Parents/Guardians:

As we head into a three-day weekend, here are items we wanted to share as the second semester gets in full swing.

**Chattanooga State Semester Begins**

Tuesday, January 21 is the first day of classes on the Chattanooga State campus. All 11th and 12th grade students will begin their high school/college schedules on this date as well. Parents who have questions about a schedule can contact Anna Millard (millard_anna@hcde.org) with any questions.

The start of a semester is also a very busy time on campus. Please keep that in mind as you enter and exit through the campus traffic.

**School Closings**

Please note that the STEM School is part of Hamilton County Schools and is closed for inclement weather when Hamilton County Schools is closed. However, upperclassmen that have Chattanooga State or UTC 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 [http://library.chattanoogastate.edu/studenttechsupport/tigeralert](http://library.chattanoogastate.edu/studenttechsupport/tigeralert).

As for 10th grade students who may have STEM lessons they lead this spring at elementary schools or 11th grade students who have PBL items with partners in the community, if Hamilton County Schools close, those activities are also cancelled. If there is a delay, those activities will still be on but the students will need to check to see if there is a change in start time due to a delay (they can check Google Classroom for a post).

**STEM III Projects**

11th grade students have already started their STEM III projects for the quarter. There are all sorts of varied projects this quarter for these PBLs. Projects include the Micronaut Project with the UTC Challenger Center, Tanzania STEM Program with Adilisha Child Youth Development in Tanzania, Lenticular Wall Display with Harrison Elementary School, Landslide Data Collection with UTC, Smart City Project with UTC and City of Chattanooga, STEM in Aquarium Industry with the Tennessee Aquarium, Community Learning Spaces for Tennessee with Eastman Foundation and UTC, Dog Mobility Cart, and Kindness Tree with Soddy Middle School.

For detailed information about each project, visit the FabLab – STEM III Page ([https://sites.google.com/hcde.org/fablabin](https://sites.google.com/hcde.org/fablabin)). So many wonderful opportunities this quarter for our juniors!

**Website Highlight – STEM III**
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 STEM III. This website is full of information on the STEM III PBLs that students complete in 11th grade. You can find information about kickoff and final presentation locations, unit plan, rubric for assessment, project details and many more pieces of information. To access this information, click “FabLab STEM III” link under the “About Us” tab. Enjoy what you find on this site. There is a wealth of information and awesome projects!!!

Upcoming Dates

- 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
- Wednesday, February 5: Half Day of Classes at STEM 9:30am-1:00pm (Chatt State classes in session all day)
- Monday, February 17: Presidents’ Day (no school at STEM, Chatt State classes in session)

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