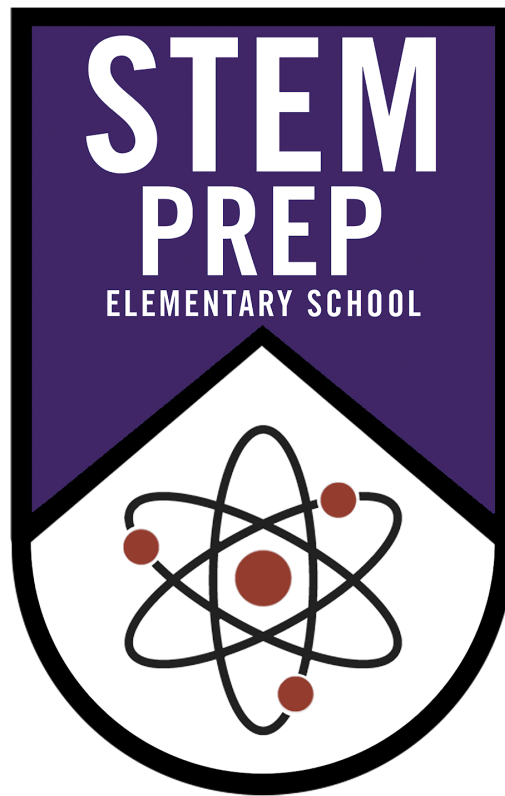


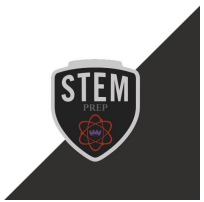
STEM Prep Elementary

FAMILY-STUDENT HANDBOOK 2020-2021

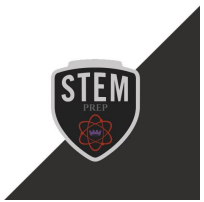


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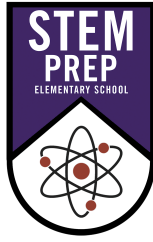


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STEM Prep Elementary
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A Message From the Principal:

Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! My name is Gill Holt and I am humbled to be serving as your principal for the upcoming school year. I have been a part of the STEM Prep family for the last five years and in education for over 10 years. I have concentrated experience in teaching math and science and have studied educational technologies that enhance classroom experiences. During my tenure at STEM Prep schools, I have been able to coach 20+ teachers and support the rigorous academics in all of those classrooms. I am excited to bring that perspective and experience to our elementary school campus! While this will be a unique year, I am dedicated to getting to know all of our students and their families! We will continue to have Orientation, Back to School Night, monthly Coffee with the Principal, and other workshops where we can connect virtually (and hopefully in person soon)!

STEM Prep Elementary is continuing its growth this year, serving students in TK-5th grades in the Jefferson Park community. STEM Prep Elementary is part of a small network of charter schools, STEM Preparatory Schools, with a mission to disrupt the status quo of inequitable access to high quality STEM pathways for women and minorities by cultivating a family of students and staff who solve problems through collaboration, innovation, passion, and perseverance. This mission aims to strengthen our community by closing the socio-economic, ethnic, and gender gaps in STEM fields, and our students serving as role models who exhibit scholarliness, advocacy, perseverance, and kindness. We believe this starts in TK/Kindergarten classroom and is reflected within each of our classrooms TK-12.

This mission is accomplished by partnering with students, staff, families and the community. We value the input and support of all stakeholders in creating a place for our students to learn, grow, and meet their goals.

This handbook has been composed as a resource for students and families to refer to throughout the year. We want to ensure that our mission, values, expectations, and policies are accessible and clear. This helps us to create a safe, consistent, and equitable learning environment for all students at STEM Prep Elementary School.

I look forward to this opportunity to collaborate with each and every stakeholder as we venture into this school year! We will be here to support families through the challenges of this unique year and face the unknown in unity. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact myself or the main office for support. We are here to assist you in any way that we can.

Sincerely,

Gilliane Holt

Gilliane Holt



Welcome to STEM Prep Elementary!

Our Mission

The mission of STEM Prep Schools is

...to operate a small network of high performing schools, in a targeted area of Los Angeles

...and develop TK – 12th grade students into successful college graduates and professionals,

...through equal access and inspiration, rigorous curriculum, and a commitment to our Core Values.

Our Vision

The vision of STEM Prep Schools is to create a TK through college pipeline of individuals who will transform their community by closing the socio-economic, ethnic, and gender gaps in STEM fields, and serving as role models who exhibit scholarliness, advocacy, perseverance, and kindness.

Our Core Values

- We are family.
- We are STEM thinkers.
- We are agents of change.

We are Family	We are STEM Thinkers	We are Agents of Change
Working together	Perserverant	Growth Mindset
Considerate of others	Problem Solvers	Leave things better than we found them
We hold each other accountable	Brave, risk takers, courageous	Work towards equity & advocate for each other and self

Students who embody the core values of STEM Prep will be eligible for incentives and rewards throughout the school year, including – but not limited to – Free Dress Days, and other school-sponsored activities and events.

Culture at STEM Prep Elementary

School-Wide Behavioral Expectations

School-wide Behavioral Expectations	Demonstration of Expectations
As a part of the STEM Prep family I am considerate of others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am consistently kind and can be trusted with responsibilities. • I take initiative in helping others and am inclusive of all.
As a STEM-Thinker I am perseverant and brave in solving problems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I consistently persevere through challenges. • I encourage others to do the same.



As an Agent of Change I am working towards a more equitable future for everyone.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I actively pursue opportunities for growth and change. • I lead others toward an equitable future.
---	---

Discipline Policy

Our goal is to provide an atmosphere and learning environment that is safe, supportive and nurturing for each student. All students have a right to learn while attending a safe school. As such, discipline is a necessary part of school life and good discipline is based on an agreement between the school and families about what is expected of our children. There are behavior expectations, which include no hitting, kicking, biting, scratching and/or fighting. Also, appropriate language must be used at all times. We want to foster an environment where respect is generated between students, teachers, and staff.

School Wide Rules and Expectations

- Take care of yourself.
- Take care of each other.
- Take care of this school.

STEM Prep Elementary has developed a comprehensive student discipline policy; it will be maintained and implemented. The discipline policy will not be discriminatory, arbitrary, or capricious, and follows the general principles of due process. The due process will adhere to the policy and procedures described in the California Education Code. The school intends to follow all procedures of the Education Code related to student discipline. The policy adapts as needed in regard to the discipline of a student with special needs as determined by the provisions of the IDEA. The school will follow STEM Prep as stated in the charter policy and the law regarding the discipline of special education students and will notify the appropriate LAUSD office responsible for student discipline proceedings if it expels any student whose home school is an LAUSD school. The school reviews the discipline policy with students and parents upon admission to the school and signing of the Parent-Student Compact. By signing the Parent-Student Compact, students and parents acknowledge their understanding of and their responsibility toward the standards set forth in the Code of Conduct.

Restorative Practices

At STEM Prep Elementary we believe in Restorative Practices, a philosophy and approach to discipline that moves away from punishment and instead works on restoring a sense of harmony and well-being for all those affected by a hurtful act. We will use Restorative Practices as a framework for building community and for responding to challenging behavior through authentic dialogue, coming to an understanding, and making things right. Essentially, Restorative Practices will allow us to

- Provide ways to effectively address behavior and other complex school issues.
- Offer a supportive environment that can improve learning, as well as socio-emotional learning
- Improve safety by preventing future harm.
- Offer alternatives to suspension and expulsion.



What is Restorative Practice?

Restorative Practice is guided by an ethic of care and justice. Restorative Practice is an approach to build community, promote a culture of care, foster a sense of belonging, and invite responsibility and provide accountability, reparation, reconciliation and reintegration where harm has occurred.

