

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. Do I have to apply for my child to take a test in order to be eligible for the STEM program?

A1. Yes, you must complete an online application or a paper application that is available at the Marshall ISD administration office located at 1305 E. Pinecrest Drive, Marshall, TX 75670.

Q2. When does the district stop accepting application for the STEM assessment?

A2. Application closes on March 19th 2018.

Q3. Will I be notified when my child will be completing the assessment?

A3. Yes, we will notify you by mail as to when your child will be tested. The testing window for students entering K-5 will be during the week of April 23 – April 27 and for students entering Marshall Junior High School, the testing window is May 21st – May 25th.

Q4. Where will the testing take place?

A4. For students entering K-5, testing will take place at Marshall ISD administration office located at 1305 E. Pinecrest Drive, Marshall, TX 75670. Testing for students entering 6th grade will occur at the students perspective elementary campuses while out of district applicants will be tested at the Marshall ISD district office. Students in grades 7 and 8 will be tested at the Marshall Junior High School Campus.

Q5. Who has to test to get in the STEM cohort at Marshall Junior High School?

A5. Any student that would like to be a part of the STEM cohort at Marshall Junior High School (see table 1) would need to meet all the prequalification requirements, register to take the assessment, third, make a favorable score test when compared to the same grade level test takers.

Q6. How do I become a member of the Advanced Academics cohort?

A6. There are two ways to become a member of the Advanced Academics cohort:

- I. The student need to be classified as Gifted and Talented as defined by Marshall ISD board policy EHBB (Local) and EHBB (Legal).
- II. The students must take the STAAR test and categorize at Level 3 based on the STAAR results, have an 85 average or above on ALL core classes for the current school year and must be recommended by his/her class teacher.

Frequently Asked Questions

	Advanced Academic Coursework	Focus on STEM Principles and the Engineering Design Process	Project Based Learning	Real World Application of Content	Global Connections
Advanced Academics	X	X	X	X	X
STEM Specific		X	X	X	X
General			X	X	X

Table 1: Shows three cohorts at Marshall Junior High School and their focus.

Q7. Do I have to take the test if I am in 5th grade at Sam Houston Elementary School and would like to be a part of the STEM cohort at Marshall Junior High School?

A7. Yes, you have to sign up to take the test, meet the prequalification requirements and make a favorable grade in order to be a part of the STEM cohort at Marshall Junior High School.

Q8. What is the difference between the Advanced Academics Cohort, STEM Cohort and the General Cohort?

A8. Table 1 identifies the three cohorts available at Marshall Junior High School as well as the instructional focus of each cohort. The difference between the three cohort is as follows:

The Advanced Academics cohort will consist of students who have met all the GT requirements as outlined by Marshall ISD as well as for students outlined in A6 (ii). Advanced Academics students' coursework will have more rigor and that Advanced Academics students are expected to start taking High School credit classes in 8th grade.

STEM cohort will consist of students who have met the STEM requirements as per the STEM guidelines. Students in the STEM cohort will focused on STEM Principles and the Engineering Design Process, Project Based Learning (PBL) as the preferred teaching technique and that the students will be learning grade level material.

General cohort will comprise of students who are not members of the Advanced Academics cohort and the STEM cohort. Students of the General cohort will also be exposed to PBL teaching techniques, Real world application of content as well as global connection.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q9. If my child does not currently attend a school in Marshall ISD, are they at a disadvantage?

A9. No, your child is not at a disadvantage but they are encouraged to do their best on the assessment.