

# September 30, 2022 – STEM School Info 09/30

Parents/Guardians,

As we approach the end of the quarter, here are some items of note for you.

## **STEM 101 and Math Night – Oct 3**

STEM 101 and Math Night is designed for new parents to our school, especially grade 9 parents. This night will include activities to learn about our grading system and procedures, understanding Powerschool, and learning about Canvas. The night will also include a focus on learning about Delta Math (used for math homework) and becoming acquainted with math homework processes. The event will start at 6:00pm.

Parents should come with their STEM student to this evening event. *In addition, please make sure to bring the student Chromebook and headphones.*

If you have not already done so, please confirm your attendance at STEM 101 and Math Night by completing this quick [STEM 101 Confirmation Form](#).

## **ER Week – Oct 3 through Oct 7**

At the end of each quarter this year, students will 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 first 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 for the week – 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 (he/she still must attend college classes). An email has been 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).

### **Fall Break Information**

Fall Break for Hamilton County Schools takes place from October 10 through October 17. Fall Break for Chattanooga State takes place from October 3 through October 7. These breaks impact our students as follows.

**STEM School Classes:** There are no STEM School classes during the Hamilton County Schools Fall Break. The STEM School will be closed during this time. The last STEM School class day for the first quarter will be Friday, October 7. STEM School classes will resume on Tuesday, October 18.

**Chattanooga State Classes:** There are no Chattanooga State college classes during the Chattanooga State Fall Break. The last Chattanooga State class day for the first term is Friday, September 30. Chattanooga State college classes will resume on Monday, October 10.

Students with college classes should make sure they know and understand the above break schedules. For example, if a STEM student has a Chattanooga State college course that meets on Tuesday each week, the student is expected to attend the college class on Tuesday, October 11 (even though the STEM School is closed on this date).

### **Food City and Publix Partnerships**

Food City and Publix have partnered with area educators to raise money for local schools. We would love for you to participate in these programs by simply linking your Food City ValuCard to STEM School Chattanooga and signing up for Club Publix. There is no better time than the present to link the STEM School to your card or account and raise money for our wonderful school.

Please click on [this link for instructions](#) on linking your ValuCard and signing up for Club Publix. Let the shopping begin!

### **Graduation Date and Time**

The graduation ceremony date and time has been set for the Class of 2023! The STEM School ceremonies will commence at 5:30pm on Thursday, May 18 in Memorial Auditorium. Information regarding graduation items for seniors will be forthcoming from Ms. Pearson, our graduation coordinator.

### **Math Lab and ELA Writing Lab**

Lab times have already started! This fall we are 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 Monday afternoon from 4:30pm to 6:00pm in Ms. Bolus' room

--Each Wednesday morning from 8:15am to 9:15am in Mr. Kubisak's room

#### *Math Labs*

--Each Tuesday AND Thursday mornings from 8:15am to 9:15am in a math classroom (Jaynes and Williamson)

### **Upcoming Dates**

Sept 30-Oct 3: Benchmark Testing (Alg I, Geom, Alg II, Eng I, Eng II)

Oct 3: STEM 101 and Math Night

Oct 3-7: ER (Extended Remediation) Week

Oct 3-7: Chattanooga State Fall Break

Oct 10-17: STEM School Fall Break

Oct 20: Grade 10 Docent Night at the Hunter Museum

Nov 7 and 10: Student Led Conferences – *more info to come*

Nov 9: Half Day at STEM (9:30am-1:00pm)

Nov 23-25: Thanksgiving Break

Thank you for your support!

Dr. Tony Donen  
Principal

## September 23, 2022 – STEM School Info 09/23

Parents/Guardians,

We are excited to host our first House Competition of the year today! Who will start strong in this year's competition – Staupers (reigning champions), Tesla (time to reclaim the title), Einstein (so, so close last year), or Mirzakhani (maybe this is the year of a first-time champ)? It's going to be a great competition this year! Below are some items of note for you this week.

### **PBL Culminating Events**

*Friday, September 30 (day)* - Our 9<sup>th</sup> graders will be finishing up their first PBL here at STEM: analog fabricated foosball tables! They have been working hard this quarter to create these tabletop foosball tables, including characters and themes. We will be having our in-house foosball tournament during the school day on Friday, September 30 for them to play each other's tables and compete. Wish them luck!

