

May 12, 2023 - STEM School Info 05/12

Parents/Guardians,

This is our last weekly update of the 2022-23 school year. As we finish out the school year, we wish everyone a wonderful summer!

Principal's Note

Back in August 2012, we opened the doors to a new school in Hamilton County. Back then, we had no idea on the journey we would take in creating and shaping this wonderful place. Thank you for trusting us with your children in this process and having them become part of a group of people leading efforts in impacting schooling across our system, state, nationally and even internationally.

STEM School Chattanooga started as an idea about re-shaping education around STEM. The school has evolved every year and has been recognized at the state level for academic performance (the longest consecutive TN Reward high school in HCS), for STEM education nationally (one of two in the country for STEM digital fabrication education by MIT), and for innovative education (one of thirty school models in the world for school innovation by America Achieves). But even more importantly, the school was the impetus for changes in STEM education locally, statewide and nationally. As a platform school, the school has been used as a model for educators the past 10 years, and we have both shared and trained educators in STEM practices in the thousands. We have also impacted student experiences outside the walls of our schools in the hundreds of thousands.

I look forward to seeing the school continue to develop and share a new paradigm for world-class education with the world. Thank you for being part of that vision with me.

With love and sincerity, Dr. Tony Donen

Calendar Items

Weekly Calendar

May 15-19: Inertia/Dividend Days/Jubilee (9-10), Jubilee (11)

May 22-24: Inertia/Dividend Days (9-10)

Specific Important Dates

May 15 – Inertia and Dividend Day Begins for Grades 9, 10

May 16-17 – STEM Jubilee for Grades 9, 10, 11

May 17 – Last Day of School for Grade 11

May 18 – Graduation Ceremony

May 24 – Last Day of School for Grades 9, 10

June 5 – First Day of Summer School (Grades 9, 10 only)

June 29 – Last Day of Summer School

House Cup Final Competition – May 12

The final house competition takes place today! We wish all the houses the best as every house still has a chance to claim the coveted title of House Champion! Will it be the Staupers, Teslas, Einsteins, or Mirzakhani??? It has been a super fun year for competitions, and we thank everyone for the efforts and participation throughout the year.

STEM Jubilee – May 16 and 17

The STEM School will once again be hosting the STEM Jubilee this year for elementary schools in Hamilton County. The STEM Jubilee is a STEM-based activity that includes STEM activities, games and challenges at booths located throughout the event. The purpose of the STEM Jubilee is to engage Hamilton County elementary school students in a variety of STEM-related concepts through hands-on activities and to inspire STEM education. Over 3000 elementary students will participate over this two-day event.

Grade 9, 10 and 11 students will be participating in the STEM Jubilee. This is a required event for their participation. This opportunity models the vision for our school of positively impacting others outside the walls of our school. Our students will lead booths and activities for the 3000+ elementary students on these dates!

----**GRADE 11 IMPORTANT:** Students in grade 11 are required to participate in the Jubilee. If there is a conflict, students must connect with Mr. David. An alternate two-day community service requirement will be done in the summer at the STEM School for any grade 11 student who is not at the Jubilee. Jubilee participation or summer STEM community service will be required for returning senior year.

----**ARRIVAL TIME IMPORTANT – 8:30AM:** Students are to report to HPF building (where gym is located at Chattanooga State) by 8:30am. Grade 9 or 10 students that absolutely cannot arrive early are to communicate this with Mr. David. We need our STEM students here early because elementary students will be arriving each day before 9:00am for the jubilee activities.

----**PARENT VOLUNTEERS:** The STEM Jubilee is mostly run by our students, faculty and our partners. However, there are two opportunities for parent participation. One is helping with the hospitality station during lunch and the other is cleanup at the end of the jubilee. Please see this [link for parent volunteering signup](#).

Inertia Institute and Dividend Day Dates in Grades 9 and 10 – May 15 through May 24

Two activities will take place starting May 15 for students in grades 9 and 10 – Inertia Institute and Dividend Days.

Inertia Institute is required for students with learning target items unsatisfactorily done. Inertia is defined as an object remaining at rest until a force acts upon it. Consequently, once we complete the final ER week, all learning target grades that remain as either missing (0) or below basic (50) after May 12 will turn into Edgenuity units for the student to complete starting May 15. These Edgenuity units are required for successful completion in order for the student to earn course

credit. For students who continue to have Edgenuity work to complete after May 24, these students are REQUIRED to attend in person summer school (June 2023) in order to return to STEM in 2023-24.