- **Accountability** Restorative Practice strategies provide opportunities for wrongdoers to be accountable to those they have harmed, and enable them to repair the harm they caused to the extent possible.
- **Community safety** Restorative Practice recognizes the need to keep the community safe through strategies that build relationships and empower the community to take responsibility for the well-being of its members.
- **Competency development** Restorative Practice seeks to increase the pro-social skills of those who have harmed others, address underlying factors that lead youth to engage in delinquent behavior, and build on strengths in each young person.

Bullying/Harassment

STEM Prep Elementary takes a proactive stance when addressing bullying and cyberbullying issues. We believe that every student has the right to attend school without fear of threat or intimidation by other students. Bullying is a form of harassment and may take the form of verbal or written taunts, threats or intimidation. Students who experience threats, harassment/bullying by a student or students or an adult in school or on the way to or from school, are expected to report these incidents to a school guidance counselor, Restorative Justice Coordinator, and/or school administrator. Students who witness or have knowledge of another student's mistreatment are asked to report this to a guidance counselor, Restorative Justice Coordinator, and/or school administrator. Students may report the incident verbally or in writing. Retaliation against a person, who reports bullying and/or cyber-bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying and/or cyber-bullying or witnesses or has reliable information about bullying and/or cyber-bullying is prohibited. A person who retaliates will be subject to disciplinary consequences.

Preventing Bullying at School: STEM Prep Elementary has a bullying prevention program that teaches four components:

1. Stand up for someone who is bullied: In a strong voice, ask the bully to "Stop!"
2. Don't leave anyone out.
3. Ask your teacher and parent for help.
4. Everyone has the right to feel safe at school.

Dress Code

Students at STEM Prep Elementary wear a uniform and adhere to a school dress code. The specific dress code requirements are as follows:

- Purple or gray polo shirt
- Jeans or solid colored pants, shorts or skirts
- Sweatshirts/ Jackets in solid colors (Preferred purple, gray, black)
- Closed-toe, closed back shoes

Out-of-Dress Code Consequences

Staff members will conduct routine dress code checks throughout the instructional day. Students who do not adhere to the school dress code the parent/guardian of that student will be notified. If the student is out of

uniform, the parent/guardian of that student will be asked to bring in a change of clothes. Parents/Guardians may also be required to attend a meeting with an administrator for students with consistent out-of-dress code incidents.

For students participating in distance learning, students may choose what to wear as long as it is appropriate for video meetings.

Academic Integrity

Students at STEM Prep Elementary pledge to be honest with their efforts in the classroom. If a student demonstrates a lack of academic integrity they will be referred to the administration, parents/guardians will be notified, and there will be an appropriate consequence. The student will still be responsible for completion of an alternate version of the assignment or test, at the discretion of the administration and the teacher.

Cheating is one act of academic dishonesty; it includes, but is not limited to, the following list:

- Copying someone else's work
- Allowing someone else to copy your work
- Checking your answers with a classmate during a test
- Using materials that the teacher has not explicitly allowed during an assignment, quiz, or assessment.
- Plagiarism

Plagiarizing is when you take someone else's published work, words, or ideas and present them as your own. This includes formally published work as well as work other students have written. Often incidents of plagiarism happen not as a result of malicious intent on the part of the student, but from students not understanding what plagiarism is or how to avoid. You can avoid plagiarism by summarizing ideas in your own words, by paraphrasing and citing an author, or by quoting and referencing the author.

Parent/Guardian and Family Involvement

STEM Prep Elementary values the role of parents/guardians and families as their child's first teacher and welcomes their active involvement in their child's education.

The school believes:

- Parents/Guardians and families are partners and are encouraged to take an active and meaningful role to ensure the success of the school.
- Parents/Guardians and families must be meaningfully and actively engaged in their child's education and responsible for supporting their child's learning at home.
- Parents/Guardians and families will have the opportunity to understand what it will take to prepare their child for college.
- Parents/Guardians and families are encouraged to support the goals of the school through their voice and through volunteering throughout the year.
- Parents/Guardians and families are encouraged to attend Parent Workshops and events throughout the year.



A Typical Day at STEM Prep Elementary

Bell Schedule

A typical week of instruction at STEM Prep Elementary School will follow the schedule below. There will be modified schedules from time-to-time. The school will communicate modified schedules in advance.

2020-2021 TK-5th Grade Distance Learning Bell Schedule			
Main Office Opens	Campus Open	Meal Pick-Up	Main Office Closes
7:30AM	N/A	Tuesdays ONLY: 8AM-12PM	3:45PM

Regular Day (Mondays-Thursdays)				Minimum Day (Fridays)	
TK/Kindergarten & 1st Grade					
Cohort	Start Time	Lunch (30 min.)	End Time	Start Time	End Time
Group A	8:00AM	11:20-11:50AM	1:30PM	8:20AM	10:40AM
Group B	8:00AM	11:00-11:30AM	1:30PM	8:20AM	10:40AM
2nd Grade					
Cohort	Start Time	Lunch (30 min.)	End Time	Start Time	End Time
Groups A & B	8:00AM	11:25-11:55AM	1:30PM	8:20AM	10:40AM
3rd Grade					
Cohort	Start Time	Lunch (30 min.)	End Time	Start Time	End Time
Groups A & B	8:00AM	11:30AM-12:00PM	2:00PM	8:20AM	11:30AM
4th Grade					
Cohort	Start Time	Lunch (30 min.)	End Time	Start Time	End Time
Groups A & B	8:00AM	11:30AM-12:00PM	2:30PM	8:20AM	11:30AM
5th Grade					
Cohort	Start Time	Lunch (30 min.)	End Time	Start Time	End Time
Groups A & B	8:00AM	12:05-12:35PM	2:05PM	8:20AM	11:30AM



Important Dates

Holidays and Pupil-Free Days (no school)

Labor Day- Monday, September 7

Pupil-Free Day- Monday, September 28

Veterans Day- Wednesday, November 11

Thanksgiving- Monday, November 23- Friday,
November 27

Winter Break-- Monday, December 21-Friday,
January 8

Pupil Free Days- Thursday, January 7 & Friday, January 8

Martin Luther King Jr. Day- Monday, January 18

Presidents Day- Monday, February 15

Pupil Free Days- Thursday, March 25- Friday, March 26

Spring Break- Monday March 29 -Friday, April 2

Memorial Day- Monday, May 31

Summer Break Starts- Monday, June 14

Virtual Orientation

Tuesday, July 21- Thursday, July 23rd

Virtual Meet and Greet

Wednesday, August 12, 2019- 2:00pm-3:00pm

Back to School Night (Possibly Virtual)

Grades 1-5

Thursday, September 17

TK/K

Friday, September 18

Parent Conferences (early dismissal of 12:00pm)

Monday, October 26th-Thursday, October 29th

Monday, March 15-Thursday, March 18th

Testing Dates

TBD

Statewide Testing Notification

California students take several mandated statewide tests. These tests provide parents/guardians, teachers, and educators with information about how well students are learning and becoming college and career ready. The test results may be used



for local, state, and federal accountability purposes.

The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) tests consist of the following:

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium Assessments

The Smarter Balanced computer adaptive assessments are aligned with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics tests are administered in grades three through eight and grade eleven to measure whether students are on track to college and career readiness. In grade eleven, results from the ELA and mathematics assessments can be used as an indicator of college readiness.

California Science Tests (CAST)

The computer-based CAST measures students' achievement of the California Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS) through the application of their knowledge and skills of the Science and Engineering Practices, Disciplinary Core Ideas, and Crosscutting Concepts. The CAST is administered to all students in grades five and eight and once in high school (i.e., grade ten, eleven, or twelve).

California Alternate Assessments (CAAs)

Only eligible students—students whose individualized education program (IEP) identifies the use of alternate assessments—may participate in the administration of the CAAs. Test examiners administer the computer-based CAAs for ELA, mathematics, and science one-on-one to students. Students in grades three through eight and grade eleven will take the CAA for ELA and mathematics. Test items developed for ELA and mathematics are aligned with the CCSS and are based on the Core Content Connectors.

