Parents/Guardians:

Happy March! For the juniors and seniors the schedule is a little strange as we work through Chattanooga State and Hamilton County spring breaks. But no worries, information about schedules for our upperclassmen parents is included in the below as well as some general information for all.

Grand Challenges for Engineering

Our 9th and 10th grade students are beginning their Grand Challenge PBLs this week and next week. Information about the Grand Challenges can be found at [http://www.engineeringchallenges.org/challenges.aspx](http://www.engineeringchallenges.org/challenges.aspx). Universities have adopted the Grand Challenges across the world as focal points for 21st century impact in the areas of sustainability, health, security and joy of living. We have begun work in using the Grand Challenges to become the first Grand Challenge high school in the country. By doing so, we hope to provide our students with another avenue to separate themselves from peers across the country. For those interested in learning even more, here is a link to the Grand Challenge Scholars Program at Georgia Tech: [https://grandchallenges.gatech.edu](https://grandchallenges.gatech.edu), the type of program we want students to be prepared to enter and excel.

Robotics Team

Due to the participation and size of our robotics team, this year we have two faculty members leading the robotics team efforts – David Vanzant and Madison Lowry. The opportunities to compete have also expanded so students can build and participate in VEX robotics competitions or the FRC events. During this year of expansion, we have learned a lot about the different opportunities and are excited with the possibilities in both areas. We were also able to implement our 9th grade robotics unit such that all students participated in designing and building VEX IQ or EDR robots.

As the year winds down, we want to wish the FRC Robotics Team participants the very best as they compete in two regional competitions – Memphis Regionals starting March 18 and Huntsville Rocket City Regional starting April 1. If you have not already, you can also follow the robotics team on Twitter - @STEMpythons.

Phase II – 11th and 12th Grade Schedule

Each spring our upperclassmen have to navigate two different spring breaks – the Hamilton County School spring break and the Chattanooga State spring break. Several factors that impact an upperclassmen’s schedule during these breaks include the number of college classes the student is taking, the number of STEM School classes the student is taking, and how well the student is performing in their STEM School classes.

Calendar Breaks for 11th and 12th Grade Students
Monday, March 9 thru Friday, March 13: Chattanooga State Spring Break
No classes for Chattanooga State. Students behind on STEM School classes are assigned ER (remediation) time from 9:30am to 4:30pm each day. Parents and students are notified if ER is assigned. If ER is not assigned, students do not report to the STEM School.

Monday, March 16: Teacher Professional Development Day
No classes at the STEM School. However, all Chattanooga State classes are in session.

Friday, April 3 thru Friday, April 10: Hamilton County Spring Break
No classes at the STEM School. However, all Chattanooga State classes are in session.

Calendar Breaks for 9th and 10th Grade Students

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: Hamilton County Spring Break
No classes at STEM School. Chattanooga State classes are in session.

Thank you for your support!

Dr. Tony Donen
Principal