

LIFE STEM ACADEMY HANDBOOK

2023 / 2024 SCHOOL YEAR



LIFE STEM ACADEMY SCHOOL SONG

Where Christ is exalted King of glory and of grace

Where content is mastered; minds sharp to run the upward race

Where careers are prepared; good works ordained by God for each

Where Character is built; that we diminish and He increase

Where Community thrives;

Where Christ is saving lives;

We have the heart of Ezra,

We are bold like Nehemiah,

We are Life Stem Academy.

The 5 C's that inspire us everyday:

- Christ Exalted
- Character Developed
- Community Built & Culture Transformed
- Careers prepared
- Content Mastered

TABLE OF CONTENTS

• Brief Overview	1
• Introduction	2
• Programs We Offer	3
• Kindergarten To 3 rd Grade	4
• 4 th -12 th Grade Group	4
• Math and Science Curriculum Vision	5
• Math & Science Course Offerings	7
• Books For Each Age Group	10
• Summer Reading List For Students And Parents (June 2023)	11
• Schedule	12
• School Calendar	14
• Cost	16
• About The Founder	17
• Summary	19
• Learning Portal To Access Videos	19



BRIEF OVERVIEW

VISION, MISSION AND BELIEFS



What students need fundamentally in academics today is not information, they need inspiration and vision. They can get information from the library as well as Google. Once they are inspired and hardworking, the technology and coaching/teaching available will help them excel in whatever they choose to study. With the technology and tools available, teachers can help students master concepts in Mathematics and Science like never before.”

AMOS TARFA

Founder and Director of LIFE STEM Academy & Vision Inspirational STEM Academies



Education is not filling a bucket, but lighting a fire.” — **WILLIAM BUTLER**

INTRODUCTION

We need to constantly seek ways to get students excited about excelling. At LIFE STEM Academy, we aim to have teachers inspire students to have a vision by the grace of God. We use Math and Science History as well as Math and Science Applications and Career details to inspire our students. We are seeking to provide an efficient and effective education alternative for families. Our students who follow our STEM plan can graduate high school with over 30 college credits if they study and pass the relevant CLEP Examinations. This reduces the amount of time they will need to attend college as they will have taken most of their general education requirements.

LIFE STEM Academy is a part of a network of schools called Vision Inspirational STEM Academies. The goal of these academies is to provide an efficient education experience for students.

In a traditional school setting, Children spend about 18,200 hours in school from Kindergarten to 12th grade (Average of 8 hours a day and 175 days each school year-this includes homework time). At the end of that time, we should hope that students have some direction for life, however this does not always happen. This is one area LIFE STEM Academy is seeking to change. We want to provide the best STEM education possible while **partnering** with parents in preparing their children to flourish in whatever academic fields they are interested in.

If we meet a 5th Grader who wants to be an Astrophysicist, we will provide them with a roadmap and any Math and Science support along the way. We will also help find a mentor to work with that student and their family.

We teach our courses from a Christian worldview as we seek to encourage students to grow in the Truth. However we know that there are students who do not have the same worldview we have but we welcome them to join our program to learn with us.



PROGRAMS WE OFFER

We offer a hybrid education option to families where students come to the location of the school from 9am to 3pm 2 days a week with electives at a different time. The 2 days of the week depend on the specific campus you are interested in so please check with the Director of the campus to get more information on days and electives.

For Example, the LIFE STEM Academy Moorhead Campus meetings on Mondays & Thursday with electives on Wednesdays. Each hybrid program will have a unique set up for the students in different grade levels. Our programs seek to focus on mastery and so students stay in the groups that will help them master the material they learning the best.

Here is an example of the cohort set up in Moorhead MN.

1. Kindergarten/1st Grade Class
2. 2nd & 3rd Grade Class
3. 4th - 5th Grade Class
4. 6th - 7th Grade Class
5. 8th - 10th Grade Class
6. 11th - 12th Grade Class

COURSE WORK

Course Work for K-3

1. Elementary Math
2. Basic Science Concepts and Experiments
3. Language Arts & Social Studies
4. Music (Choir)
5. Character Development
6. Foreign Language options

After School Electives (Available on Most Campuses)

1. Coding Practice (teaching students how to code) – Online Resource
2. Chess Club
3. Debate Club
4. Soccer and Track

4th - 12th Plan

1. Mathematics (Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Geometry, Pre-Calculus, Calculus)
2. English
3. Science (General Science, Physical Science, Biology or Chemistry)
4. History & Social Studies (World History, Economics)
5. Logic/Debate/Apologetics
6. Choir Elective
7. Foreign Language Elective

Note:

We will have a science fair during the school year and we will help students pick their topics and guide them along the way.