Students in grades five and eight and once in high school (i.e., grade ten, eleven, or twelve) will take the CAA for Science. The CAA for Science embedded performance tasks are based on alternate achievement standards derived from the CA NGSS. Students taking the CAA for Science will take three embedded performance tasks in spring 2021.

Pursuant to California *Education Code* Section 60615, parents/guardians may annually submit to the school a written request to excuse their child from any or all of the CAASPP assessments.

English Language Proficiency Assessments for California

The ELPAC is aligned with the 2012 California English Language Development Standards. It consists of two separate English Language Proficiency (ELP) assessments: one for the initial identification of students as English learners and the other for the annual summative assessment to identify students' English language proficiency level and to measure their progress in learning English.

Physical Fitness Test

The physical fitness test for students in California schools is the FitnessGram®. The main goal of the test is to help students in starting lifelong habits of regular physical activity. Students in grades five, seven, and nine take the fitness test.



School Calendar

STEM Preparatory Schools School Year: August 17, 2020 to June 11, 2021

July

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

July
7/3 Independence Day Observed
7/27 - 8/7 Teacher Professional Development

January

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

January
1/1 - Holiday, New Year's Day
1/7-1/8 Staff Professional Development
1/11 - First Day 2nd Semester
1/18 - Holiday, MLK Jr. Birthday

14 Instructional Days

August

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

August
8/17- First Day of School

11 Instructional Days

February

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

February
2/15 - Holiday, President's Day

19 Instructional Days

September

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

September
9/7 - Holiday, Labor Day
9/28 Staff Professional Development

20 Instructional Days

March

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

March
3/25-3/26 Staff Professional Development

3/26 Cesar Chavez Day
3/29-4/2 Spring Break
18 Instructional Days

October

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

October
10/14 PSAT (10th and 11th grades)

22 Instructional Days

April

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

April
3/29-4/2 Spring Break

20 Instructional Days

November

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

November
11/11 - Holiday, Veteran's Day
11/23-25 - Fall Break
11/26-27 - Thanksgiving

15 Instructional Days

May

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

May
5/31 - Holiday, Memorial Day

20 Instructional Days

December

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

December
12/18 Last Day Fall Semester

14 Instructional Days

June

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

June
6/4 - STEM Competition
6/11 - Last Day of School

9 Instructional Days

Total days of Spring Semester 100

Legend:

Total Instruction Days	182
Holidays (all schools and offices closed)	8
School Breaks (Thanksgiving, Winter, and Spring)	19
Summer Teacher PD	10
Pupil Free Days	5
School Days LAUSD not in Session	3



Arrival and Dismissal

This section will be updated as we move back into in person learning. We will be communicating with parents/guardians regularly to update families on arrival and dismissal procedures.

Meals

All students are provided with both breakfast and lunch during each school day. Breakfast and lunch will be available during designated periods, based on grade level.

Meals for students during distance learning will be available on campus for grab and go pick up on Tuesdays from 8am-12pm

After-School Program

The after-school program will be on pause due to health and safety concerns related to COVID-19. When our schools are able to fully reopen we will communicate with families an update on the schools' after school program.

We will be supporting students with a virtual after school program to encourage students to have social connections, engage in fun activities, and opportunities for additional academic support.

Administrative Supervision

Supervision is provided for all school sponsored programs, activities, and meals during the instructional day. Unless otherwise noted for a specific school sponsored program or activity, hours of supervision at school begins 15 minutes before and 15 minutes after the school day ends. On a regular-schedule day, supervision will begin at 7:30 AM and conclude at 3:05PM. On Fridays and Minimum Days, supervision will be from 7:30AM to 12:20PM. To ensure the safety of our students, it is important that students do not arrive before their appropriate start time and that they leave promptly at the conclusion of their school day. Students who linger on or near campus without participation in the after-school program will be asked to leave and may be subject to disciplinary action if they do not cooperate with staff instructions. School administration, staff, and parent volunteers are available to help ensure our campus remains safe. Students are to obey all directions from supervisory staff and parent volunteers.

School-wide Policies, Procedures, and Resources

Attendance Policy

California law states that every student shall attend school punctually and regularly and conform to the regulations of the school. The STEM Prep Elementary attendance policy expects students to attend class regularly and on time; assignments and tests missed due to school-related activities or illness must be promptly made-up; truancy is unacceptable; other absences approved by the parent/guardian should be minimized or avoided whenever possible.

Absences

STEM Prep Elementary strives to achieve a 100% attendance rate each month and for the year, students with unexcused absences or excessive absences will require parents/guardians to attend a meeting with an administrator to discuss a plan to support student attendance.



Notification of Absence

A staff member will call home within the first three hours of the start of the instructional day to inform parents/guardians when a student is not present at school. Parents/Guardians should call the school to explain the reason for their student's absence by 9:00 AM on the day of the absence, if possible.

Procedure for Clearing Absences

When a student returns to school after being absent, he/she must provide the STEM Prep Elementary Main Office with a dated note from a parent/guardian explaining the reason for the absence and the duration. Absences longer than three consecutive days due to illness require a doctor's note to excuse the absence. A student may not participate in any after-school extracurricular activity if he/she is absent from school on the day of the activity.

Excused Absences

The following absences are those that are recognized by the State of California as legal excused absences:

- If a student is personally ill, and his/her attendance in school would endanger his/her health or the health of others
- Serious illness or death in the student's immediate family necessitates absence
- Special/recognized religious holiday observed by student's faith
- A required appearance in a court of law
- School-related absences, including – but not limited to – field trips, office appointments, suspension, academic events, etc.

Unexcused Absences

The following absences are unexcused absences and subject to consequences outlined in the Attendance Policy included above:

- Unverified absence or Truancy
- Tardy of fifteen minutes or more
- Absence due to taking an early vacation or extending a vacation
- All absences that do not fall under the "Excused Absences" listed above

Long-Term Absences

Long-term absences pose a special challenge to learning. Class participation and group projects are vital components of the educational program, and a student's long-term absence will seriously impact his/her mastery of important course concepts and skills. Parents/guardians of a student who is absent for an extended period due to illness, injury, or family emergency should contact the Main Office with an estimate of how long the student will be absent. Periodic updates would be appreciated. Faculty and staff will work on a case-by-case basis with parents/guardians to help keep a student who on a long-term absence from falling behind. The student and his/her family must obtain a long-term absence study contract from teachers if he/she leaves the school for an extended period. Upon return from a long-term absence, the student may require supplemental tutoring and/or remediation beyond the instructional day to attain proficiency.

Make-Up Assignments

Students must make up all assignments, tests, and quizzes upon returning to school. Students should always try to get their assignment(s) from their classmates while they are absent to prevent them from falling behind. Upon returning to school, it is the student and family's responsibility to check in with the teacher about missed work and due dates.



Tardy Policy

Students are expected to be at school by their assigned start time. Students who are tardy must report to the Main Office for an entrance slip to class. A tardy may be excused only with a valid written verification from a parent/guardian upon the student's arrival to school or if a parent accompanies his/her child into the school building to sign him/her in with a valid excuse.

Students with habitual tardiness will require parents/guardians to attend a meeting with an administrator to discuss a plan to have the student arrive on time to school.

Early Release

Students are expected to be at school for the entire school day. For rare instances when a student needs to be picked up early from school, please ensure the student is picked up before the last 15 minutes of the school day. Students will not be released from class early in the last 15 minutes unless it is an emergency. This is to ensure that classrooms have limited disruptions and that dismissal procedures are able to occur efficiently.

Distance Learning Expectations

Distance learning will occur during the school year when students are unable to be on campus due to health and safety concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic. In this model students are expected to actively participate from a remote location using technology. If a family is unable to provide technology or internet access please contact the Main Office for support (323) 998-0950.

- Students are expected to participate in all scheduled synchronous sessions.
- Monday-Thursday, students are expected to virtually attend school and participate in independent work during the hours of 8am-2:30pm.
- Fridays, students are expected to participate in independent work during the hours of 8am-12pm.
- Students are expected to submit all of their assignments for the week by their deadlines.
- Students are expected to complete their work independently.

