

# October 29, 2021 – STEM School Info 10/29

Parents/Guardians,

Happy STEM Jam Night! It has been a wonderful Spirit Week at STEM, and we have thoroughly enjoyed seeing all the student creativity and excitement this week. Here are some items of note for you as we move forward into November.

## House Competition Results

What a great Wednesday House Competition this week! House Mirzakhani and House Einstein each earned 1100 points and tied for first for the Wednesday competition. House Staupers earned 900 points, while House Tesla came in with 800 points. Competition activities included Giant Jenga, Pumpkin Carving, Soccer, Pumpkin Launch and Scavenger Bone Hunt. After this competition, we have a new leader for the overall House Cup Competition... congrats to Einstein for moving in to first place! House Staupers may have lost their lead, but they are close behind in second, followed by House Mirzakhani and House Tesla. I have the feeling this year's competition is going to be very tight!

## STEM Jam Tonight – Oct 29

STEM Jam is STEM's version of hanging out and getting together for STEM students. Some schools host a school dance, we host STEM Jam! It is an opportunity for STEM students to play some games, eat some food, and win some prizes outside of the school day. This event will only happen once this year, so don't miss out tonight!

For those without tickets, don't worry! Tickets are also sold at the door. The cost to attend is \$10 per student. The STEM Jam will start at 6pm and end at 8pm. Only STEM students are allowed to attend. Since it is primarily an indoor event, students will also be expected to maintain the same mask procedures as during the school day. STEM Jam funds raised help support the Robotics Team.

Some of the highlights of the night: The Haunted Hallway designed and hosted by STEM students, featuring a few teachers sprinkled in. Also, a Super Smash Bros Ultimate Tournament in a bracket format and prizes to win!

## Remote and Asynchronous Day – Nov 10

Hamilton County Schools has three remote and asynchronous learning days in the school calendar. The second is on Wednesday, November 10. Students do NOT report to STEM School classes that day. Students should use that day as a work day to catch up on existing work assigned. Teachers will be using this day for planning and preparation purposes and will not be available. For students with college courses, please note that ALL college courses are still in session. However, there are no buses running that day so students with college classes will need to arrange their own transportation.

## College Visits – Nov 12 and Nov 19

Two upcoming college visits will take place in November for juniors and seniors. This is a great opportunity for students to visit two colleges in one day. Information detailing the sign-up process for the college visit opportunities (including field trip form submission and payment) have been sent out by Ms. Parris and posted in Canvas as well. For questions about procedures or more information about the trips, you may also contact Ms. Parris at [parris\\_jennifer@hcde.org](mailto:parris_jennifer@hcde.org).

Trip: Maryville College and University of Tennessee Knoxville

Date: Friday, Nov. 12  
Depart: 8:00am from STEM School  
Return: 5:15pm to STEM School  
Cost: \$42 per student - includes box lunch at Maryville  
Due Date: Nov. 5 - seats filled on a first-come, first-served basis which includes signed permission form and payment

Visiting: Middle Tennessee State University and Tennessee Tech University  
Date: Friday, Nov. 19  
Depart: 7:30am from STEM School  
Return: 7:00pm to STEM School  
Cost: \$42 per student - includes lunch at MTSU cafeteria  
Due Date: Nov. 5 - seats filled on a first-come, first-served basis which includes signed permission form and payment

### **Ride CARTA Free with Chattanooga State Campus ID**

Chattanooga State has reached a universal rideshare agreement with CARTA. All students, faculty, and staff can ride CARTA for free with a valid ChattState ID. This plan runs through August 31, 2022. The agreement is for all routes, not just the ChattState/Amnicola Route.

### **Student Led Conferences**

At the STEM School we do not have traditional Parent Teacher Conferences where the parent comes in and a teacher talks about all the things your child is doing. Instead, our conferences are focused on the student leading a conference with parents and faculty members. The reason for doing so is because it is vitally important for the student to take ownership in his/her progress, be able to communicate what he/she has learned, and be able to communicate at what level of understanding and mastery he/she is performing. We will have Student Led Conferences in November. More information will be forthcoming in next week's parent email.

### **Email Updates – Posted on Website**

These email updates are posted on the STEM School Chattanooga website by clicking the “Updates” tab. Not only will the current update be viewable, but you can look back through updates previously sent. We also share these updates in STEM General for the students in Canvas.

