

The Scottsdale Math and Science Academy

Vision, Mission Statement, Beliefs, and Program Goals

Vision

We will create an environment that motivates and encourages all of our students to become lifelong learners. Our program will prepare and guide future STEM professionals in an increasingly complex and technological society to actively contribute to their community. We will seek to provide the instructional building blocks to develop critical thinkers and problem solvers who work collaboratively to improve the world around them. We will also strive to create opportunities that will promote student leadership.

Mission Statement

The primary mission of the Scottsdale Math and Science Academy is to provide opportunities and visibility in the area of STEM education for the students of the Scottsdale Unified School District. Working together, STEM leaders, teachers, and parents, along with our community partners, will seek out opportunities to meet the changing needs of our students and community. By providing continued opportunities for our students, our program will lead to our goals of an increase in the number of students who ultimately pursue advanced degrees and careers in STEM fields as well as broaden the participation of women and marginalized groups in those fields. We also intend to increase STEM literacy for all Saguaro students, including those who do not plan to pursue STEM-related careers or additional study in the STEM disciplines. Thus, while our program is designed to support students who choose to enter the SMSA, the program's open forum is designed to provide many of the same academic opportunities to any Saguaro student who wishes to take advantage of the academics and enrichment opportunities inherent in the initiative.

Our Beliefs

We believe that a concerted effort is necessary to achieve our goals of increased STEM participation and literacy.

We believe that by providing our students with a robust program of study, developed to maximize students' high school academic coursework and paired with diverse extracurricular opportunities, we will increase the number of students who ultimately pursue advanced degrees and careers in the STEM fields.

Program Goals

Increase student awareness and capacity for future success in college STEM courses and the STEM workplace.

Expand course offerings in the STEM program at Saguaro High School. Provide students opportunities for challenging coursework as well as increased opportunities to earn post-secondary course credit in high school.

Support extracurricular STEM-related activities at Saguaro and in our community and create unique opportunities for a diverse set of students, while attracting a broad and diverse set of students to STEM through these opportunities.

Foster student exposure to STEM careers through direct and virtual experiences by leveraging partnerships and networks.

Continuously involve our diverse community: staff and students, to use their strengths, resources, and talents to provide engaging, innovative experiences for all learners.

Engage learners through the use of technological tools allowing them to access, create and share content, as well as collaborate with other learners.

Develop and implement a continuous improvement plan that fosters growth and enhances learning and teaching of STEM at Saguaro High School and throughout our community.