your child's teacher at least one week in advance so that she may plan accordingly. Parents will not be allowed to in classroom for their child's birthday, thank you for understanding.

If you choose to distribute birthday party invitations to your child's classmates, please do it outside of school hours. We will not be able to pass out invitations to students, nor is fair for your child to do so when not all students would/might be invited. It is too heartbreaking to the students who will not be included.

End of the Year

We plan and execute a culminating activity to honor the kindergarten students and their first year at STEM. We usually ask for a small monetary donation at the end of the year to order the students an end of the year t-shirt and take home art projects that reflect our different themes every year. More information about the end of the year activities are sent home in May.