Thank you for your support!

Dr. Tony Donen  
Principal

## **October 22, 2021 – STEM School Info 10/22**

Parents/Guardians,

It's great to start our second quarter! As we do, here are some items we wanted to share.

### **Global Center for Digital Innovation Opens – It's Official!**

That's right, it's official! The Global Center for Digital Innovation is open. We are excited to have this addition for Chattanooga State and Hamilton County Schools. We are even more excited that our STEM students will have access to this center throughout their STEM School experience. For upperclassmen (grades 11-12), the opportunities with the GCDI also include internship experiences. Students who have earned at least Journeyman status for STEM micro-credentials can apply for these internship opportunities. Not only are these opportunities to build STEM skills, but they are also a valuable resume addition for college admissions.

Check out the article in the Times Free Press about the [opening of the GCDI](#) and the [video of the grand opening!](#)

### **Spirit Week – Oct 25 through Oct 29**

Next week is STEM Spirit Week hosted by the House Committee. Each day has a dress up theme that students and staff are encouraged to participate in. Check out the days chosen this year by your House Heads!

-Monday:Parent Swap - Dress like a Mom or Dad, bring those white New Balances and jorts

-Tuesday:Pajama Day - ACTUAL PAJAMAS ONLY (Onesies, fleece or flannel tops and bottoms etc, must be school appropriate)

-Wednesday:House-Out-Head-to-toe in all House colors (Also, House Competition Day!)

-Thursday: Throwback-Dress like a blast from the past

-Friday: Costume Day- Wear your fave costume (Pro tip - use for STEM Jam costume competition Friday night)

Reminder: Each day's theme is optional for all students. Students who choose not to participate need to be in the normal STEM uniform.

### **STEM Jam – Oct 29**

STEM Jam is STEM's version of hanging out and getting together for STEM students. Some schools host a school dance, we host STEM Jam! It is an opportunity for STEM students to play some games, eat some food, and win some prizes outside of the school day. This event will only happen once this year, so don't miss out!

This year's STEM Jam will also include a Haunted Hallway. The Haunted Hallway is the STEM School version of a haunted house. It is designed and hosted by STEM students, featuring a few of your teachers sprinkled in... enter at your own risk. Mwahahaha.

The STEM Jam is also used to raise funds for our Robotics Team and House Committee. The cost to attend is \$10 per student. Tickets can be purchased from Ms. Condra during Phase 1 lunch, Mr. Vanzant in the afternoons, and at the door the night of the event. The STEM Jam will take place on Friday, October 29 from 6pm to 8pm. Only STEM students are allowed to attend. Since it is primarily an indoor event, students will also be expected to maintain the same mask procedures as during the school day.

What will STEM Jam feature? Music, Costume contest (prize to the winner), Raffle giveaways every 20 minutes, Pizza, Snacks, Drinks, =Super Smash Brothers Competition (prize to the winner), Cornhole, Haunted Hallway, Photo booth and A WHOLE LOT more.

Still have questions? Email Mr. Vanzant at [atvanzant\\_d@hcde.org](mailto:atvanzant_d@hcde.org)

### **Medication – From Nurse Scruggs, RN, BSN**

We are excited to tell you that, for the first time, our nurse has a few over-the-counter medications available in the School Health clinic. OTC medications available include:

- Acetaminophen (generic Tylenol)- both tablets and liquid
- Antibiotic ointment
- Antacid tablets (generic Tums)
- Diphenhydramine liquid (generic Benadryl)
- Glucose gel- for hypoglycemia
- In addition, you may supply other OTC medications (i.e. ibuprofen)

In order for students to be able to receive these OTC medications, parents will need to complete the following Google form: **OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICATION PERMISSION FORM**

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with our school nurse, Laura Scruggs, scruggs\_larisa@hcde.org

#### **Email Updates – Posted on Website**

These email updates are posted on the STEM School Chattanooga website by clicking the “Updates” tab. Not only will the current update be viewable, but you can look back through updates previously sent. We also share these updates in STEM General for the students in Canvas.

Thank you for your support!

Dr. Tony Donen

Principal

**October 8, 2021 – STEM School Info 10/08**

Parents/Guardians,

Thank you for a fantastic first quarter! As we head into the HCS fall break, please note the STEM School will be closed during fall break. Our next email update will also skip a Friday and return on Friday, October 22. Please see below for more information we wanted to share with you.

