

February 23, 2024 - STEM School Info 02/23

Parents/Guardians,

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

Benchmark Testing – Feb 28, Feb 29, & March 1

Our last Hamilton County Schools benchmark testing dates will be on Wednesday, Feb 28 thru Friday March 1. All students in English I, English II, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II and Biology 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.

Spring Fling – March 1

Spring Fling is STEM's spring version of hanging out and getting together for STEM students (think STEM Jam, but in the spring). Some schools host a school dance in the spring, we are hosting the Spring Fling! It is an opportunity for STEM students to play games, eat food, and hang out with friends outside of the school day.

Spring Fling is also used to raise funds for our Robotics Team. The cost to attend is \$10 per student. Tickets can be purchased in Phase 1 during lunch from Mrs. Femal, and at the door the night of the event. The Spring Fling will occur on Friday, March 1, from 5:30pm to 8pm. Only STEM students are allowed to attend.

What will Spring Fling feature? Music, Pizza, Snacks, Drinks, Super Smash Brothers Competition, Cornhole, Photo Booth and A WHOLE LOT more. Still have questions? Email Mrs. Femal at femal_sheila@hcde.org.

Rising Junior Meeting - March 7

On Thursday, March 7 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 Health Science Center building (HSC) room 1085. 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!

ER Week (Extended Remediation) Quarter 3 – Mar 4 thru Mar 8

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).

Spring Break Reminder – March 11-15

Spring Break for Hamilton County Schools is from Monday, March 11 through Friday, March 15. The STEM School will be closed during this time and no bus transportation is provided to campus. IMPORTANT NOTE: Chattanooga State classes are in session and students with college courses are expected to attend their college courses.

STEM Showcase – Mar 22

Save-the-date: The STEM Showcase will take place on the evening of Friday, March 22 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!

STEM Gala - April 13

We are so excited for our Junior/Senior Gala on April 13, 2024! Gala is STEM's version of prom and this year's Gala will be held at The Granfalloon. The theme is: Welcome to the Big Top: Carnival. We will have an awesome DJ, carnival style 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 or Mrs. Stanley if purchasing by check or cash.

Sale dates and prices are below.

- Early Purchase (March 4 – March 10): \$50 single ticket, \$90 pair
- Regular Purchase (March 11 – April 6): \$60 single ticket, \$110 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 or Mrs. Stanley 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 at phifer_jada@hcde.org or stanley_k@hcde.org.

ACT - March 20

All grade 11 students will complete an official ACT test on Wednesday, March 20. Grade 11 students will need to report to school no later than 9:15 am that day.

Upcoming Dates

Feb 28-March 1: Benchmark testing

Mar 1: Culminating PBL Events – Grades 9 and 10

Mar 1: Spring Fling

Mar 4-8: ER (Extended Remediation) Week

Mar 7: Rising Junior Meeting

Mar 4-8: Chattanooga State Spring Break

Mar 11-15 HCS Spring Break No STEM School Classes (Chatt State Classes in Session)

Mar 20: Juniors take ACT

Mar 22: STEM Showcase

Thank you!

Jim David
Principal

February 16, 2024 - STEM School Info 02/16

Parents and Guardians,

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

President's Day – Feb 19

Monday, Feb 19, 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.

Silent Auction Items Donation Reminder from PLT- Feb 29

If you have not already done so, 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, Feb 29.

Thank you for your support!

- The Silent Auction Committee, Parent Leadership Team

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What will Spring Fling feature? Music, Pizza, Snacks, Drinks, =Super Smash Brothers Competition, Cornhole, Photo Booth and A WHOLE LOT more. Still have questions? Email Mrs. Femal at femal_sheila@hcde.org.

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Mar 11-15 HCS Spring Break No STEM School Classes (Chatt State Classes in Session)

Mar 20: Juniors take ACT

Mar 22: STEM Showcase

Thank you for your continued support,

Jim David

Principal

February 9, 2024 - STEM School Info 02/09

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

President's Day – Feb 19

Monday, Feb 19, 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.

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Math Lab and ELA Writing Labs

The lab days and times are as follows. All students are welcome to participate. **No prior appointment is necessary.**

- ELA Writing Labs --Each Wednesday and Thursday morning from 8:15am to 9:15am in an English classroom (Kubisak and Britt).
- Math Labs --Each Tuesday and Wednesday morning from 8:15am to 9:15am in a math classroom (Williamson and Gibbons).

Upcoming Dates-

Feb 19: Presidents' Day - No STEM School Classes (Chatt State Classes in Session)

Mar 1: Culminating PBL Events – Grades 9 and 10

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Mar 20: Juniors take ACT

Mar 22: STEM Showcase

Jim David

Principal

February 2, 2024 - STEM School Info 02/02

Parents and Guardians,

Happy February and Happy Groundhog Day!

We are looking forward to a fantastic month of school.

HCS Half Day – Feb 7

Wednesday, February 7 is a half day for students in Hamilton County Schools. The STEM School will run classes from 9:30am to 12:30pm and have lunch available for students from 12:30pm to 1:00pm. Buses will run at the regular time in the morning and leave from STEM at 1:00pm for afternoon routes.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Chattanooga State classes are on a normal schedule. Students with Chattanooga State classes are to report to their college classes as normal all day.

Silent Auction Items Donation Reminder from PLT- Feb 29

If you have not already done so, 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, Feb 29**.

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Math Labs --Each Tuesday and Wednesday morning from 8:15am to 9:15am in a math classroom (Williamson and Gibbons).

Upcoming Dates-

Feb 7: Half Day for STEM Classes (Chattanooga State Classes in Session – Full Day)

Feb 19: Presidents' Day - No STEM School Classes (Chatt State Classes in Session)

Mar 1: Culminating PBL Events – Grades 9 and 10

Mar 1: Spring Fling

Mar 4-8: ER (Extended Remediation) Week

Mar 4-8: Chattanooga State Spring Break

Mar 11-15 HCS Spring Break No STEM School Classes (Chatt State Classes in Session)

Mar 22: STEM Showcase

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Jim David