



ORBLYNX ACADEMY™

Family Handbook

Welcome to Orblynx Academy

We are excited to have your family join our community.

At Orblynx, students don't just learn about STEM. They use it. Through hands-on projects, real tools, technologies, and real-world challenges, students are encouraged to explore, design, build, test, communicate, and solve.

This Family Handbook is designed to help you understand what to expect from an Orblynx program, how we support our students, and the policies and expectations that help us create a safe, engaging, and productive learning environment.

Please review this handbook before your child's program begins and contact the Orblynx Academy team if you have any questions.

1. About Orblynx Academy

What Makes Orblynx Different?

Orblynx students do not just learn about STEM. They use it.

Students work with real tools, technologies, and materials to investigate meaningful problems, design solutions, build and test prototypes, communicate their thinking, and improve their work.

Our programs are connected, giving students room to grow from hands-on exploration into research, leadership, internships, challenges, competitions, and real-world experiences.

Who Are Orblynx Programs For?

Orblynx primarily serves middle and high school students.

Grade eligibility varies by program, so families should review the grade range listed for each program before registering.

Does My Child Need Previous STEM Experience?

Not for most introductory programs.

STEM Innovation Academy is where the Orblynx student journey typically begins, and students can enter with different levels of experience.

If a program requires previous experience or has specific eligibility requirements, these will be clearly communicated in the program information.

Are Programs Suitable for Beginners?

Yes.

Many students begin with STEM Innovation Academy, where they learn through hands-on exploration, design, building, testing, and problem-solving.

As students develop their skills, they can progress into more advanced Orblynx pathways and experiences.

What Skills Will My Child Develop?

Skills vary by program, but Orblynx experiences are designed to develop:

- Critical thinking
- Problem-solving
- Persistence
- Troubleshooting
- Creativity
- Collaboration
- Communication
- Technical confidence

Students also learn how to explain their decisions, respond to feedback, work with others, and apply what they know to increasingly complex challenges.

2. The Orblynx Student Journey

Orblynx is designed as a journey, not a series of disconnected classes.

Students begin by discovering new interests and developing technical and problem-solving skills. As they grow, they can apply those skills through entrepreneurship, public speaking, research and publication, leadership, and internships, then launch their work through challenges, competitions, showcases, and real-world experiences.

Discover

Experience hands-on STEM and discover new interests.

Develop

Build deeper technical and problem-solving skills.

Apply

Take on advanced projects, research, challenges, and competitions.

Lead

Present, mentor, collaborate, and take on leadership roles.

Launch

Connect skills to internships, college pathways, industry, research, and future opportunities.

3. Registration & Program Fees

How Do I Register My Child?

Visit the program page for the session you are interested in and select the registration option shown.

Each listing includes the grade range, schedule, location, availability, and next step.
If a session is full, families may be able to join a waitlist or explore another available program.

Are Materials and Supplies Included?

For most Orblynx programs, materials needed for the core program experience are included. If a student needs to bring a specific item, laptop, device, or other material, families will be notified in the program details or before the program begins.

Sibling Discount

When siblings enroll, Orblynx offers a 10% discount on the tuition of one child.

Please contact our team if you need assistance applying the sibling discount to your registration.

Scholarships & Financial Assistance

Financial assistance is available on a case-by-case basis and is subject to approval and available funding.

Families may submit a request to the Orblynx administrative team by email for consideration.

4. What to Expect During the Program

Attendance

Because Orblynx programs are project-based and many experiences build from one session to the next, regular attendance is important.

If your child will be absent, please notify the Orblynx team as soon as possible.

Catch-up opportunities depend on the program, project stage, and schedule and cannot always be guaranteed.

Technology

Whether students need to bring a laptop or other technology depends on the program.

Orblynx provides the tools and materials required for many hands-on experiences. If students need to bring a laptop, device, or other item, families will be notified before the program begins.

Student Projects

Some student-built projects may be taken home, while others may remain with Orblynx for:

- Continued testing
- Showcases
- Competitions
- Research
- Collaborative work

Families will receive guidance specific to their child's program.

Seeing Your Child's Work

When the program format allows, Orblynx creates opportunities for families to see student work through showcases, presentations, project highlights, or program communications.

Details vary by program.

5. Orblynx Academy Culture & Student Expectations

At Orblynx Academy, we are committed to creating a respectful, inclusive, and engaging learning environment for all students.

To support this environment, we ask every student to uphold the following expectations.

Respect the Learning Environment

Students are expected to show respect toward instructors, guest speakers, classmates, and the learning space.

Behavior that disrupts the learning experience for the student or others will not be tolerated.

Engage Constructively and Respectfully

We encourage students to challenge themselves and their peers through thoughtful, respectful dialogue.

This includes:

- Actively listening
- Contributing ideas
- Inviting participation from others
- Being open to feedback
- Working constructively with teammates
- Being willing to test, learn, and iterate

Constructive collaboration and rapid iteration are important parts of the Orblynx learning process.

Collaborate & Participate Fully

Students are expected to be present, engaged, and collaborative in both individual and group projects.

Active participation is essential to both personal and team success.

Behavior & Consequences

Students who do not meet these expectations, despite verbal reminders, may be temporarily removed from class and their parent or guardian will be notified.

If a student's behavior poses a safety concern or significantly disrupts the program, Orblynx Academy reserves the right to dismiss the student from the program.

