



SMART Winter Program FAQs

Q: When will the SMART Winter Program be held in 2022?

A: The 2023 Winter Program will be held for 10 consecutive Saturdays January 28– April 1, 2023, 9am – 12:00 p.m.
Classes will be held virtually

Q: How can my child participate in the Winter SMART Program?

A: SMART takes a holistic approach to selecting students. The completed application, teacher’s recommendation and student essay are thoroughly reviewed and must be submitted by the deadline. The selection committee reviews applications on a rolling basis (as they come in) for the limited number of seats in each class. Because of this seats may be full before the deadline and qualified students who apply later in the cycle may be placed on the wait list.

Q: What can my child expect to learn from the program?

A: You can expect your child to be engaged with a holistic approach to the medical sciences. There may be some content that they are familiar with, however the combined activities and presentations challenges the application of science curriculum. Your child will engage in discussions with professionals from the medical field. Research informs us that repetition solidifies learning.

Q: Is financial aid available?

A: There is no financial aid available for the winter program.

Q: Who can attend the Winter SMART Program?

A: New Jersey residents who are currently in grades 6 through 12 are eligible to apply. Preference is given to students from the city of Newark and Essex County.

Q: Does my child have to have a specific Grade Point Average (GPA) to be eligible to attend the program?

A: There are no specific GPA guidelines however the average grade of our students is a B+. We seek students with the greatest potential for development in health sciences.

Q: Who are the SMART Program Teachers?

A: The SMART Program instructors are NJ certified science teachers, New Jersey Medical School Faculty, Medical, Dental, and Graduate students.

Q: How are students placed in their classes?

A: Students are placed according to grade level with no exceptions.

Q: Are parents/guardians involved in any of the SMART Program events?

A: Yes, parent involvement is very important to us. We understand that the most consistent predictors of a student’s academic achievement and social adjustment are parent involvement. SMART hosts events which enable parents to

engage in activities with and celebrate the successes of their children. Parents/guardians are also welcome to sit in on all of our guest lectures virtually.

Q: What are the non-classroom educational experiences?

A: Students are exposed to host of speakers from many scientific disciplines.

Q: Can my child attend the SMART Program for multiple years?

A: Yes, each class's curriculum is customized. Students who are in **good-standing** are encouraged to re-apply. Please note that the applicant pool changes from year to year and previous participation does not guarantee readmission due to the limited number of seats in each class.

Q: Are there other programs that my child can enter once they have completed the 12th grade and are no longer eligible for the SMART Program?

A: There are no programs for students who have completed 12th grade and are entering college, however, there are programs available once students have completed the first year of college. Links to the New Jersey Medical School college program websites are below.

- I. **Summer Health Professions Education Program (SMDEP) Program.** Visit www.shpep.org for more information
- II. **Northeast Regional Alliance Medprep Scholars Program (NERA).** Visit www.neramedprep.org for more information