

November 18, 2022 - STEM School Info 11/18

Parents/Guardians,

Happy upcoming Thanksgiving! Please note that the next Friday email will be sent on December 2. Here are some items for you as we head into Thanksgiving week.

School Choice Application (Important for Siblings)

The applications for the Hamilton County School Choice period have been opened. The School Choice application period is from November 14 through January 31. For information on applying for School Choice seats and completing the application, please [click here](#). Students who currently attend the STEM School do not have to re-apply through the School Choice application for next year.

IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING SIBLINGS: If you have a child that does NOT currently attend STEM and you would like for them to do so next year, you will need to complete the School Choice application AND [HCS Sibling Form](#). The [HCS Sibling Form](#) must be returned to our front office by **DECEMBER 9**. So, if you have a child that is in Grade 8 and you would like for them to attend next year, fill the HCS Sibling Form out as soon as possible and return it to our front office. In addition, make sure to complete the School Choice application by January 31. These are mandatory steps in order for a student to be given sibling preference to enroll at the STEM School in 2023-24.

Thanksgiving Week

STEM students (all grades 9-12) should attend all STEM School classes on Monday, Nov 21 and Tuesday, Nov 22. The STEM School will be closed on Wednesday, Nov 23 through Friday, Nov 25 for the Thanksgiving holiday break. Chattanooga State will be closed the entire week (no college classes) from Monday, Nov 21 through Friday, Nov 25.

Food Drive Competition by House Committee

In the spirit of giving for Thanksgiving the Heads of House have created a fun-filled, competition style food drive. All donations go to the Chattanooga area food bank. At the entry to the STEM School there are four barrels labeled by House (Staupers, Tesla, Einstein, Mirzakhani). Whichever House donates the most goods earn HOUSE POINTS. Below is the list of items that are accepted for donation. Competition is happening through Tuesday, Nov 22!

Urgent Needs: canned soups, ready-to-eat meals, grains, rice, pasta, oatmeal, flour, cereal, family-sized microwave dinners.

Other Needs: peanut butter, canned fruits and vegetables, canned meats- fish and chicken.

STEM Seniors - Yearbook Information and Final Senior Picture Day at STEM

Prestige will be at STEM on Thursday, Dec 8 from 9am-1pm for a final portrait opportunity - the sitting fee is \$30. Seniors that still need to have their Senior Portraits taken should see Ms. Pearson to schedule an appointment for their Prestige Senior Portrait sitting in advance.

If your senior portraits were taken by Prestige (Lifetouch), we will receive the photo files from them automatically - no need to send them in! Seniors just need to go onto the Prestige online portal to choose their favorite pose for the yearbook. [Senior Photo Information Link](#)

If your senior portraits were taken by a photographer OTHER THAN PRESTIGE, please submit a digital version of your favorite Senior portrait to this [SENIOR GOOGLE FORM](#) or they can be emailed to bolus_lisa@hcde.org.

Seniors can also submit their Baby Pictures, Senior Quotes, and favorite STEM memories to the [SENIOR GOOGLE FORM](#). Print baby pictures can also be dropped in the

envelope outside Mrs. Bolus's classroom. ALL Senior pictures, baby pictures, and quotes are due by Friday, Jan 13 to Mrs. Bolus for the yearbook.

Upcoming Dates

Nov 23-25: Thanksgiving Break (No STEM School Classes)

Dec 9: Culminating Grade 9 PBL Event

Dec 9, 12: Benchmark Testing

Dec 12-15: Grade 10 CDM Lessons with Elementary Schools

Dec 12-16: ER Week

Dec 12: STEM IV Inventanooga Presentations

Dec 13: Inventanooga Finalist Competition at UTC

Dec 16: Last Day of Fall Semester

Dec 17-Jan 3: Winter Break (No STEM School Classes)

Jan 4: First Day of Spring Semester

Thank you for your support!

Dr. Tony Donen

Principal

November 11, 2022 - STEM School Info 11/11

Parents/Guardians,

Happy Veterans' Day! Here are some items of note for you upcoming.

Quarter 2 PBLs

As we hit the halfway mark of quarter two, here are grade level PBLs (project-based learning units) that are taking place across the school.

Grade 9 students are working collaboratively to design, build, and code VEX robots in order to introduce and expand students' knowledge of the essential concepts of robotics. For students with previous robotics experience, these students are working in teams building and coding VEX EDR robots. For students with no robotics experience, these students are working in teams building and coding VEX IQ robots. Teams in both groups will ultimately participate in a cumulative robotics competition in EDR or IQ, respectively, on Friday, Dec 9. Students are also creating a Robotics Video to act as an additional resource to consumers, including robot performance and troubleshooting tips.

