Parents/Guardians,

We have experienced a tremendous first two weeks of school here at STEM. The students are AMAZING and we have truly enjoyed connecting back with everyone. As for upcoming items, here are some we wanted to share as the Chattanooga State campus becomes more active next week.

**Monday, August 26 – Fall Semester Begins**

The Chattanooga State Community College fall semester starts on Monday, August 26th. This is the same day that all 11th and 12th grade students will begin their fall academic schedule. Schedules for seniors and juniors will be arriving to parents via email for approval by Thursday morning this week. Parents of upperclassmen with questions about their student’s college/high school hybrid schedule should connect with our counselor, Ms. Millard (millard_anna@hcde.org).

The week of August 26th will also be a very busy week on campus. Please note that traffic will be heavy, as many college students will be convening on the campus at the same time. Please be patient and exercise caution as you travel in and out of campus. We highly suggest that anyone who is turning left onto Amnicola Hwy always use the main campus exit with the traffic light. For parents of students who drive, this week is also a good time to review the best way to enter and exit campus for your student. The traffic light at the main entrance is our recommended pattern for student drivers.

**Parent Leadership Team (PLT) Meeting**

The first Parent Leadership Team, or PLT, meeting took place Monday night this week. The following committees were adopted for this year and the below parents have chosen to lead each of these committees. We look forward to a tremendous year and as the year progresses, keep on the lookout for emails and information from these committees on varied ways to participate. The next PLT meeting will be on Monday, September 30th at 6:30pm. Parents interested in leading or learning more about the PLT are welcome to attend.

--PLT Meeting Facilitator: Cheryl Cambron  
--PLT Meeting Notetaker: Terrie Quering  
The PLT facilitator and notetaker lead the monthly meeting, facilitate discussion of the agenda items, and report out the meeting notes.

--STEM Jubilee Committee Co-Chairs: Denise Bell and Jerry Mondido  
The STEM Jubilee chairs coordinate parent involvement and sponsorship for the spring STEM Jubilee, the largest STEM education event in Tennessee with STEM activities for elementary school kids throughout the Chattanooga region.

--Silent Auction Committee Chair: Tara Bennett and Julie Gersch
The Silent Auction chair coordinates the silent auction fundraiser as part of the STEM School Showcase in December. This is the largest fundraising event organized by the Parent Leadership Team.

--Staff Appreciation Committee Chair: Nicki Murphy and Tracy Lowe
The Staff Appreciation chair coordinates monthly meals for faculty and staff, as well as works with Amy Robinson, front office administrative assistant, for other staff appreciation opportunities.

--National Honor Society Committee Chair: Lyn Potter
The NHS chair works with Anna Millard, our school counselor, in supporting the student National Honor Society club.

--Facebook Page Committee Chair: Cheryl Cambron
The Facebook Page chair coordinates the closed Facebook page for STEM parents only.

--Public Relations Committee Chair: Jennifer Crutchfield
The Public Relations chair coordinates STEM Jubilee marketing, general PR for the school and develops an online presence for the school.

**STEM Teacher Meet and Greet (Formerly Open House) – Monday, September 16 at 6:30pm**

Our STEM School Teacher Meet and Greet will take place on Monday, September 16th at 6:30pm. The Meet and Greet is an opportunity for all parents to learn more about your student’s teachers and opportunities. Please note that the evening will last about 1.5 hours and the House Committee (student heads of Houses) designs, organizes and runs the schedule for the evening.

It is very important for us to provide students with opportunities to lead. Teacher Meet and Greet is just one of many examples where students make decisions and choices that matter. Please note that whatever schedule the House Committee creates and implements, it will not be perfect. But the experience is designed to benefit parents and be an organizational learning experience for student leaders.

In order for you to plan appropriately, here is what you need to know. The House Committee expects parents to be here by 6:30pm. Parents will then be part of a schedule created by the House Committee for the next hour and a half to learn more about their student’s STEM daily experience.

**First House Competition**

The first House Competition for the year will take place on Friday, August 23rd. Students will compete in competitions to earn House Points and begin our yearlong House Championship. So far, Staupers has won the most House Championships winning the first two years. However,
Tesla dethroned Staupers last year and is the reigning champion. We are excited to see which House rules the 2019-20 school year!

**Website Highlight – STEM Houses**

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 STEM Houses. You can find information about the STEM Houses (Staupers, Tesla, Einstein and Mirzakani) in the “About Us” tab at the top of the homepage. Click on “STEM Houses” and you will learn about each House. We also HIGHLY ENCOURAGE you to figure out what House you would be in. This is a great way to engage in conversations with your student about their personality and tendencies, while also sharing your own. You can even find your Star Wars, Marvel, Disney Princess, and Harry Potter kindred spirits. Mine are Palpatine, Daredevil, Belle, and Draco. :-)

Thank you for your support!

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