

March 25, 2022 – STEM School Info 03/25

Parents/Guardians,

Happy Friday! Here are some items of note for you upcoming.

STEM Showcase

Thank you to everyone who came to the STEM Showcase last week. The night was a great success as we were able to finally open our doors and provide you with an opportunity to see the school! We hope you were able to view the progression of work from grade 9 to grade 12, and get a sense of the STEM journey that each student takes along the way. If you have any feedback for us from the evening, please share as we want to hear from you on your experience and takeaways!

Morning Drop Off

Please note that the morning drop off area for students is in the main CETAS parking lot area. From 9:00am to 9:30am each morning, only buses and staff parking should proceed to the parking lot area near the front entrance to STEM. Please do not drive up to the front entrance area during the 9:00am to 9:30am timeframe. Thank you for following this safety procedure.

TN School Climate Survey

Hamilton County Schools values feedback from our families. We are working to ensure all of our students have a safe, supportive, and welcoming learning environment. We would very much appreciate your help by completing the short, annual survey sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Education. Your perceptions about our school will help us identify what we are doing well, and what we need to do better.

This survey is anonymous. No one will know which answers come from you, and it will not be possible to connect your answers to your child in any way.

The parent survey link can be found by [clicking survey link](#). Please make sure to select Hamilton County for the district and your child's correct school. If you have more than one child in this school, you may pick which one you want to think about when answering the questions.

We will also be conducting a voluntary survey with students. The survey 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 designed to be anonymous and your child will be asked not to provide their name or any identifying information.

Student Led Conferences – Spring

The spring Student Led Conferences will take place the week of March 28. Unlike fall conferences, the spring conferences are assigned for students with academic intervention needs. Teachers have been reaching out this week to parents for those students where conferences are required. However, all students and parents may request a conference time if desired. If you want to request a time, please email Amy Robinson, robinson_amy@hcde.org, and she will set up a time for you and your student.

Spring Break – April 11-15

There are no STEM School classes during the Hamilton County Schools spring break from April 11 through April 15. However, college classes are in session. Students with college classes are still expected to attend their Chattanooga State courses. Please note that no buses will run that week.

STEM Gala – Apr 22

The STEM Junior/Senior GALA will be held Friday, April 22 from 7-10pm at the Waterhouse Pavilion downtown on the corner of MLK Blvd and Market Street. The "Elegant Night in the City" will feature music and dancing, lots of outdoor space to relax and take a break from the dance floor, light hors d'oeuvres, a photo booth and the best time with your STEM friends! Students may

bring one guest from outside of STEM with an approved permission form. All students and guests will need a ticket. It will be a fantastic night you won't want to miss! Tickets may be purchased at [online tickets](#). Questions? Connect with Ms. Parris (parris_jennifer@hcde.org).

Email Updates – Posted on Website

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Thank you for your support!

Dr. Tony Donen
Principal

March 17, 2022 – STEM School Info 03/17

Parents/Guardians,

Happy March Madness (Go Hokies!) and STEM Showcase Friday! Here are some items of note for you. We hope to see you tonight!

STEM Showcase – Mar 18 (TONIGHT!!!)

The STEM Showcase is on for tonight 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 or Wacker 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!

Grand Challenges

Our 9th and 10th grade students have begun their Grand Challenge PBLs this week. Here is a **[link to information](#)** about the Grand Challenges, what they are, and why they exist. 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>**, the type of program we want students to be prepared to enter and excel.

Grade 9 Unit: Student teams will select one of the fourteen challenges to tackle at a deeper level. Students will complete activities that foster problem identification, introduce empathy thinking, create mappings for the impacts of the challenge (Grand Challenges) on various United Nations Sustainability Goals, and launch wicked problems. Ultimately teams will present an original Pecha Kucha presentation highlighting personal, local, national, and global problems for a specific Grand Challenge. Teams will also submit a team contract with attributes of team members, roles for each member, tasks and interventions, and a team progress report to be updated each week throughout the unit.

Grade 10 Unit: Student teams will select one of the fourteen challenges and define a problem the team will solve within the Grand Challenge. The team will use speculative design for solutions (propose alternative visions by eliminating current constraints). Ultimately teams will participate in

a Future Fair exhibition with presentation trifold to showcase their challenge, problem, speculative design solution and impact. Teams will also submit a team contract with roles for each member, tasks, interventions, and weekly reflection for improvement strategies.

We have also added a graduation recognition that students can earn over the four years at STEM for the Grand Challenges. The recognition is the Grand Challenges Scholar. In order to earn this recognition, the student must score Advanced on Grand Challenge PBLs in 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades showing expertise in one of the fourteen grand challenges for improving life on our planet in the 21st century.

Website Restructure

The [STEM School website](#) had a minor restructuring over the past two weeks. The main tabs have changed to make it easier to categorize all the varied items posted for the varied people who visit the site. You can better view items in STEM (like digital fabrication and facilities), curricular and program frameworks for the school, meet our staff, and access general information (like admissions, updates, budgetary items, and more). We hope this restructuring will make navigating the site easier and more aligned.

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Rule The Road Chattanooga – Mar 19

Rule the Road provides teen drivers with driving knowledge and skills beyond the standard driving education programs free of cost. Taught by certified emergency vehicle operators, this program offers instruction to teens ages 15-18 with varying levels of driving experience. By participating in Rule the Road, drivers are equipped with new skills to keep themselves and others safe behind the wheel. Check out the [Rule the Road flyer](#) for information on time, location and event details.

Teacher Professional Development Day – Mar 21

There are no STEM School classes on Monday, March 21. Staff will be participating in professional development and training that day. However, college classes are in session. Students with college classes are still expected to attend their Chattanooga State courses. Please note no buses will run that day.

STEM Gala – Apr 22

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Thank you for your support!

Dr. Tony Donen
Principal

March 11, 2022 – STEM School Info 03/11

Parents/Guardians,

It's Marvelous March time! Below are some items for you as we enjoy March. We are also getting excited to be together next Friday for the STEM Showcase!

Spring Spirit Wear

The spring order for STEM Spirit Wear is coming to a close this Sunday. This includes House t-shirts, as well as STEM School Chattanooga t-shirts, just in time for the warmer weather to start rolling in. Please note this will be the last opportunity to purchase these items for the remainder of the school year. Ordering is available online through our school website and the shortcut is [clickable here](#).

Senior Graduation Fee

The Class of 2022 will be graduating on Thursday, May 19 at 7pm in Memorial Auditorium. Senior Graduation Fee (due date extended): \$15 due Friday, March 25, 2022. This fee is used for

the graduation event, ie printing, ceremony set up, etc.. Students will need to pay their fee before graduation gowns can be picked up in April. Payment can be made online at this link: [STEM Graduation Fee](#) or you can write a check to STEM School Chattanooga and return to Mrs. Pearson. Please note the student's name and "Grad Fee" on checks.

Daylight Savings – Mar 13

Don't forget to set your clocks forward one hour this Sunday!

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 1:30pm.

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