We hope to inspire our students to excel in all areas of life even as King Solomon said in Ecclesiastes - whatever your hand finds to do, do *it* with your might. (Ecclesiastes 9:10)

COURSE WORK

Gauss Euler Newton (GEN) Academy of Mathematics Mathematics

(Assessments are available to help students see what class will work best for them)

Our Math program is named after the 3 best Mathematicians in modern history. Students will also have access to all the materials for the concepts taught from Arithmetic to Calculus so at any time they have access to materials to review for any math topic. We help students to master concepts in any topics they are learning.

Math Course Offerings (some of these courses are only offered online this school year).

- Elementary School Math (Kindergarten to 3rd Grade) – A Focus on Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division (Arithmetic) using Math Mammoth
- PreAlgebra (Middle School Math) – Focused on Fractions, Decimals, Percents, Ratios and Proportions
- Algebra 1
- Algebra 2 (and College Algebra CLEP Preparation)
- Geometry (can be taken in the summer)
- PreCalculus (and CLEP Preparation)
- Calculus 1 (and CLEP Preparation)
- Calculus 2
- Calculus 3
- Linear Algebra
- Differential Equations
- Statistics
- Fourier Transform (Online Only)

COURSE WORK

Science

<https://bereanbuilders.com/ecommerce/product-category/senior-high/>

Science Courses (some of these courses are online offered online)

- General Science (With Natural Science CLEP Preparation)
- Physical Science (With Natural Science CLEP Preparation)
- Biology (With Biology CLEP Preparation)
- Chemistry (With Chemistry CLEP Preparation)
- Physics & Astronomy
- Earth Science

Note on Science and Mathematics

We are seeking to provide a science and math education that exceeds that which Isaac Newton, Leonhard Euler or Albert Einstein would have received. We want students to have the best education possible and to lead the way in educational excellence in America and beyond especially in the field of science and math.

Our students will do presentations on projects from research topics in Chemistry, Biology, Astronomy and Medicine. They will better understand what the goals of several research projects were and how they might be able to improve on the discoveries and research projects. We teach the history of science as a tool to inspire our students to excellence. Science and Faith can go well together and we see this with a lot of pioneers in science. We want students to learn this as they study the lives of those behind the concepts they learn.

SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR – specific to each campus

(Please contact Director for more information or look on the website)

MATH & SCIENCE COURSE OFFERINGS

Grade	Mathematics	Science
Kindergarten	Singapore Math K	Science in the Beginning
1st Grade	Math Mammoth 1A & 1B	Science in the Beginning
2nd Grade	Math Mammoth 2A & 2B	Science in the Beginning
3rd Grade	Inspirational Mathematics 1 - Pre-Algebra	Science in the Beginning
4th Grade	Inspirational Mathematics 1 - Pre-Algebra	Science in Ancient Times
5th Grade	Inspirational Mathematics 2 – Algebra 1	Science in the Scientific Revolution
6th Grade	Inspirational Mathematics 2 – Algebra 2	Science in the Age of Reason
7th Grade	Inspirational Mathematics 3 - Geometry	Science in the Industrial Revolution
8th Grade	Inspirational Mathematics 3 – Pre-Calculus	Science in the Atomic Age & Biology
9th Grade	Calculus 1, Statistics & Linear Algebra	Physical Science & Chemistry
10th Grade	Calculus 2 & Calculus 3	Physics & Astronomy
11th Grade	Differential Equations, Discrete Mathematics & Career Prep	Anatomy & Physiology & Neuroscience 1
12th Grade	Fourier Transform & Computer Science	Engineering Physics OR Neuroscience 2/Psychology along with Career Prep

COURSE WORK

4th – 12th Grade List of Books for the Year

For K-3rd grade, we will work with parents to find what is best for that specific student.