If families are concerned with meeting Distance Learning expectations please contact administration to discuss alternative solutions.

Grading Policy

STEM Prep uses standards based grading, where each grade entry is based on a learning target, not a specific assignment or assessment. All learning targets are graded on a 4-point scale: 4 aligns to exceeding standards, 3 is meeting standards, 2 is near standard, and 1 is below standard. STEM Prep uses a continuous learning framework to evaluate student work, where students earn final grades based on their summative assessments in their classes. If a student is not satisfied with their grade they may reassess to replace their grade, after reteaching and extra practice has been completed.

Academic Grades

STEM Prep students may earn passing letter grades of "A", "B", and "C." STEM Prep does not issue the letter grade of "D," since colleges and universities do not accept "Ds" for college admission. Students who do not demonstrate proficiency in a course will earn an "NP" (Not Passing) and may be at risk of not being promoted to the next grade.



Grading Periods, Progress Reports, and Final Report Cards

The school year at STEM Prep is divided into two semesters. The table below provides dates for the start and end of each semester. Progress reports and report cards will be mailed home at the end of each semester.

2020-21

Semester 1	Semester 2
08/17/2020- 12/18/2020	1/11/2021 - 06/11/2021
Progress Report: 10/30/20	Progress Report: 3/19/21
Semester 1 Final Report Card: 12/20/20	Semester 2 Final Report Card: 6/14/21

PowerSchool – Keeping Track Of My Child’s Progress

Parents/Guardians can follow their student’s progress online. Parents/Guardians can access the PowerSchool parent portal to check their student’s attendance and current grades broken down by learning target. Parents/Guardians can also use PowerSchool to email teachers directly. Parents/Guardians can also visit the Main Office to access the PowerSchool website on campus.

PowerSchool Parent and Student Portal

To access student's information online, parents/guardians and students will need the following account information:

1. The PowerSchool website address: stem.powerschool.com
2. School-issued username
3. School-issued password

If a parent/guardian or student misplaces their PowerSchool account information, they may contact the Main Office.

School-Home Communication

Contacting Teachers, Counselors and Administrators

If you would like to talk to a teacher, counselor, or administrator you may call the office to set up an appointment or email them directly. If you have a concern you can fill out a Parent/Guardian Concern Form located on our website or in the main office.

Phone / Text / Email Blasts

The school uses an automated system that can email, call, or text to remind parents/guardians of schedule changes, holidays, or other important announcements. Please make sure that you provide the office with the phone number and email that is best for receiving such messages. Should you wish to change this contact number during the school year, please let the office know.

We also utilize a communication online platform, ClassDojo. This platform can be downloaded to your phone and is an easy way to communicate with SPES staff! Teachers will be posting pictures and updating parents/guardians on classroom activities throughout the year!



School Correspondence

School bulletins, calendars, flyers and letters from the office are sent home with students and by mail on a regular basis. Staff members and/or parent volunteers may call home to inform parents of school events and to discuss specific issues regarding individual students. Please ask your child or check your child's backpack for school correspondence in order to keep track of what is happening at school.

Change of Contact Information

Parents/guardians will be asked at the beginning of each school year to provide the school with current contact and emergency information. If your contact information changes during the school year, it is the responsibility of each parent/guardian to provide the Main Office with this new information. The school cannot assume responsibility for missed communications in the event that the contact information is misreported or not updated by the parent/guardian.

Messages and Deliveries to Students

Students may not use the school telephones without authorization from the office staff and/or administration. In an effort to limit classroom disturbances, staff will only deliver urgent messages and/or items to students during the instructional periods.

For birthdays and other classroom celebrations, parents/guardians must notify the office and classroom teacher at least one day prior. To encourage healthy habits, please limit the number of items to share to a maximum of two. Celebrations will occur in the classroom during the last 15 minutes of the school day.

Visitors

Parents/guardians of current students are welcome to visit the school. All visitors must enter and sign-in at the Main Office. Parents/Guardians visiting classrooms are asked to observe without interfering with classroom instruction.

All visitors to campus are subject to health and safety regulations. See COVID-19 section.

On-Campus Services

Students in need of health services during class time must obtain permission from their teacher to report directly to the Main Office where a staff member will assess the student's needs and take appropriate action to address them.

Non-Prescription Drug Policy

School employees may not distribute any non-prescription medication. Students may not carry, consume, or distribute any non-prescription medication for pain relief – or for any other reason – to anyone. Prescription medication can only be administered by our school nurse or front office manager with a doctor's note. If a student needs non-prescription medication, it must be consumed before arriving to school or after leaving school grounds.

Immunization Policy

Students are required to show verification of required immunization records prior to starting school.

Counseling Services

Counselors are available at STEM Prep Elementary to provide support to students and parents/guardians regarding academic achievement, college and career development, and personal/social development. Counselors may meet with students during classroom guidance lessons, workshops, individual, and group



counseling sessions. The relationship between a student and his/her counselor carries communication privileges and rights to confidentiality. Any information shared by your student will be kept confidential. If a student divulges information that should be shared with parents/guardians, the counselors will encourage them to do so or request permission to discuss the matter with a parent/guardian. There are also several situations in which the counselors are required by law to share details of a counseling session with the appropriate authorities. These situations include:

- If a student reports neglect, physical, or sexual abuse of a child or someone who cannot otherwise protect themselves
- If an individual threatens to harm himself/herself or others
- If records are subpoenaed by the courts for purposes of litigation
- If parent/guardian grants permission to release records to another professional

Personal Property

Students are responsible for bringing items to school and must watch their belongings carefully. The school is not responsible for any loss or damage to personal items. It is best for items that are not related to the instructional program (i.e. cell phones, skateboards, iPods, tablets, etc.) to be left at home.

Cellular Phones

Students are **not** allowed to use cellular phones in school. If you want your child to carry a cellular phone to school for emergency purposes, the device must be put away with the volume off for the entire instructional day.

Students may not call or text on their personal phones for a parent/guardian to pick them up during the instructional day for any reason other than a school emergency. Students who do not follow this rule may have their phones confiscated. Only a parent/guardian may collect any item confiscated from a student. Parents/guardians who need to contact their child during the day must contact the Main Office.

Skateboards, Bicycles, and Scooters

Students may ride a skateboard, bicycle, or scooter to school. Students should wear a helmet if they ride to school. Upon arriving to campus, students must store their skateboard, bicycle, or scooter in a designated storage area. Students may not ride their skateboard, bike, or scooter during the school day or on school grounds. Skateboards, bicycles, and scooters may not have any inappropriate content on them. Students who do not adhere to these conditions may have their skateboard, bicycle, or scooter confiscated. Only the parent/guardian may retrieve the confiscated item.

Lost-and-Found

A lost-and-found storage area is located in the Main Office. Students who have lost clothing, keys, etc. should check in the Main Office to see if the items have been turned in. At the end of each month, unclaimed clothing items may be donated to a local charity organization.

Technology and Internet Usage

Acceptable Uses of the Computer or the Internet

Internet accounts and computers/technology devices provided by STEM Prep must be used only for school purposes. Students may not use the Internet or school computers/technology for personal use or entertainment purposes.

If a student is uncertain about whether a particular use of the computer network or the Internet is appropriate, he or she should consult a teacher or supervisor.



