

February 24, 2023 - STEM School Info 02/24

Parents/Guardians,

Happy Friday! As we get closer to the end of the third quarter, here are some items of note for you.

Silent Auction Items – By Mar 2

If you have not already, please submit auction-able donations for our STEM Parent Leadership Team silent auction. Auction-able donations come in the form of gift certificates, merchandise, or professional services and can be turned in to the school office by Thursday, March 2. Thank you for your support!

- The Silent Auction Committee, Parent Leadership Team

Benchmark Testing – Mar 3 and 6

Our last Hamilton County School benchmark testing dates will be on Friday, Mar 3 and Monday, Mar 6. All students in English I, English II, Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II will be testing on these dates. After every benchmark, our teachers meet with other teachers from across our learning community to analyze the results. Based on this analysis, the teachers note areas for growth needed for our students. Please note that even though benchmark assessments are not a grade at STEM, they provide useful information on student progress and areas where students need additional instruction.

ER Week (Extended Remediation) Quarter 3 – Mar 6 thru Mar 10

At the end of each quarter this year, students have an opportunity to improve all learning target grades during ER (Extended Remediation) Week. ER Week is a time that students can re-submit graded projects for higher levels of proficiency. Students can also re-take assessments to earn a higher level of proficiency. Higher levels of proficiency include grades of proficient (80) or

advanced (100). For students who are struggling with reaching proficient (80), students will have an opportunity to work with teachers in focus groups to earn basic (60).

During ER Week, three items take place: student independent work time, workshops run by teachers where students choose to attend to get assistance or re-assess, and focus groups where students are assigned and required to work with a teacher. New work and assignments are not posted during this week. This week is set up as an opportunity for students to improve any learning target grade for the quarter.

For students in grades 9-10 (underclassmen) who have no missing and/or below basic learning targets, these students may continue to work in ER to improve their grades to advanced (100). Students will also have an enrichment opportunity through Thursday called Fabrication Days. These students will be working in the Global Center for Digital Innovation (GCDI) on design challenges. These design challenges provide students with opportunities to complete STEM III type projects in an abbreviated format and build upon their STEM digital fabrication and micro-credentialing portfolio.

For students in grades 11-12 (upperclassmen), ER Week also has an additional difference. When an upperclassman no longer has any ER work left to remediate, the upperclassman is not required to attend school for the remainder of ER. An email will be sent to each grade 11 and 12 student (and parent copied) that is assigned mandatory ER. Please note that even if the student is not assigned mandatory ER, the student is still welcome to come in and participate to improve their learning target grade to advanced (100).

ACT – Mar 7

All grade 11 students will complete an official ACT test on Tuesday, March 7. Grade 11 students will need to report to school no later than 9:15am that day. Grade 11 students in ER will re-convene in ER after testing is completed at 1pm.

STEM Showcase – Mar 17

The STEM Showcase will take place on the evening of Friday, March 17 from 5:30pm to 7:00pm. The STEM Showcase will feature student displays of work from grade 9 through grade 12. This is an excellent way to see the school and the work progression expected of students as they mature over four years. The showcase will include the McCormick (CETAS), Wacker and STEM buildings. Guests will enter through the entrance to the GCDI in the main parking lot for McCormick (CETAS). Guests will have an opportunity to see the GCDI (Global Center for Digital Innovation), see STEM IV Business Plans developed by seniors in the CETAS hallway, STEM III Community and Business Partnership Projects by juniors in Wacker, and varied project work by sophomores and freshmen in the STEM building. All students are expected to attend and participate that evening as part of their STEM School requirement. Expectation for parents and guests: walk the hallways and see what our students are doing!

Rising Grade 11 Parent-Student Night – Mar 21

On Tuesday, March 21 at 6:30pm we will be hosting our Rising Grade 11 night for all 10th grade parents and students. The night will take place in the Bond Auditorium (HUM building). All grade 10 parents are expected to attend as we will cover the significant changes that take place as students enter grades 11 and 12. The Chattanooga State Early College Director will be introducing dual enrollment items, including important financial pieces. Our school counselor, Ms. Millard, will also explain dual enrollment and scheduling items. Our grade 11 and 12 teachers will introduce the team to you, and we will also introduce a day in the life of an upperclassmen STEM student. Mark your calendars now!

STEM Gala

We are so excited for our Junior/Senior Gala on April 15, 2023! Gala is STEM's version of prom and this year's Gala will be held at The Granfalloon. The theme is Casino: Are You Feeling Lucky? We will have an awesome DJ, casino games (non-monetary games), food and drink, & tons of dancing!

We are in the process of handing out invitations to all juniors and seniors. Tickets can be purchased online on our school's website, by check (made out to STEM School Chattanooga), or by cash. See Ms. Phifer if purchasing by check or cash. Sale dates and prices are below.

