



Open Enrollment period: September 1- November 30, 2026

All applicants will be entered into a public random drawing to determine admittance and position on the waiting list. Applicants currently on a waiting list will be included in the drawing, so positions may shift on the waiting list from year to year. All students who submit an application after December 1 will be added to the waiting list in the order received. Only applications from current 5th - 7th grade students, who will be in 6th-8th grade for the 2027-28 school year, will be accepted. **All completed applications must be submitted by 4:00 pm on November 30.** Current 6 - 8th grade students can apply at any time to be added to the bottom of the 2026-27 waiting list (first come first serve).

Applications received after November 30: All students who submit an application after December 1 will be added to the bottom of the waiting list (as determined by the lottery) in the order received.

An application submitted by mail must be postmarked by **November 30, 2026** in order to be considered submitted on time.

Public Random Drawing: The public random drawing will be held at 4:30pm on Monday, December 14 at Sherman Thomas STEM Academy (51 E. Adell St., Madera, CA 93638). The public is invited, but not required, to attend. The office will contact all families on December 15 and 16 with the results of the drawing.

Questions and Applications may be submitted to:

Katy Bispham-Garcia (principal)

51 E. Adell St. (physical address) *or* 101 W. Adell St. (mailing address)

Madera, CA 93638

(559) 598-0228

kbispham@mystcs.org



FAQ's

Isn't there already a Sherman Thomas school?

Sherman Thomas STEM Academy is the newest member of the Sherman Thomas organization (we opened in 2017). Our sister schools are Sherman Thomas Charter School (a TK-8 model that opened in 2003) and Sherman Thomas Charter High School (an independent study hybrid model that opened in 2009).

What is a charter school?

Charter schools are public schools regulated by federal and state law. Charter schools are tuition-free and open to all students, non-sectarian, and do not discriminate on any basis. They are publicly funded by local, state, and federal tax dollars based on enrollment, like other public schools. They are held accountable to state and federal academic standards. As free public schools of choice, charter schools do not engage in selective admissions policies and must accept all students, including students with disabilities and English Learners (ELs), regardless of previous academic performance. Charter schools must use a process to randomly select students, often times a lottery system, if there are more interested students than available seats. (Taken from California Charter Schools Association website, www.ccsa.org.)

How do I get my child signed up?

Follow the application process outlined on page one of this packet. If we have more students apply by the end of the enrollment period than we have spots for, we will have a public random drawing ("lottery") early in the following month.

Where do I turn the application in?

You may submit your application to Sherman Thomas STEM Academy at 51 E. Adell St., or you may mail it to Sherman Thomas STEM Academy at 101 W. Adell St., Madera, CA 93638. If you have any questions, please contact principal Katy Bispham-Garcia at (559) 598-0228. You may also scan the application and email it to Katy at kbispham@mystcs.org. If the office is closed on the date of an enrollment period deadline, we will accept applications the first day our office is open following that date, until 4:00pm (ie. If November 30 falls on a Sunday, applications will be accepted until Monday, December 1 until 4:00pm).

When will I know if my student has been accepted?

The fall enrollment period application deadline is 4:00 pm on November 30. At that time, if the number of applicants exceeds the number of available openings, we will hold a public random drawing to select applicants to be admitted. The lottery will also determine the sequence of applicants on our waiting list. This lottery will be held within a few weeks of the close of the enrollment period, and the public is welcome (but not required) to attend. Contact Katy Bispham-Garcia for a specific date for the public lottery.

All applicants selected during the lottery process will be given an enrollment packet to be completed. Students with incomplete packets by the deadline will be removed from the admittance list and will be placed at the bottom of the waiting list. We will fill that opening with the next student on the waiting list, who will then have a limited time to complete the enrollment packet or move to the end of the waiting list.

Please call our office for deadlines or to check your application status at any time.



Sherman Thomas STEM Academy

Student Application

Submit completed application to:
101 W. Adell St, Madera, CA 93638
(559) 598-0228 kbispham@mystcs.org

Student Name: (First, Last) _____

Student Birthdate: ____ / ____ / ____

Student Primary Address: _____
(street, city, zip)

Grade Student is currently in: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Name: (First, Last) _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Phone Number: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Email Address (if applicable): _____

How did you hear about us?

School your child currently attends: _____

I certify that all of the above information is accurate.

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

Date

Sherman Thomas STEM Academy is tuition free and open to all students, non-sectarian, and does not discriminate on any basis. **All applications for 6th-8th grade for the 2027-28 school year (current 5th - 7th graders) MUST be submitted by 4:00 pm on November 30, 2026.**

For Office Staff ONLY : Verify current grade of student, and what year student is applying for.

Complete application: (circle one) YES NO

Date app submitted: _____ Time app submitted: _____



Academia STEM Sherman Thomas
Solicitud de estudiante
Envíe la solicitud completa a:
101 W. Adell St, Madera, CA 93638
(559) 598-0228 kbispham@mystcs.org

Nombre del estudiante: (Nombre, Apellido) _____

Fecha de nacimiento del estudiante: ____ / ____ / ____

Dirección principal del estudiante: _____
(calle, ciudad, código postal)

Grado en el que se encuentra actualmente el estudiante: _____

Nombre del padre/tutor legal: (Nombre, Apellido) _____

Número de teléfono del padre/tutor legal: _____

Dirección de correo electrónico del padre/tutor legal (si corresponde): _____

¿Cómo se enteró de nosotros?

Escuela a la que asiste actualmente su hijo/a: _____

Certifico que toda la información anterior es precisa.

Firma del padre/madre o tutor legal

Fecha

La Academia STEM Sherman Thomas es gratuita, está abierta a todos los estudiantes, no es confesional y no discrimina por ningún motivo. **Todas las solicitudes para los grados 6.º a 8.º para el año escolar 2027-28 (alumnos que actualmente cursan de 5.º a 7.º grado) DEBEN presentarse antes de las 4:00 p. m. del 30 de noviembre de 2026.**

For Office Staff ONLY : Verify current grade of student, and what year student is applying for.

Complete application: (circle one) YES NO

Date app submitted: _____ Time app submitted: _____