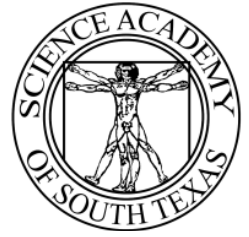


## The Science Academy of South Texas

900 Med High Drive, Mercedes, TX 78570  
Telephone: (956) 565-4620 Fax: 956-565-9112  
<http://scitech.stisd.net>  
CEEB # 444682



### School Achievements

- Ranked 254 in Newsweek "America's Top High Schools 2016" (only campus from the Rio Grande Valley)
- Ranked 45<sup>th</sup> in the Newsweek "Beating the Odds 2016" which includes the top 500 high schools in the nation for low-income students
- Selected by the Educational Results Partnership and the Institute for Productivity in Education as a 2015 Texas Honor Roll Star School
- Ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in Texas and 15<sup>th</sup> in the nation by *Niche* (2016)
- Rated as an "Exemplary" campus by the Texas Education Agency in 2007 and has been rated "Exemplary" for 14 out of 15 years. In 2013 Rated "Met Standard" all Distinctions Recognized
- Nationally recognized as a National Blue Ribbon High School by the U.S. Dept. of Education in 2005
- Ranked 21 in the nation (April 2014) 15 in the nation (June 2012) and 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation (June, 2011) by The Washington Post
- Rated in the best high schools rating by Texas by the Texas Business Education Coalition Honor Roll for the past eight years
- Ranked 8<sup>th</sup> (April, 2008), 6<sup>th</sup> in Texas (June, 2012), 46<sup>th</sup> (June, 2012), 54<sup>th</sup> (June 2013), 38<sup>th</sup> (June 2014) in the nation by U.S. New and World Reports

### School Characteristics

- Established in 1989 as a regional magnet school focusing on Math, Science, and Engineering
- An open enrollment, public tuition-free, magnet high school
- Serves students from 28 school districts in the counties of Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy
- Strong academic preparation and hands-on experiences allowing students to explore the fields of math, science, engineering and architecture
- More than 99% of each senior class to date has enrolled in college after graduation
- Accredited through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the Texas Education Agency
- Current enrollment of 744

### Partnerships

- Partnerships with Stanford University, Rice University, Cornell University, The University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, South Texas College and Texas A&M University at Kingsville, Johns Hopkins University
- Partnership with Project Lead The Way Inc. to promote an interactive, project based technology curriculum supported by quality pre-engineering and pre-architectural courses

### Administration

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| • Dr. Marla Guerra, Superintendent                     | Dr. David Gamboa, Assistant Principal |
| • Jeff Hembree, Deputy Superintendent                  | Lorena Madrigal, Assistant Principal  |
| • Marla Knaub, Asst. Superintendent for Finance        | Roldan Castro, Counselor              |
| • J. P. Villarreal, Administrator for Support Services | Sylvia Gamboa, Counselor              |
| • Dr. Irma Castillo, Principal                         | Eugenia Moreno, Counselor             |

### Curriculum

The Science Academy offers rigorous, highly academic courses focusing on the various math and science fields such as engineering, architecture, and computer science. Students are offered a comprehensive curriculum and elective courses in math, science, and technology. This curriculum prepares students for college and introduces them to pre-engineering and pre-architecture concepts.

Advanced Placement courses are offered in English, math, science, social studies, art, foreign language, psychology, and computer science. Dual enrollment and/or concurrent enrollment college credit is offered in association with South Texas College, the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, and through participating universities of the PLTW partnership. UIL competition in various areas is also strongly supported.

