



PROGRAM HISTORY & DESCRIPTION

STEAM is an enriched, cross-curricular and cross-panel program consisting of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics education with a focus on project-based learning using a variety of computer-based technologies.

The program has taken on several different names since its inception in 1992;

- began as ST-21 program in 1992;
- in 2005, ST-21 was transformed into the ST Wireless program with the inclusion of student laptops as the main learning tool;
- in 2009, further enhancements included the movement to Apple MacBooks for each student;
- in 2015, ST Wireless became STEAM, and was recognized by Apple as an Apple Distinguished Program for its continued leadership and educational excellence;
- in 2017, West Ferris and the STEAM program were recognized as an Apple Distinguished School.
- Now in 2019, STEAM is excited to begin its third instalment towards continuing to be an Apple Distinguished School for 2019-2022 - a distinction held by only 20 schools in Canada and 470 world-wide.

The Apple Distinguished Schools designation is reserved for programs that meet criteria for innovation, leadership, educational excellence, and demonstrate Apple's vision of exemplary learning environments. STEAM students are co-learners with their peers and teachers using cutting edge computer technologies. Learning in the STEAM environment encourages students to become critical thinkers, problem solvers and leaders.

STEAM is a packaged program that provides students an opportunity to appreciate the interrelationships among the various disciplines using computer technology. Students applying to the program are expected to have a keen interest and a demonstrated skill in the areas of math, science and technology. A commitment to developing a strong work ethic in and out of the classroom.

We are excited to offer this progressive mode of interactive learning as a way to keep students as skilled as possible after graduation. Information technology is a critical skill for post-secondary education and for all areas of employment. Students and parents are thrilled with the learning opportunities offered through this program with independence, quality of work and better access to learning materials cited as primary benefits.

Next year the STEAM program will be investigating running an applied/open level pilot program for those students interested in learning how coding and the integration of technology can help them to pursue a career in the trades. This pilot program would leverage existing Apple iPad technology and

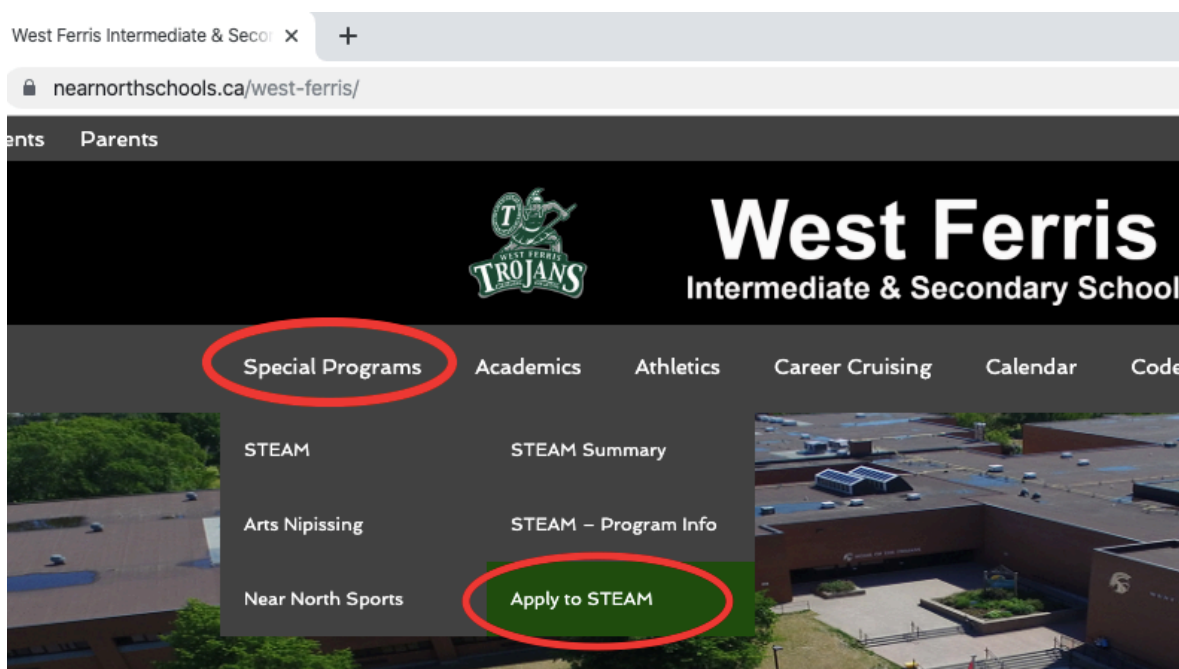
utilize many of the teaching and learning strategies that have been successfully developed in the enriched academic STEAM program over the last 27 years. Students interested in participating in this exciting new pilot program will need to complete the same application process as all other STEAM applicants. If students wish to be part of the new pilot program, they should indicate their intentions in their application video.

ADMISSION CRITERIA

Admission into the STEAM program is based on three parts. The first two parts must be completed no later than **February 26, 2021**. The last part, submission of your February report card, must be completed no later than **March 12**. Students that wish to apply to the STEAM program should select STEAM courses in Career Cruising.

- ✓ **Part 1** - Online STEAM Questionnaire.
- ✓ **Part 2** - Create a short 1 to 2 minute video profiling you as a person and a learner.
- ✓ **Part 3** - Provide a copy of your February report card illustrating an overall average of 70% or higher.

To start the application process, using an internet connected device please navigate to the West Ferris Intermediate Secondary School website. Click on the Special Programs tab, then navigate to the STEAM tab in the menu and select Apply to STEAM.



*Documents should be emailed or shared with Brent.Yacoback@nearnorthschools.ca

*Note, busing is provided for all students that successfully enter this STEAM program at West Ferris Intermediate & Secondary School.