*Thursday, October 20 (night)* - Our 10<sup>th</sup> graders will be finishing up their PBL partnership with the Hunter Museum in the next few weeks. Each PBL group has taken a chosen piece of art from the Hunter Museum to reimagine and innovate. [We will have our culminating event on Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> from 6:00pm-7:30pm at the Hunter Museum.](#) Each group will be acting as docents and presenting their research and artwork to friends, family, and the public that night. We look forward to you all seeing what they have created!

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Please confirm your attendance at STEM 101 and Math Night by completing this quick [STEM 101 Confirmation Form](#).

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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 (he/she still must attend college classes). An email will be sent to each grade 11 and 12 student and parent by Thursday, Sept 29 for students in grades 11 and 12 that are 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).

### **Fall Break Information**

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### **Graduation Date and Time**

The graduation ceremony date and time has been set for the Class of 2023! The STEM School ceremonies will commence at 5:30pm on Thursday, May 18 in Memorial Auditorium. We are thrilled to have an indoor venue again this year that allows us to be with each other and celebrate our seniors!

### **Math Lab and ELA Writing Lab**

Lab times have already started! This fall we are 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.

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#### *Math Labs*

--Each Tuesday AND Thursday mornings from 8:15am to 9:15am in a math classroom (Jaynes and Williamson)

### **Upcoming Dates**

Sept 30: PBL Culminating Events – Grade 9 and 10

Sept 30-Oct 3: Benchmark Testing (Alg I, Geom, Alg II, Eng I, Eng II)

Oct 3: STEM 101 and Math Night

Oct 3-7: ER (Extended Remediation) Week

Oct 3-7: Chattanooga State Fall Break

Oct 10-17: STEM School Fall Break

Thank you for your support!

Dr. Tony Donen

Principal

## September 16, 2022 – STEM School Info 09/16

Parents/Guardians,

Thank you to everyone who came last night to our Teacher Meet and Greet. It was fantastic to see so many faces! Here are some items of note as we wrap up the week.

### **Teacher Meet and Greet – School Information**

During the Meet and Greet, we posted a QR code with a link to a [School Information sheet](#). The google sheet includes teacher and staff list with emails, school calendar (for grades 9-10 and for grades 11-12), website link information for all items posted online, and night events for parent information. In case you were unable to attend, you can still access this information by clicking: [School Information sheet](#).

### **Graduation Date and Time**

The graduation ceremony date and time has been set for the Class of 2023! The STEM School ceremonies will commence at 5:30pm on Thursday, May 18 in Memorial Auditorium. We are thrilled to have an indoor venue again this year that allows us to be with each other and celebrate our seniors!

### **STEM 101 and Math Night – Oct 3**

STEM 101 and Math Night is designed for new parents to our school, especially grade 9 parents. This night will include activities to learn about our grading system and procedures, understanding Powerschool, and learning about Canvas. The night will also include a focus on learning about Delta Math (used for math homework) and becoming acquainted with math homework processes. Parents should come with their STEM student to this evening event. The event will start at 6:00pm.

Please confirm your attendance at STEM 101 and Math Night by completing this quick [STEM 101 Confirmation Form](#).

### **Student Well Being Survey**

Student Well-being Surveys are currently taking place throughout Hamilton County Schools. STEM School students will participate starting next week. Hamilton County Schools has sent out information regarding this survey and that information can be found by clicking [here](#). If you would like to opt-out of this survey for your student and have not completed the opt-out form, there is an opt-out form in Powerschool you can complete this weekend. To access this form, log into your [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) account online or through the PowerSchool application on your phone and complete the “Student Survey Opt-Out Form” for your student. Instructions for accessing the survey Opt-Out Form can be found [HERE](#). Alternatively, parents can print and send a paper opt-out form to the school’s office on Monday morning. Paper copies can be accessed [here](#).

### **Math Lab and ELA Writing Lab**

Lab times have already started! This fall we are 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.

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#### *Math Labs*

--Each Tuesday AND Thursday mornings from 8:15am to 9:15am in a math classroom (Jaynes and Williamson)

### **Upcoming Dates**

Sept 19: STEM Parent Leadership Team (PLT) Meeting



Sept 30: PBL Culminating Events – Grade 9 and 10

Sept 30-Oct 3: Benchmark Testing (Alg I, Geom, Alg II, Eng I, Eng II)

Oct 3: STEM 101 and Math Night

Oct 3-7: ER (Extended Remediation) Week – *more info to come*

Oct 3-7: Chattanooga State Fall Break

Oct 10-17: STEM School Fall Break

Thank you for your support!

