

# March 31, 2023 - STEM School Info 03/31

Parents/Guardians,

Happy Spring Break! As we head into the Hamilton County Schools spring break week, here are some items of note for you. Please also note that the next STEM Info email will be on Friday, April 14 (no email will go out on April 7).

## **Spring Break Reminder – Apr 3-7**

Spring Break for Hamilton County Schools is from Monday, April 3 through Friday, April 7. 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 Gala – Apr 15**

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! Late ticket purchase (\$80 single ticket, \$150 pair) can be made 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.

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](mailto:phifer_jada@hcde.org).

## **State Testing – April 18 through May 8**

State End-of-Course (EOC), Dual Credit and AP testing will begin the second week back after spring break. Students will take exams online in the following EOC courses: English I, English II, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and Biology. Each of these EOC exams will count as 15% of the student final grade for their course. The Dual Credit Exam for US History will also take place, as well as AP testing in US History and Calculus AB. However, these dual credit and AP exams do not impact course grade.

Please make students are present starting at 9:30am on each of these testing dates as testing will take place in the morning.

Apr 18: EOC English I, II Exams – Subpart 1

Apr 19: EOC English I, II Exams – Subpart 2

Apr 20: EOC English I, II Exams – Subpart 3

Apr 26: EOC Algebra I, II, Geometry Exams – Subpart 1, 2

Apr 27: EOC Algebra I, II, Geometry Exams – Subpart 3

May 3: EOC Biology Exam, Dual Credit US History Exam

May 5: AP US History Exam

May 8: AP Calculus Exam

### **Hunter Museum of Art 2022 Video**

Each year our grade 10 students participate in a PBL unit with the Hunter Museum. This year the Hunter Museum put together a 2022 video about art and you'll probably recognize some of the stars of the video. Awesome job by our grade 10 students in representing the STEM School and being leaders in the community! Click this link to see the video: [Hunter Museum of American Art 2022 - YouTube](#)

### **Graduation Reminders for Seniors**

Graduation is May 18, 5:30pm at Memorial Auditorium, with seniors arriving by 5:00pm. We are not limited to attendees, so tickets are not necessary for this ceremony.

On Monday, April 10, graduating seniors can pick up their cap/gown/tassel packets from Ms. Pearson in Room 120. Balfour payments and senior's graduation fee must be paid in full at that time to receive the items, but seniors should have received an email from Ms. Pearson if that was in question. We are awaiting the arrival of our cords and stoles but they may also be picked up at that time if we have them on campus. Any questions, please contact Ms. Pearson at [pearson\\_g@hcde.org](mailto:pearson_g@hcde.org).

### **STEM Yearbook**

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May 5: AP US History Exam  
May 8: AP Calculus Exam  
May 16-17: STEM Jubilee  
May 18: Graduation

Thank you for your support!

Dr. Tony Donen  
Principal

## **March 24, 2023 - STEM School Info 03/24**

Parents/Guardians,

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

### **Culminating PBL Events for Grades 9 and 10 – Mar 31**

Grade 9 and 10 students will be completing their PBL Culminating Events for the Grand Challenges PBLs in the morning. Here is [link to information](#) about the Grand Challenges, what they are, and why they exist.

Grade 9 student teams have selected one of the fourteen challenges to tackle at a deeper level. Students have completed activities that fostered problem identification, introduced empathy thinking, created mappings for the impacts of the challenge (Grand Challenges) on various United Nations Sustainability Goals, and launched wicked problems. Ultimately teams will present an original Pecha Kucha presentation highlighting personal, local, national, and global problems for a specific Grand Challenge. Teams will also submit a team contract with attributes of team members, roles for each member, tasks and interventions, and a team progress report.

Grade 10 student teams have selected one of the fourteen challenges and are defining a problem the team will solve within the Grand Challenge. The teams are using speculative design for solutions (proposing alternative visions by eliminating current constraints). Ultimately teams will participate in a Future Fair exhibition with presentation trifolds to showcase their challenge, problem, speculative design solution and impact. Teams will also submit a team contract with roles for each member, tasks, interventions, and reflection for improvement strategies.

### **House Competition – Mar 31**

Students will be competing in a volleyball tournament house competition during the afternoon. We will be gathered together to see who can be the House Volleyball Champion in the HPF gymnasium! But, maybe even more importantly, there will be a faculty vs student game to end the competition. In the past the event has been basketball and the faculty have never lost. Can the students triumph in volleyball???

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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.

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

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

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May 8: AP Calculus Exam

May 16-17: STEM Jubilee

May 18: Graduation

Thank you for your support!

Dr. Tony Donen

Principal

**March 17, 2023 - STEM School Info 03/17**

Parents/Guardians,

Happy STEM Showcase Friday! We look forward to seeing you tonight! Here are some items of note for you below.

### **Silent Auction – Last Day!**

The STEM Parent Leadership Team Silent Auction closes tonight at 8pm! The auction is viewable online at <https://www.biddingforgood.com/STEMchattanooga>. The auction items will also be set up for viewing at the STEM Showcase in the front atrium to the GCDI (Global Center for Digital Innovation). Don't forget to get in a bid!

