

January 26, 2024 - STEM School Info 01/26

Parents and Guardians,

As we close out January, here are some items for you.

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

Hot off the press... Our 6th annual Silent Auction is set to begin on Friday, March 15th, combined with the finale of our fabulous STEM Showcase on March 22nd! The Showcase is where our students highlight their STEM projects and community-based learning activities, so please mark your calendar for 5:30pm and plan to come.

At the 7:00pm conclusion of this exciting in-person event, our week-long Virtual Silent Auction will come to an end, allowing families with winning bids to take home their items.

Starting Friday, March 15th at 8:00am, our week-long *Virtual Silent Auction* will be active online with nation-wide bidding throughout the week. When you come in person to the school on Friday, March 22nd for the STEM Showcase, you can see the auction items up close and personal and place your final bids!

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, February 29th.

If you (or a favorite business, or your own company) can donate a gift certificate, service, or merchandise to support STEM (or if you would like more information), please email inquiries and donations to Amy Robinson at robinson_amy@hcde.org. All donated items should be turned in to the school office as soon as feasible.

Thank you for your support!

- The Silent Auction Committee, Parent Leadership Team

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.

FAFSA Night – March 27

Parents of senior students who need help completing their FAFSA are encouraged to attend our FAFSA completion night on March 27 in the Commons, please bring a computer and know all social security numbers involved. This meeting is the rescheduled date due to the inclement weather cancelation of the January meeting.

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 – Grade 9 and 10

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)

Thank you for your support!

Jim David
Principal

January 21, 2024 - STEM School Info 01/21

Parents/Guardians,

We hope you have had a safe and warm last week.

Field Trips, Kick-Off Events, FAFSA Night, Club Activities

Due to inclement weather over the past week we were unable to host several events. Staff will be working on rescheduling those events. When new dates and times become available we will share them.

PLT Night

Our next PLT meeting will be Monday, Jan 22 at 6:30 in the Commons.

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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.

Math Lab and ELA Writing Labs

Lab times have started back up this spring! This spring we are again hosting Math Lab time and ELA Writing Lab time each week 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 --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).

Thank you for your continued support,

Jim David
Principal

January 12, 2024 - STEM School Info 01/12

Parents/Guardians,

Happy 2024!

Connecting back with our students has been wonderful this week. We are looking forward to a fabulous spring semester!

PBL Kickoffs – Grades 9 and 10

Grade 10 students kicked off their quarter long PBL unit in computer science applications this week. The STEM School has partnered with BlueCross BlueSky for this unit. BlueSky Tennessee Institute provides a unique opportunity for students to complete an accelerated bachelor's degree in Computing from ETSU in Chattanooga

and earn a job in IS from BlueCross, all within 27 months. In this PBL unit grade 10 students are engaged 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. The unit will conclude with teams presenting their Arcade game and control to BlueSky staff in a Shark Tank style pitch, showcasing games.

Grade 9 students will be kicking off their quarter long PBL unit in dynamics on Tuesday. The Unit 3 PBL on dynamics 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 create a diorama that replicates a crime scene that includes something being thrown, shot or fallen. Students will write a crime scene report that provides objective details to support the premise of the diorama and will use quantitative and 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 each required iteration.

House Hoodies

Heads of House is having a sale for their colorful house hoodies! This sale ends Wednesday 1/24.

Please use [this link to order](#).

College Start Date – Tuesday, Jan 16

Grade 11 and 12 students begin their academic hybrid STEM and college course calendar on Tuesday, January 16. These schedules have been shared with each student in their online Google Calendar previously and parents have been sent an email as well. Any students or parents with questions and/or concerns should contact Ms. Millard, millard_anna@hcde.org, by the end of the day on Tuesday, January 16 is the first day of college classes for Chattanooga State for the spring semester. To everyone, please note that the campus will be very busy next week as all the college students and instructors return for classes. Please be patient as traffic will significantly increase throughout the campus.

School Closings – Inclement Weather

Please note that the STEM School is part of Hamilton County Schools and is closed for inclement weather when Hamilton County Schools is closed. Hamilton County Schools

district office will communicate with the parents and community regarding closures, late start and early dismissal situations.

As for the college, students that have Chattanooga State college courses are expected to attend their college courses if those campuses remain open. All upperclassmen should be on the TigerAlert system for Chattanooga State that will allow them to receive texts from Chattanooga State regarding any changes in their regular schedule of classes. Information on TigerAlert can be found at this [TigerAlert link](#) for setting up this service. Students with college classes and transportation issues due to inclement weather should correspond by email with their college instructor (prior to class time).

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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

Jan 15: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (School Closed)

Jan 16: First Day of College Classes

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

Jim David
Principal