Unacceptable Uses of the Computer or the Internet

The following uses of the account provided by STEM Prep are unacceptable:

- Uses that violate any state or federal law or municipal ordinance are unacceptable. Unacceptable uses include, but are not limited to the following:
 - Selling or purchasing any illegal substance
 - Accessing, transmitting, or downloading child pornography, obscene depictions, harmful materials, or materials that encourage others to violate the law
 - Transmitting or downloading confidential information or copyrighted materials.
- Uses that involve the accessing, transmitting or downloading of inappropriate matters on the Internet, as determined by the school board, local educational agency, or other related authority
- Uses that involve obtaining and or using anonymous email sites.
- Uses that cause harm to others or damage to their property are unacceptable. Unacceptable uses include, but are not limited to the following:
 - Deleting, copying, modifying, or forging other users' e-mails, files, or data
 - Accessing another User's email without their permission, and as a result of that access, reading or forwarding the other User's e-mails or files without that User's permission
 - Damaging computer equipment, files, data, or the network
 - Using profane, abusive, or impolite language;
 - Disguising one's identity, impersonating other users, or sending anonymous e-mail messages
 - Threatening, harassing, or making defamatory or false statements about others
 - Accessing, transmitting, or downloading offensive, harassing, or disparaging materials
 - Accessing, transmitting or downloading computer viruses or other harmful files or programs, or in any way degrading or disrupting any computer system performance
 - Accessing, transmitting or downloading large files, including "chain letters" or any type of "pyramid schemes."
 - Using any school computer to pursue "hacking," internal or external to STEM Prep, or attempting to access information that is protected by privacy laws
- Uses that jeopardize access or lead to unauthorized access into accounts or other computer networks are unacceptable. Unacceptable uses include, but are not limited to the following:
 - Using other users' account passwords or identifiers
 - Disclosing one's account password to other users or allowing other users to use one's accounts
 - Getting unauthorized access into other users' accounts or other computer networks
 - Interfering with other users' ability to access their accounts.
- Commercial uses are unacceptable. Unacceptable uses include, but are not limited to the following:
 - Selling or buying anything over the Internet for personal financial gain
 - Using the Internet for advertising, promotion, or financial gain
 - Conducting for-profit business activities and engaging in non-government related fundraising or public relations activities such as solicitation for religious purposes, lobbying for political purposes, or soliciting votes

Internet Safety

- In compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act ("CIPA"), STEM Prep will implement filtering and/or blocking software to restrict access to Internet sites containing child pornography, obscene depictions, or other materials harmful to minors under 18 years of age. The software will work by scanning for objectionable words or concepts, as determined by the School District. [Note: CIPA does not enumerate any actual words or concepts that should be filtered or blocked. Thus, CIPA necessarily requires that STEM Prep determine which words or concepts are objectionable.] However, no software is foolproof, and there is still a risk an Internet user may be exposed to a site containing such materials. An account user who incidentally connects to such a site



must immediately disconnect from the site and notify a teacher or supervisor. If an Account user sees another user is accessing inappropriate sites, he or she should notify a teacher or supervisor immediately.

- In compliance with CIPA, STEM Prep and its representatives will implement a mechanism to monitor all minors' on-line activities, including website browsing, email use, chat room participation and other forms of electronic communications. Such a mechanism may lead to discovery a user has violated or may be violating this Policy, the appropriate disciplinary code or the law. Monitoring is aimed to protect minors from accessing inappropriate matter, as well as help enforce this policy, on the Internet, as determined by the school board, local educational agency or other related authority. STEM Prep reserves the right to monitor other users' (e.g., employees, students 17 years or older) online activities, and to access review, copy, store or delete any electronic communications or files and disclose them to others as it deems necessary.
- If a student under the age of eighteen accesses his/her STEM Prep account or the Internet outside of school, a parent or legal guardian must supervise the student's use of the account or Internet at all times and is completely responsible for monitoring the use. Filtering and/or blocking software may or may not be employed to screen home access to the Internet. Parents and legal guardians should inquire at the school if they desire more detailed information about the software.
- Student information shall not be posted unless it is necessary to receive information for instructional purposes, and only if the student's teacher and parent or guardian has granted.
- STEM Prep provides students with G Suite for Education accounts which allow students to access and use "Core Services" offered by Google (described at https://gsuite.google.com/terms/user_features.html) and may allow students to access additional services (described at <https://support.google.com/a/answer/181865>). Google provides information about the information it collects, as well as how it uses and discloses the information it collects from G Suite for Education accounts in its G Suite for Education Privacy Notice. You can read that notice online at https://gsuite.google.com/terms/education_privacy.html
- STEM Prep schools utilize third party educational software providers to manage learning resources and student information within our network of schools. Through these tools, students provide some information (for example: name and login information) and are able to complete assignments, communicate with their teachers, sign into their computers, and learn 21st century digital citizenship skills.
- As a parent or guardian, if you wish to stop any further collection or use of your child's information, you may request that we use the service controls available to limit your child's access to third party educational software provider features or services, or delete your child's account entirely.
- Account users shall not reveal on the Internet personal information about themselves or about other persons. For example, account users should not reveal their full names, home addresses, telephone numbers, school addresses, or parents' names on the Internet.
- Account users shall not meet in person anyone they have met on the Internet in a secluded place or a private setting. Account users who are under the age of 18 shall not meet in person anyone they have met on the Internet without their parent's permission.
- Account users will abide by all STEM Prep security policies.

Privacy Policy

The System Administrator has the authority to monitor all Accounts, including email and other materials transmitted or received via the Accounts. All such materials are the property of the STEM Prep. Account users do not have any right to or expectation of privacy regarding such materials.

Penalties for Improper Use of STEM Prep Account

The use of the account is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in the restriction or cancellation of the account. Inappropriate use may lead to any disciplinary and/or legal action, including but not limited to suspension or expulsion from STEM Prep, or criminal prosecution by government authorities. STEM Prep will attempt to tailor any disciplinary action to meet the specific concerns related to each violation.



Disclaimer

- STEM Prep makes no guarantees about the quality of the services provided and is not responsible for any claims, losses, damages, costs, or other obligations arising from the unauthorized use of the accounts. STEM Prep also denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of the information obtained through the account.
- Any statement, accessible on the computer network or the Internet, is understood to be the author's individual point of view and not that of STEM Prep, its affiliates, or employees.
- Account users are responsible for any losses sustained by STEM Prep or its affiliates, resulting from the account users' intentional misuse of the accounts.

Textbooks

Textbooks may be used in each classroom. In classes where textbooks are used, students and their families may incur charges for books that are lost, defaced, or damaged while under their care. The school is not responsible for stolen, lost, or damaged books. Students should report lost books immediately. A replacement fee may be charged and must be paid by the end of each semester. Students who withdraw or transfer from STEM Prep to another school must return all school materials, books, and equipment before any transfer records will be released. Fines may only be paid by cash or by money order. Personal checks will not be accepted.

School Safety Plan

Emergency Drills

Emergency drills such as earthquake and fire drills, are conducted during the school year. Drills are serious practice so that everyone will be prepared should an emergency occur. Procedures are reviewed with staff members who in turn teach them to students.

If an emergency occurs during regular school hours, students are to report to their regularly scheduled class. If an emergency occurs while students are participating in a school-sponsored event or activity off campus, students are to report to their supervising teacher or staff member. Supervising personnel will call the school to report any problem. If the emergency extends beyond the end of the school day, students will not be released until it has been determined that it is safe to do so. Before students are released, parents/guardians must sign them out from the Main Office.

Fire Drills

Fire drills will be held at least once a month. Office personnel will maintain a record of fire drills held and total required time for complete evacuation. When the fire drill signal sounds, teachers will lead the students in their room along the route indicated on the evacuation map posted for that purpose. Before leaving the room, teachers will see that all windows and doors are closed and that they have their class attendance roster with them. Students who are not in a classroom at the time the fire drill signal is given will attach themselves to the nearest teacher exiting the building for purposes of getting to the designated evacuation site. Once at the designated evacuation site, teachers and other staff will ensure that all students find their respective teachers. Teachers will then take roll to ensure that all students are accounted for. The names of any missing students will be given to the office personnel and the administrative staff will attempt to locate missing students. Students will remain with their teachers at the designated evacuation site until the administrative staff gives the "all clear" signal.

