

February 25, 2022 – STEM School Info 02/25

Parents/Guardians,

Happy Friday! Here are some calendar items of note as we head into March. Please be aware that we will not have an update email next Friday. The next update will take place on Friday, March 11.

COVID Update

Cases have been minimal!!! That's it. ☺

Benchmark Testing – Mar 2 and 3

Our last Hamilton County School benchmark testing dates will be on Wednesday, Mar 2 and Thursday, Mar 3. All students in English I, English II, Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II will be testing on these dates. After every benchmark, our teachers meet with other teachers from across our learning community to analyze the results. Based on this analysis, the teachers note areas for growth needed for our students. Please note that even though benchmark assessments are not a grade at STEM, they provide useful information on student progress and areas where students need additional instruction.

ER (Extended Remediation) Quarter 3 – Mar 7 to Mar 11

At the end of each quarter this year, students will have an opportunity to improve all learning target grades during ER Week. ER Week is a time that students can re-submit graded projects for higher levels of proficiency. Students can also re-take assessments to earn a higher level of proficiency. Higher levels of proficiency include grades of proficient (85) or advanced (100). For students who are struggling with reaching proficient (85), students will have an opportunity to work with teachers in focus groups to earn basic (70).

During ER Week, three items take place: student independent work time, workshops run by teachers where students choose to attend to get assistance or re-assess, and focus groups where students are assigned and required to work with a teacher. New work and assignments are not posted during this week. This week is set up as an opportunity for students to improve any learning target grade for the first semester.

For students in grades 9-10 (underclassmen) who have no missing and/or below basic learning targets, these students may continue to work in ER to improve their grades to advanced (100). Students will also have an enrichment opportunity for the week – Fabrication Days. These students will be working in the Global Center for Digital Innovation (GCDI) on STEM design challenges and micro-credentialing projects.

For students in grades 11-12 (upperclassmen), this ER Week also has additional differences. When an upperclassman no longer has any ER work left to remediate, the upperclassman is not required to attend school for the remainder of ER. An email will be sent to each grade 11 and 12 student (and parent) that is assigned mandatory ER. Please note that even if the student is not assigned mandatory ER, the student is still welcome to come in and participate to improve their learning target grade to advanced (100).

Chattanooga State Spring Break – Mar 7 to Mar 11

Chattanooga State Community College is also on spring break the week of March 7 through March 11. There are no Chattanooga State college courses during this week.

Rising Grade 11 Parent-Student Night – Mar 8

On Tuesday, March 8 at 6:30pm we will be hosting our Rising Grade 11 night for all 10th grade parents and students. The night will take place in HSC 1085 (the first-floor classroom auditorium in the Chattanooga State Health Science Building). All grade 10 parents are expected to attend as we will cover the significant changes that take place as students enter grades 11 and 12. The Chattanooga State Early College Director will be introducing dual enrollment items, including

important financial pieces. Our school counselor, Ms. Millard, will also explain dual enrollment and scheduling items. Our grade 11 and 12 teachers will introduce the team to you, and Dr. Donen will introduce a day in the life of an upperclassmen STEM student. Mark your calendars now!

ACT – Mar 15

All grade 11 students will complete an official ACT test on Tuesday, March 15. Grade 11 students will need to report to school no later than 9:15am that day. In order to provide the best testing situation, the grade 12 students will be participating in an enrichment opportunity that morning in CETAS. Normal grade 11 and 12 classes will re-convene after testing is completed at 1pm.

STEM Showcase – Mar 18

The STEM Showcase has been rescheduled for the evening of Friday, March 18 from 5:30pm to 7:00pm. This will be an in-person event. The STEM Showcase will feature student displays of work from grade 9 through grade 12. This is an excellent way to see the school and the work progression expected of students as they mature over four years. The showcase will include the CETAS, Wacker and STEM buildings. Guests will enter through the entrance to the GCDI in the main parking lot for CETAS. Guests will have an opportunity to see the GCDI (Global Center for Digital Innovation), see STEM IV Business Plans developed by seniors in the CETAS hallway, STEM III Community and Business Partnership Projects by juniors in Wacker, and varied project work by sophomores and freshmen in the STEM building. All students are expected to attend and participate that evening as part of their STEM School requirement. Expectation for parents and guests: walk the hallways and see what our students are doing!

STEM Gala – Apr 22

The STEM Gala is on! Yes, the STEM version of prom will take place this year after two years of being on hiatus. We are excited to announce that our location will be at the Waterhouse Pavilion in Miller Plaza! Students in grades 11 and 12 may purchase tickets for the STEM Gala. Information

regarding ticket sales, theme and more is forthcoming from the STEM Gala Committee led by Ms. Parris.

Graduation – May 19

The Class of 2022 will be graduating on Thursday, May 19 at 7pm in Memorial Auditorium. We are super excited to have Memorial Auditorium as our location again this year. There is plenty of space so our graduates can invite as many people as they would like, and the weather does not impact the ceremony.

Email Updates – Posted on Website

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Thank you for your support!

Dr. Tony Donen

Principal

February 18, 2022 – STEM School Info 02/18

Parents/Guardians,

Happy Friday! Here are some items we wanted to share as we head into the weekend.

COVID Update

Our COVID-19 case count has dwindled considerably at this time. As a precautionary measure, please continue to monitor your student. Talk with your student each day about how they are feeling. In particular, find out if your student is having any symptoms that are COVID-19 related: fever or chills, shortness of breath, uncommon fatigue, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.

