

May 6, 2015

Dear First Name Last Name,

We are very pleased that you have selected R. E. McNair Discovery Learning Academy as your student's educational provider for the 2015-2016 school year. We appreciate your commitment to your child's education.

R. E. McNair Discovery Learning Academy opened in 2008. This school was created and developed as a Discovery school. In Discovery education the educational goals are to include promoting "deep" understanding; developing meta-cognitive skills; and encouraging a high level of student engagement. Students that participate in discovery education learn to recognize a problem, characterize what a solution would look like, search for relevant information, develop a solution strategy, and execute the chosen strategy. Discovery learning has three main characteristics: exploration and problem-solving; student-centered activities based on student interest; and scaffolding new information into students' depth of knowledge. As a result it was only natural to extend our Discovery Education program into S.T.E.M. What is S.T.E.M. education? S.T.E.M. education is the integration of science, technology, engineering, and math into the academic curriculum.

Our program offers the following opportunities to our students: Robotics/Engineering, S.T.E.M. Lab, Technology, Chess club, Robotics club and competition team, Technology Club, Science Club, Math Club, Future Engineers of America Club, S.T.E.M. Organic Gardening Club. We will also be adding for our 2015-2016 school year Coding and Aquaponics.

The next few months will be essential in preparing your child for the first day of school at R. E. McNair Discovery Learning Academy. Please mark your calendars for the following dates:

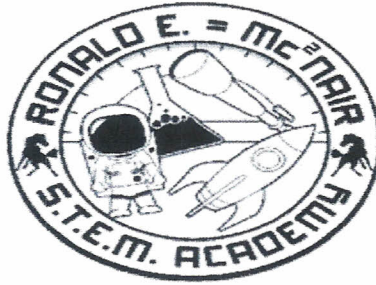
- **New Family Orientation: May 12, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.**
- **Open House: Wednesday; August 5, 2015**
- **Traditional School Year begins – August 10, 2015**

Please contact us about any questions or concerns you may have at 678-875-3402. Thank you and we look forward to working with you and your champion.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian L. Bolden  
Principal

Mrs. Kaija Spencer  
S.T.E.M. Coordinator



Dr. Brian Bolden  
Principal

Mr. Johnny Potter  
Intermediate Academy Principal

Mrs. LaShandra Hawkins  
Primary Academy Principal

## Student and Parent Expectations

Dear Parent,

Your child has maintained their placement in the STEM program at R.E. McNair Discovery Learning Academy. This letter will emphasize some of the requirements for all STEM Academy students. Please, review these requirements, discuss them with your child, and agree to support him/her in meeting these requirements throughout the year.

Foremost, student must have a strong desire to be part of the STEM Academy. The STEM Academy is geared to accelerate student achievement and will require more effort and focus. This may include more projects and homework. However, this academy is completely voluntary. This Academy is designed to help students acquire the needed science and mathematical foundations needed to be successful in the STEM fields of the future. The Academy's Curriculum will require more **self-discipline, respect for authority, and personal accountability** than the general education program.

Given the fact that the STEM Academy's focus is on developing students' skills in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics which also includes collaboration, communication, and leadership. STEM students are required to display the following attributes and characteristics in the following ways:

- Wear school uniforms daily
- Maintain good behavior and receive no more than 2 behavior referrals
- Complete homework daily
- Complete classwork as directed
- Work collaboratively with others
- Attends school daily (missing instruction may impact student performance and grades)

We want all our STEM students to have a positive experience. However, with more than 200 students in the STEM Academy, you will need to manage your child's experience by communicating your child's needs, carefully reading the material sent to you, adhering to time lines/deadlines, attending scheduled meetings, and turning in your paperwork and fees on time.