Disaster Drills

Disaster drills will be conducted at least twice a year. Students will be made familiar with the "drop, cover, and hold" routine. A disaster drill commencing with the "drop, cover, and hold" routine will be initiated by an announcement over the intercom. During the "drop, cover, and hold" routine in the classroom, teachers will turn



off the lights and have students get under a desk or table or against the wall away from the windows. Students must remain quiet and orderly so they will be able to hear additional instructions when given. All drills will be concluded with an “all clear” announcement on the intercom, or a visible signal from the administrative staff. In the event of a real earthquake, everyone must engage in the “drop, cover, and hold” routine immediately and remain in position until the teacher determines that it is safe to leave the building. If remaining in the room becomes dangerous, or when the shaking stops, teachers will proceed with their students to the evacuation site or another safety zone. If students are on the playground or other outdoor area when a disaster drill is called or during an actual earthquake, students are to drop immediately to the ground, away from trees and power lines, and cover their head with their hands. They are to remain in that position until given additional instructions. In the event of disasters other than earthquakes, the administrative staff will contact each room, advise staff of potential dangers, and give further directions or orders.

Teachers and students will remain in their classrooms until instructions are received for an all clear or an evacuation. For safety purposes, no one is to leave the rooms. If there has been a chemical spill, the teacher must make sure that all doors, windows, and vents remain closed. The school site maintenance staff will turn off the gas. All unassigned staff will report to the office for assignments such as searching offices, bathrooms, and all other common areas, including outdoor facilities.

Teachers will stay with their classes for the duration of the emergency. In the event of an earthquake or other national disaster, all school employees are immediately designated “Civil Defense Workers” and are not allowed to leave school until they are given official clearance to do so by the administrative staff.

Bomb Threats

The person receiving the call or letter will note the time of day, wording of the message, background noises, and quality of the voice to try to determine if it is a young child or an adult. This person will delay the caller as long as possible, while they alert another adult to the crisis. That adult will immediately notify the telephone company to trace the call and immediately thereafter, notify the police using 911. Based on the information at hand, the administrative staff will make a decision whether an immediate evacuation is warranted. If so, the evacuation code word “safe school drill” will be given over the intercom and evacuation procedures will be followed. The office personnel will coordinate information requests to and/or from law enforcement, the telephone company, and parents. If an immediate evacuation is not warranted, the administrative staff will notify teachers to inspect their room for any suspicious materials or unknown packages, without alarming students. All unassigned staff will report to the office for assignments such as searching offices, bathrooms, and all other common areas, including outdoor facilities.

Evacuation Plan

A disaster of a significant nature may require the evacuation of the school. Immediately upon notification by outside authorities that the school must be evacuated, the administrative staff will verify the name and position of the person placing the alert. Once the source is confirmed, the administrative staff will give the evacuation code word “safe school drill” over the intercom. Teachers will proceed with their students to the nearest school exit indicated on the evacuation map posted for this purpose. Before leaving the room, teachers will make sure they have their class attendance roster with them. Students who are not in a classroom at the time the intercom signal is given will attach themselves to the nearest teacher exiting the building for purposes of getting to the designated evacuation site.

Prior to evacuation, offices, bathrooms, and all other common areas, including outdoor facilities, will be searched by staff members designated by the Principal. Once at the designated evacuation site, teachers and other staff will ensure that all students find their respective teachers. Teachers will then take roll to ensure that all students are accounted for. The names of any missing scholars will be given to the office personnel and an individual will



be assigned the task of finding any missing students. Teachers will work together to take care of students with injuries, respiratory problems, or other medical conditions.

Teachers will stay with their classes for the duration of the emergency. In the event of an evacuation, all school employees are immediately designated "Civil Defense Workers" and are not allowed to leave school until they are given official clearance to do so by the administrative staff.

Students will remain with their teachers at the designated evacuation site until the administrative staff gives the "all clear" signal. In the event students cannot return to the school site, the administrative staff will notify parents and/or the media as to where students can be picked up. The office personnel will sign out students as they are being picked up by a parent or other adult listed on the emergency information card. Parents will be asked to remain in a designated area, and students will be escorted to the designated area for release.

Suspension and Expulsion

General Provisions

STEM Prep shall provide due process for all students, including adequate and timely notice to parents/guardians and students of the grounds for all suspension and expulsion recommendations and decisions and their due process rights regarding suspension and expulsion, including rights of appeal. STEM Prep shall ensure that its policies and procedures regarding suspension and expulsion will be periodically reviewed, and modified as necessary, in order to conform to changes in state law.

STEM Prep shall ensure that its staff is knowledgeable about and complies with the District's Discipline Foundation Policy and/or current equivalent policy, as required by the Modified Consent Decree. STEM Prep shall comply with the terms of the School Discipline Policy and School Climate Bill of Rights resolution adopted by the LAUSD Board of Education on May 6, 2013.

STEM Prep shall be responsible for the appropriate interim placement of students during and pending the completion of STEM Prep's student expulsion process and shall facilitate the post-expulsion placement of expelled students. STEM Prep shall document and implement the alternatives to suspension and expulsion that STEM Prep utilizes in response to attendance-related concerns, e.g. truancy or excessive tardiness.

Students with Disabilities

STEM Prep shall establish and implement policies and procedures to ensure full compliance with federal and state laws and regulations regarding the discipline of students with disabilities. If a student is recommended for expulsion and the student receives or is eligible for special education, STEM Prep shall identify and provide special education programs and services at an appropriate interim educational placement, pending the completion of the expulsion process, to be coordinated with the LAUSD Special Education Service Center.

In the case of a student who has an Individualized Education Program ("IEP"), or a student who has a 504 Plan, STEM Prep shall ensure that it follows correct disciplinary procedures to comply with the mandates of state and federal laws, including IDEA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Plan of 1973. As set forth in the MOU regarding special education between the District and STEM Prep, an IEP team will meet to conduct a manifestation determination and to discuss alternative placement utilizing the District's Special Education Policies and Procedures Manual. Prior to recommending expulsion for a student with a 504 Plan, STEM Prep's administrator will convene a Link Determination meeting to ask the following two questions:

- A. Was the misconduct caused by, or directly and substantially related to the student's disability?
- B. Was the misconduct a direct result of the Charter School's failure to implement 504?



Notification of the District

Upon expelling any student, STEM Prep shall notify the Charter Schools Division by submitting an expulsion packet to the CSD immediately or as soon as practicable, which shall contain:

- Completed "Notification of Charter School Expulsion" [form available from the CSD website or office], including attachments as required on the form
- Documentation of the expulsion proceeding, including statement of specific facts supporting the expulsion and documentation that STEM Prep's policies and procedures were followed
- Copy of parental notice of expulsion hearing
- Copy of expulsion notice provided to parent stating reason for expulsion, term of expulsion, rehabilitation plan, reinstatement notice with eligibility date and instructions for providing proof of student's compliance for reinstatement, appeal process, and options for enrollment
- If the student is eligible for Special Education, documentation related to expulsion in compliance with IDEA and the MCD, including the Expulsion Analysis page of the pre-expulsion IEP
- If the student is eligible for Section 504 accommodations, documentation that STEM Prep conducted a Link Determination meeting to address two questions:
 - A. Was the misconduct caused by, or directly and substantially related to the student's disability?
 - B. Was the misconduct a direct result of Charter School's failure to implement 504 Plan?

Notwithstanding the documentation sent to the Charter Schools Division as indicated above, if the student is a resident of a school district other than LAUSD, STEM Prep must notify the superintendent of the student's district of residence within 30 days of the expulsion. Additionally, upon request of the receiving school district, STEM Prep shall forward student records no later than 10 school days from the date of the request as stated in Education Code section 49068 (a) and (b).

Outcome Data

STEM Prep shall gather and maintain all data related to placement, tracking, and monitoring of student suspensions, expulsions, and reinstatements, and make such outcome data readily available to the District upon request.

Rehabilitation Plans

Pupils who are expelled from STEM Prep shall be given a rehabilitation plan upon expulsion as developed by STEM Prep's governing board at the time of the expulsion order, which may include, but is not limited to, periodic review as well as assessment at the time of review for readmission. Terms of expulsion should be reasonable and fair with the weight of the expelling offense taken into consideration when determining the length of expulsion. Therefore, the rehabilitation plan should include a date not later than one (1) year from the date of expulsion when the pupil may apply to STEM Prep for readmission.

