



# Gilsum STEAM Academy

## FAQs

### What is the Gilsum STEAM Academy?

The Gilsum STEAM Academy (GSA) is a K-6 public school in the Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD). The focus of the school is on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math. The GSA curriculum will emphasize collaborative, project-based learning and inquiry-based problem solving. Students will work together on projects, experiments, and hands on activities based on trimester themes guided by essential questions.

### Who can attend the Gilsum STEAM Academy?

Students from Gilsum and those residing in district towns will have priority for the open slots. Out of district students are encouraged to apply and will fill any openings available. Tuition rates for out of district students are available through the MRSD business office.

### What does a typical day look like at this school?

The daily schedule will include skill lessons, interventions and enrichment in Math and English Language Arts. STEAM themes will guide the integrated lessons throughout the day. One day each week, students will be engaged in STEAM lessons with all teachers including art, physical education and music educators.

Students will have lunch and recess as a whole school and engage in flexible groupings throughout the day.

We will offer physical education, music and art classes above and beyond our STEAM focused lessons. Students will be encouraged to play an instrument in the band.

GSA will follow the MRSD calendar and school hours are 8:30am-3:15pm.

### I heard there are multi-graded classrooms at GSA. What does that mean?

Students in Grades K-3 and 4-6 will start their day in separate classrooms. As we begin lessons and STEAM activities, students from different grades may be grouped to learn specific skills depending on their level. In other words, when working on fractions or developing a project on the space shuttle, students from Grades 2-5 may be instructed and work in a small group based on their skill levels and interest.

### **How is this school funded?**

GSA is funded through the MRSD budget. We will be seeking additional funding through grants and community partnerships.

### **Is transportation available to my child?**

Yes. The district will be offering transportation from Mt. Caesar and Cutler Schools in Swanzy. Also, there will be one Keene location for pick up and drop off.

### **Are the teachers trained to teach STEAM subjects?**

The teachers are experienced educators dedicated to the STEAM initiative. They have already begun exploring themes for the next school year and started developing units aligned to Common Core standards and best practices. Online training and various resources are available to the staff. As a school, we seek to involve experts in the field that we are exploring. Engaging community resources will be a valuable and integral part of our program.

### **Is ACES93 Before and After School program available in Gilsum?**

Yes, ACES93 will be available in Gilsum and at each of the MRSD schools.

### **How do I enroll my child?**

There are currently 10-14 slots available for the 2014-15 school year. Families should submit an application form by May 30, 2014 and will be contacted by June 15, 2014 about enrollment. The application form is available on the MRSD website and at any of the MRSD Elementary Schools.

### **As a parent, how can I help at GSA?**

Parents are encouraged to actively participate in the program development. Parent volunteers are welcome in the school to support the STEAM lessons and activities. Parents will play an important role in helping us seek additional funding and resources to enrich our program.