No refund will be issued in the event of dismissal for behavior or safety concerns.

6. Student Safety & Support

Student Supervision

Students are supervised by Orblynx instructors and authorized program staff during scheduled program sessions.

Families are responsible for arranging prompt and safe pickup or transportation at the end of each session.

Orblynx supervision ends when the scheduled program session concludes.

Safety Procedures

Orblynx programs include hands-on science and engineering activities that may involve simple tools, low-voltage electrical components, and other educational materials.

Students receive safety instructions before using relevant tools or materials. Program staff supervise activities and reinforce safety expectations throughout each session.

Students are expected to follow all program rules and safety instructions.

Supporting Different Learning Styles & Abilities

Orblynx programs combine:

- Hands-on building
- Visual instruction
- Discussion
- Teamwork
- Problem-solving
- Presentation

This allows students to engage with learning in different ways.

Families are encouraged to share relevant learning or accessibility needs before the program begins so our team can understand the student's needs and determine what support can reasonably be provided within the specific program and setting.

8. Student Dismissal & After-Class Responsibility

Orblynx Academy is responsible for supervising students during scheduled program hours.

Once the scheduled program session has ended and students have been dismissed, Orblynx Academy and its representatives are no longer responsible for a student's supervision or transportation, including when a student:

- Walks from the program location
- Is picked up by car
- Uses school transportation
- Leaves by another parent-approved method

Parents and guardians are responsible for making appropriate arrangements for their child's safe and timely departure at the conclusion of each session.

Orblynx Academy and the school, facility, or organization hosting the program are not responsible for students who remain on or near the program site after dismissal.

9. Photography & Video Release

By enrolling my child in the program, I authorize Orblynx Academy and its representatives to photograph, record, or film my child during program activities.

I grant permission for these images, video, and audio recordings to be used, without compensation, for lawful educational or promotional purposes, including:

- Brochures
- Flyers
- Websites
- Newsletters
- Social media
- Print and digital communications

This authorization remains in effect unless revoked in writing.

If you do not wish your child to be photographed or recorded, please submit a written request via email or mail before the start of the program session.

10. Cancellation & Refund Policy

We understand that plans sometimes change.

Family Cancellations

Cancellations made at least 10 days before the program start date are eligible for a refund, less a \$50 administrative fee.

Cancellations made fewer than 10 days before the program start date are nonrefundable.

Once a program has begun, no refunds or credits will be provided for:

- Withdrawals
- Missed sessions
- Illness
- Vacations
- Personal scheduling conflicts

Cancellation of an Entire Program by Orblynx

If Orblynx Academy cancels an entire program, families will be offered the option to:

- Transfer to another eligible program
- Receive a program credit
- Receive a full refund

11. Program Cancellation & Make-Up Policy

Orblynx Academy will make every reasonable effort to hold program sessions as scheduled.

If an individual session must be cancelled or rescheduled because of inclement weather, facility issues, or other circumstances beyond Orblynx Academy's control, Orblynx will make every reasonable effort to provide a make-up session, either in person or virtually.

Make-up sessions will be communicated as soon as reasonably possible and scheduled based on instructor and facility availability.

Refunds are not provided for individual sessions affected by circumstances beyond Orblynx Academy's control when a reasonable make-up opportunity is provided.

If Orblynx Academy cancels an entire program, the Cancellation & Refund Policy above will apply.

12. Privacy Policy

Orblynx Academy values the privacy of our students and families.

Personal information collected through registration, communications, and program participation is used for legitimate:

- Program purposes
- Administrative purposes
- Safety purposes
- Communication purposes

Orblynx Academy does not sell personal information.

Information may be shared with service providers, program partners, host organizations, or other parties when reasonably necessary to administer the program, protect student safety, comply with legal requirements, or provide services requested by families.

Orblynx Academy does not sell, share, or distribute your or your child's personal information to third parties except as described above for legitimate program, safety, administrative, legal, or service purposes.

13. Frequently Asked Questions

What happens if my child needs to miss a day?

Please notify the Orblynx team as soon as possible. Because our programs are project-based and sessions may build on previous work, catch-up opportunities cannot always be guaranteed.

Does my child need to bring a laptop?

This varies by program. Families will be notified in advance if a laptop, device, or other item is required.

Can parents see what students are working on?

Yes, when the program format allows. This may include showcases, presentations, project highlights, or program communications.

Will my child bring their project home?

It depends on the project. Some work can go home, while other projects may remain with Orblynx for continued testing, showcases, competitions, research, or collaborative work.

How does Orblynx prepare students for future STEM opportunities?

Orblynx gives students opportunities to progress from introductory hands-on STEM experiences into increasingly advanced opportunities.

Students can develop their skills through entrepreneurship, communication, research and publication, leadership, internships, challenges, competitions, showcases, and real-world experiences.

What happens if a class is cancelled?

When possible, Orblynx will offer a make-up session either in person or virtually. Families will be notified as soon as scheduling information is available.

Who should I contact if I have questions?

Please contact the Orblynx Academy team with questions regarding registration, attendance, program requirements, student support, or other program-related matters.

Thank You for Being Part of Orblynx

We believe meaningful STEM learning happens when students have the opportunity to explore ideas, build something real, solve problems, learn from failure, communicate what they discover, and see where those skills can take them.

Thank you for trusting Orblynx Academy to be part of your child's journey.

Explore. Design. Build. Communicate. Impact.