



Laurel Middle School STEAM Academy
2023-2024 Student Application Packet
Application is due February 28, 2023

The goal of the Laurel Middle School STEAM Academy admissions process is to select and admit a diverse group of academically capable students who have a genuine interest in pursuing this unique and rigorous program that focuses on offering a challenging curriculum centered around the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) at the Middle School Level. Each application and accompanying documentation will be reviewed by the admissions team. Elements to be included in this application are as follows:

- **Academic Potential:** Grade Point Average, Grades and all MAAP scores
- **References:** Two from current teachers who have the ability to evaluate the student's potential for success
- **Application:** Well-written, thoughtful responses provided by the student and parents/guardians
- **Interview:** Admissions team will interview applicants and their parents/guardians. Applicants will
- **Characteristics:** Intellectual curiosity, self-motivation, maturity, self-discipline, and the desire for a non-traditional Middle school setting.

Due Date: February 28, 2023

Completed applications and attachments must be placed in a sealed envelope and submitted to:

Ms. Brandi Calahan
Laurel Middle School Supervising Principal
Laurel Middle School Main Office
1600 Grandview Drive
Laurel, MS 39440

All completed applications will be evaluated by a committee. Applicants that have completed applications that make it to the next phase will be informed by phone of the interview schedule. Laurel Middle School STEAM Academy cohort members will be selected and notified by mail after interviews. If your mailing address is incorrect, applicants will not receive important selection information and risk missing enrollment deadlines.

Applications hand delivered or postmarked after February 28, 2023 will not be considered.

Please note that all Laurel Middle School STEAM Academy applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Must have a 75 or above in Math, Language Arts, and Science during the first semester of the 2022-2023 school year..
- No major discipline infractions
- No excessive unexcused absences

Helpful Tips and Instructions for Completing the Application

We're so excited that you are interested in Laurel Middle School STEAM Academy! Completing the application in its entirety is the first step to participating in an exciting middle school experience. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

The following checklist will help guide you through this process:

- Read the entire application before completing any information.
- Complete the application in its entirety.
 - Two recommendations from current teachers (Part E) are needed as part of your application packet.
 - Guidance Counselors, lead teachers, administrators, or front office clerks are to complete Part D of your application and place it in a sealed envelope.
- Write a draft of Section C: **Student Written Responses** on a separate sheet of paper and proofread it carefully before handwriting or typing your final copy on the application.
- Ask your **parent or legal guardian** to complete Part B Parent Information.
- Remember to **sign** your part of the application.
- Make certain that your **parent or legal guardian** signs in the parent section of the application.
- When all pages of your application are completed, and you have received the completed teacher recommendation forms, **return your completed application packet to Ms. Brandi Calahan at Laurel Middle School, Main Office, no later than February 28, 2023.** Incomplete applications and/or late applications will not be considered for admission to Laurel Middle School STEAM Academy.
- Do not wait until the last minute to complete your application.
- After all applications are received and reviewed, applicants will be notified of the time and date of parent/student interviews. **Students must interview as a part of the process** to be eligible for the Laurel Middle School STEAM Academy program admission. Applicants may submit a video/presentation as a part of the interview process. See section C for guidance.
- After interviews, all applicants will receive a letter stating his/her application status and instructions (if he/she has been accepted). **We must have your correct email and/or mailing address.**
- If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ms. Brandi Calahan, Laurel Middle School Principal, at bcalahan@laurelschools.org or 601-428-5312.

LAUREL MIDDLE SCHOOL STEAM ACADEMY STUDENT APPLICATION PACKET

Return this section of the application packet and attachments in a sealed manilla envelope to Ms. Brandi Calahan at Laurel Middle School Main Office no later than February 28, 2023.

Part A: Student Personal Information

Student Name: _____
Last First Middle

Date of Birth: _____ School District of Residence: _____

Home Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Residence Address (if different): _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Student's 1st Language: _____ Parents' Language(s): _____

Country of Birth: _____ Language Spoken at Home: _____

How long have you been enrolled in Laurel Public School District? _____

I have a sibling living in my household who is also **applying** to Laurel Middle School STEAM Academy this year.

☐ YES

☐ NO

If yes, name of sibling applicant: _____

Part B: Parent Information

Student Name: _____ Current Grade: _____

Father or Guardian:

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-mail Address _____

Marital Status: ☐ M ☐ S ☐ W Occupation: _____

Place of Employment: _____ Work Phone: _____

Mother or Guardian:

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-mail Address _____

Marital Status: ☐ M ☐ S ☐ W Occupation: _____

Place of Employment: _____ Work Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian – Please initial after each statement and sign below stating that you have read and understand the following:

1. I understand that incomplete applications will not be accepted. _____
2. I will support my child in completing the course of study. _____
3. I will support Administrators and staff during the course of study. _____
4. My student will maintain high academic, attendance and behavioral standards. _____
5. I understand that my child may need to devote a minimum of (2) hours each evening to completing assignments and to studying and that those hours will increase as coursework becomes more difficult.

6. I understand that my child must comply with Laurel Middle School STEAM Academy dress code, discipline and attendance policies at all times. _____
7. I understand that if my child does not make adequate academic progress, has poor attendance or exhibits poor behavior, he/she may be placed in probationary status and/or back to the traditional middle school setting. _____

I hereby request that all school data in support of my child's application to the Laurel Middle School STEAM Academy be at the disposal of Laurel Middle School STEAM Academy officials. I understand that the purpose of the recommendation being placed in this applicant's file is to assist in making admission decisions; therefore, pursuant to the Family Education and Privacy Act of 1974, I, the undersigned parent, waive access to confidential recommendations. _____

I have read and understand the above statements.