Dr. Tony Donen

Principal

## September 9, 2022 – STEM School Info 09/09

Parents/Guardians,

Happy Friday! We are especially excited for next Thursday to see you at the Teacher Meet and Greet! Here are some items of note as we wrap up the week.

### **Teacher Meet and Greet – Sept 15**

On Thursday, September 15 from 6:30pm to 7:30pm, we will be hosting our Teacher Meet and Greet at the STEM School. We are excited to have parents and guardians visit the school that evening! This is an opportunity for parents to meet STEM teachers and hear about expectations for STEM students in each course. The evening will last approximately an hour and start promptly at 6:30pm. Parents will be directed to a designated room where STEM staff will rotate through each room to present information about expectations, classroom activities and provide you an opportunity to learn more about your child's teachers. This evening is for parents and guardians, and is not a student event.

Please make plans to arrive early (6:20pm or earlier) to make sure you are at the correct assigned area for the first teacher/staff presentation. Again, we will start promptly at 6:30pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

### **House STEM Uniform Items (From House Heads)**

The Heads of House are pleased to announce the first round of shirt ordering for this school year! This first fall order is only house related items. Our next fall order, which is expected for mid-October, is going to be general STEM merch. Our house competitions are right around the corner, make sure you stock up on house merch!

Click this [link for ordering info and photos](#). **Last day to order is September 15**. We look forward to seeing students represent their STEM House!

### **Extra-Curricular Clubs and Activities**

On Wednesday, September 7, we hosted club time during the school day where students visited two different club activities. All clubs and extra-curricular activities are posted on our school website in the Info > Students section ([Clubs, Athletics, and Extracurricular Organizations](#)). Information on each activity and how to participate is included. Students can also check with our school counselor, Ms. Millard, and our grade 9-10 lead teacher, Ms. Condra, if they have questions. We encourage all students to participate in extra-curricular activities!

### **Math Lab and ELA Writing Lab**

Lab times have already started! This fall we are 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.

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#### *Math Labs*

--Each Tuesday AND Thursday mornings from 8:15am to 9:15am in a math classroom (Jaynes and Williamson)

### **COVID-19 and Illnesses**

Reminder on some of the basic guidelines to follow for students regarding COVID-19 and illnesses:

---Sick students should be fever free for 24 hours, without the use of fever reducing medications, before returning to school.

---If a student tests positive for COVID-19, please contact our school nurse, Ms. Scruggs ([scruggs\\_larisa@hcde.org](mailto:scruggs_larisa@hcde.org)), to let us know. In addition, please stay home if you have a fever or are experiencing symptoms.

---The CDC recommends that individuals with a positive COVID-19 case isolate for a minimum of 5 days after onset and may return after they are without fever for at least 24 hours (without fever-reducing medication), and show improvement in symptoms. It is recommended but not required to wear a mask for 5 days following the 5-day isolation period.

Please note that we will not be sending out email messages regarding COVID-19 cases this year. However, COVID-19 reported case counts will be displayed on the [HCS COVID-19 Dashboard](#) for all schools in HCS.

### **Upcoming Dates**

Sept 15: Teacher Meet and Greet Night

Sept 19: STEM Parent Leadership Team (PLT) Meeting

Sept 30: PBL Culminating Events – Grade 9 and 10

Sept 30-Oct 3: Benchmark Testing (Alg I, Geom, Alg II, Eng I, Eng II)

Oct 3: STEM 101 and Math Night – *more info to come*

Oct 3-7: ER (Extended Remediation) Week – *more info to come*

Oct 3-7: Chattanooga State Fall Break

Oct 10-17: STEM School Fall Break

Thank you for your support!

Dr. Tony Donen

Principal

## **September 2, 2022 – STEM School Info 09/02**

Parents/Guardians,

Spectacular September is here! Below are some items of note as we head into this wonderful time of year.

### **Extra-Curricular Clubs and Activities**

Extra-curricular clubs and activities will be starting up this month. On Wednesday, September 7, we will host a club time during the school day where students can visit two different club activities. All clubs and extra-curricular activities will also be posted on our school website in the Info > Students section ([Clubs, Athletics, and Extracurricular Organizations](#)). Information on each activity and how to participate will be included. Students can also check with our school counselor, Ms. Millard, and our grade 9-10 lead teacher, Ms. Condra, if they have questions. We encourage all students to participate in extra-curricular activities!

### **House STEM Uniform Items (From House Heads)**

The Heads of House are pleased to announce the first round of shirt ordering for this school year! This first fall order is only house related items. Our next fall order, which is expected for mid-October, is going to be general STEM merch. Our house competitions are right around the corner, make sure you stock up on house merch!