4th Grade

Logic of English (if needed)

Fix it Grammar (Institute For Excellence in Writing)

Handwriting Book (parents can choose any publisher)

Math Mammoth 4A & 4B & Inspirational Mathematics 1

Science in the Beginning by Dr. Jay Wiles

From Adam to Us (Notgrass) & Select books from the Literature reading list

5th Grade

Fix it Grammar (Institute For Excellence in Writing)

Handwriting Book (parents can choose any publisher)

Math Mammoth 5A & 5B & Inspirational Mathematics 1

Science in Ancient Times by Dr. Jay Wiles

From Adam to Us (Notgrass) & Select books from the Literature reading list

6th Grade

Fix it Grammar (Institute For Excellence in Writing)

Handwriting Book (parents can choose any publisher)

Math Mammoth 6A & 6B & Inspirational Mathematics 1

Science in the Scientific Revolution by Dr. Jay Wiles

From Adam to Us (Notgrass) & Select books from the Literature reading list

COURSE WORK

4th – 12th Grade List of Books for the Year

7th Grade

Fix it Grammar (Institute For Excellence in Writing)

Handwriting Book (parents can choose any publisher)

Math Mammoth 7A & 7B & Inspirational Mathematics 2

Science in the Age of Reason and Industrial Revolution by Dr. Jay Wiles

From Adam to Us (Notgrass) & Select books from the Literature reading list

8th Grade

Fix it Grammar (Institute For Excellence in Writing)

Handwriting Book (parents can choose any publisher)

Inspirational Mathematics 2 and Inspirational Mathematics 3 Introduction
(Algebra Series)

Science in the Atomic Age by Dr. Jay Wiles

From Adam to Us (Notgrass) & Select books from the Literature reading list

9th – 12th Grade Courses (students choose classes that they need) – we work with each student and their family to select what is best for them.

Institute For Excellence in Writing - Modern History Writing Course & U.S

History Writing Course

Geometry & Trigonometry

College Algebra

PreCalculus

Statistics

Calculus

Calculus 2

Linear Algebra

Physical Science

Biology

Chemistry

Physics

Anatomy & Physiology

Journey Through Genius or alternative Math History Book

ACT Preparation

Government (1 Semester)

Economics (1 Semester)

World History

U.S History

Logic Book – Dr. Jason Lisle's Logic Book

John Tiner - The World of Mathematics Book

CLEP Natural Science

CLEP Western Civilization 1

CLEP Western Civilization 2

CLEP PreCalculus

CLEP Biology

CLEP PreCalculus

CLEP Chemistry

CLEP Calculus

CLEP Microeconomics

CLEP U.S History

Please note that CLEP tests are optional but we encourage students to take them. CLEP Options for this year:

Students use the REA book and the Modern States website to study

SUMMER READING

List for students and parents (June 2023)

Students can read as many as they will like.

The books by Amos Tarfa can be found for free on the [Living Sensibly Website](https://livingsensibly.org) - livingsensibly.org

1. Why Do I Exist by Amos Tarfa
2. Tools For Mastering Mathematics by Amos Tarfa (short book)
3. Pursuing Excellence in Academics by Amos Tarfa (short book)
4. Pursuing Excellence in Character by Amos Tarfa (short book)
5. Diamonds Lost in the Sand by David Freeman
6. Can Science Explain Everything by Dr. John Lennox
7. Biography of George Washington Carver
8. Biography of Benjamin Franklin
9. Peak by Anders Ericsson
10. 7 Men by Eric Metaxas
11. The Diary of Anne Frank
12. The Hiding place by Corrie Ten Boom

We will work to update this list regularly.

Book Recommendations for Parents to Consider

1. Diamonds Lost in the Sand by David Freeman
2. How to Raise your children for Christ by Andrew Murray
3. Dangers of a Shallow faith by A.W. Tozer
4. Why Revival tarries by Leonard Ravenhill
5. America is too young to die by Leonard Ravenhill
6. How should we then live by Dr. Francis Schaeffer

MONDAYS/THURSDAYS

10am	4/5 World History with Mrs. Owen	8-10 Biology with Mr. Tarfa	6-7 General Science Experiments	11-12 Biology/Chemistry
11am	8-10 IEW Writing with Mrs. Owen	6/7 Pre-Algebra & Algebra 1 with Mr. Tarfa & T.As	4/5 Pre-Algebra Math/STEM Lab (Math History Built in)	11-12 Writing
12pm	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
				11-12 Economics (with U.S History integrated)
1pm	6/7 IEW Writing with Mrs. Owen	4/5 Science	8-10 World History	8-10 Economics (with U.S History integrated)
2pm	4/5 English with Mrs. Owen	8-10 Math (CLEP College Algebra) with Mr. Tarfa & T.As	6/7 History	11-12 Mathematics
3:15pm - 4:30pm	Choir with Dr. Mariane Wottrich			

