

Eligibility

Students in the eighth grade who will be attending a DeKalb County high school in the ninth grade may apply.

Selection Criteria

A 30-point scale is used to evaluate applicant materials and includes the following:

1. Student grades from Semester I of 8th grade English, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies (1/3 weight).
2. Recommendations from three of the applicant's teachers. The teachers, selected by the applicant, must teach, or have taught the applicant English, Mathematics, Science or Social Studies courses (1/3 weight).
3. Student participation in non-required activities that reflects an interest in science (1/6 weight).
4. Quality of the prospective student's response to a question designed to evaluate interest in and knowledge about science in general (1/6 weight).

To Apply

Contact your **Middle School Counselor**. For additional information contact **Fernbank Science Center (678-874-7102)** or visit our website at <http://fernbank.edu>.



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Tools and Techniques

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FERNBANK SCIENCE CENTER

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Tools and Techniques



2019-2020

The Scientific Tools and Techniques Program (STT) is conducted at **Fernbank Science Center**. Students apply for the program through their middle schools during the second semester of the eighth grade year and attend **STT** for one semester during the ninth grade year. While in **STT**, students will earn credit in Biology and Environmental Science while learning about the tools and techniques of scientific inquiry. **STT** students practice problem-solving skills and high-level thinking utilizing a rigorous, innovative curriculum. Through laboratory and field work, students explore science, gaining a better understanding and a greater appreciation of the scientific process.

The **STT** Biology curriculum is aligned to the **Georgia Standards of Excellence**. Consequently, **STT** students are well prepared for the **Georgia End-of-Course Test (EOC)** in Biology. Students will rotate through individual modules in Biology designed around the major strands of the Georgia Performance Standards. Biology modules include Cell Biology, Genetics, Anatomy and Physiology, Ecology, Vertebrate and Invertebrate Biology, and Botany.

The **STT** Environmental Science course was developed by Fernbank Science Center instructors. Students will rotate through courses in Agriculture, Astronomy, Atmospheric Science, Biochemistry, Chemistry, Energy, Engineering, Forestry, Geology, and Physics. There is a final examination for this course.

Textbooks & Instructional Materials

Students will have access to a textbook and additional online resources for course work and reference material. Also, students will be provided individualized laboratory materials to meet course standards.

Length of Course

One semester.

Length of Day

Students will be in class at Fernbank Science Center from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Transportation

Students will receive DeKalb County School District transportation from their neighborhood to Fernbank Science Center, arriving by 8:00 a.m. After STT, they will be transported to their home schools, leaving Fernbank Science Center at 11:00 a.m.

Attendance

Student attendance will be administered through the countywide attendance program. Communication from Fernbank Science Center to the student's parents will be made when absences occur.

Students electing to attend a magnet program cannot attend STT.

Field Experiences

Field experiences are an integral part of the STT program and are taken during the regular school day. There is no cost to the participant.

Credit*

One Carnegie Unit will be earned in Biology and One Carnegie Unit will be earned in Environmental Science.

**** Since students will be enrolled in Biology and Environmental Science as part of STT, they should not be scheduled for these courses at their home high school.***

