



## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> in Texas for “High Schools with the Best Teachers” *Niche* (2018)
- Ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in Texas for “Best Public High Schools” *Niche* (2018)
- Named a “School to Learn From” award sponsored by Teach for America, which highlights the schools that provide excellent education for students.
- 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 2016 Texas Honor Roll Star School
- 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), 46<sup>th</sup> (June, 2012), 54<sup>th</sup> (June 2013), 38<sup>th</sup> (June 2014), 77<sup>th</sup> (June 2017) in the nation by U.S. News 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 785

### Partnerships

- Partnerships with Stanford University, Rice University, Cornell University, Johns Hopkins University, The University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, South Texas College, Texas A&M University at Kingsville, and the Summer Institute for the Gifted
- 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. Antonio Lara, Superintendent                     | Lydia Gonzalez, Assistant Principal  |
| • Jeff Hembree, Deputy Superintendent                  | Lorena Madrigal, Assistant Principal |
| • Marla Knaub, Asst. Superintendent for Finance        | Alfredo Aguilera, 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	
2017-2018	1234		1068		1032	
2016-2017	1247		1070		1019	
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>

\*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
2017-2018	25.5	20.8	20.6
2016-2017	25.7	21	20.7
2015-2016	26.1	20.8	20.6
2014-2015	25.9	21.0	20.9
2013-2014	26.7	21.0	20.9

**Four – Year Course Sequence 2018-2019**

English I Pre-AP	English II Pre-AP	#English III AP or CP	❖ #English IV AP or CP
Algebra I Pre-AP or Geometry Pre-AP	Geometry Pre-AP Algebra II Pre-AP ❖ Pre-Calculus Pre-AP	Algebra II Pre-AP Advanced Quantitative Reasoning ❖ 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 Pre-AP #Physics I AP #Chemistry AP #Biology AP	#Physics 2 AP #Physics C AP #Chemistry AP #Biology AP
Biology I Pre-AP *Principles of Biomedical Science	Environmental Systems Pre-AP Biotechnology Pre-AP Human Body Systems	#Environmental Science AP *Environmental Sustainability	#Environmental Science AP *Environmental Sustainability
World History Pre-AP	World Geography Pre-AP	#U.S. History AP or CP	#U.S. Government AP or CP and #Economics AP or CP AP European History Financial Literacy
#*Computer Science Principles AP	Spanish I Pre-AP or Spanish II Pre-AP	Spanish II Pre-AP ❖ #Spanish III AP/D	❖ #Spanish III AP/D or #Spanish IV AP or or Elective
*Introduction to Engineering Design (IED) <b>STEM Endorsement</b>	*Digital Electronics (DE)	*Principles of Engineering (POE)	*Engineering Design and Development (EDD)  *Computer Integrated Manufacturing (CIM) *Aerospace Engineering (AE) *Civil Engineering *Architecture (CEA) & #*Computer Science A AP Computer Science Principles
*Introduction to Engineering Design (IED) <b>Multidisciplinary Endorsement</b>	*Digital Electronics (DE)	❖ #AP Psychology, Adv. Yearbook I & II, #AP Spanish IV, Spanish V, Sociology, Aerobic Activity, #Art AP, Art Drawing, #*Computer Science AP, Advance Mathematics, ❖ Advanced Science	
Research/ Technical Writing (Semester Course)	Art, Level I	Physical Education and Health	Physical Education (Semester Course)
Foundations of Personal Fitness (Semester Course)		Professional Communications (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)

❖ Dual Enrollment Course    #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.

Arts & Humanities Endorsement—Courses required: Completion of the foundation requirements. Courses to complete the Arts & Humanities Endorsement: A) World History, World Geography, United States History, Government, Economics , and/or B) Spanish I, Spanish II, Spanish III, and Spanish IV.

#Advanced Placement preparation is available in: English III; English IV; Calculus I (AB); Calculus II (BC); Statistics; Chemistry; Biology; Physics; Physics C; Psychology; U.S. Government; Economics; Art II; Environmental Science; Computer Science Principles, Computer Science; U.S. History; Spanish III 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. There is no fee to take the exams, but a \$225 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.**