Parent/Guardian Signatures:

_____ Date: _____

_____ Date: _____

Part C: Student Information

Student Name: _____

We are interested in learning more about you and why you want admission to Laurel Middle School STEAM Academy. In your own words, respond to these questions. **Your responses must be written or typed on another sheet of paper and included in the application.**

1. What aspect of attending Laurel Middle School STEAM Academy most appeals to you? How do you feel your enrollment at Laurel Middle School STEAM Academy will contribute to your success as a student?
2. Describe a situation when you collaborated with others to complete a project or an assignment. Describe your role in the collaboration.
3. Describe a time when you took a big risk. Tell why it was risky and what you learned about yourself.
4. What characteristics do you have that will help you to be successful in Laurel Middle School STEAM Academy ?

Initial after each statement and sign below stating that you have read and understand the following:

1. I understand that incomplete applications will not be accepted. _____
2. I will maintain high academic, attendance, and behavior standards. _____
3. I understand that I must devote a minimum of (2) hours each evening to completing assignments and to studying and that those hours will increase as my coursework increases. _____
4. I understand that I must comply with Laurel Middle School STEAM Academy dress code, discipline and attendance policies at all times. _____
5. I understand that if I do not make adequate academic progress, exhibit poor behavior, or have poor attendance, I may be placed in probationary status and/or back to the traditional middle school setting. _____
6. I understand that failing a course at the end of a grading period will result in my removal from Laurel Middle School STEAM Academy. _____
7. I hereby request that all school data in support of my application to the Laurel Middle School STEAM Academy be at the disposal of Laurel Middle School STEAM Academy officials. I understand that the purpose of the recommendation being placed in my file is to assist in making admission decisions; therefore, pursuant to the Family Education and Privacy Act of 1974, I, the undersigned student, waive access to confidential recommendations. _____

I have read and understand the above statements.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Part D: Academic Information to be completed by a school counselor, lead teacher, administrator, or office clerk.

Students should request this NO LATER THAN February 17, 2023.

You have been asked to recommend this student for admission into The Laurel Middle School STEAM Academy. Please complete and return the form to the applicant.

Student Name: _____

1. Exceptional Education / Section 504 Information (Check all that apply)

☐ Not Identified (No IEP / Section 504 plan /ESL, services or modifications)

☐ IEP

• SPED Ruling _____

• Accommodations _____

☐ Section 504 Plan Accommodations

☐ ESL Accommodations

2. Please describe any special circumstances or any additional information you would like for us to have regarding this student applicant – **include Tier information if applicable :**

I have verified with my District SPED Director that this information is correct to the best of my knowledge.

School Official Name (Print) _____

School Official Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please include a copy of the following:

- Report Card (Term 1-2 of current grade)
- MAAP score report
- Discipline Summary
- Attendance Summary

Part E: To be completed by a current teacher

Students should request this NO LATER THAN February 17, 2023

You have been asked to recommend this student for admission into the Laurel Middle School STEAM Academy. Please complete and return the form to the student in a sealed envelope.

Student applicant: _____ Subject taught: _____

How long have you known this applicant? _____

Please evaluate the applicant on the following characteristics:

ACADEMIC CHARACTERISTICS	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Cannot Evaluate
Accepts academic challenge				
Accepts personal responsibility				
Accepts responsibility for learning				
Communicates ideas effectively				
Completes tasks				
Has interests beyond the classroom				
Makes decisions independent of peers				
Shows respect for authority				
Works independently				
Works well with peers				
SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL CHARACTERISTICS	Excellent	Average	Below Average	Cannot Evaluate
Enthusiasm				
Integrity/Honesty				
Judgment/Common Sense				
Kindness				
Leadership				
Maturity				
Motivation				
Patience with others				
Social skills				

Please add any comments that will help the committee make a decision.

Choose one:

☐ Highly Recommend

☐ Recommend

☐ Recommend with reservations

☐ Cannot Recommend

Teacher Name: (print) _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

Part E: To be completed by a current teacher

Students should request this NO LATER THAN February 17, 2023

You have been asked to recommend this student for admission into the Laurel Middle School STEAM Academy. Please complete and return the form to the student in a sealed envelope.

Student applicant: _____ Subject taught: _____

How long have you known this applicant? _____

Please evaluate the applicant on the following characteristics:

ACADEMIC CHARACTERISTICS	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Cannot Evaluate
Accepts academic challenge				
Accepts personal responsibility				
Accepts responsibility for learning				
Communicates ideas effectively				
Completes tasks				
Has interests beyond the classroom				
Makes decisions independent of peers				
Shows respect for authority				
Works independently				
Works well with peers				
SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL CHARACTERISTICS	Excellent	Average	Below Average	Cannot Evaluate
Enthusiasm				
Integrity/Honesty				
Judgment/Common Sense				
Kindness				
Leadership				
Maturity				
Motivation				
Patience with others				
Social skills				

Please add any comments that will help the committee make a decision.

Choose one:

☐ Highly Recommend

☐ Recommend

☐ Recommend with reservations

☐ Cannot Recommend

Teacher Name: (print) _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____