### SAT

YEAR	SCIENCE ACADEMY		NATIONAL		TEXAS	
2015-2016	1148	<b>**1679</b>	1006	<b>**1490</b>	956	<b>**1410</b>
2014-2015	1182	<b>*1736</b>	1006	<b>*1490</b>	956	<b>*1410</b>
2013-2014	1179	<b>*1735</b>	1010	<b>*1497</b>	971	<b>*1432</b>
2012-2013	1146	<b>*1682</b>	1010	<b>*1498</b>	976	<b>*1437</b>
2011-2012	1147	<b>*1673</b>	1010	<b>*1498</b>	973	<b>*1434</b>

\*SAT score that includes the new writing portion of the test  
**\*\* 2015-16 SAT scores based on prior assessment/scale, new scores not available**

### ACT

YEAR	SCIENCE ACADEMY	NATIONAL	TEXAS
2015-2016	26.1	20.8	20.6
2014-2015	25.9	21.0	20.9
2013-2014	26.7	21.0	20.9
2012-2013	25.9	20.9	20.9
2011-2012	24.6	21.1	20.8

### Course Selection for Cohort 2016 & 2017, Endorsements Plans start with Cohort 2018

9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade
English I Pre-AP	English II Pre-AP	#English III CP or AP	#English IV CP or AP
Algebra I Pre-AP or Geometry Pre-AP	Geometry Pre-AP Algebra II Pre-AP Pre-Calculus Pre-AP	Algebra II Pre-AP Pre-Calculus Pre-AP #Calculus I AP	Pre-Calculus Pre-AP #Calculus I AP #Calculus II AP #Statistics AP
Integrated Physics and Chemistry	Chemistry I Pre-AP	Physics I AP #Chemistry II AP #Biology II AP	Physics I AP #Physics II AP #Physics III AP #Chemistry II AP #Biology II AP #Environmental Science AP
Biology I Pre-AP	Environmental Systems Pre-AP or Biotechnology Pre-AP		
World History Pre-AP	World Geography Pre-AP	#U.S. History AP	#U.S. Government AP and #Economics AP
Computer Science Engineering	Spanish I CP or #Spanish II CP or AP	#Spanish II CP or AP or Spanish III Pre-AP	Spanish III Pre-AP or #Spanish IV AP or Spanish V Pre-AP or Elective
		Physical Education and Health	
*Introduction to Engineering Design (IED) <b>STEM Endorsement</b>	*Digital Electronics (DE)	*Principles of Engineering (POE)	Engineering Design and Development
			*Computer Integrated Manufacturing (CIM) *Aerospace Engineering (AE) *Civil Engineering & Architecture (CEA)
*Introduction to Engineering Design (IED) <b>Multidisciplinary Endorsement</b>	*Digital Electronics (DE)	Adv. Yearbook I & II, AP Spanish IV/Spanish V, AP Psychology, Sociology, Aerobic Activity, Art AP, Art Drawing, Computer Science AP (Computer Science Applications PLTW Pilot), Advance Mathematics, Advanced Science	
Research/ Technical Writing (Semester Course)	Art, Level I	Professional Communications (Semester Course)	Physical Education (Semester Course)
Foundations of Personal Fitness (Semester Course)		SAT/ACT Prep. (Semester Course)	(Semester Course)

**Grading Scale:**  
A (90 -100)  
B (80 – 89)  
C (75 – 79)  
D (70 -74)  
F (below 70)

#Advanced Placement Course    \*Project Lead the Way Course

English, Math, Science, and Social Studies classes are required each of the four years  
Calculus is required prior to or concurrently with Statistics AP  
Physics I is required prior to or concurrently with Biology II AP, Chemistry II AP, or Environmental Science AP

#Advanced Placement preparation is available in: English III; English IV; Calculus I (AB); Calculus II (BC); Statistics;  
Chemistry II; Biology II; Physics II; Physics III; Psychology; U.S. Government; Economics; Art II; Environmental Science; Computer Science II; U.S.  
History; Spanish II and Spanish IV

\*Transcripted College Credit is available through the Rochester Institute of Technology through Project Lead the Way for Introduction to  
Engineering Design; Biotechnical Engineering; Digital Electronics, Computer Integrated Manufacturing, Civil Engineering and Architecture and  
Principles of Engineering. It is based upon the scores from an end of course exam, college credit exam and the submission of a qualifying course  
portfolio. Plans are in place to include Engineering Design and Development course in the near future. There is no fee to take the exams but a  
\$200 filing fee with the university is required for each qualifying course should the student wish to activate their credit(s) through the university  
system.

**Consistent with South Texas ISD EIC (Local) Policy, Science Academy does not rank students except as required by state law.**