Click this [link for ordering info and photos](#). The ordering window is from September 1 through September 15. We look forward to seeing students represent their STEM House!

### **Labor Day and Half Day – Sept 5 and Sept 7**

Monday, September 5 is Labor Day. There is no school this day (STEM School and Chattanooga State). Enjoy this day with your families.

Wednesday, September 7 is a half day for students in Hamilton County Schools. The STEM School will run classes from 9:30am to 11:30am. We will then have club time from 11:30am 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.

### **Teacher Meet and Greet – Sept 15**

On Thursday, September 15 in the evening, we will be hosting our Teacher Meet and Greet at the STEM School. We are excited to have parents and guardians visit the school that evening! This is an opportunity for parents to meet STEM teachers and hear about expectations for STEM students in each course. The evening will last approximately an hour and start promptly at 6:30pm. Parents will be directed to a designated room where STEM staff will rotate through each room to present information about expectations, classroom activities and provide

you an opportunity to learn more about your child's teachers. This evening is for parents and guardians, and is not a student event.

## **Grades for Assignments**

Student grades are categorized in two categories for most courses: Learning Targets (LT) and Project/Problem Based Learning (PBL). In math courses, students also have Homework (HW) grades for math assignments in Delta Math.

Students will be assessed throughout the year in these categories. Grades will be assigned as Advanced (100), Proficient (80), Basic (60), Below Basic (50), or Missing (0) with the corresponding numerical value in the gradebook. Students that have Below Basic or Missing for Learning Target grades for an extended timeframe will be required to bring those grades to Basic (60) through online work.

Grade Scale Change: Prior to the 2022-23 school year, Hamilton County Schools used the following grade scale: A (93-100), B (85-92), C (75-84), D (70-74), F (69 or less). From 2022-23 and forward, the following grade scale will be used per Hamilton County Schools: A (90-100), B (80-89), C (70-79), D (60-69), F (59 or less).

Added Points: Students at the STEM School are enrolled in weighted honors and EPSO courses throughout their high school career. EPSO courses include dual enrollment, state dual credit, local dual credit, and industry certification courses. In Hamilton County Schools, points are added to the student overall averages at the end of the course. The points are awarded as follows: Honors courses - 3 points are added to the overall average; Dual Enrollment College, State Dual Credit, Local Dual Credit, Industry Certification Aligned courses - 4 points are added to the overall average.

As per Hamilton County Schools starting in 2022-23, a grade of 100 is the highest recordable grade for a course, with the exception of weighted courses. Grades for weighted courses may exceed 100 upon the addition of added points.

College Conversion: Since courses taken at Chattanooga State Community College, University of Tennessee-Chattanooga, or another college setting are letter grades (A, B, C, D, F), Hamilton County Schools has created a conversion table to use for college courses going forward. The courses will have the final numeric grades as follows on the high school transcript going forward: A = 101, B = 92, C = 83, and D = 76.

## **COVID-19 and Illnesses**

Reminder on some of the basic guidelines to follow for students regarding COVID-19 and illnesses:

---Sick students should be fever free for 24 hours, without the use of fever reducing medications, before returning to school.

---If a student tests positive for COVID-19, please contact our school nurse, Ms. Scruggs ([scruggs\\_larisa@hcde.org](mailto:scruggs_larisa@hcde.org)), to let us know. In addition, please stay home if you have a fever or are experiencing symptoms.

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Please note that we will not be sending out email messages regarding COVID-19 cases this year. However, COVID-19 reported case counts will be displayed on the [HCS COVID-19 Dashboard](#) for all schools in HCS.

### **Uniform Donations**

If you are an upperclassmen family and have STEM uniform items which you no longer use, please consider donating these items to the school. Items can be dropped off at the front office. We are using items donated to help provide apparel to underclassmen.

### **Math Lab and ELA Writing Lab**

Lab times have already started! This fall we are 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.

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--Each Tuesday AND Thursday mornings from 8:15am to 9:15am in a math classroom (Jaynes and Williamson)

### **Upcoming Dates**

Sept 5: Labor Day (no school)

Sept 7: Half Day at STEM (9:30am-1:00pm)

Sept 15: Teacher Meet and Greet Night

Oct 3-7: Chattanooga State Fall Break

Oct 10-17: STEM School Fall Break

Thank you for your support!

Dr. Tony Donen

Principal