STEM Prep shall inform parents in writing of its processes for reinstatement and applying for expungement of the expulsion record.

Readmission

STEM Prep's governing board shall adopt rules establishing a procedure for the filing and processing of requests for readmission and the process for the required review of all expelled pupils for readmission. Upon completion of the readmission process, STEM Prep's governing board shall readmit the pupil, unless STEM Prep's governing board makes a finding that the pupil has not met the conditions of the rehabilitation plan or



continues to pose a danger to campus safety. A description of the procedure shall be made available to the pupil and the pupil's parent or guardian at the time the expulsion order is entered and the decision of the governing board, including any related findings, must be provided to the pupil and the pupil's parent/guardian within a reasonable time.

Reinstatement

STEM Prep's governing board shall adopt rules establishing a procedure for processing reinstatements, including the review of documents regarding the rehabilitation plan. STEM Prep is responsible for reinstating the student upon the conclusion of the expulsion period in a timely manner.

Gun-Free Schools Act

STEM Prep shall comply with the federal Gun-Free Schools Act.

Data Collection and Reporting – Special Education

The school will collect and produce data regarding the suspension and expulsion of special education students as required by the Special Education Modified Consent Decree.

Discipline procedures for students with special needs will include positive behavioral interventions.

School of Choice Provision

STEM Prep Elementary campus is a school of choice. No student is required to attend, and no employee is required to work at the charter school.

Parent/Guardian and Family Engagement

Meaningful parent/guardian and family involvement is a critical dimension of effective schooling and improves student achievement. Research has shown that active and consistent parent/guardian and family involvement leads to student success

Family-student-School Compact

The school firmly believes that all students can and will achieve at high levels when administrators, teachers, staff and parents work in collaboration with each other. As stated in the Family-student-School Compact, each partner accepts responsibility for the successful education and college preparation of each student. This document is part of each student's enrollment packet and is explained to all new families during orientation. New and continuing parents and students are asked to sign the compact at the beginning of each school year.

Tips to Help Your Child Succeed

1. Encourage your child to be an active and responsible learner who completes and turns in assignments and homework when they are due and seeks assistance when needed.
2. Ensure that your child arrives to school on time each day and supports school policies such as discipline, safety, proper school attire, text book care, etc.
3. Review your child's agenda and encourage your child to use it on a regular basis to keep track of homework assignments, projects, exams and other important school events.
4. Monitor your child's overall progress on a regular basis. Do not wait until progress reports and report cards are issued to find out how your child is doing in school. You may check your child's grades and missing assignments online at stem.powerschool.com (see page 17 for more info.)
5. If your child is struggling with their school work or needs help, speak with your child's counselor and/or teachers and ensure that your child attends after school tutoring.



6. Help your child establish a regular time and place to study and to complete their homework and school projects. Make sure your child's study area is well-lit and is stocked with necessary school supplies.
7. Talk to your child about what is happening at school and what they are learning.
8. Encourage your child to read for pleasure and limit TV, video game and Internet usage.
9. Attend all scheduled parent/teacher conferences, school activities and parent educational workshops.
10. Support your child's school by volunteering in the school.

Volunteering

There are a number of ways parents/guardians can volunteer and demonstrate their commitment to STEM Prep.

Possible volunteer activities include, but are not limited to:

- Office support
- Fundraising activities
- Breakfast and lunch distribution
- Field trip chaperone
- Assistance with school-sponsored events
- Arrival and dismissal supervision
- Supervision of visitors
- Take-home assignments
- Participation in the School Site Council (SSC)
- Participation in the English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC)
- Coffee with the Principal
- Campus beautification projects
- Participation in Parent Workshops
- Assisting with the development and dissemination of the school newsletter

We truly appreciate your participation as a parent volunteer ,and we will make every attempt to match your interests and skills with projects or tasks with which you are comfortable.

Parent Conferences

Parent/Guardian Conferences are scheduled two times a year. At these events, parents/guardians have the opportunity to meet with their child's teachers or the entire instructional team to discuss progress and areas students need to strengthen. We encourage students to attend and actively participate in the conferences.

Teachers are available for parent/guardian conferences by appointment, as well. If you have concerns regarding your child's grades, please contact the school to schedule a conference during the teacher's conference period.

Parent/Guardian Rights

Parents/Guardians are guaranteed certain rights within the STEM Prep Elementary campus. Parents/Guardians have the right to:

- Work in partnership with the school to help their child succeed
- Observe the classroom(s) in which their child is enrolled or will be enrolled.
- Meet with their child's teacher(s) and the Principal.
- Volunteer under the supervision of school employees
- Be notified if their child is absent from school without permission.
- Receive results of their child's performance on standardized and statewide tests and information on the performance of the school.
- Have a school environment for their child that is safe and conducive for learning.
- Examine curriculum materials of the class(es) in which their child is enrolled.



- Be informed of their child’s progress in school and of the appropriate school personnel whom they should contact if problems arise.
- Have access to the school records of their child and question anything that they feel is inaccurate, misleading, or is in violation of the student’s privacy.
- Receive information concerning the academic performance standards, proficiencies, or skills their child is expected to accomplish.
- Be informed in advance about school rules, attendance policies, dress codes, and procedures for visiting the school.
- Receive information about any psychological testing the school does involving their child and to deny permission to give the test.
- Participate as a member of the school advisory committee, school site council, or site-based management leadership group in accordance with any rules and regulations governing membership in these groups.

Sexual Harassment Policy

Stem Preparatory Schools is committed to maintaining a working and learning environment that is free from sexual harassment. Sexual harassment of or by employees or students, or persons doing business for STEM Prep is a form of sex discrimination in that it constitutes differential treatment on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, or gender, and, for that reason, is a violation of state and federal laws and a violation of this policy.

STEM Prep considers sexual harassment to be a major offense which can result in disciplinary action to the offending employee or the suspension or expulsion of the offending student in grades four through twelve. Suspension or expulsion as a disciplinary consequence for sexual harassment shall not apply to students enrolled in Kindergarten and grades one through three. However, students enrolled in Kindergarten and grades one through three may be subject to other disciplinary actions.

Any student or employee of STEM Prep who believes that she or he has been a victim of sexual harassment shall bring the problem to the attention of the site administrator or Title IX Complaint Manager so that appropriate action may be taken to resolve the problem. STEM Prep prohibits retaliatory behavior against anyone who files a sexual harassment complaint or any participant in the complaint investigation process. Complaints will be promptly investigated in a way that respects the privacy of the parties concerned.

California Education Code Section 212.5 defines sexual harassment as any unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature made by someone from or in the work or educational setting, under any of the following conditions:

- Submission to the conduct is explicitly or implicitly made a term or a condition of an individual’s employment, academic status, or progress.
- Submission to, or rejection of, the conduct by the individual is used as the basis of employment or academic decisions affecting the individual.
- The conduct has the purpose or effect of having a negative impact upon the individual’s work or academic performance, or of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work or educational environment.
- Submission to, or rejection of, the conduct by the individual is used as the basis for any decision affecting the individual regarding benefits and services, honors, programs, or activities available at or through the educational institution.

Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to:



- Unwelcome verbal conduct such as suggestive, derogatory or vulgar comments, sexual innuendos, slurs, or unwanted sexual advances, invitations, or comments; pestering for dates; making threats; and/or spreading rumors about or rating others as to sexual activity or performance.
- Unwelcome visual conduct such as displays of sexually suggestive objects, pictures, posters, written material, cartoons, or drawings; graffiti of a sexual nature; and/or use of obscene gestures or leering.
- Unwelcome physical conduct such as unwanted touching, pinching, kissing, patting, hugging, blocking of normal movement, assault; and/or interference with work or study directed at an individual because of the individual's sex, sexual orientation, or gender.
- Threats and demands or pressure to submit to sexual requests in order to keep a job or academic standing or to avoid other loss, and offers of benefits in return for sexual favors.

