

Welcome to



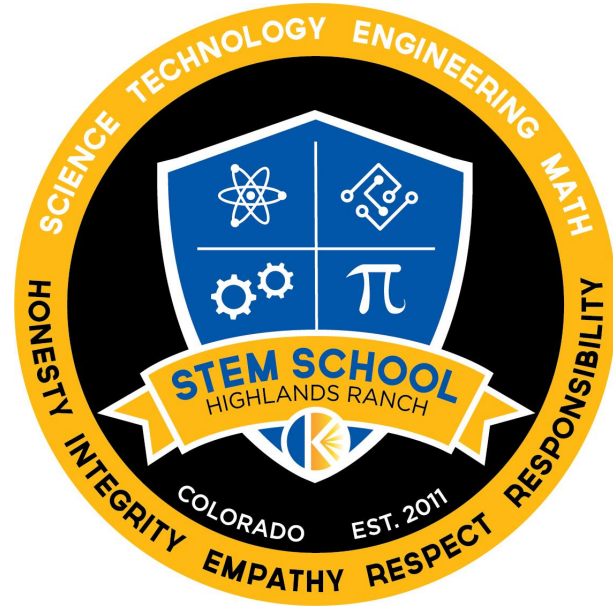
STEM SCHOOL

HIGHLANDS RANCH

Never Stop Innovating



Home of the **SPARTANS**



General Information

Our Mission - Never Stop Innovating.

Our Vision - We envision a world of exponential possibilities where every child develops the innate knowledge, skills, creativity and character to thrive, lead and succeed in an ever-changing future.

Our Goal - Our goal is not only to prepare students to thrive in the constant world of reinvention, but to lead it.

Middle School Administration



Maura Ridder
Middle School
Director



Dr. Jistine Harrison
Director of Student
Support



Parag Patel
6-12 Dean of
Students



LynAnn Kovalesky
Executive Director
(K-12)

About Mrs. Ridder

- 11th year at STEM; 9 years - teacher, ELA Lead, Instructional Coach, Student Government Advisor, Professional Development Coordinator
- Before STEM - Assistant District Attorney - San Francisco and Santa Clara, Family Law Attorney, Radio Show Producer/host
- 3 children, 1 husband (28 years), 3 cats - 4 as of next week!!
- Skier, runner, pickle baller, reader, hiker, traveler

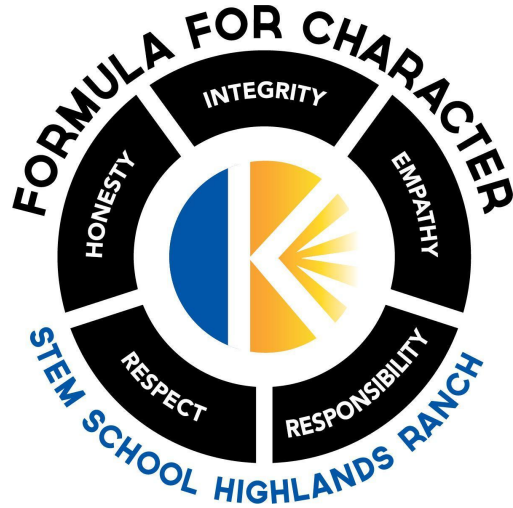
About STEM School Highland Ranch

2023 - Niche Rankings

- Best Public Middle Schools in Douglas County - **1 of 25**
- Best Public Middle Schools in Denver Area - **8 of 262**
- Best Public Middle Schools in Colorado - **11 of 556**
- Best Public Middle Schools in America - **820 of 25,154**

STEM School Highlands Ranch

- Innovation
- Rigor
- PBL - Problem Based Learning
- Student Centered
- Formula for Character




What is a PBL School?

Gold Standard PBL

Seven Essential Project Design Elements



Safety First!

- Raptor guest registration
 - Security cameras
 - Full time School Resource Officer
 - Full time Security Guard
 - Safety Drills
 - Multiple Mental Health Providers
 - STEM Resource Center
 - Evolv system - AI Metal Detector - Pilot Program
- 

Typical School Day

- 4 classes each day
 - **Monday/Wednesday: BLUE DAY**- Periods 2,4,6,8
 - **Tuesday/Thursday: GOLD DAY**- Periods 3,5,7,9
 - **Friday: SILVER DAY** - ALL Periods - skinny schedule
- Access: two days a week
 - Study hall
 - Socioemotional programs
 - Office hours
 - Assemblies
- Lunch: Daily - During 6th/7th hour - 30 minutes
 - Grade 6 - A lunch
 - Grades 7 and 8 - B or C lunch within the class hour.
- When your student needs help with something:
 - Counselors are available and our mental health team
 - Teachers have office hours (Access and after school)
 - Student can get help from study hall supervisors
 - After school tutoring available through student groups

