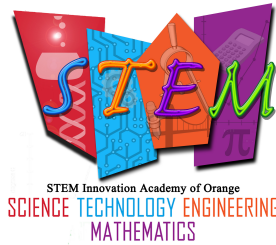


The Orange Public Schools



The Intersection of Technology, Design, and Innovation

FAQs

What is the Academy?

The STEM Innovation Academy of Orange is a highly-innovative 4-6 year program spanning grades 9-14 resulting from the joint collaborative between The City of Orange, the Orange Public Schools, New Jersey's Institute of Technology (NJIT), Essex County College (ECC), The College of New Jersey, and Montclair State University. The Academy is located at **268 Capuchin Way, Orange, NJ 07050**. The Academy exemplifies an early college model whereby students, from grade 9 on, navigate through a six-year scope and sequence of high school and college coursework.

Who can apply?

The STEM Innovation Academy of Orange accepts applications from eighth grade students who are residents of Orange.

How do I apply?

The application process begins in April of the 2016-2017 school year and considers middle school report card grades, multi-year transcripts, standardized test scores (ex: PARCC, Accuplacer, PSAT), parental support, previous participation in other related programs, attendance records, student narratives reflecting commitment/goals/aspirations/career interests, portfolios, references (teacher/parent/student), panel interviews, and individual and/or group performance tasks. The application process is open to all district students. A personalized application will be mailed to every eighth grade student in the district and will be made available online in English, Spanish, and Haitian/Creole. Students complete Part I of the application then submit it. The application can be found online at <http://tiny.cc/SIAO20172018>. Part II of the application is to be completed and submitted, by **May 15, 2017**.

- Positive recommendation from current Science or STEM Teacher
- Positive recommendation from current Mathematics Teacher
- Written assignment
- 7th grade transcripts (full year)
- 8th grade transcripts (MP1/MP2)
- 7th grade PARCC scores (ELA/Math)
- Attendance Report
- Discipline Report

How competitive is the field of applicants and what are the minimum requirements?

The application process is open to all district students. Sixty (60) students will be selected for the 2017-2018 school year. There are likely to be more applicants than available spaces. Broadly, the review panel is seeking students who are:

- Algebra-ready
- Adept at breaking big problems into little ones
- Persistent and creative
- Can build solutions in small steps
- Enjoy trying out and testing new ideas

With the exception of a Grade 7 PARCC Mathematics score of 745 or better, there are no minimums with regards to test scores as the panel considers the complete application portfolio in making decisions regarding acceptance. All students accepted into the Academy must attend a mandatory 2-week **Summer Gateway Camp** designed to prepare students for the 9th grade year in the areas of Mathematics and Engineering and runs June 27, 28, July 5 – 13, 2017 (Monday – Thursday); and a **Meet and Retreat** with teachers on August 17 & 18.

How do I apply?

The application is a two-part process. Part I is online and is located at <http://tiny.cc/SIAO20172018>. Once Part I is completed, applicants will be able to access and print Part II. Complete applications (Parts I & II) are due no later than Monday, **May 15, 2017** to the Orange Board of Education Office of Mathematics and Science located at 451 Lincoln Avenue, Orange, NJ 07050. No applications will be considered after the due date for the 2017-2018 school year.

How will I know if I qualify for acceptance?

All qualified applicants will be scheduled for an interview in May. All interviewed students are either accepted or placed on the wait list. Should an opening occur, wait list applications will be reviewed for admission. Acceptances will be announced on or about June 1, 2017.

Is transportation provided?

The district does not provide transportation.

Do I need previous experience in engineering?

No! Previous coursework or experience in engineering is not required to be successful in the Academy. In a student's freshman year, they spend their first two marking periods in exploratory setting where they are introduced to concepts related to mechanical engineering, computer science, and biomedical engineering. Students determine their Major Field of Study just prior to entering their sophomore year.

Will I only study engineering?

No! The Academy provides students with a full curriculum as mandated by the State of New Jersey in order to earn a high school diploma. Though offered in non-traditional, more progressive settings, Academy students are required to take the equivalent of 4 years of English, 3 years of History, 4 years of Physical Education/Health, at least two years of World Language and Art, in addition to their four years of Mathematics, Science, and Engineering/Computer Science.

Profile of a Typical Successful STEM Innovation Academy Student

Natural Problem solver

Interested in how things work

Interested in Science,
Engineering,
and/or
Programming



Creative

Persistent

Likes a Challenge

Hard-working

Maintains good grades

For questions, contact the Office of Mathematics and Science at
973.677.4000; extension 6089