FIRST STEP: If your student is having symptoms, please keep them home and get them tested for COVID-19 before sending them to school.

NEXT STEP: If your student is having symptoms, please contact our school nurse, Lara Scruggs at 423-531-6270 or scruggs_larisa@hcde.org, to discuss the symptoms prior to sending your student to school.

College Fair – Feb 23

We will be hosting a College Fair for students from 1pm to 3pm on Wednesday, February 23. The fair will take place in our Commons and will be filled with representatives from colleges and universities across our region. Some of the schools include UTK, UTC, TN Tech, MTSU, UAB, UA, plus 21 more!

The fair is open to all grade 11 and 12 students for the entire timeframe. We will also have grade 9 and 10 students rotate through the fair to begin learning about colleges, expectations, programs offered and find out general information about varied schools. If you have questions regarding the College Fair, please connect with Jennifer Parris (parris_jennifer@hcde.org), our College and Career Access Counselor.

Ms. Parris also puts out newsletters for Juniors and Seniors with information related to post-secondary opportunities. Check out the latest [Junior Newsletter](#).

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Dr. Tony Donen

Principal

February 11, 2022 – STEM School Info 02/11

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Happy Friday! Here are some items we wanted to share as we head into the weekend.

COVID Update

Though cases have slowed considerably at STEM, please continue to monitor your student. Talk with your student each day about how they are feeling. In particular, find out if your student is having any symptoms that are COVID-19 related: fever or chills, shortness of breath, uncommon fatigue, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.

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National Honor Society Induction Ceremony – Feb 15

The National Honor Society Induction Ceremony at Chattanooga State is officially on for the night of February 15. We have two new member classes of inductees, 2020 and 2021; and the ceremony will begin at 6:30pm in the Bond Auditorium at Chattanooga State. Ms. Millard is the sponsor organizing the event and has sent email invitations AND paper invitations to inductees. We look forward to recognizing the academic efforts of these students. If you have questions regarding the induction ceremony, please connect with Anna Millard (millard_anna@hcde.org).

National Honor Society candidates are eligible after their freshman year with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. The National Honor Society creates enthusiasm for scholarship, stimulates a desire to render service, promotes leadership and develops character.

College Fair – Feb 23

We will be hosting a College Fair for students from 1pm to 3pm on Wednesday, February 23. The fair will take place in our Commons and will be filled with representatives from colleges and universities across our region. Some of the schools include UTK, UTC, TN Tech, MTSU, UAB, UA, plus 21 more!

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Golden Apple Award

Food City and News 12 Now are recognizing teachers in our region for the excellent work that takes place in their classrooms. The Golden Apple Award is another way to recognize, uplift, and report the good news story of teachers who excel at empowering students. If you or your student have a STEM teacher you would like to nominate, you can submit a nomination online at www.wdef.com/goldenapple. PS The nomination form asks for the Food City closest to the school, which would be the Food City located at 3600 Hixson Pike, Chattanooga, TN 37415.

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Thank you for your support!

Dr. Tony Donen

Principal

February 4, 2022 – STEM School Info 02/04

Parents/Guardians,

Hope your week has gone well. Ours, especially in terms of COVID cases, has!

COVID Update

You may have not noticed, but you received NO emails this week regarding new positive COVID cases at STEM. We also had for the first time since we returned in the second semester a day with all the teachers present. We are hopeful that this week is a sign that we are past the huge surge we experienced during the month of January. We certainly thank everyone's patience as we navigated through January and as we continue to navigate COVID-19 going forward.

Please continue to monitor your student. Talk with your student each day about how they are feeling. In particular, find out if your student is having any symptoms that are COVID-19 related: fever or chills, shortness of breath, uncommon fatigue, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.

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Silent Auction Success

Thank you again to our amazing STEM Parent Leadership Team and Silent Auction Committee. Julie Gersch, the PLT chairperson for the event, has let us know that we raised \$6,742 (\$17 more than last year whoop whoop)! If you are an auction winner and have yet to hear from the auction committee, feel free to reach out to Amy Robinson (robinson_amy@hcde.org) at STEM and she can make the connection for you. Thank you again to everyone who donated items/money, bought items, or both!

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School Culture and Diversity Committee

The School Culture and Diversity Committee students and faculty were finalized in January and met for the first time last week. They created procedures for their committee work and plan to meet twice a month. Based on the school culture survey administered to students in December, the committee reviewed what had already taken place with faculty. The faculty returned from winter break, completed a data analysis of the survey data, and split up into book study teams. All faculty are completing book studies this spring, have their books, and begin their study group times in February. The committee also brainstormed ideas for Black History month implementation. Two of the initiatives for Black History month the committee voted to implement include incorporating black history items into content for all courses and student led announcements celebrating black or African American leaders.

The School Culture and Diversity Committee is part of the senate focused on leading efforts to promote an inclusive learning environment for all students. The committee will work to address concerns, issues, and disparities that are identified and continue to work on improving processes implemented in the school. If you have concerns, you can email any of the following staff members participating in the committee meetings, and they will bring the concern to the committee's attention for review: Brittany Brockelbank (brockelbank_b@hcde.org), Tony Donen

(donen_t@hcde.org), Olivia Kane (kane_olivia@hcde.org), and Nicelle Price-Gray (price_nicelle@hcde.org).

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Principal