Dividend Days are enrichment days for students in grade 9 and 10 with ALL learning targets at the basic, proficient and advanced status. Dividend days are unique each day. Different STEM teachers design each day, so depending on the teachers, the activities are wide-ranging. The activities are intended for students to have fun while also having students connect with each other. Activities may be inside, may be outside, may be neat or may be messy.

Graduation – May 18

Graduation is May 18, 5:30pm at Memorial Auditorium, with seniors arriving by 5:00pm and access no earlier than 4:30pm. We look forward to an awesome evening celebrating our Class of 2023!

---Security: Hamilton County Schools has decided that tickets will be used for all HCS graduations this year as a deterrent for unrelated persons at graduation ceremonies. Seniors may pick up their ticket allotment with Ms. Phifer (if they have not already). Tickets will not be required for young children. In addition, entry to graduation will only be through the front doors at Memorial Auditorium. Security personnel will be present, and all attendees will go through a brief security scan that will include passing through a magnetometer and/or security wand plus bag search. Please note that no weapons are allowed in the venue.

---Live Streaming: Live streaming will be available this year. You can follow this [link for the live stream](#) of our graduation ceremony.

---Parking: Meter parking is available on the surrounding streets of Memorial Auditorium. Meters are enforced until 6pm. Please note citations for parking in unlawful parking areas (bus zones, parking zones, yellow curb, double parking, no parking areas, handicap spaces, etc.) are enforceable 24 hours/7 days. The front of the building will be available for drop off for ADA or anyone needing accommodations.

Summer Re-Construction

The STEM School is having a makeover this summer in Phase 1 of the building. This portion of the building has been the same since we opened the doors in 2012. This June watch out! The makeover taking place will transform the first half of the building into an amazing futuristic educational setting. Get excited for next fall when you return and see the incredible upgrade!!!

Thank you for your support!

Dr. Tony Donen
Executive Principal

May 5, 2023 - STEM School Info 05/05

Parents/Guardians,

Hope you are having a marvelous May! Here are some items of note as we close the school year. Please note that we do have one parent volunteer opportunity where we still need some assistance.

---**PARENT VOLUNTEERS**: The STEM Jubilee is mostly run by our students, faculty and our partners. However, there are two opportunities for parent participation. One is helping with the hospitality station during lunch and the other is cleanup at the end of the jubilee. Please see this [link for parent volunteering signup](#).

Calendar Items

Weekly Calendar

May 8-12: Extended Remediation Week (9-12)

May 15-19: Inertia/Dividend Days/Jubilee (9-10), Jubilee (11)

May 22-24: Inertia/Dividend Days (9-10)

Specific Important Dates

May 8 – AP Calculus Exam

May 12 – Last Day for Final Work Submissions (due by 4:30pm)

May 12 – Last Day of School for Grade 12

May 12 – Final House Competition

May 15 – Inertia and Dividend Day Begins for Grades 9, 10

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ER (Extended Remediation) in Grades 9 through 12 – May 8 through May 12

At the end of each quarter this year, students have an opportunity to improve all learning target grades during ER Week. The May 8 through May 12 week is the final ER Week where 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 semester.

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. For this

Fabrication Days experience, these students will be working in the Global Center for Digital Innovation (GCDI) on STEM design challenges developed by college instructors.

For students in grades 11-12, this ER Week also has additional differences. When the student no longer has any ER work left to remediate, the student is not required to attend school this week. The student is completed with spring semester coursework (grade 11) or high school graduation requirements (grade 12)! An email has been sent to each student (and parent) 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).

----***GRADE 11 IMPORTANT***: If the student does not complete ALL learning targets to a satisfactory proficiency by the end of ER, the student will be assigned to RETAKE the entire course in grade 12. There is NO summer school opportunity for grade 11 students.

----***GRADE 12 IMPORTANT***: In order to participate in the graduation ceremony, ALL work for ALL courses must be satisfactorily completed by end of ER. Otherwise, the grade 12 student will NOT be participating in the graduation ceremony.

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Dr. Tony Donen
Executive Principal