

Pearcy STEM Academy FAQs

Students at Pearcy STEM Academy will have real-world problem solving embedded into all math and science classes, an emphasis on life-ready skills such as problem-solving, creativity, communication, collaboration, and critical thinking, and participate in STEM-related field trips, campus clubs and competitions.

What will be different about this school than a traditional school?

STEM lessons are designed to give students hands-on learning experiences that challenge students to think critically, value mistakes and learn from them. Students are encouraged to create, build and think “outside the box” as they learn 21st-century skills vital to success in life. Communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking skills are incorporated into the curriculum along with STEM field trips and lessons designed by nationally certified STEM teachers.

What kind of STEM activities are there at this school?

STEM lessons are embedded into classes throughout the school day with STEM curriculum not available anywhere else in the Arlington ISD, including Project Lead the Way Launch and Dive-In Engineering. The Pearcy STEM Academy has nationally certified STEM teachers designing innovative and challenging lessons to build a love of learning while ensuring that students are highly successful with Texas standards (TEKS). Students can participate in extra-curricular clubs that include coding, engineering, computer science and robotics.

How and when can I apply?

Applications will be available at www.aisd.net/specializedprograms beginning at 9 a.m. on Saturday, September 21. Applications are due by October. 11, 2019 at 4 p.m.

What grades are accepted into this program?

For the 2020-2021 school year, students in grades 2nd through 6th will be accepted.

Students who live in the Pearcy attendance zone in the Arlington ISD do not need to apply for the Pearcy STEM Academy because they have automatic admission to the program. However, if you live in the Pearcy attendance zone and move out of it or intend to move out of it before the next school year, you will need to apply to the academy as your child will no longer have automatic admittance and Pearcy does not accept transfer students.

In 2021-2022, students in kindergarten through 6th grades will be accepted.

How do I know if I was accepted and when will I find out?

Parents will receive a decision letter by email by November 12, 2019 and will have until November 15, 2019 to respond.

Is it free?

Yes. There is no cost to attend Pearcy STEM Academy.

Is there transportation?

Students living within Arlington – and students who live more than two miles from Percy and are zoned to attend Percy – will be able to access through a hub system. Designated campuses serve as hubs for students in nearby schools.

How many students are accepted versus how many people apply each year?

We anticipate accepting approximately:

- 22 students in 2nd grade
- 22 students in 3rd grade
- 18 students in 4th grade
- 20 students in 5th grade
- 10 students in 6th grade

What are the qualifications you are looking for to be accepted?

We are looking for students who are inquisitive and excited about learning in a collaborative environment.

Do you accept out of district students?

Admission to students who reside outside of the Arlington ISD boundaries will be offered only after all resident applicants have been placed. However, out-of-district siblings of current Percy students are exempt from this requirement. Their admittance is not automatic, however their applications will be given weighted consideration.

Are there other schools I can go to if I don't get into this one and can I apply to more than one school at a time?

Yes, the Arlington ISD has other [specialized programs](#) that you can apply for at the same time as you apply for Percy STEM Academy. You must rank your choices first, second and third when completing the application.

Are there any information meetings and is attending an information meeting required?

During the applications process there will be parent information meetings where the principal will review the design of the program, outline expectations for participation and discuss the categories that will be weighted during the application process. They will give a more in-depth look at the school, allow parents to ask questions and may help parents with the application process. Attending a meeting is not required for admission.

Parents can learn about Percy and also the other elementary specialized programs at a parent information meeting:

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

Arlington ISD Professional Development Center

1111 W. Arbrook Blvd. in Arlington.

6 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Pearcy STEM Academy will host a parent information meeting about its specific program:

Monday, September 30

Pearcy STEM Academy

601 East Harris Road, Arlington

6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Additional meeting dates are TBA.

Will my child participate in PE, fine arts or other specials at this school?

Students will participate in art, music, PE, and strings (5th & 6th only) just like at other AISD elementary schools. We also offer Spanish as an elective option for 5th & 6th grades. Students must have had strings or Spanish as a 5th grader to participate in 6th grade.

Is there after-school care available?

We have Boys and Girls Club available. Once their capacity is reached, there is a waiting list. Many day cares centers are nearby that also offer after school care.

Who do I contact for more information?

To learn more about the Pearcy STEM Academy, or any of Arlington ISD's specialized programs, go to www.aisd.net/specializedprograms or email specialprograms@aisd.net.