Parents/Guardians,

The campus is alive and busy! We are excited to have Chattanooga State up and running, as college classes have begun and the campus is full with activity. Our upperclassmen have also begun their fall academic schedules, so the school year is in full go mode. In that regards we have some items we wanted to share.

**Recognitions**

We are proud of our students and staff for their efforts in achieving the following honors and recognitions. We have a super staff and incredible student body, and they definitely deserve the accolades!

**Local – Top Ten Public High School in Chattanooga Area**

Niche.com has published a list of the top ten public high schools in the Chattanooga area. STEM School Chattanooga was ranked #3 and received an overall grade of A in the review. The school earned an A- in academics, an A in teacher information, A- in diversity, B+ in college prep, and A- for health and safety.

**State – Tennessee Reward School and ACT Composite TVAAS 5**

STEM School Chattanooga is once again a Tennessee Reward School for school performance. We are the only Hamilton County high school to earn this recognition for the past three consecutive years. In terms of student growth (referred to as TVAAS), which has also been reported in the news, you may have questions regarding STEM School Chattanooga growth scores. At our school, our focus has been on national ACT testing as opposed to state testing. Unfortunately, ACT TVAAS is not reported as part of the high school TVAAS score in the news. However, Tennessee does calculate and assign TVAAS to high schools for their ACT. The great news is that STEM School Chattanooga has received a TVAAS score of 5 (highest) for ACT composite value added the past two years. In fact, STEM School Chattanooga has been in the 92nd and 94th percentiles in Tennessee for ACT value added. This means that our students are outperforming expectations on the ACT far better than the vast majority of schools in Tennessee. Since most universities use the ACT in their college entrance selection process, we are proud to report that STEM School Chattanooga students continue to significantly exceed expectations on their ACT.

**National – Chosen as a Model for Reinventing Public Education**

The Center on Reinventing Public Education (CRPE) is one of the nation’s leading sources for transformative, evidence-based ideas to improve education. To ensure all students are prepared for a rapidly changing future, the CRPE puts forward rigorous research and policy analysis to help educators, policymakers, civic and community leaders, parents, and students themselves reimagine education systems and structures. CRPE identified 32 schools and programs from across the United States as models for reinventing public education. We are proud to share that STEM School Chattanooga was chosen as one of the 32 and has again been recognized nationally for our transformative work.
Monday, September 2 – Labor Day

There is no school this day. Both the STEM School and Chattanooga State will be closed. Enjoy the long weekend!

Wednesday, September 4 – STEM School Half Day

New to Hamilton County Schools this year are half days throughout the year. These half days have been added in to the Hamilton County School calendar to create extended planning time for teachers. The half days occur on the following dates this school year: Sept 4, Nov 13, Dec 18, Feb 5, and May 21.

For September 4 the STEM School student day will run from 9:30am to 1:00pm. Buses will run in the morning as normal and leave in the afternoon at 1:00pm. Please note that Chattanooga State is on a regular schedule that day and does NOT end early. STEM School students are expected to report to Chattanooga State classes as normal.

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

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.

Website Highlight – Parent Leadership Team

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 Parent Leadership Team. You can find meeting notes from the Parent Leadership Team meetings at this site. Notes for meetings are posted here for you to review. You can find the Parent Leadership Team site in the “For Parents” tab at the top of the homepage. Click on “Parent Leadership Team” and you will have access to the meeting notes posted! Also, for those interested in participating, our next Parent Leadership Team meeting is Monday, September 30 at 6:30pm.

Thank you for your support!

Dr. Tony Donen
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