Parents/Guardians,

Happy fall (Sept 23)! Here are some items we wanted to share with you as we finish September.

**Hamilton County Schools – Recognized as World Leader in Digital Fabrication Education**

On Wednesday this past week an announcement was made publicly regarding the STEM digital fabrication work throughout Hamilton County Schools. The announcement was featured on the front page of the Times Free Press with the center article titled “Top of the World – Hamilton County Becomes Global Leader in Fabrication Labs and Aims to Add More”.

We are incredibly proud of this accomplishment in our school district, as this effort is the direct result of the work by our teachers and students at STEM School Chattanooga. The first line of our mission statement reads, “To develop and share a new paradigm for world-class education....” The STEM digital fabrication efforts in the county were started, developed, shared and led by our school. Not only have these efforts now reached thousands of students, but these efforts established labs across Hamilton County that have been recognized by MIT’s Fab Foundation as the global leader in STEM digital fabrication education for K-12. We encourage you to take a look at the worldwide Fab Lab network map to view what is happening across the globe and what has taken place in Hamilton County: [https://www.fablabs.io/labs/map](https://www.fablabs.io/labs/map)

In the coming months we look forward to sharing an additional endeavor with you that will enhance this even more as we partner with Chattanooga State in building a new Fab Lab center in CETAS. The opportunities for our students and their impact are trending sharply upward!

**Website Highlight – Clubs**

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 our clubs and extra-curricular activities. Information on what clubs and extra-curricular activities can be found on the website by clicking the “For Students” tab and the link for “Clubs, Athletics and Extracurricular Organizations”. Many of these opportunities were presented to 9th and 10th grade students two weeks ago in Tech Time. Student representatives or faculty gave short presentations about their organization. Organizations also posted information in STEM General, which is a Google Classroom group that all students at STEM have access to and where school wide items are posted. Ask your student to show you STEM General and see all the different opportunities and information posted for students in this thread. We look forward to everyone taking advantage of the many club opportunities afforded to STEM students!
Healthy Limits on Video Games

Whether you are at a STEM school or a traditional school, a vast majority of adolescents play games using technology (from an Xbox to a phone). This social norm for adolescents is not abnormal. However, it can also be debilitating without understanding healthy limits. Here is a concise article that we would like to share with you as you monitor and discuss gaming with your student. It is written by a behavioral scientist and was published in the Oxford University Press. (P.S.- you may have to copy and paste the website address into your browser)


Fall Break

Please note that Fall Break is coming up soon. Items to note for students.

--STEM School: No school from October 5 through October 14. School will be closed during this time. First day back of classes is Tuesday, October 15.
--Chattanooga State: No school on October 14 and October 15. All other days the college classes are in session and STEM students are expected to attend their college classes.
--11th and 12th Grade Students Only: No school (STEM or Chattanooga State) on October 14 and 15. However, if a student is behind, the student may be assigned ER (Emergency Remediation) and must report all day on October 15. An email from the Phase II teachers will be sent in those situations.

Thank you for your support!

Dr. Tony Donen
Principal