

**DOWNING
MIDDLE SCHOOL**



8th Grade
Registration
2024-2025

Welcome to Downing!!!

Students:

- View the important information about our campus
- View course options
- Work with your parent or guardian to select your courses
- Complete Google Form*
- **AND** Enter course selections into Skyward*

*found on last page of presentation

[Middle School Academic Planning Guide](#)

Downing Administration



Mr. Martin
Principal



Mrs. Harycki
Assistant Principal
Last Names A-K



Mr. Hilliard
Assistant Principal
Last Names L-Z

Downing Counselors



Mrs. Blevins
Last Names A-K



Ms. Isaacs
Last Names L-Z

School Nurse & Librarian



Mrs. Ashmore
School Nurse



Mrs. White
Librarian

School Resource Officer



Officer Justin Buck
Flower Mound Police Department

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Core Course Options

Core Course Options

English/Language Arts (ELAR) (click [HERE](#) for course descriptions and recommendations)

English Language Arts 8

Honors English Language Arts 8

LEAP/ELAR GT 8 (must be identified GT to enroll)

Math (click [HERE](#) for course descriptions and recommendations)

Math 8

Algebra (High School Credit class - must have successfully completed Honors Math 7)

Science (click [HERE](#) for course descriptions and recommendations)

STEM Science 8

Honors STEM Science 8

Social Studies (click [HERE](#) for course descriptions and recommendations)

U.S. History

Honors U.S. History

Honors Courses

Lewisville ISD is proud to offer a variety of HONORS courses that are open to all secondary students. The purpose of these courses is to meet the needs of students eager to engage in a challenging curriculum as they consider the multiple pathways that will lead to future college and career success.

HONORS courses will offer an additional layer of depth and complexity applied to the standard core content alongside the high expectations and authentic learning experiences found in all LISD courses. Depth and complexity applied to the standard curriculum offers rich learning experiences for students interested in taking on the challenge of advanced coursework.

Click below for more information on Honors Classes.

[Honors Courses in Middle School](#)

Gifted & Talented Courses

Link to LISD G/T secondary website:

<https://www.lisd.net/Page/27852>

Middle School G/T and Honors courses Smore:

<https://www.smore.com/4nkq8>

- This Smore describes all courses (both G/T designated and Honors) available to G/T students.

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Physical
Education

Physical Education

All students will be scheduled into one of the following physical education courses.

- Boys Athletics
- Girls Athletics
- Physical Education
 - In 8th grade, STEM elective can be taken in place of PE
- Tennis - If trying out for Tennis at Marcus High School (information available in the Spring), students will be placed in PE or Athletics pending tryout results.
- External PE - If applying for external PE, you will be placed in the campus PE course pending application approval.
 - LEVEL ONE requires a minimum of 15 hours of participation a week in an approved off-campus activity; the student is dismissed one period during the school day by arriving late or leaving early to attend the activity.
 - LEVEL TWO is a minimum of 5 hours per week of participation; the student may not be dismissed from any part of the school day.
 - More Information about External PE can be found on the LISD Website <https://www.lisd.net/Page/1659>

[Click here for External PE Flyer](#)

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8th Grade
Electives

Electives

Students take 2 electives. Fine Arts courses are marked with an (*).

- [Band*](#) (click course name for description)
- [Choir*](#) (click course name for description)
- [Orchestra*](#) (click course name for description)
- [Theatre Arts*](#) (click course name for description)
- [Middle School Art*](#) (click course name for description) ~must take art in 7th grade to be eligible to take HS credit art in 8th~
- [Art 1 High School Credit*](#) (click course name for description) ~must have art in 7th grade to be eligible to take High School credit art in 8th grade~
- [Spanish 1 High School Credit](#) (click course name for description) ~you will take Spanish 2 next year~
- [Spanish 2 High School Credit](#) (click course name for description) ~must have taken Spanish 1 in 7th grade to take Spanish 2 in 8th grade~
- [Principles of Human Services High School Credit](#) (click course name for description)
- [Outdoor Trails](#) (click course name for description)
- [Gateway to STEM 2](#) (year long course including Medical Detectives and Automation & Robotics - see flyer on following page)
- [Yearbook](#)

Click [here](#) for the Downing Music Brochure

School districts are required to provide each student, at the time the student first registers for one or more classes required for high school graduation, with a written notification of the substance of the Uniform Admission Policy. Click here to read the content of the Uniform Admission Policy for Automatic Admission from TEA.

