

# December 9, 2022 - STEM School Info 12/09

Parents/Guardians,

One week and then winter holiday break! Please see below on some items of note as we conclude the first semester. This will also be our last Friday email until we return from the holiday break. Have a fantastic holiday with your family!

## End Dates and Start Dates for Fall and Spring Semester

Dec 16: Last Day Prior to Winter Break (Full Day)

--Grade 9 and 10 students participate in ER (extended remediation time) or Dividend Day (enrichment activities)

--Grade 11 and 12 students report to school that only need ER (extended remediation time)

Jan 4: First Day of Spring Semester (Full Day)

--Grade 9 and 10 students start spring semester schedule and classes

--Grade 11 and 12 students report back for full day. These students will participate in UP Day activities from Jan 4 through Jan 13 each day. These activities range from college readying lessons, enrichment activities, and STEM academic coursework.

Jan 17: First Day of Upperclassmen Academic Schedule

--Grade 11 and 12 students begin their academic hybrid STEM and college course calendar. This is the first day of college classes for Chattanooga State.

## House Committee – STEM Merchandise

The Heads of House have extra STEM general merchandise for sale. There are select sizes available for long sleeve and short sleeve gray t-shirts. There are several gray beanies available as well. Students interested should see Ms. Jones in Phase 1 to purchase.

## **Inventanooga – Dec 12 and Dec 13**

On December 12, seniors will be pitching their innovative entrepreneurship businesses in the Health Science Center on the Chattanooga State campus. The students have been using design thinking to identify and network with a target audience, analyze their expressed needs, invent a solution, and pitch their invention. After identifying their real-world problem, they sought out expert knowledge to help ideate, invent, and test a solution with their prospective customers. Students then built a business plan to produce their product. We are excited to watch as all teams present their final pitches on this Monday!

On December 13, selected teams will participate in the Inventanooga Showcase event at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga. STEM School Chattanooga and UTC have partnered together to engage schools throughout the area in this competition. Here is link to information from a [UTC Press Release](#) about the event.

General information about Inventanooga, including previous competitions, are included on our school's website under the Framework > Programs > Inventanooga tab. Here is also a link straight to the [Inventanooga website](#).

## **PBL Culminating Events in Grades 9 and 10 – Dec 9 and Dec 12-15**

Grade 9 students are completing their cross-curricular PBL project on robotics today. The teams are competing in a culminating robotics tournament and we are excited to see each team in action as all grade 9 students participate in this robotics event!

Grade 10 teams are finalizing their Creative Discovery Museum math or science lessons for elementary students. During the week of Dec 12-15, we have 11 different elementary schools coming to the STEM School to participate in the lessons created by students in grade 10. We are excited to see our students implement and lead these awesome experiences with the elementary students!

## **ER Week – Dec 12 through Dec 16**

At the end of each quarter this year, students have an opportunity to improve all learning target grades during ER (Extended Remediation) 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 (80) or advanced (100). For students who are struggling with reaching proficient (80), students will have an opportunity to work with teachers in focus groups to earn basic (60).

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 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 through Thursday called Fabrication Days. These students will be working in the Global Center for Digital Innovation (GCDI) on design challenges. These design challenges provide students with opportunities to complete [STEM III](#) type projects in an abbreviated format and build upon their [STEM digital fabrication and micro-credentialing](#) portfolio.

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 copied) 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).

HCS district leadership is excited to invite students, staff, families, community members, business leaders, and elected officials to share in developing a vision for the future of Hamilton County Schools. The HCS next strategic plan will be most impactful if it is shaped by our students, families, educators, and community partners. Please provide your thoughts and ideas about the future vision for HCS using the Strategic Planning Community Survey. The survey is located on the [Hamilton County Schools Strategic Planning and Community Engagement website](#).

### **Upcoming Dates**

Dec 9: Culminating Grade 9 PBL Event

Dec 9, 12: Benchmark Testing

Dec 12-15: Grade 10 CDM Lessons with Elementary Schools

Dec 12-16: ER Week

Dec 12: STEM IV Inventanooga Presentations

Dec 13: Inventanooga Finalist Competition at UTC

Dec 16: Last Day of Fall Semester

Dec 17-Jan 3: Winter Break (No STEM School Classes)

Jan 4: First Day of Spring Semester

Jan 17: First Day of College Classes

Thank you for your support!