For inquiries about policies and procedures related to sexual harassment, including how to file a complaint of sexual harassment involving students, contact:

Eric Barlow
 Chief Operations Officer
 STEM Preparatory Schools, Inc.
 3200 W. Adams Blvd.
 Los Angeles, California 90018
 (323) 795-0695 Fax (323) 795-0696

Non-Discrimination Statement

Stem Preparatory Schools is committed to providing a working and learning environment that is free from unlawful discrimination and harassment. STEM Prep prohibits discrimination and harassment based on an individual's actual or perceived sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical condition), sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity), ethnic group identification, race, ancestry, national origin, religion (including religious accommodation), color, mental or physical disability, age, marital status, or on the basis of a person's association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics, or any other basis protected by federal, state, local law, ordinance, or regulation. Harassment based on any of the above-protected categories is a form of unlawful discrimination and will not be tolerated by STEM Prep. Harassment is intimidation or abusive behavior toward a student or employee that creates a hostile environment and can result in disciplinary action against the offending student or employee. Harassing conduct may take many forms, including verbal remarks and name-calling, graphic and written statements, or conduct that is physically threatening or humiliating.

Additional information prohibiting other forms of unlawful discrimination or harassment, inappropriate behavior, and/or hate crimes may be found at <http://stem-prep.org/notices/nondiscrimination/>. It is the intent of STEM Prep that all such policies are reviewed consistently to provide the highest level of protection from unlawful discrimination in the provision of educational services and opportunities.

STEM Prep prohibits retaliation against anyone who files a complaint or who participates in a complaint investigation.



For inquiries or complaints related to discrimination or harassment based on a student’s sex (Title IX); sexual orientation or gender identity (Title 5, CCR, §4910); ethnic group identification, race, color, ancestry. or national origin (Title VI); or mental or physical disability (Section 504), contact:

Eric Barlow
Chief Operations Officer
STEM Preparatory Schools, Inc.
3200 W. Adams Blvd.
Los Angeles, California 90018
(323) 795-0695 Fax (323) 795-0696

For inquiries or complaints related to employee-to-employee discrimination or harassment, contact:

Susana Enriquez
Human Resources Manager
(323) 795-0684
senriquez@stem-prep.org

Complaint Policies

We value your voice and opinion at STEM Prep Elementary, if you have any issue that requires our involvement we will work with you to resolve it. We encourage you to bring issues to your school administrator by submitting a Parents/Guardians Concerns & Action Plan Form. Any complaint that is not under the Uniform Complaint Procedure (see below), including but not limited to discipline, attendance, and grades, should be reported using the Concerns & Action Plan Form. Please see our main office for the form.

Uniform Complaint Procedure

For complaints of non-compliance, discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying please see our website or the front office for the Uniform Complaint Form.

Suicide Prevention Policy

Please see our website for the Suicide Prevention Policy.

All of these documents mentioned above can be found on the STEM prep website:

<http://stem-prep.org/notices>

Mandated Reporter Policy

Any employee who knows or reasonably suspects a child has been the victim of child abuse is required by the State to report the instance to the Los Angeles Department of Child and Family Services. Child abuse is broadly defined as “a physical injury that is inflicted by other than accidental means on a child by another person.”

Federal Educational Rights And Privacy Act (FERPA) Directory Information “Opt-Out” Notice

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal privacy law that gives parents certain protections concerning their children's education records, which includes, among other records, report cards, transcripts, disciplinary records, contact and family information, and class schedules. To protect your child's privacy, schools are generally prohibited from disclosing personally identifiable information about your child



without your written consent. An exception to this rule includes "directory information," which is defined as: Parents'/guardians' names, address, electronic mail address, phone number, dates of attendance, grade level, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, degrees, honors, and awards received; and the most recent educational agency or institution attended.

STEM Prep's policy is to not release directory information to any requestor, for any purpose, without specific prior parent/guardian consent in each situation, EXCEPT we will release such information to requestors that engage in political advocacy or information dissemination related to California charter schools. If you do not want STEM Prep to disclose your contact and other directory information from your child's records to such persons or entities without your prior written consent, you must request a form from the front office by November 1, 2019.

Notification of Rights under FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

1. **The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the School receives a request for access.** Parents or eligible students should submit to the School written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The School will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. **The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading.** Parents or eligible students may ask the School to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the School, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the School decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the School will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
3. **The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.** One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the School as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the School has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. [Optional] Upon request, the School discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.
4. **The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School to comply with the requirements of FERPA.** The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-5901



COVID-19 School Updates
STEM Prep Operational Parameters and Safety Precautions
2020-21 School Year
 Revised 7/10/20

Overview

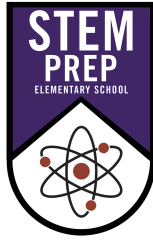
Due to COVID-19 Crisis: STEM Prep schools has developed the following health safety policies based on CDC guidance. These policies were implemented to increase student and staff wellbeing and decrease potential spread of the coronavirus. When on a STEM Prep School campus, all students, parents, staff and visitors follow the following:

General Safety	
Physical distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To the extent possible, students and staff should maintain 6 feet of separation at all times.
PPE requirements	<p>Masks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masks must be worn over the nose and mouth at all times by all TK-12 students and staff (during arrival, when on campus, and during dismissal), except while eating, drinking, or blowing nose. Exceptions for instructional purposes (i.e. speech therapy) or the unique needs of a student or staff member must be approved by school administration ahead of time. Other safety measures (i.e. distance, face shields, meeting outdoors) are critical if a mask is removed. Acceptable masks must conform to the school dress code specified in the student handbook and may include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disposable masks Reusable cloth masks Bandanas Scarves Schools will provide one reusable cloth mask to each staff member and student. Any student or staff member who arrives without a mask will be provided a disposable mask.
Hand Washing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At a minimum, students and adults should wash hands at the beginning and end of the day, before every meal, and after cough/sneeze (in addition to bathroom visits). This will likely mean staggered snack/meal times throughout the day. While washing hands in bathrooms, students should maintain 6 feet distance from each other. Students and staff should use hand sanitizer approximately once an hour.
School Operations	



Pre-screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students and staff members should stay home if they are experiencing any symptoms including fever and either cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing ● If sick with a fever, students and staff should stay home until they are fever-free for 48 hours (for non-COVID illnesses)
Arrival System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students should proceed directly to classrooms upon arrival and not be permitted to access building before arrival to wait in lobby, gym, or other common areas. ● All students, staff, and visitors will be screened by means of thermal camera. ● Front office staff will pull aside individuals with elevated temperatures for additional screening: no touch temperature checks (staff wears face shield, mask, gloves, wipes thermometer in between uses) ● Students use hand sanitizer upon entering classrooms.
Individuals with Symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students/staff who arrive at school with noticeable symptoms and/or a fever will be sent home. ● Students with symptoms waiting to be picked up will wait in the isolation room.
Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Visitors, including parents, are restricted from the building and must wait in designated waiting areas outside for visitors. ● All visitors should call ahead to the school office to request an appointment to visit.





FAMILY-STUDENT HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT

This is to acknowledge that my student and I have received a copy of the STEM Prep Elementary Family-Student Handbook for the 2020-21 school year. We understand that it sets forth the terms and conditions of student enrollment, as well as the duties, responsibilities, and obligations of students. We understand and agree that it is our responsibility to read the Family-student Handbook and to abide by the rules, policies, standards set forth within including the dress code and the school-family compact signed during the initial orientation process. We further understand that the student/parent handbook may be changed during the school year as necessary and that when we are notified of any changes, it is our responsibility to follow the revised policies.

Date

Parent/Guardian's Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Student's Name

Student's Grade

Gilliane Holt

Gilliane Holt

Principal's Signature

Principal's Name (Printed)