### **COVID Update**

As we see the COVID numbers continue to drop, Hamilton County Schools will continue to update their plan on what schools can and cannot do. For the immediate future, masks are still in place for staff and requested for students inside the STEM School building. In addition, masks are still mandated for both staff and students for indoor Chattanooga State buildings (like the GCDI) and for any field trips we take for PBLs (in particular, STEM III business partnership projects).

### **Grade 10 Hunter Museum Docent Night**

It was a great night at the Hunter Museum last night! Our grade 10 students set up their innovative digital fabricated and/or media art pieces in the Hunter's atrium. It was exciting to see and hear from the STEM students about their work outside the walls of the school. Thank you to all the parents, family members and friends who came out to support our students and the school!

Adera Causey, Hunter Museum Curator, had this to say about the partnership project - "We are very proud and honored to be a partner with the STEM School. This project is one of the highlights of our year. The depth of the student work and thinking is so impressive and WE learn something new each year!"

### **Grand Opening for Global Center for Digital Innovation – Oct 20**

We are incredibly excited to announce the official Grand Opening for the [Global Center for Digital Innovation](#) (GCDI)! At 1pm on Wednesday, October 20 on the front steps of the CETAS building, the Chattanooga State Community College President, Dr. Ashford, and the Hamilton County Schools Interim Superintendent, Dr. Towns, will be ushering in the official opening of the GCDI. As the nation's first K-14 Digital Fabrication Center, the GCDI is committed to serving the

greater Chattanooga community by facilitating ideation, creation, and production through maker-centered learning. The GCDI goal is to provide tools and processes in a safe, equitable, collaborative, and inspiring space to embolden a maker identity and ignite the STEM entrepreneurial spirit. Through digital and traditional fabrication, students and community makers can improve their own lives and the communities around them by turning their ideas into reality.

### **Move2Stand – Oct 22 (Grade 9)**

When we return from fall break, students in grade 9 will participate in an important culture building opportunity called Move2Stand. Move2Stand is an interactive training program of STARS that challenges students to examine their attitudes toward bullying. This one-day youth summit creates empathy and helps young leaders understand how bullying impacts school climate and communities. Since we have students that come from all over the county, this also provides a unique opportunity for freshmen to learn about each other and delve more into the grade 9 diversity focus for collaboration. If you have any questions and/or concerns about this opportunity, please reach out to our school counselor, Anna Millard, [millard\\_anna@hcde.org](mailto:millard_anna@hcde.org).

### **STEM 101 – Learning about Canvas, Powerschool and Grading**

On Monday, October 4, the STEM Administration hosted STEM 101 Night, which was a night for parents to begin their journey in learning about the grading process. During STEM 101, parents learned about Canvas, Powerschool, Grading, and ER (Extended Remediation Week). If you were unable to make Monday night, no problem. We have posted a video recording of that presentation and everything you need for STEM 101 on the school website under the Parents tab and [STEM 101 webpage](#).

### **Fall Breaks**

Fall Break for Hamilton County Schools takes place from October 9 through October 18. Fall Break for Chattanooga State takes place from October 2 through October 10. These breaks impact our students as follows.

**STEM School Classes:** There are no STEM School classes during the Hamilton County Schools Fall Break. The STEM School will be closed during this time. The last STEM School class day for the first quarter will be Friday, October 8. STEM School classes will resume on Tuesday, October 19.

**Chattanooga State Classes:** There are no Chattanooga State college classes during the Chattanooga State Fall Break. The last Chattanooga State class day for the first term is Friday, October 1. Chattanooga State college classes will resume on Monday, October 11.

Students with college classes should make sure they know and understand the above break schedules. For example, if a STEM student has a Chattanooga State college course that meets on Tuesday each week, the student is expected to attend the college class on Tuesday, October 12 (even though the STEM School is closed on this date).

### **Email Updates – Posted on Website**

These email updates are posted on the STEM School Chattanooga website by clicking the “Updates” tab. Not only will the current update be viewable, but you can look back through updates previously sent. We also share these updates in STEM General for the students in Canvas.

Thank you for your support!

Dr. Tony Donen  
Principal

**October 1, 2021 – STEM School Info 10/01**



Parents/Guardians,

This first quarter is wrapping up quickly! Here are some items of note as we get closer to fall break.

