Parents/Guardians:

February, here we come! What a great time of year as students are deep into their work both here and at the college. Below are some items we wanted to share:

**PBLs in 9th and 10th Grades**

9th grade students are in the middle of their Dynamics PBL unit. Students began by creating simple office supply Ping-Pong catapults and then analog cardboard catapults. Most teams have progressed into their TinkerCAD 3D digital models that will result in foam board laser cut models. Once successful with the foam board and laser, student teams will ultimately build their final catapult using MDF cut by the CNC Carvey. Student designs are coming together and we are excited for the culminating competition dynamics event on February 20.

10th grade students are also in the middle of their PBL where they are coding a video game in Scratch. The game components require students to complete a fully functional game that keeps track of time as sprites move through multiple screens and content question challenges to earn points. Ultimately, the games are being analyzed by Anchor Analytics, a consulting firm that works with companies on Six Sigma and lean manufacturing principles. Student teams began the unit working with Anchor Analytics where students experienced the lean manufacturing process and training Anchor Analytics uses with their own employees. Ultimately, Anchor Analytics will be assessing the games based on student understanding and use of lean manufacturing principles in the game design and player experience. We look forward to seeing all the great game designs as this PBL concludes in the beginning of March.

**Student Led Conferences – Feb 26 and 27**

Student Led Conferences will take place on February 26 and 27. Student Led Conferences in the spring are optional and parents can opt in to participate. However, for some students, the student led conference will be required and teachers will reach out to the parents of these students to arrange a conference time. The conference schedule and information for sign up is below.

**9th and 10th Grade Parents**
The student led conference will include your son/daughter, you, and a STEM faculty member at a designated time. Each conference will last approximately 20 minutes.
Please contact Glenda Pearson, pearson_g@hcde.org, to schedule an appointment time. The appointment times are as follows for 9th and 10th grades:
---Wednesday, February 26 – 8:00am, 8:20am, 8:40am, 9:00am
---Thursday, February 27 – 5:00pm, 5:20pm, 5:40pm, 6:00pm, 6:20pm, 6:40pm, 7:00pm, 7:20pm, 7:40pm

11th and 12th Grade Parents
The student led conference will include your son/daughter and you, and your son/daughter will take you from class to class. You can come anytime during the conference hours below. Teachers will be in each room as you move from one room to the next with the student leading the activity. No signup beforehand is needed.
---Wednesday, February 26 – 8:00am to 9:20am
---Thursday, February 27 – 5:00pm to 8:00pm

Rising 11th Grade Parent (and Student) Night – Mar 3

Parents of our current 10th grade students, mark your calendars! It is time to learn about the next phase of your student’s experience at STEM School Chattanooga. We will have an informational meeting for rising 11th graders on Tuesday, March 3, at 6:30pm in room HSC 1087 (Health Science Center) on the Chattanooga State campus. Please plan to attend with your student. We plan to answer your questions about 11th and 12th grades (we call Phase II) and get everyone excited about the next steps in your students STEM journey. The meeting will include an opportunity to meet the Phase II teacher team, learn about a day in the life of an 11th and 12th grade student, and begin the process of enrolling in Early College classes at Chattanooga State. You’ll definitely want to hear from Ms. Millard, our school counselor, and a representative from Chattanooga State about the dual enrollment and registration procedures. We look forward to seeing you that evening!

Teacher of the Year – Ken Kranz!!!

Congratulations to Ken Kranz, our Fab Lab STEM III teacher, for being selected as the 2019-20 STEM School Teacher of the Year! Mr. Kranz who has a Masters in Engineering and worked for years in the Air Force has been a great catalyst for our school in our STEM digital fabrication endeavors. He has also developed robust 11th grade business partnership experiences for our students that have been a favorite opportunity for many of our students. Congratulations to Mr. Kranz on this honor!

School Climate Survey
STEM School Chattanooga is conducting a survey about school climate and learning in school. The survey will help us create a safe and supportive school environment that promotes academic success. Schools have used this information to drive positive changes for student and staff culture. The survey is voluntary and anonymous. It includes questions about student relationships with teachers, school principals, and other students; school safety, bullying, and substance use; and school rules and the school environment.

This survey is sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Education. You can view the survey at [https://www.hcde.org/climatesurvey](https://www.hcde.org/climatesurvey). The survey will be administered to students online between February 14th and March 13th. The survey will take about 15 minutes to complete. Students who take the survey may skip any question they do not want to answer, or may stop taking the survey at any time. A teacher will be there to help answer questions. This survey is designed to protect your child’s privacy and students do not put their names on the survey. In the case that you do NOT want your student to participate in the survey, attached is a form to complete and return to the school requesting your student does NOT participate.

Parents are also encouraged to take part in this school climate survey as well. Parents have a different link to use that is [https://parentsurvey2020.questionpro.com](https://parentsurvey2020.questionpro.com). If you have any questions logging in and completing the survey, just let us know. The State of Tennessee Department of Education has developed this survey system. If you have questions regarding survey content or implementation, you may also contact Zachary Stone with the state department at zachary.stone@tn.gov.

**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 Blogs. This page on the website is full of short articles written by our amazing faculty member, Brittany Brockelbank. The blog posts attempt to answer some of the frequently asked questions about what goes on at the STEM School, innovative practices in education, and other thoughts by Ms. Brockelbank regarding policies and procedures that help or hinder student success. The STEM Blogs can be found under the “STEM Tours” tab on the homepage by clicking the link titled “STEM Blogs”.
Dates to Note

- 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)
- Monday, March 9 thru Friday, March 13: Chattanooga State Spring Break (STEM School classes are in session for 9th and 10th grades, Assigned remediation time for select students in 11th and 12th grades; No classes for Chattanooga State college classes)
- Monday, March 16: Teacher Professional Development Day (No classes at STEM School; Chattanooga State classes are in session)
- Friday, April 3 thru Friday, April 10: STEM School Spring Break (Chattanooga State classes are in session)
- Wednesday and Thursday, May 13 and 14: STEM Jubilee
- Friday, May 15: Graduation Practice (9am at Tivoli)
- Saturday, May 16: Graduation Ceremony (11:30am at Tivoli)

Thank you for your support!

Dr. Tony Donen
Principal