

**DOWNING  
MIDDLE SCHOOL**



6th Grade  
Registration  
2024-2025

# Welcome to Downing!!!

We're excited to have you join our Diamondback Family!

Students:

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

\*found on last page of this 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 description and recommendations)

English Language Arts 6

Honors English Language Arts 6

LEAP/ELAR GT 6 (must be identified Gifted and Talented to enroll)

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

Math 6

Honors Math 6 (all of 6th grade Math standards and the majority of 7th grade Math standards will be covered)

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

STEM Science 6

Honors STEM Science 6

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

Contemporary World

Honors Contemporary World



# 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.

# DOWNING MIDDLE SCHOOL



## Physical Education

# Physical Education

- Every 6th Grade student will take Physical Education
- Information about ordering PE uniforms will be sent out later in the semester
- External PE Option
  - 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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6th Grade  
Electives

# Electives

Students take 2 electives.

All 6th grade students are required to take one full year of a fine arts elective, so one of your top 2 elective choices must be a fine arts course.

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)
- [Skills for Living](#) (click course name for description) - At Downing, this class is a 6th grade class only and will not be offered for 7th/8th grade students
- [Gateway to STEM 1](#) (year long course including Science of Technology and Design & Modeling)
  - Science of Technology - 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
  - Design and Modeling - 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.

Click [here](#) to view the Downing Music Brochure

Click [here](#) to view the Instrument and Class Selection Guide

# 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.



# Band



Mrs. Clardy  
Band Director

[Click here for Band  
Instrument Video](#)

# Choir



Mr. Price  
Choir Director

[Click here for](#)  
[Choir Video](#)

# Orchestra



Mr. Sipzner  
Orchestra Director

[Click here for](#)  
[Orchestra Video](#)

# Theatre



Mr. Morris  
Theatre Director

[Click here for  
Theatre Video](#)

# Skills for Living



Mrs. Bell  
Skills for Living Teacher

[Click here for Skills  
for Living Video](#)

# STEM Elective



Mrs. Phelps  
STEM Teacher

[Click here for](#)  
[STEM Video](#)



# STEM Elective

For the 24-25 school year, only STEM 1 will be offered to 6th grade students at Downing.



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**



SCAN ME

# STEM Elective

For the 24-25 school year, only STEM 2 will be offered to 7th and 8th grade students at Downing.

## 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>



# Reminders & Questions

1. Complete Google Form for Course Requests

[6th Grade 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 **Monday, January 22nd**.

Parents – If you have questions, please email your child's counselor.

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