English Curriculum

Fix it Grammar
Phonetic Zoo
IEW Ancient History & Modern History

Math

Math Mammoth & Singapore Math
Pre-Algebra Text
Algebra 1/Algebra 2 Text
Geometry Text
Pre-Calculus Text
Calculus Text
CLEP Prep for All

Science

Science in the Scientific Revolution
Science in the Atomic Age
Discovering Design in Biology

History

Notgrass World History for High school (With Select Literature Books) & BJU
Notgrass From Adam to Us (With Select Literature Books) & BJU
Economics - Notgrass & BJU

Logic Book by Dr. Jason Lisle

Electives on Wednesdays

Art
Foreign Language
Computer Science/Technology Etiquette and Ethics/Artificial Intelligence
Gym

MOORHEAD WEDNESDAYS

9am	International Chapel (Singing in French, Spanish, Latin)	
10am	Art Class (7th-12th)	French Class for younger students (K-6th)
11am	Computer Science (7th-12th)	Gym for younger students (K-6)
12pm	Lunch for younger students	French Class for older students (7th-12th)
1:30pm	Gym for older students (7th-12th)	Art for younger students (K-6)
2:30pm	Study Skills/Study Hall/Career Preparation Course	

Electives

- 1 Art
- 2 Foreign Language
- 3 Computer Science/Technology Etiquette and Ethics/Artificial Intelligence
- 4 Gym
- 5 Study Skills
- 6 Career Preparation

SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

SCHEDULES

Quarter 1 8/21/23 – 10/13/23
End of Quarter 1 – 10/13/23

Quarter 2 10/23/23 – 12/21/23
(Thanksgiving Break 11/22/23 – 11/24/23)
(Winter Break - 12/21/22-1/3/24)
End of Quarter 2 – 12/21/23

Quarter 3 1/3/24 – 3/8/24
(Spring Break 1 - 3/13/24 – 3/15/24)
End of Quarter 3 – 3/18/24)

Quarter 4 3/18/24 – 5/23/24
(Spring Break 2 - 4/10/23 – 4/12/23)
End of Quarter 4 – 5/23/24
(Summer Break – 5/27/24 – 8/18/23 with optional Online Learning & Special Course Offerings like Video editing, medicine camp, Aviation camp and so on)
Summer WORLDVIEW Academy (FREE/Donations) – 6/10/24 – 6/14/24 – Lessons in Living a Life that makes sense and Apologetics

8/19/24 – 2024/2025 School Year Begins God willing

KEY DATES (THE DAYS OFF ARE SIMILAR TO THE MOORHEAD CALENDAR)

- Teacher Preparation Season – July 31st 2023 – August 11th 2023 (Teachers/Staff Resume)
- Before School Picnic/Meeting – August 10th 2023 (All families invited) – EVENING
- Labor Day (No School) – September 4th 2023
- Professional Development (No School) - September 29th 2023
- Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences – October 16th – October 18th 2023 (Study Halls Open – students can come to school)
- MEA Weekend – October 19th – October 20th 2023 (No School) - (Professional Development)
- Thanksgiving Break – November 22nd – November 24th 2023 (No School)
- No School – January 15th 2024 (Professional Development)
- Spring Parent/Teacher Conferences – March 5th – March 7th 2024
- Spring Break - 3/13/24 – 3/15/24 (No School)
- Spring Break 2 - 4/10/23 – 4/12/23
- Germany/Switzerland Trip - 5/1/24 – 5/10/24 (Tentative – will finalize the return date during the planning meeting). 2

TBD –

- Annual Talent Show
- Annual High School Retreat
- Annual Middle School Retreat
- Quarterly Prayer Meetings
- Sports Day (Soccer, Pickleball, Track, Basketball)
- Knowledge Bowl, Geography Bowl, Math League and Chess League Days

COST

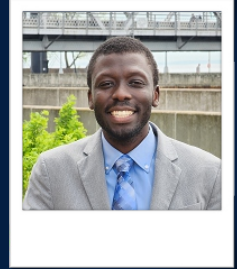
Payment Option	Cost
Upfront Payment Option for hybrid	\$3000
Monthly Payment Option	\$300/month (over 10 months)

If you would like to be considered for a [scholarship or financial aid](#), please email amostarfa1@gmail.com.

