



## Ellen Ochoa STEM Academy at Ben Milam Elementary

2030 Proctor Drive  
Grand Prairie, TX 75051  
972-262-7131

Principal: Dinnah Escanilla



**Mission:** The mission of Ellen Ochoa STEM Academy at Ben Milam Elementary is to encourage student interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics through expanded learning opportunities, hands-on laboratory and coursework and a focused STEM curriculum that presents a real-world experience for our students. The academic curriculum offers all courses required by the State of Texas for the mastery of standards for each grade level.

Ochoa seeks to broaden opportunities for students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics by fostering an early interest in these critical areas of study. Ochoa offers a unique model and is the only public education elementary STEM academy in North Texas. Through use of a dedicated STEM curriculum combined with corporate partnerships, expanded emphasis on technology, and specialized school design elements, we are confident we can instill curiosity and interest in STEM studies for elementary students.

**Our Vision:** The vision of Ellen Ochoa STEM Academy at Ben Milam Elementary is to provide our students with a safe, nurturing and engaging learning environment where they become creative inquirers and communicators. Through collaboration with parents, community and District high schools, we leverage available resources to offer students focused study in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics at the elementary level. Additionally, corporate and higher education partnerships offer enhanced opportunities for interaction with engineers and scientists – providing students real-world insight and hands-on experience with leaders in these specialized fields.

- Advanced Academics
- Attendance Incentives
- Beyond the Bell After-school Program
- Breakfast in the Classroom
- Campus-produced Videos & News/Announcements
- Capturing Kids' Hearts Campus
- College Readiness Activities
- Community-based Extracurricular Activities (Cinco de Mayo, Martin Luther King, etc.)
- Community Service Opportunities
- Comprehensive Guidance Counseling Program
- Dual Language Program
- Dyslexia Services
- Eduvision – student-produced presentations
- Enrichment Classes for Parents (Parent University, Computer Skills, Nutrition, ESL, etc.)
- ESL Program
- Expanded Media Center/Library
- Field Trips
- Family Involvement Nights
- Gifted and Talented Program
- Handprints on Hearts
- Integrated Technology (Computer Labs, Promethean Boards, iPads, Webcams, etc.)
- Partnership with Lockheed Martin, UTA, and Texas Tech
- Mentoring Programs
- Ochoa Parent Connection App
- One-to-one Student-iPad Ratio
- One-way Dual Language Program
- Outdoor Classroom and Learning Lab - with two "high school" sized labs
- Parent Teacher Association (PTA)
- Family Engagement Liaison
- Project-based Learning
- Rachel's Challenge Campus
- REAL School Gardens
- Special Education
- Speech-language Therapy Services
- Standardized Dress
- STEM Curriculum
- Student Leadership Opportunities
- Student of Character
- Summer STEM Camps
- Tutoring Opportunities
- 504 Accommodations



## Ellen Ochoa STEM Academy at Ben Milam Elementary *continued*

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### Extracurricular Clubs and Activities:

- Astronomy Club
- Boy Scouts
- Chess Club
- Girl Scouts
- Green Team
- Kindness and Compassion Club
- LEGO Club
- Robotics Engineering Club
- STEM Club
- Student Council
- Video Production
- Yearbook

**About Our Staff:** Our teachers are well prepared for the classroom and motivated to build partnerships with parents to ensure a collaborative learning environment. More than 20% of our staff have their master's degree and all have been specially trained in the Flippen Group's Capturing Kids' Hearts because we know, "if you have a child's heart, you have their head." When you have the child's commitment to learning, they become ready to succeed in a global community.

**About Ellen Ochoa STEM Academy:** Ellen Ochoa STEM Academy at Ben Milam Elementary opened in 1955 under the direction of Principal Bruce Younger. It has undergone many changes since that day, including a major renovation in 1991 during which new classrooms, a library resource center, and a music room were added. The first staff included Anna Elrod/First Grade, Iona Tyler/Second Grade, Marguerite Allen/Third Grade, Dorothy Bennett/Fourth Grade, Pauline Little/Fifth Grade, and Jack VanBever/Sixth Grade. In 2012, new construction was started on a state-of-the-art building that is now the new Ellen Ochoa STEM Academy at Ben Milam Elementary. In March 2014, the building was dedicated by its namesake, Dr. Ellen Ochoa, the first Hispanic, female astronaut.



Received the State's highest accountability rating of "Met Standard"