<https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/Explanation%20of%20Automatic%20College%20Admission%20Fig.%2061.1201a1.pdf>

STEM Elective

STEM 1 is only offered to 6th grade students.



Creek Valley MS

Downing MS

Forestwood MS

Hedrick MS

MISSION

All students at an LISD Middle School STEM Academy will learn to apply basic content and practices of the STEM disciplines to situations they encounter in life.

STEM Science



ALL students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade will participate in an enhanced science course with a focus on the Engineering Design Process. Students will experience a curriculum that includes design challenges, investigations, and career exploration that connects them to real-world problems.

STEM Electives

LISD Middle School STEM Academies will use a variety of resources including Project Lead the Way and Pitsco Education products within the elective courses. These electives are designed so that students are empowered to make their own discoveries through engagement, excitement, and collaboration.

The courses offered for school year '24-'25 are shown below.

Gateway to STEM 1

Design and Modeling - 1 semester

Students discover the design process, and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They are then challenged and empowered to use and apply what they've learned throughout the unit to design a therapeutic toy for a child who has cerebral palsy.

Note: Please be aware that certain course lessons may involve the use of specific applications that require parental consent and signature for students under the age of 13. Review these apps for each course by scanning the QR code.

Students who do not obtain consent may be given alternatives for some learning experiences.

Science of Technology - 1 semester

Science impacts the technology of yesterday, today, and the future. In this unit, students apply the concepts of physics, chemistry, and nanotechnology to activities and projects, including making ice cream, cleaning up an oil spill, and discovering the properties of nano-materials.

Scan for list of Apps Requiring Consent



STEM Elective

For the 2024–25 school year, only STEM 2 will be offered to 7th and 8th grade students at Downing.

STEM 3 will not be offered.

[Click here to watch a video about STEM 2](#)

Gateway to STEM 2

Medical Detectives - 1 semester

Students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they collect and analyze medical data to diagnose disease. They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, measure and interpret vital signs, examine nervous system structure and function, investigate disease outbreaks, and explore how a breakdown within the human body can lead to dysfunction.

Automation and Robotics - 1 semester

Students learn about the history and impact of automation and robotics as they explore mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Using the VEX Robotics® platform, students apply what they know to design and program traffic lights, robotic arms, and more.

Prerequisite for STEM 2: none

Gateway to STEM 3

STEM: Expedition Unknown - 1 semester

During fall semester, students will embark on a journey through the world of STEM pathways by completing real-world design challenges. Students will use critical and creative thinking skills to create innovative solutions in the fields of Health Sciences, Computer Science, Engineering, and Manufacturing. The challenges include designing a mechanical replacement for a human organ, developing mobile apps, designing a self-sustaining power system, and creating original products for use in industry. Through these hands-on collaborative projects, students will evaluate their unique strengths and interests while investigating a variety of STEM fields.

Note: Please be aware that certain course lessons may involve the use of specific applications that require parental consent and signature for students under the age of 13. Review these apps for each course by scanning the QR code.

Students who do not obtain consent may be given alternatives for some learning experiences.

Exploring Aviation - 1 semester

During spring semester, students will be challenged to complete several STEM design challenges using the engineering design process. The challenges include utilizing a small drone to inspect difficult-to-reach areas, creating drone security solutions for a variety of clients, and using drones to simulate search and rescue operations. Students will also explore related career connections and practice soft skills such as collaboration, critical thinking, and problem solving.

Prerequisite for STEM 3: none

Scan for list of Apps Requiring Consent



Visit Our Website



<https://tinyurl.com/LISDmsSTEM>



Electives, cont.

You will only receive 2 electives in your schedule, but you will be selecting **5 different** electives you are willing to take next school year.

You will enter your electives in order of preference.

- #1 and #2 will be your top elective choices
- #3, #4, and #5 will be your alternate elective choices (in case your top 2 don't work with your schedule).
 - Your alternate electives must be different from your top 2 elective choices, and all 3 of your alternates must be different electives.
 - So you will be choosing **5 different electives** in all - 2 top choices and 3 alternates

We try our best to accommodate 1st and 2nd choice electives; however, there is no guarantee that alternate electives will not be used.

Reminders & Questions

1. Complete Google Form for Course Requests

[Course Selection Form](#)

~AND~

2. Enter Course selections into Skyward

[Skyward Directions](#)

- Both the Google form and entering the course selections into Skyward need to be completed by **Friday, January 19th.**

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