

# Nikola Tesla STEM High School (T-STEM)

## Frequently and Very Frequently Asked Questions – 2018/19

### **What are T-STEM's hours-of-operation?**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday: 7:30 to 2:00 with two lunch sessions

Wednesday: 7:30 to 12:00 with one lunch offered from 12:05 to 12:30

(Please note: If the district changes school start times, our start and end times will be adjusted as well.)

### **What is the district's transportation plan for T-STEM?**

Transportation options include parents, the district shuttle buses, and carpooling.

Regarding the district shuttle buses:

- This transportation option is at no charge to families.
- The shuttle buses start out at designated high school sites each morning and end at these same sites each afternoon.
- Shuttle start and end times are determined by the LWSD Transportation Office and are mailed home to all families from our LWSD Transportation Office in August.

### **What is the T-STEM curriculum for grade 9?**

- Core Course Work: Physics, Graphic/Visual Arts, English Language Arts; Math; Spanish; Computer Science; Engineering. Problem-Based Learning Innovation Project conducted in the second semester.
- Advanced Placement (AP) course offerings (starting in grade 10) include but are not limited to Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Calculus (AB/BC), Statistics, various Social Studies and Language Arts courses, Psychology, and Computer Sciences. Students do not need special permission or staff approval to enter into an AP course.
- If you are a student who is already taking a world language other than Spanish, then summer school, online courses, community colleges, and/or your home high school are all options if you are planning on continuing your studies in that other specific world language.

### **What does T-STEM offer besides AP?**

- Tesla STEM High School offers not only AP courses but also courses that are dual credited with the University of Washington.
- UW in the High School Program specifics:
  - Through the UW in the High School (UWHS) program, high school students can complete University of Washington courses — and earn UW credit — in their high school classrooms with their own teachers.
  - Students and teachers use UW curriculum, activities, texts, tests, and grading scales. Students earn a final grade over time; a grade does not depend on one exam. Students receive recognition for their UW work at most public institutions and many private ones.

- The program gives students a chance to test their readiness for higher education in a familiar environment.
  - Who teaches UWHS courses? UWHS courses are taught by very qualified high school teachers who have been approved and trained by UW academic faculty. UWHS teachers are selected based on an evaluation of their professional and academic credentials. UWHS teachers follow the same curriculum, tests, and grading standards required of a regular UW course. They are officially recognized as UW Professional & Continuing Education Lecturers.
  - Are credits transferable? Any credits earned through the UWHS program will be accepted at the UW. The UW cannot guarantee that another institution will automatically accept UWHS credit. Most public and private colleges and universities, however, will accept the credit. Before enrolling in a UWHS course, students should check with the institution they plan on attending to see if and how credits will transfer.
  
- STEM Lab Concentrations and the Two Pathways:
  - Further, STEM High School Juniors and Seniors take STEM Lab Concentrations (SLCs) during their final two years at STEM.
  - These SLCs include Environmental Engineering and Sustainable Design (EESD), Forensics/Advanced Psychology, Biomedical Engineering, and Advanced Physics/Global Engineering.
  - The Two Pathways: Engineering and Computer Science. For the Engineering Pathway, T-STEM instructors (trained at the University of Texas, Cockrell School of Engineering for the Engineer Your World curriculum and instruction) offer Engineering 1, 2, and 3. The content is based on the Grand Challenges for Engineering, and students use the industry-standard engineering design process to complete the course work. For the Computer Science Pathway, students have a 4-year program that includes Advanced Placement courses.

### **What about college readiness?**

Colleges want to see students who have a rigorous academic history over time and not just pockets of rigor posted to a transcript. Colleges are looking at the total package, so to speak, and are looking for students who take the full four years of core subjects, as per Tesla STEM. Students at Tesla STEM High School will not only exceed standard in terms of rigor but will also be steeped in college-level research and problem-based learning while they work in labs that are modeled after university level structures. In addition, our STEM industry internships/partnerships give students the real-world experience as Tesla students work with experts in multiple STEM and STEM-related fields.

**Is there a music program at Tesla STEM?**

Yes, there is an after-school (period 7) music program at T-STEM. We have a certificated music teacher in place, and students earn course credits in either or both orchestra and choir while also participating in concerts and competitions.

**How will my student participate in school athletics?**

As per all choice schools in the state, WIAA (Washington Interscholastic Activities Association) has ruled that students must return to their home schools to participate in sports. We have done this for years, and many students have not only continued to participate in sports at their home schools but also have excelled and held leadership positions on their respective teams. The district shuttle buses get students back to their home schools in time for athletics.

**What about school clubs and activities?**

We have a full complement of ASB clubs and organizations.

**Is Tesla STEM High School still a Lake Washington School District school?**

Yes, all of our LWSU Choice Schools are district schools. We follow the same calendars, district policies and procedures, high school graduation requirements and credit requirements.

**Do we have National Merit Scholars?**

For the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Competition, Tesla STEM High School results:

- Semifinalists: 14 scholars
- Commended: 25 scholars

**Beyond Most Frequently Asked Questions:**

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|--------------------------------|--|
| • Average daily homework       | 2 to 3 hours per night                             |
| • Assessments                  | weekly in most classes                             |
| • Team projects                | required in all classes                            |
| • Finals                       | required at the end of each semester               |
| • Attendance                   | ten missed classes equals possible loss of credits |
| • College Counseling           | Yes...early and often                              |
| • Academic Competitions        | Multiple opportunities                             |
| • Internships (PBL)            | Junior and Senior years                            |
| • Presentation of student work | Yes...early and often                              |
| • Publication of student work  | Yes...early and often                              |
| • Academic Assistance          | Tutoring, study groups, faculty office hours       |
| • PE                           | See link below                                     |

PE <http://www.lwsd.org/programs-and-services/curriculum-instruction/high-school-guide/graduation-requirements/physical-education-credit-options>