Parents and Guardians,

We hope you had a wonderful holiday with your family. We are really excited to see our awesome STEM students as we kick start the 2nd semester! Here are a few items we would like to share with you as we begin January.

Inventanooga

The culminating 12th grade student STEM IV entrepreneurial competition is finally here. Next week 12th grade teams will present their STEM business pitches. On Wednesday all teams will participate in our preliminary round for their final STEM IV credit presentations. Judges will watch all the teams and select a small group for the showcase finals competition. The finals, which we have rebranded as Inventanooga, are open to the public and will be judged by business leaders from throughout Chattanooga. The Inventanooga showcase will take place in the Bond Auditorium on the Chattanooga State campus from 2:00pm-3:30pm on Thursday, January 9. You are welcome to attend. We cannot wait to see and hear from our students on their amazing ideas, see their work come to life, and find out which team is the 2019-20 Inventanooga champion!

STEM Parent Leadership Team Silent Auction Success

We want to send a huge shout out to our STEM Parent Leadership Team! Under the direction of our PLT Silent Auction co-chairs Tara Bennett and Julie Gersch, we have now topped over $10,000 raised from the silent auction items. Thank you to everyone who donated items, participated in the auction and the countless folks who took a few minutes to stop by the silent auction area during the STEM Showcase evening.

STEM Pamphlet

We are excited to share our new STEM pamphlet that showcases our school. This pamphlet has been under construction for approximately six months. The STEM Innovation Hub at the Public Education Foundation as part of the Tennessee STEM Innovation Network has led the efforts in creating this document. We hope you enjoy it as well! Printed copies are at the school. Here is a link to a digital version: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1C7ZSLzXwvkRyYd7NzssJZt1SpuiUCtYn/view?usp=sharing

[Link to STEM Pamphlet Copy 12-20-19.pdf]
UTC Engineering Internships

This past summer the Engineering Department at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga collaborated with STEM administration to create internship opportunities for STEM upperclassmen. This collaborative effort led to ten STEM School juniors and seniors connecting with senior engineering design teams for UTC engineering culminating undergraduate projects. Some of the engineering departments started earlier while others did not place our STEM students until late in the fall semester. At this time STEM students have participated on teams in either the electrical, chemical or mechanical engineering areas. We have been excited to test out this high school–college partnership and are thrilled about the possibilities of this partnership going forward to provide our students with opportunities to connect with the engineering work being done at UTC.

Chattanooga State Feedback

We are pleased to announce that semester grades from Chattanooga State have arrived and we can report out the success of our students. 88% of the grades were either an A or B, and 98% of the grades were passing. The best way I can describe the STEM students and their level of success in the college classes is by an email I received from a Humanities and Fine Arts professor at the college. The professor wrote, “It was an absolute joy teaching my college class that included STEM students. Please put future STEM students in my classes. I would love to have them any time.”

Website Highlight – Directory

Each month I will highlight a portion of the school website for you in these emails. We have a lot of information about our school that can be found at the link stemschool.hcde.org and this will provide the opportunity to emphasize a particular item for you.

This highlight is for the Directory. The Directory is the page on the website where you can view all the staff for the STEM School. If you need to reach out to a particular staff member, the Directory has email contact information for each person. You can also learn a little more about who is working with your student, as there are brief biographies on each teacher. To find this listing, you can simply click on the tab titled “Directory” on the homepage.

Upcoming Dates

- Monday, January 6: First day back for all students (9th-12th). This is a full day from 9:30am to 4:30pm.
- Thursday, January 9: Inventanooga
- Monday, January 20: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (no school)
- Tuesday, January 21: First day of 11th and 12th grade College/STEM schedule for spring semester.
Long Term Planning Dates

May 13 and 14 – STEM Jubilee
May 15 – Graduation Practice (9am at Tivoli)
May 16 – Graduation Ceremony (11:30am at Tivoli)

Thank you for your support!

Dr. Tony Donen
Principal