

# The STEM Exploration Academy

## APPLICATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2012

1. Provide all requested information.
2. The form must be signed by a parent or legal guardian.
3. Parent or legal guardian's name must be clearly printed.
4. Return application to:

**OFFICIAL USE ONLY**  
Application Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Deborah Stanton, Deputy Superintendents' Office  
Danbury Public Schools, 63 Beaver Brook Road, Danbury, CT 06810, by:

**APPLICATION DUE DATE: February 10, 2012 by 4:00 p.m.**

Please print the following information:

1. Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name First Name MI
2. Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
No. Street Apt. # Zip Code
3. Student's Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender (circle one) Female Male
4. Print Parent/Legal Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Parent/Legal Guardian's Home Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Legal Guardian's Work Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Legal Guardian's Cell Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Student's current school: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Grade applying to for next school year (September 2012): \_\_\_\_\_
8. Race/Ethnic Group (circle one) American Indian Asian Black White Hispanic  
(For information purposes only, data collected has no bearing on lottery)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### Timeframe:

- Application process begins January 23, 2012
- Deadline for Applications, February 10, 2012 by 4:00 p.m.
- Lottery held February 17, 2012
- Notification of selection by February 24, 2012
- Parent's confirmation of acceptance by March 1, 2012

## **The Exploration Academy - a STEM initiative: FAQ**

### **What is the vision of The Exploration Academy?**

The Exploration Academy will provide a dynamic program of instruction that will develop an enhanced interest and appreciation for the STEM areas (Science, technology, engineering and mathematics) through the implementation of exciting and stimulating instructional strategies, and through active partnerships with area corporations; higher education and other STEM related organizations.

**What are the Core Beliefs of The Exploration Academy?** All activities of The Exploration Academy are based on five core beliefs. They are:

- Strong mathematics and science content knowledge, technology skills and the skills of inquiry and problem solving are essential 21<sup>st</sup> century skills.
- Equity of opportunity for students of all backgrounds, race and ethnicity to participate in The Exploration Academy is essential.
- Data-informed planning and decision making skills need to be mastered by our students if they are to compete in a global environment and need to be continuously modeled by our faculty.
- High quality research-based instructional practices supported by rich professional development opportunities needed to be provided by the faculty on an ongoing basis.
- Rigorous alignment with state and national standards is critical to the implementation and maintenance of a high quality instructional program.

**Is The Exploration Academy a program for students who demonstrate exceptional academic performance in science and/or mathematics or a gifted program for highly selective students?**

No. The Exploration Academy is designed to increase interest and proficiency in the STEM areas for middle school students while also attempting to address the concern that female and minority students are underrepresented in the STEM areas.

**What is the primary goal of The Exploration Academy?**

The program offered by The Exploration Academy will develop and sustain hands-on project-based learning experiences that will develop student's interest and ability to perform at the high levels focusing on the areas of science, mathematics, technology and engineering.

**How will The Exploration Academy develop my child?**

The Exploration Academy will develop students by training and supporting teachers with thematic hands-on project-based learning approaches to teach the STEM curriculum areas as well as the areas of English and Social Studies. Children will develop STEM skills that they can apply to real-life. The STEM experiences will be designed to excite children about learning through discovery and inquiry. Children will use a team approach to learning, develop leadership skills, learn how to problem solve and think outside the box.

**How will the program directly impact my child?**

The Exploration Academy will expose children to professionals that work in STEM fields, provides opportunities for students to travel to venues that allow them to demonstrate what they have learned, students will be given opportunities to demonstrate and improve upon communication skills, students will experience cutting edge technology, students will be given an opportunity to express their individuality through their

projects, they will be provided with opportunities to visit a local university and they will be provided with visits to area corporations specializing in STEM fields.

**What will the child learn from participation in The Exploration Academy?**

Children will learn how to use various forms of multimedia/technology tools, research skills, scientific journal writing skills, learn about engineering fields, learn how to use math and science to develop a quality project to solve a problem, and learn how to integrate technology into the final design of their project.

**Where will The Exploration Academy be located?**

The Academy will be located at Rogers Park Middle School. Students who are selected to participate will become registered as full-time Rogers Park students, which will then be their home school.

**What grade levels will be offered in The Exploration Academy for the 2011-2012 school years?**

The Exploration Academy program will service students in grades six through eight for the 2011-2012 school year.

**How will students be selected ?**

A lottery will be held.

**Will transportation be provided for students who reside in the Broadview area?**

Yes. Arrangements are being made to ensure that busing is provided to all participating Broadview students regardless of where they reside.

**Will my child be able to participate in all of the other services and programs offered to Rogers Park students such as art, music, world language, band, etc?**

Yes. Academy students will be provided with the same opportunities as all other students at Rogers Park.

**What will be the structure of the academic day? How does this program differ from the program of studies available for the rest of the Rogers Park students?**

The daily schedule is still under development but it will not be much different from the existing schedule and structure for the rest of the school. The significant difference is the emphasis on integrated science and mathematics opportunities, project-based experiences and thematic learning activities. Each day, students will engage in reading, language arts and social studies activities with an emphasis on the integration of mathematics, science integrated and technology.