### **STEM Showcase – Mar 17 (Tonight!)**

The STEM Showcase will take place 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 or Wacker building 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 McCormick hallways, 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**

This upcoming 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. See you then!

## **Grand Challenges**

Our 9th and 10th grade students have begun their Grand Challenge PBLs this week. Here is [alink to information](#) about the Grand Challenges, what they are, and why they exist. Universities have adopted the Grand Challenges across the world as focal points for 21st century impact in the areas of sustainability, health, security and joy of living. For those interested in learning even more, here is a link to the Grand Challenge Scholars Program at Georgia

Tech: <https://grandchallenges.gatech.edu>, the type of program we want students to be prepared to enter and excel.

Grade 9 Unit: Student teams have selected one of the fourteen challenges to tackle at a deeper level. Students will complete activities that foster problem identification, introduce empathy thinking, create mappings for the impacts of the challenge (Grand Challenges) on various United Nations Sustainability Goals, and launch wicked problems. Ultimately teams will present an original Pecha Kucha presentation highlighting personal, local, national, and global problems for a specific Grand Challenge. Teams will also submit a team contract with attributes of team members, roles for each member, tasks and interventions, and a team progress report.

Grade 10 Unit: Student teams have selected one of the fourteen challenges and will define a problem the team will solve within the Grand Challenge. The team will use speculative design for solutions (propose alternative visions by eliminating current constraints). Ultimately teams will participate in a Future Fair exhibition with presentation trifolds to showcase their challenge, problem, speculative design solution and impact. Teams will also submit a team contract with roles for each member, tasks, interventions, and reflection for improvement strategies.

We will also graduate our first group of Grand Challenge Scholars this year! The Grand Challenge Scholar is a graduation recognition that students can earn over the four years at STEM. In order to

earn this recognition, the student must score Advanced on Grand Challenge PBLs in 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades showing expertise in one of the fourteen grand challenges for improving life on our planet in the 21st century.

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May 16-17: STEM Jubilee

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Dr. Tony Donen

Principal

## March 10, 2023 - STEM School Info 03/10

Parents/Guardians,

Happy Friday! A few items of note as we begin the 4th quarter/term of the school year.

### **Start of Quarter 4**

Monday, March 13 is a professional development day for STEM School faculty. There are no STEM School classes that day. HOWEVER, Chattanooga State Term 4 classes begin on Monday and are in session. Students with college courses are to attend college classes.

Tuesday, March 14 resumes all STEM School classes.

### **Silent Auction – Start Bidding!**

We are excited to announce that the STEM Parent Leadership Team Silent Auction is up! The auction and bidding opens today at 10am and runs through Friday, March 17 until 8pm. The auction is viewable online at <https://www.biddingforgood.com/STEMchattanooga>. The auction items will also be set up for viewing at the STEM Showcase on Friday, March 17 from 5:30pm to 7:00pm in the front atrium to the GCDI (Global Center for Digital Innovation). Auction items will continue to be added each day as well. Thank you so much to everyone who donated items for the auction. Please feel free to share this auction site with anyone and everyone!

Sincerely, STEM PLT Silent Auction Committee

### **STEM Showcase – Mar 17**

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over four years. The showcase will include the McCormick (CETAS), Wacker and STEM buildings. Guests will enter through the entrance to the GCDI or Wacker building 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 McCormick hallways, 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!

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May 16-17: STEM Jubilee  
May 18: Graduation

Thank you for your support!

Dr. Tony Donen  
Principal

## March 3, 2023 - STEM School Info 03/03

Parents/Guardians,

Hope everyone is safe during the weather today. As this day had a lot planned, we have some updates for next week and items to note upcoming.

### **Benchmark Testing, PBL Culminating Events and ER**

Due to the school closing today (Friday), we have updated the schedules for next week. These include Hamilton County School benchmark testing, PBL culminating events, and ER (Extended Remediation).

## Grade 9 and 10

--The schedule we had planned for today will take place on Monday. That will include benchmark testing in ELA and PBL culminating events.

--Benchmark testing in math and the start of ER will take place on Tuesday.

--Schedules are posted in Canvas course for grade 9 in 9th Grade PBL 22-23 and grade 10 in 10th Grade General.

--Fabrication Days will begin Tuesday afternoon for students completed with ER.

## Grade 11

--The benchmarks scheduled for today will take place on Monday. Students can check their Canvas classes in Algebra 2 and Biology to check for their testing times.

--ER for grade 11 begins Monday.

--ACT testing for all grade 11 students takes place on Tuesday. Students are to report to school by 9:15am that day.

## Grade 12

--ER for grade 12 begins on Monday.

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## **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 or with concerns about the weather should correspond by email with their college instructor (prior to class time).

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### **Upcoming Dates**

Mar 6: Culminating PBL Events – Grade 9 and 10

Mar 6-7: 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)

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Dr. Tony Donen

Principal