Parents and Guardians,

We have a lot of information to share with you regarding school. Many decisions were made this week by Hamilton County Schools and we have done our best to summarize them for you below. We hope this information will help as you plan going forward.

**Tornado Impact**

The STEM Parent Leadership Team sent out an email earlier today outlining opportunities to serve and donate toward the efforts of supporting families impacted by the East Hamilton tornadoes. Over 25% of our STEM students and families were impacted from loss of power to loss of home. Please take a look at the opportunities sent out in that earlier email.

As for those impacted, please know that we will continue to work with you and your student as needed. We have a list of students that were impacted, and those students were removed from weekly checkpoint items due today. Please note that supplies and donations are available at the Chattanooga School for Liberal Arts (CSLA) to support you and your family. If you need anything, please also contact Amy Robinson (robinson_amy@hcde.org) to let us know.

**School Closure for 19-20**

Tennessee public schools have been closed for in person schooling for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year. We will continue to work with students through virtual learning. Teachers will continue to post, provide feedback, and assist students in Google Classroom and Google Meet each week for the remainder of the school year. As decisions are finalized at central office on end of year closure items (like locker cleanout, calculator and Chromebook returns, final date for virtual learning), we will also communicate those with you as well.

**Grades**

Based on the Tennessee State Board of Education meeting on Thursday, April 9 and Hamilton County central office meetings this week, all Hamilton County high schools will implement a grade cutoff date of March 13. What that means for STEM students:

- All learning targets and PBLs that were assessed and due by **March 13** will be included in the student grade. Any learning targets introduced and assessed after March 13 will be a bonus that can only help a student grade.
- Teachers will be putting the word BONUS in front of any learning target or PBL in the gradebook for items that are past March 13. Students who submit work for these items can use these to boost their overall grade. Students who do not submit items or do not submit items done well, will be exempt for this item (will not count against the student).
- Reminder, all learning targets up to March 13 MUST BE at the level of basic (70), proficient (85) or advanced (100) for a student to earn course credit.
• **Students have until May 1** to submit any items to improve learning target grades to proficient (85) or advanced (100).

• **After May 1** for learning targets due by March 13 that are still missing (0) or below basic (50):
  
  o 9th and 10th Grade: Students must complete Edgenuity. When the Edgenuity is successfully finished, the learning target grade will become a basic (70). Students will have until the end of the school year to get support from teachers on these Edgenuity items.
  
  o 11th Grade: Students must complete assigned ER (Emergency Remediation). Successfully completed ER assignments will earn a grade of basic (70) and MUST be completed by May 15. Students unsuccessful will not earn course credit and must repeat the full course in 12th grade.
  
  o 12th Grade: Students must complete assigned ER (Emergency Remediation). Successfully completed ER assignments will earn a grade of basic (70) and MUST be completed by May 11. Students unsuccessful will not earn credit for the course. If the course is required for graduation, the senior will not earn a high school diploma.

**Dual Enrollment (College) Courses**

To comply with both the K-12 State Board of Education emergency rules for students in the Spring of 2020 and with individual higher education institution policies, Hamilton County Schools will be instituting the following for students in Dual Enrollment Courses (college classes).

• Students in dual enrollment courses received a mid-term grade from Chattanooga State near the end of March and will be receiving a final course grade in May.

• On the high school transcript, the student will receive the grade that is higher between the mid-term and final grade (can’t be lower than the mid-term grade). This will provide the same opportunity for these students to preserve their high school GPA as all other K-12 students.

• The student will still get the final grade only on their college transcript, which is the transcript that actually awards the college credit, not the high school transcript. So, if a student ultimately fails or withdraws from the college class, then that will reflect on their college transcript and determine if the student was awarded college credit. Final grades on the college transcript will dictate college credit AND dual enrollment scholarship eligibility (student must maintain a 2.75 college GPA or higher).

• Spring semester Chattanooga State college courses have been extended through May 8 this spring. Students with college courses are expected to continue to participate and communicate with their college instructors for their college classes.

**Graduation and Gala**
Unfortunately, both the graduation ceremony and the STEM Gala are canceled for their original dates. Hamilton County Schools is working on arranging graduation ceremonies at later dates this summer. Tentative dates, times and locations for graduation are as follows if CDC and Health Department guidelines change and we are able to gather together:
Option 1 – 11:30am on Saturday, June 27 at Tivoli
Option 2 – 5:00pm on Wednesday, July 29 at Memorial Auditorium

Please hold both tentative graduation ceremony dates in your calendar. Hamilton County central office will let us know if one of the above dates is finalized as we move along in the summer. As we learn more about the graduation ceremony decisions, we will let you know. We also currently have a team of STEM faculty and staff working on something special for our amazing seniors. We will be sharing more in the coming weeks!

Yearbook

The deadline to purchase the STEM 2019-20 Yearbook and personalize your pages has been extended to FRIDAY, MAY 1ST. Since we will not be at school for the rest of the year, STEM Yearbooks will not be distributed at STEM this spring. Here are some options for receiving your STEM Yearbook:

- TreeRing has offered to waive the shipping fee for already purchased books to be shipped to your home this summer rather than to the school. Future orders will have a fee of $2.99 to ship to home.
- In order for books to be shipped to your home, families will need to log on to their TreeRing account (www.treering.com) and add their home address for shipping. Go to "My Orders" and click on the order number to edit the shipping address.
- Otherwise, yearbooks will be shipped to the school and distributed to students when we return to school in August.

Please contact Mrs. Bolus at bolus.lisa@hcde.org with any questions.

Thank you for your support!

Dr. Tony Donen
Principal