Children have a lot of potential and we want to partner with families to help their students flourish in all areas of life. We hope to inspire students to have vision for the life they have been blessed.

ABOUT THE FOUNDER

Amos Tarfa was born in Nigeria. He came to the United States to get his Bachelor's degree in 2007. He got a degree in Chemistry (Pre-Med) with a minor in Philosophy. Before coming to the U.S. he attended Federal Government College, Lagos (FGCL) where he was a Science student for the last 3 years of high school {In Nigeria, Post-elementary education is divided into Junior Secondary School (7th-9th Grade) and Senior Secondary School (10th-12th Grade) where you have to choose a track based on what you want to be when you grow up}. Science students at FGCL take 9 Courses in Chemistry, 6 Courses in Physics, 3 years of Biology, 3 Courses in Mathematics, 6 Courses in Advanced Mathematics along with courses in Agricultural Science, Geography, English, French and a Nigerian language all in 3 years.



At the university level In Chemistry, he found Biochemistry to be very fascinating and read extra materials in Biochemistry to better understand the implications of some of the issues discussed in this field especially the Blood Clotting Cascade. He took Cell & Molecular Biology in his undergraduate study as well.

As part of the research Amos was involved in while he was in college, he worked with a Microbial Geneticist during his undergraduate days and also after graduating on research involving bacteria.

In Philosophy, he focused on the Philosophy of Science but also took courses in Epistemology, Logic, Philosophy of Religion, Basic Philosophy and Ethics. In the Philosophy of Science, the class examined the Demarcation problem and the history and theory of evolution. This led Amos to do more writing and research on the topic. It also allowed him to learn from people like Prof. John Lennox and other Christian thinkers.

ABOUT THE FOUNDER

Amos was planning to get a PhD in either the Philosophy of Science or Biochemistry but ended up teaching High School Biology, Mathematics, ACT Prep, Bible and History instead. He did that for 2 years and then started a tutoring center that focused on Math and Science (Learning Institute For Excellence). After tutoring for a few years and running education programs, he went on to get his Masters in Medical Physics and also in Masters in Medical Health Physics. He is a Medical Physicist (with a focus on Diagnostic Medical Physics and Nuclear Medicine Physics) and also works as a Math and Science Consultant & Instructor.

Amos completed 1 year of his PhD program in Chemistry from North Dakota State University (NDSU) in Fargo where he lives with his family and is involved in the local church and he is now focused on running STEM Schools and providing efficient Math Curriculum options to families through his online programs.

He has published a few books including Achieving Excellence as a Young Person (2006), Christianity 201: The Pursuit of Excellence (2010), Principles for Academic Excellence (2019), Pursuing Excellence in Character (2019) and Tools For Mastering Mathematics (2018). He also loves to encourage people of all ages to live for Truth and for the purpose for which God made them.

He is married to Stephanie and they have 7 children.

He has a Podcast called [Living Sensibly Podcast](#) which is available on iTunes, Spotify and YouTube (under the Amos Tarfa Channel).

SUMMARY

We are offering courses in person 2 days a week while students work on the assignments given the remaining days of the week. Students can follow the lesson plans provided in the books they are using and email if they have questions. We have an online portal of math videos in case they get stuck after reviewing the examples in the book.

If a book does not provide a lesson plan or guide, we will create one for the student. Parents also need to let us know if they are planning to do any summer work using our textbooks as this could help their students get ahead.

If parents are going on vacation during specific weeks of the school year, please let us know so we can plan accordingly for those weeks.

For copies of the lesson plans for the grade level of your specific child, please email Amos Tarfa.

Online Learning Portal

Students enrolled in the STEM Classical Academy will get access to all the courses listed on this website at no extra cost. We will continue to add Courses to this website regularly. Please let us know if there is a specific course you are looking for if you don't see it here.

Link to Courses - <https://learn.fulllifeacademy.org/courses>



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www.lifestemacademy.com