### **COVID Update**

Chattanooga State has extended its mask mandate for their indoor spaces through December 31. Hamilton County Schools continues to provide the opt out mask option for students. Even though the HCS opt out mask option is in place for the STEM School inside space, we still request everyone to wear masks. We have been very fortunate this first quarter that COVID quarantines have only impacted a small percentage of our student body. 100% teacher vaccinations and many of our students getting vaccinated have certainly helped, as well as a high percent of students wearing masks. Thank you to everyone for their efforts to help mitigate the impact of COVID on our school.

### **House Competition**

As you may or may not be aware, all students (and staff) at STEM are sorted into one of four Houses. The Houses are Staupers, Tesla, Einstein, and Mirzakhani. We use the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator for our “sorting hat” to help with this sorting. Information about the Myers-Briggs and our Houses can be found on the school website in the [STEM Houses link](#). We encourage parents to also take the Myers-Briggs assessment so you can talk with your student about the different personalities in your family.

Along with sorting students, we also have a yearlong House Competition each school year. Last Friday we had a large competition across the school where each House competed against each other in volleyball, kickball, cornhole, musical chairs, and chalk design. After last week’s competition and from previous competition results, the current 2021-22 standings for House Points are: Staupers – 1900, Einstein – 1800, Mirzakhani – 1475, Tesla – 1325. Staupers are in the lead but there are still many points to win throughout the rest of the year. Good luck to all Houses as we continue forward!

### **Open House – Virtual Teacher Meet and Greet: Zoom Videos Posted**

The Open House – Virtual Teacher Meet and Greet Zoom videos are posted online for you. If you were unable to attend the live event, want to hear from one of our world-class educators, or need to see a presentation from a different grade level, the videos are available to you. The videos for grade 9, grade 10 and grades 11/12 are posted on the school website for viewing in the “About Us” tab – titled “[Open House – Virtual Teacher Meet and Greet](#)”.

### **STEM 101 – Learn about Canvas, Powerschool and Grading – Oct 4**

On Monday, October 4 at 6:30pm, the STEM Administration will be hosting STEM 101 Night, which will be a night for parents to begin their journey in learning about the grading process. During STEM 101, parents will learn about Canvas, Powerschool, Grading, and ER (Extended Remediation Week). If you are unable to make Monday night, no problem. We have posted everything you need for STEM 101 on the school website as well.

STEM 101 Activities:

Posted Activities for STEM 101 on the school website – [STEM 101 Learning Tasks](#)

STEM 101 Monday Night Info:

[Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 944 1834 5662

Passcode: 098890

IMPORTANT NOTE for STEM 101: Though STEM 101 is for our parents, please participate with your student. Your student has user ids and passwords for many items involved in his/her school management – Chromebook, Canvas, ClassLinks, Powerschool, etc.. Having your student with you for STEM 101 can assist with your access and efficient learning of these systems.

### **ER Week (Extended Remediation) – Oct 4 thru Oct 8**

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 quarter.

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 brand-new Global Center for Digital Innovation (GCDI) on STEM micro-credentialing projects.

For students in grades 11-12 (upperclassmen), ER Week also has an additional difference. 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 has already been 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).

### **Fall Breaks**

Fall Break for Hamilton County Schools takes place from October 9 through October 18. Fall Break for Chattanooga State takes place from October 2 through October 10. These breaks impact our students as follows.

STEM School Classes: There are no STEM School classes during the Hamilton County Schools Fall Break. The STEM School will be closed during this time. The last STEM School class day for the first quarter will be Friday, October 8. STEM School classes will resume on Tuesday, October 19.

Chattanooga State Classes: There are no Chattanooga State college classes during the Chattanooga State Fall Break. The last Chattanooga State class day for the first term is Friday, October 1. Chattanooga State college classes will resume on Monday, October 11.

Students with college classes should make sure they know and understand the above break schedules. For example, if a STEM student has a Chattanooga State college course that meets on Tuesday each week, the student is expected to attend the college class on Tuesday, October 12 (even though the STEM School is closed on this date).

#### **Email Updates – Posted on Website**

These email updates are posted on the STEM School Chattanooga website by clicking the “Updates” tab. Not only will the current update be viewable, but you can look back through updates previously sent. We also share these updates in STEM General for the students in Canvas.

Thank you for your support!

Dr. Tony Donen  
Principal