



FACT SHEET

STEM Preparatory Academy

Middle Tennessee's First "STEM" Charter School

Mission:

STEM Preparatory Academy is dedicated to delivering a college preparatory education with an integrated focus on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics ("STEM"). By cultivating a community of learning and academic excellence, STEM Prep will bolster the number of underrepresented students who successfully complete advanced high school coursework and attain college degrees.

Why the Focus on "STEM"?

Students must have a strong knowledge base in the science and mathematics to access the college and career pathways of the 21st Century. President Barack Obama's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology cited the lack of STEM-focused middle schools and called for the development thereof to strengthen the pipeline of qualified workers who can compete globally.

We believe STEM education is not only a national and local priority, but also an issue of education equity. Only 9.1 percent of African Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans with college degrees are in the STEM workforce.¹ Moreover, underserved student populations often have limited access to high-level coursework in science and math, while also receiving little preparation for and awareness of 21st Century careers. We believe all students deserve a strong education in STEM regardless of their background.

Who We Serve:

STEM Prep is deliberately designed to serve students zoned to persistently failing middle schools and who live in the Glenclyff and McGavock school clusters. The school provides education choice to students of color, non-native English speakers, and low-income students who otherwise have limited access to a college preparatory and STEM-focused middle school education in South Nashville.

Beginning with a fifth grade class of 100 students, STEM Prep will add a grade each year until the school serves approximately 400 students in grades five through eight. STEM Prep is purposefully designed as a small school to support highly effective individualized instruction and social-emotional support for all students.

Location: STEM Prep Academy takes occupancy of its school facility located at 3748 Nolensville Pike in Spring 2011.

*For questions or additional information, please contact Dr. Kristin L. McGraner, Founder and Executive Director, at 615.752.0002 or kmcgraner@stemprepacademy.org. You may also visit us online at www.stemprepacademy.org and follow us on Twitter @STEMPREP.

¹ National Academies Press. (2011). *Expanding Underrepresented Minority Participation: America's Science and Technology Talent at the Crossroads*.