

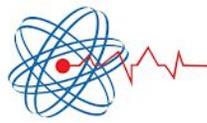


Holyoke STEM Academy

Welcome to Holyoke STEM Academy's Inaugural 2018-2019 School Year!

It is our vision that scholars at Holyoke STEM Academy will become passionate learners, resilient problem-solvers, and effective communicators who will leave with the skills necessary to be successful in high school, college and the ever-changing world of future careers. **In order to ensure your scholar is prepared for the rigor of high school, college, and career, Holyoke STEM Academy has put into place the following expectations:**

Category	Expectations	Purpose
Uniforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Scholars must wear collar shirts in solid black, maroon, white or navy colors★ Solid black, maroon, white, or navy hoodies, sweaters, or sweatshirts are okay★ Bottoms may be scholar's choice, but no shorter than 6 inches above the knee★ Scholars will be provided with many opportunities to express their individuality by earning and participating in team, grade, or school-wide dress down days	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Uniforms create a sense of community, pride and common purpose in a school, sports, or work environment.➤ Uniforms can help young adolescents feel like they belong at a time when peer pressure can be challenging.➤ Uniforms have been shown to reduce some causes of bullying that target student differences based on clothes or income.➤ Uniforms help teach young adolescents the importance of "dressing smart" for a school or workplace environment.
Homework	<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ All scholars can expect up to 20 minutes of homework in each content area (science, math, reading, writing)★ Homework will generally be given Monday through Thursday nights with Fridays and weekends off, with some exceptions★ All STEM scholars will be given their own personal homework agenda to keep track of nightly homework★ Agendas need to be brought to school and home again every day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ One key skill necessary for success in high school, college and career is the ability to keep track of project due dates, appointments and other important events.➤ STEM Academy will be implementing a study skills curriculum to help your child develop the organizational skills needed to keep up with school and life responsibilities.➤ A nightly homework routine will enable your child to develop the work habits and study skills necessary to be successful with the rigorous and complex science, math, and English Language Arts curricula found in middle school, high school and college.



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Backpacks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ All STEM scholars are expected to carry a backpack with them every day★ Homework agendas are expected to be kept in student backpacks at all times★ Backpacks may be any design or color chosen by your child, as long as it is a design appropriate for school★ Backpacks should have your child's name and homeroom clearly marked on it somewhere on the outside★ Scholars are allowed to carry water (preferably in a reusable water bottle marked with the child's name), but no other outside beverages are allowed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ There are no lockers available to scholars at STEM Academy.➤ Backpacks are necessary to help scholars keep track of their homework agendas, notebooks, water bottles and other personal items.➤ Backpacks allow young adolescents to have a personal space and a way of expressing their individuality at school.➤ Backpacks enable young adolescents to develop organizational skills necessary to keep track of important items between school and home, and eventually, between work and home.➤ Please note: Outside food and drink are prohibited at STEM, with the exception of water bottles.
Cell phones & Other Digital Devices	<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Scholars are allowed to have cellphones in school, but they must be off and away at all times during school hours, including during hallway transition times, lunches, and specials.★ Scholars are allowed to have other digital devices at school, such as tablets, iPads, or Kindles, but again, these devices are expected to be off and away at all times during school hours.★ Holyoke STEM Academy is not responsible for cell phones or digital devices that are lost or stolen while on school property. It is safest to keep such devices at home, or off and away in backpacks at all times.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ It is developmentally appropriate for middle level students to own cell phones and other digital devices for communication with family and peers.➤ Educational research shows, however, that cell phones in classrooms are distracting and often disruptive to the learning environment and they reduce children's working memory capacity*. For this reason, Holyoke STEM Academy has an "Off and Away" policy for cell phones at all times during the school day.➤ If you need to reach your child during school hours, please call our office at 413-534-2071.