Calendars/Schedules

We follow the DCSD
Academic Calendar

[Secondary Bell Schedule](#)

All calendars and bell
schedules can be found
under the *Calendar* link
at www.stemk12.org

Classroom Expectations

- ✓ Be prepared, on time, and ready for every class.
- ✓ Check your grades regularly on Canvas.
- ✓ Talk to your teachers regularly about your grades and assignments.
- ✓ Cell phones are put in door pockets
- ✓ Advocate for yourself.
- ✓ Attend teacher office hours.
- ✓ Engage and collaborate in class.
- ✓ Respect yourself and others in the classroom.
- ✓ Be kind.

Canvas

- Our online LMS that is used to assign and turn in assignments online. This should be accessed daily to help organize and prioritize course load and deadlines for all assignments for every class.
- Our communications department developed the following tutorials that can also be found on the counseling page at STEMk12.org
- Tutorial Links:
 - Parent tutorial: <https://youtu.be/8b6Ys-piwrE>
 - Student tutorial: <https://youtu.be/8b6Ys-piwrE>

Tips for Success for Your Student

- Self-awareness
 - Attending class and showing up on time
- Self-motivation
 - Reaching out to teachers- advocating for themselves, attending teacher office hours
 - Daily classwork and homework completion
- Problem-solving and planning ahead
 - Organization- planner, reminders through Canvas, reminder (alerts) on phone
 - Check Canvas daily

Student Support Team

- 2 Middle School Counselors
- 2 High School Counselors
- Counseling Assistant
- MS School Psychologist
- HS Social Worker
- College and Career Counselor
- Career Discovery Coordinator
- Learning Support Services (Special Education)
- English Language Development Teachers

Teacher Support Team

Director of Professional Development	Michelle Gasser
Gifted and Talented Coordinator	Jon Jennings
K-12 PBL Specialist	Mackenzie Harper
Instructional Specialist MTSS Coordinator	Carissa Elliott Karen Cook

Teacher Support: Year At A Glance

- 3 full time and 1 part time Teacher Support members
- 16 Mentors
- Induction and Alternative Licensure support

Support Includes:

- PBL Development
- Instructional Pedagogy
- Standards Based Learning Development and implementation
- Unit Planning
- Feedback and Observations
- Coverage for teachers to observe others
- Co-teaching/model teaching
- Instructional Technology Support
- Curriculum Implementation
- Differentiation
- Resource Procurement
- Quick Breaks

Clubs and Activities

Ms. FitzRoy - Enrichment Coordinator



[Click here for details](#)

These are subject to change for the 23/24 School year; current offerings and additional information can be located on our [Enrichment page](#).

Basketball

BEST Robotics

Brain Bowl

Broadcasting Club

Cross Country Team

CyberPatriot

Dungeons and Dragons

Fashion Club

Fencing

Girls Persist

Literary Magazine

Math Counts

Science Olympiad

SteMed Jr (Medical Club)

STEM Communications Club

Student Government

Theatre - Tech Crew

TSA (Technology Student Association)

Theater - Improv and Sketch Comedy Club

Middle School

Required Courses

Full Year:

- Science
- Math
- Social Studies
- Language Arts

One Semester:

- Engineering/MS Robotics
 - TSA is also an option for 7th and 8th graders
- Computer Science
 - 6th Grade Computer Science
 - 7th Grade Computer Science
 - 8th Grade: Networking and Cybersecurity OR Pis and Python

Middle School

Electives (3 per semester)

- Spanish
- French
- World Language Exploration
- PE
- Art
- Music Fundamentals
- Music Production
- Choir
- Beginner Orchestra
- Sources of Strength
- Symphonic Ensemble
- Theater
- Scientific Methods
- Math Explorations and Problem Solving
- Real World Economics
- English Enrichment
- Biology (8th grade only)

Please see our [MS Academic Planning Guide](#) for course descriptions and prerequisite information. www.stemk12.org