Early Purchase (Feb 27 – March 3): \$50 single ticket, \$90 pair

Regular Purchase (March 13 – March 31): \$60 single ticket, \$110 pair

Late Purchase (March 31 – April 13): \$80 single ticket, \$150 pair

In order to best plan and secure all the items necessary for Gala, we want our juniors and seniors to purchase tickets as early as possible. Please encourage your student not to wait for the late purchase timeframe!

Students may invite a guest to attend Gala with them. If the guest is a non-STEM student, an Outside Guest Permission Form is MANDATORY for the guest to attend. See Ms. Phifer for the form. Please also note that the age limit for a guest is 20 years old.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at phifer_jada@hcde.org.

STEM Yearbook

The STEM 2021-22 Yearbooks are on sale now for ONLY \$32.43! Yearbooks must be purchased through the TreeRing website, and please remember that we do NOT order extra books for sale at the school. ONLY the books purchased through TreeRing will be printed and delivered. Here are some other items about the yearbooks:

--Yearbooks can only be purchased online through your TreeRing account – [Click Link Here](#)

-- STEM School Passcode (for new accounts only): 1014450174953167 – [Click Link Here for New Account](#)

--Once purchased, students can create 2 personalized pages for FREE that will only print in their personal yearbook!

--Personal Ads (that will print in every yearbook) can be purchased and created through TreeRing as well. Cost for personal ads are as follows: 1/8 Page - \$25, 1/4 Page - \$50, Half Page - \$75, Full Page - \$100

--The DEADLINE for purchasing Yearbooks, purchasing/creating personal ads, and creating your personalized pages is May 5th.

If you have trouble accessing your account or have any questions, please email Ms. Bolus at bolus_lisa@hcde.org for help.

Upcoming Dates

Mar 3: Culminating PBL Events – Grade 9 and 10

Mar 3, 6: Benchmark Testing

Mar 6-10: ER (Extended Remediation) Week

Mar 6-10: Chattanooga State Spring Break

Mar 13: Teacher Professional Development Day - No STEM School Classes (Chatt State Classes in Session)

Apr 3-7: Hamilton County Spring Break – No STEM School Classes (Chatt State Classes in Session)

Thank you for your support!

Dr. Tony Donen

Principal

February 17, 2023 - STEM School Info 02/17

Parents/Guardians,

Friday is here! Here are some items of note for you.

February 20 – Presidents’ Day

Monday is Presidents’ Day and there will be no STEM School classes this day. In addition, there is no school bus transportation and the STEM School will be closed. However, Chattanooga State is open and running on a regular schedule. Students with college classes are expected to attend their college classes that day.

Student Led Conferences – Feb 21 and 23

The spring Student Led Conferences will take place virtually on February 21 and 23 in the evening from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Teachers have been reaching out to parents for those students where conferences are required. If you have not been contacted, then a conference is not required for your student. However, all students and parents may request a conference time if desired. If you want to request a time, please email Amy Robinson, robinson_amy@hcde.org, and she will set up a time for you and your student.

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- The Silent Auction Committee, Parent Leadership Team

School Choice Lottery Update

If you have friends or family waiting on lottery results for the STEM School, here is an update on that process for rising grade 9 students in 23-24. Hamilton County Schools ran the School Choice lottery on February 10. Families will be notified of the results February 17 via the email they used to apply. Following the notification, families have one week to respond to the initial lottery offer, by February 24. If no response, then the student will be removed from the lottery list.

Math Lab and ELA Writing Labs

Each week, we provide Math Lab time and ELA Writing Lab time before or after school. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to get assistance on items they have for English classes as well as support for math homework, practice and summative assessment preparation. The lab days and times are as follows. All students are welcome to participate. No prior appointment is necessary.

ELA Writing Labs

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Dr. Tony Donen

Principal

February 10, 2023 - STEM School Info 02/10

Parents/Guardians,

Happy Friday! Here are some items of note for you.

Innovative School Model Grants

STEM School Chattanooga has been a part of an innovative school model grant the past two years with the state of Tennessee. This grant has supported the development of the Global Center for Digital Innovation and creation of FabFolio, an online application used to implement micro-credentialing through digital fabrication STEM experiences. More information on FabFolio can be found at [this link](#). At this we are excited to announce that FabFolio began being used in multiple schools this past month that has already led to over 1000 student users and lesson creations. This work is part of our STEM School mission to develop and share a new paradigm for world-class education.

Earlier this year, our school received a second grant for innovative school model implementation. This second grant has provided us the opportunity to enhance and improve the Phase 1 portion of our school. This summer, our entire Phase 1 (the first half of our building) will be re-designed to include more permanent walling structures with a futuristic feel and look. Students (and parents

and staff) will be blown away by the re-design and new facility look. After this work, STEM students will truly have a state-of-the-art facility that is aesthetically and functionally world-class!

