SAIL – STEAM & STEAMX
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)



1. What is SAIL?

The Surrey Academy of Innovative Learning (SAIL) is a choice program within the Surrey School District focused on innovative, inquiry-based learning. SAIL offers STEAM (Grades 8–10), STEAMX (accelerated Grades 8–10), and province-wide online learning programs.

2. What is the difference between STEAM and STEAMX?

- STEAM is a 3-year program (Grades 8–10) for highly motivated students
- STEAMX is an accelerated program where students complete Grades 8–10 in 2 years
- STEAMX is more competitive and academically intensive
- Both programs emphasize interdisciplinary learning, collaboration, and independent thinking

3. What does a typical week look like for STEAM/STEAMX students?

Students attend:

- 4 days of in-person learning at SAIL
- 1 flexible learning day, completed independently either at home or on campus
- Learning is project-based and integrates Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math.

4. Who is the ideal student for STEAM or STEAMX?

Successful students are typically:

- Self-motivated and organized
- Curious and eager to ask “how” and “why”
- Comfortable working independently and in teams
- Interested across all academic areas, not just math or science
- Open to feedback, leadership, and presenting ideas

5. Which students may struggle in the program?

Students may find the program challenging if they:

- Need constant teacher direction
- Prefer highly structured environments
- Are uncomfortable with collaboration or independent work
- Are satisfied with doing the minimum
- Are frequently absent or disengaged

6. Who teaches in the STEAM and STEAMX programs?

Students are taught by a highly qualified faculty with:

- Bachelor's and postgraduate degrees (Master's and PhD-level training)
- Experience across Math, Science, Humanities, Languages, Robotics, Applied Skills, and Counselling
- Leadership and post-secondary experience linked to top Canadian universities

7. How many students are accepted each year?

- Each program admits approximately 30 students
- Surrey residents are prioritized
- Limited spaces may open in Grades 9 and 10 depending on attrition

8. How does the application process work for STEAMX?

Applications open: January 25, 2027 at 9:00 AM

Deadline: Friday, February 5, 2027 at 4:00 PM

- Requires:
  - Application form
  - Two recent report cards (PDF)
  - Literacy & Numeracy Assessment (February 9 or 10)

Offers and waitlist letters sent by February 22, 2027

9. How does the application process work for STEAM?

Applications open April 26, 2027 at 9:00 am

Deadline: May 6, 2027 at 4:00 pm

- Brookside SAIL Elementary students receive priority
- Remaining spaces are filled via lottery, with Surrey students prioritized

Offers and Waitlist letters sent in mid-May

10. What happens after students finish STEAM or STEAMX (Grades 11–12)?

Graduates typically move into:

- Their catchment high school
- International Baccalaureate (IB) programs
- Science Academy programs

Students leave SAIL well-prepared for academically rigorous pathways.

11. Is this program right for every student?

No. STEAM and STEAMX are best suited for students who are:

- Highly engaged learners
- Comfortable with challenge and ambiguity
- Interested in innovation, leadership, and inquiry
- Families should carefully consider learning style, motivation, and long-term goals.

12. Who can I contact if I have questions?

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