Middle School Course Progression

	<u>6th Grade</u>	<u>7th Grade</u>	<u>8th Grade</u>
Language Arts <i>Full-year</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language Arts 6 • Accelerated Language Arts 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language Arts 7 • Accelerated Language Arts 7 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language Arts 8 • Accelerated Language Arts 8
Science <i>Full-year</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science 6 • Accelerated Science 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science 7 • Accelerated Science 7 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science 8 • Accelerated Science 8
Social Studies <i>Full-year</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Studies 6 • Accelerated Social Studies 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Studies 7 • Accelerated Social Studies 7 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Studies 8 • Accelerated Social Studies 8
Math <i>Full-year</i>	Math Course I Math Course II Pre-Algebra Algebra I Geometry	Math Course II Pre-Algebra Algebra I Geometry Algebra II	Pre-Algebra Algebra I Geometry Algebra II Trig/Pre-Calc

Middle School Course Progression cont

Computer Science <i>1 Semester</i>	6th grade Computer Science	7th Grade Computer Science	MS Networking & Cybersecurity OR Pis and Pythons
Engineering <i>1 Semester/ Full year (TSA)</i>	Engineering 6 OR MS Robotics	Engineering 7 OR MS Robotics OR MS Advanced Robotics OR TSA	Engineering 8 OR MS Robotics OR MS Advanced Robotics OR TSA
Electives (see back)	3 per semester*	3 per semester*	3 per semester*

Math Placement

Current 5th Grade STEM Students:

- Teachers are making these recommendations. You may have already been in contact with them about this. If not, feel free to reach out.

Incoming 6th Grade Students:

- Standardized test scores (MAPs, iReady)
- Math Placement Exam: offered in May and in July - details to come

Middle School Field Trips

- **6th grade:** Keystone Science Camp (March)
- **7th grade:** SeaCamp in San Diego (Fall)
- **8th grade:** Boston (with a STEM focus) (Fall)

Student Check-in Registration

- NO "physical" STUDENT CHECK-IN.
- Everything will be done electronically.
- Student schedules will be posted in the Infinite Campus portal during summer, and parents will receive an email with important forms and information regarding the beginning of the school year.
- For more information regarding current student check-in, visit our website: [Enrollment/Current Students](#).

Become involved in the STEM Community

Committees


- SAC - School Accountability Committee
- PTO - Parent Teacher Organization
- STEMk12.org > Parents > PTO or SAC (website)

Volunteer Hours

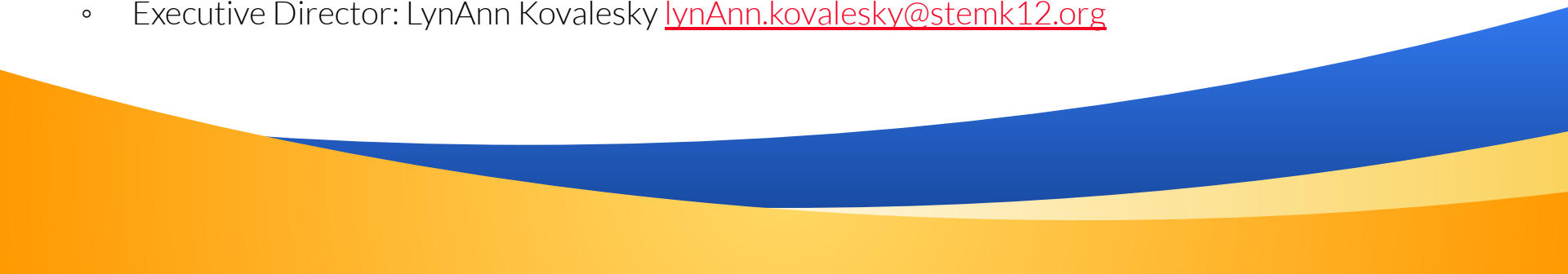
- 30 hours per family
 - Sign up at STEMk12.org > Parents > Get Involved
- 

Become involved in the STEM Community

Volunteer:

- Lunch Room
 - Classrooms
 - Parent Panels
 - After School Events
 - Enrichment Clubs
 - Theatre/Drama Performances
- 

Sources of Communication

- Weekly Newsletters - parents and students
 - Website - www.stemk12.org
 - Facebook and Instagram STEM School Highlands Ranch
 - Twitter: @stemschoolHR
 - Phone - (303) 683 - 7836
 - Communication Pathway on website
 - Middle School Director: Maura Ridder Maura.ridder@stemk12.org
 - High School Director: Ryan Alsup ryan.alsup@stemk12.org
 - Director of Student Support: jistine.harrison@stemk12.org
 - Executive Director: LynAnn Kovalesky lynAnn.kovalesky@stemk12.org
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Questions?

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