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Dr. Tony Donen

Principal

February 03, 2023 - STEM School Info 02/03

Parents/Guardians,

Happy February! We are looking forward to a fantastic month of school.

Quarter 3 PBLs

Below are the grade level PBLs (project-based learning units) taking place across the school in grades 9, 10 and 11.

Grade 9 students are working on a dynamics unit this quarter. The dynamics unit will introduce students to the essential concepts underlying the principles of two-dimensional dynamics in a

gravitational field. Along with the study of dynamics, students will construct a medieval catapult or custom launching device and use qualitative data to analyze the two-dimensional motion of a projectile in Earth's gravitational field. Students will use digital fabrication in the final designs and document their process in the Catapult EDP Discussions. Students will then demonstrate their design process, final design, and functionality of the launching device in a Catapult Challenge Competition.

Grade 10 students are working with BlueCross BlueSky in learning about digital fabrication and coding as they develop and create an arcade game using MIT's Scratch and a custom joystick using MakeyMakeys. The arcade game will include content questions from four core subject areas - mathematics, language arts, social studies, and science. Student coding experts, who developed a sample game and video tutorials, will act as the technical expertise for the coding portion of the PBL. The joystick will be digitally fabricated. Teachers will support students in facilitation of their teams as well as provide content expertise in one of the four subject areas. BlueSky will engage students and teachers in a kickoff event and act as the final judge for student products and presentations at the end of the unit.

Grade 11 students are working on varied STEM projects with business and community partners throughout Chattanooga. Each grade 11 team chooses one project from the following for the quarter. The projects this quarter include:

--Omega Fin Crime: Gamifying Training. Omega was created to bring fraud advice and solutions to the Chattanooga market. Their mission is to fight fraud and financial crime: Behind Every Transaction Is A Human Being. Student teams will work with Omega to gamify training modules for new employees. For the school partner, the focus is on providing more interesting and entertaining training modules for their staff. For the STEM School, the focus is on the collaboration and critical thinking skills demonstrated by the student teams.

--Reading Changes Lives: Literary Garden. Reading Changes Lives is a nonprofit organization in Chattanooga dedicated to promoting literacy to a largely disenfranchised population of reluctant and/or non-readers. Their mission is to inspire locals to embrace the importance and joy of reading to become literate. STEM students will work with the president of Reading Changes Lives to expand the foundation with a Literacy Garden. The garden will be a park-like setting for children in

an outdoor environment. This project will provide STEM teams with the opportunity to use their engineering design skills to design and build the garden space. Students will be encouraged to add their own personal reading flare and promote their favorite books throughout the design.

--Tennessee Aquarium: Edutainment Exhibit. STEM student teams will work with the Tennessee Aquarium education team to analyze and develop a new edutainment-based exhibit for a low traffic area at the aquarium. The student teams will have access to the aquarium buildings throughout the duration of the unit. For the Tennessee Aquarium, the focus is on installing a modern, edutainment-based exhibit that actively engages visitors while providing relevant information about the local exhibit. For the STEM School, the focus is on the critical thinking and innovation skills demonstrated by the student teams.

--UTC Challenger Center: STEM Based Space Station Themed Activities. STEM teams will help the Challenger Center and their special "Micronaut" program for younger students. Our local Challenger Center at UTC is one of 45 centers around the world. However, they led the way for all the centers in developing a version of the Mars simulation for elementary-aged kids, affectionately called the Micronaut program. For this project, STEM student teams will design and fabricate space-station-themed problem-based-learning activities for the Micronauts. Possibilities include designing a "cargo storage" activity using 3D tangram objects, using simple electronics components to solve problem, collecting trajectory data for rocket launches, or incorporating a Ozobot robotics activity. The new Micronaut Space Station activities will launch next year--if STEM students can come up with a solution. Failure is not an option (except as part of your prototyping process, of course!). For the school partner, the focus is on the creation of a STEM-based space station-themed activities for the Micronaut program and deployable to Challenger Centers around the world. For the STEM School, the focus is on the collaboration and innovation skills demonstrated by the student teams.

Silent Auction – Sponsored by the STEM Parent Leadership Team (info below from PLT)

Starting Friday, March 10 at 8am, our week-long Virtual Silent Auction will be active online with nationwide bidding throughout the week. The auction ends on Friday, March 17. Because the auction raises funds to support STEM initiatives that all students benefit from, *we ask each and every STEM family to secure one auction-able donation in the form of gift certificates, merchandise,*

or professional services to be turned in to the school office by Thursday, March 2. Thank you for your support!

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