Dr. Tony Donen

Principal

## **December 2, 2022 - STEM School Info 12/02**

Parents/Guardians,

The semester is quickly winding down and we are getting close to the end of the fall semester. Here are several items of note as we finish strong this semester!

## **Inventanooga – Dec 12 and Dec 13**

On December 12, seniors will be pitching their innovative entrepreneurship businesses in the Health Science Center on the Chattanooga State campus. The students have been using design thinking to identify and network with a target audience, analyze their expressed needs, invent a solution, and pitch their invention. After identifying their real-world problem, they sought out expert knowledge to help ideate, invent, and test a solution with their prospective customers. Students then built a business plan to produce their product. We are excited to watch as all teams present their final pitches on this Monday!

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## **PBL Culminating Events in Grades 9 and 10 – Dec 9 and Dec 12-15**

Grade 9 students will complete the cross-curricular PBL project on robotics in the next week. The teams will compete in a culminating robotics tournament on Friday, Dec 9. We look forward to seeing each team in action as all grade 9 students participate in this robotics tournament!

Grade 10 teams are finalizing their Creative Discovery Museum math or science lessons for elementary students. During the week of Dec 12-15, we have 11 different elementary schools coming to the STEM School to participate in the lessons created by students in grade 10. We are excited to see our students implement and lead these awesome experiences with the elementary students!

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## **Hamilton County Schools Strategic Planning and Survey**

HCS district leadership is excited to invite students, staff, families, community members, business leaders, and elected officials to share in developing a vision for the future of Hamilton County Schools. The HCS next strategic plan will be most impactful if it is shaped by our students, families, educators, and community partners. Please provide your thoughts and ideas about the future vision for HCS using the Strategic Planning Community Survey. The survey is located on the [Hamilton County Schools Strategic Planning and Community Engagement website](#).

## **Global Center for Digital Innovation Internship Application**

The GCDI has been accepting internship applications from students in grades 11 and 12 this past week (online applications are due by Monday, Dec 5). Applicants will be invited via email to an interview scheduled next week. We are excited to have this opportunity for our upperclassmen as they can build on their STEM resume and learn valuable experience in this world leading facility. Students must be in good academic standing as well as a Master or Journeyman Fabricator to apply. Interns will complete several hours of training on safety, tools, and facilitation (times TBD) and then commit to at least 3 hours per week in the GCDI. Students apply through the [GCDI Intern Google Form Application](#).

## **School Choice Application (Important for Siblings)**

The applications for the Hamilton County School Choice period have been opened. The School Choice application period is from Nov 14 through Jan 31. For information on applying for School Choice seats and completing the application, please [click here](#). Students who currently attend the STEM School do not have to re-apply through the School Choice application for next year.

**IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING SIBLINGS:** If you have a child that does NOT currently attend STEM and you would like for them to do so next year, you will need to complete the School Choice application AND [HCS Sibling Form](#). The [HCS Sibling Form](#) must be returned to our front office by **Dec 9**. So, if you have a child that is in Grade 8 and you would like for them to attend next year,

fill the HCS Sibling Form out as soon as possible and return it to our front office. In addition, make sure to complete the School Choice application by Jan 31. These are mandatory steps in order for a student to be given sibling preference to enroll at the STEM School in 2023-24.

### **STEM Seniors - Yearbook Information and Final Senior Picture Day at STEM**

Prestige will be at STEM on Thursday, Dec 8 from 9am-1pm for a final portrait opportunity - the sitting fee is \$30. Seniors that still need to have their Senior Portraits taken should see Ms. Pearson to schedule an appointment for their Prestige Senior Portrait sitting in advance.

If your senior portraits were taken by Prestige (Lifetouch), we will receive the photo files from them automatically - no need to send them in! Seniors just need to go onto the Prestige online portal to choose their favorite pose for the yearbook. [Senior Photo Information Link](#)

If your senior portraits were taken by a photographer OTHER THAN PRESTIGE, please submit a digital version of your favorite Senior portrait to this [SENIOR GOOGLE FORM](#) or they can be emailed to [bolus\\_lisa@hede.org](mailto:bolus_lisa@hede.org).

Seniors can also submit their Baby Pictures, Senior Quotes, and favorite STEM memories to the [SENIOR GOOGLE FORM](#). Print baby pictures can also be dropped in the envelope outside Mrs. Bolus's classroom. ALL Senior pictures, baby pictures, and quotes are due by Friday, Jan 13 to Mrs. Bolus for the yearbook.

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Dr. Tony Donen

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