Grade 10 students have been meeting with personnel from the Creative Discovery Museum (CDM) to develop ideas for elementary STEM lesson plans. Groups are choosing elementary math or science standard(s) and creating a lesson plan that details a STEM lesson for the standard(s) used. CDM personnel are assessing the lessons for quality. Student teams meeting the standard set by CDM will have the opportunity to implement the lessons with grade 4 or 5 students at the end of the fall semester.

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:

- Creative Discovery Museum: Coding Machine for Kids – Students are creating a Coding Machine for Kids for family night programs conducted by the Creative Discovery Museum.
- EPB: Holiday Window Build – Students are working with EPB to build the EPB Holiday Windows and use STEM School designs.
- Fillauer: Heat Sensor – Students are designing and fabricating a prototype design for a prosthetic demo socket that uses electronics and mechanical actuators to open and close the prosthetic.
- Lincoln-Electric: Weld Shop Design – Students are redesigning the Lincoln-Electric existing weld shop to make it safer to navigate, weld, and store materials. STEM students are using 2D and 3D design software to create an efficient workspace.
- Reflection Riding Arboretum: Informational Signage – Students are creating informational signage for the plant nursery at the Arboretum.

--Siskin Kids: Adaptable Toys – Students are creating adaptable toys for children with special needs.

--STEM School: Math Hallway Makeover – Students are designing and building out an inspiring STEM Math Hallway to motivate and excite students about the power and possibilities of math.

Grade 12 students are working to finish their startup business plans and pitch for the upcoming [Inventanooga entrepreneurship annual competition](#). Students use design thinking to identify and network with a target audience, analyze their expressed needs, invent a solution, and pitch their invention. After identifying their real-world problem, students then seek expert knowledge to help ideate, invent, and test a solution with their prospective customers. Students build a business plan to produce their product, and present their inventions and formal business plan at the Inventanooga pitch competition in December. We are incredibly excited with the inventions and solutions being designed by our seniors!

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STEM Merchandise Sale by House Committee

There is only one week left to order general STEM merch through the House Committee. The Heads of House merch sale ends on Nov 16. They are selling gray STEM shirts, hoodies, and beanies. It is a first come - first serve basis, so if you want something order now! Here is the [LINK for ordering](#).
Happy shopping!

STEM Parent Leadership Team – Staff Appreciation Luncheon

The STEM Parent Leadership Team is setting up a staff appreciation lunch for Thursday, Nov 17. The theme of the lunch is... breakfast! Interested in participating and/or donating items? Go to the following [Signup Genius link](#).

Math Help

Students: Do you need help with Delta Math, Khan Academy, or any math assignments? Mathletes will be hosting a tutoring session on the first Thursday of every month! Come by Mrs. Jaynes' room at 8:30 am to receive personalized math help from your peers. We'd love to see you! Fill out this [form link](#) so we'll know what kind of math to prepare for.

Upcoming Dates

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Dr. Tony Donen

Principal

November 4, 2022 - STEM School Info 11/04

Parents/Guardians,

November is here! Here are some items of note as we begin the month.

Student Led Conferences – Nov 7 and 10

At the STEM School we do not have traditional Parent Teacher Conferences where the parent comes in and a teacher talks about all the things your child is doing. Instead, our conferences are focused on the student leading a conference with parents and a faculty member. The reason for doing so is because it is vitally important for the student to take ownership in his/her progress, be able to communicate what he/she has learned, and be able to communicate at what level of understanding and mastery he/she is performing. We will have Student Led Conferences during the evenings of Monday, November 7 and Thursday, November 10. All parents and students are expected to participate.

To accommodate parents and students to make the conference as convenient as possible for you, all conferences will be held virtually through Zoom. **Each parent and student have been sent an email from their House faculty advisor inviting the parent to the SLC.** Parents will have the opportunity to email with the House faculty advisor to set up a time between 6pm and 8pm for the

conference. The House faculty advisor will share a Zoom link with the parent and student for the meeting.

HCS Half Day – Nov 9

Wednesday, November 9 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.

Yearbook Retake Opportunity – Nov 10

Lifetouch will be here on Thursday, Nov 10 for YEARBOOK RETAKE DAY for students in grade 9, 10 and 11. Lifetouch will be here from 1pm-4pm in the HQ Room. Students are to be in STEM dress code for their pictures. Students can choose to have their picture retaken if they were absent for the first picture day or were unhappy with their first picture.

Grade 12 students (from Ms. Bolus): This picture day is not for you...be on the lookout next week for a Google Form for your Senior Portraits, Baby Pictures, and Senior Quotes. Flyers and order forms are available on the table by the Front Office if needed.

STEM Merchandise Sale by House Committee

The Heads of House have a general STEM merch sale going on now until November 16. They are selling gray shirts, hoodies, and beanies. It is a first come - first serve basis, so if you want something order as early as you can! Here is the [LINK for ordering](#). Happy shopping!

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Upcoming Dates

Nov 7 and 10: Student Led Conferences

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

Nov 23-25: Thanksgiving Break

Thank you for your support!

Dr. Tony Donen

Principal