

October 28, 2022 – STEM School Info 10/28

Parents/Guardians,

Happy House Celebration Day! It's been a great spirit week at STEM and we are excited as the week culminates with a House Competition and STEM Jam this evening. Here are some items of note going forward.

STEM Jam Tonight – Oct 28

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 connect outside of the school day. This event happens each fall, so don't miss out!

This year's STEM Jam will also include a Haunted Hallway. The Haunted Hallway is the STEM School adaptation 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 for admission is \$10 per student. Tickets can still be purchased at the door for students who have not yet purchased tickets. The STEM Jam will take place from 5:30pm to 8pm. Only STEM students are allowed to attend.

IMPORTANT: The school day dismisses at 4:30pm for grade 9 and 10 students. Underclassmen students who decide to stay for the STEM Jam should not be wandering around the Chattanooga State campus. There will be activities they can participate in outside with the Heads of House or they may wait in the Commons at STEM until the STEM Jam begins. They should not be in the college building areas.

What will STEM Jam feature? Music, costume contest(with prize), pizza, snacks, drinks, Super Smash Brothers competition(\$5 competition entry fee), haunted hallway, and more!

Move2Stand – Nov 1 (Grade 9)

Next week, students in grade 9 will participate in an important culture building opportunity called Move2Stand. Move2Stand is an interactive training program of STARS (Students Taking A Right Stand) 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).

Student Led Conferences – Nov 7 and 10

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 a faculty member. 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 during the evenings of Monday, November 7 and Thursday, November 10. All parents and students are expected to participate.

To accommodate parents and students to make the conference as convenient as possible for you, all conferences will be held virtually through Zoom. **Each parent and student have been sent an email from their House faculty advisor inviting the parent to the SLC.** Parents will have the opportunity to email with the House faculty advisor to set up a time between 6pm and 8pm for the conference. The House faculty advisor will share a Zoom link with the parent and student for the meeting.

Dress Code and Student Handbook

As is the case each year, we have a lot of costumes and participation in spirit week dress up days. We certainly enjoy this experience with our students and staff. When we return next week though, we want to remind everyone that all students are to be in [STEM Dress Code](#) developed and created by the student senate. The senate meets every month with Dr. Donen to address changes, edits, ideas for improved school culture. If any changes to school handbook items are made (including dress code), they are updated immediately after a meeting and communicated in STEM General to students and staff. All [student handbook items](#) (intervention tables, dress code, handbook) can also be found on our school website (which always has the most up-to-date information for the handbook).

School Donations – Can We Accept Donations?

The STEM Parent Leadership Team and STEM administration have been working with Hamilton County Schools central office on donation policies for the county. STEM parents have approached the STEM PLT asking if they can donate money for items like Staff Appreciation meals. The HCS central office has made it clear that we cannot directly ask for monetary donations to the school from parents. So, we will not be asking parents for monetary donations. However, please note that the HCS central office also has stated that anyone can make a monetary donation. So, the short version is this... if an individual, business, organization chooses to contact our front office and give a monetary donation for a particular purpose, we can accept the donation and will provide the donating party with a receipt. For example, we recently received a check for \$100 from a local organization for STEM activities.

Upcoming Dates

Nov 7 and 10: Student Led Conferences

Nov 9: Half Day at STEM (9:30am-1:00pm)

Nov 23-25: Thanksgiving Break

Thank you for your support!

Dr. Tony Donen

Principal

October 21, 2022 – STEM School Info 10/21

Parents/Guardians,

Happy Fall Friday! Here are some notes as we get moving in quarter two of the school year.

House Committee Spirit Week, House Competition and STEM Jam – Oct 24-28

Next week is our fall spirit week designed and led by our House Committee. The House Committee is made up of our House Heads for each of the four houses – Staupers, Tesla, Einstein and Mirzakhani. This committee of student leaders works throughout the year in developing and implementing different items to support a positive school culture and create collaborative school activities. Next week they have several activities taking place.

School Spirit Days Oct 24-28

Students and staff can dress up on these days in the theme of the day. Costumes should be school appropriate. For students and staff who choose not to participate, they should follow the regular STEM dress code. We look forward to seeing the creativity of our everyone this upcoming week!

---Monday – Character Day (dress up in a character from a book, story, movie, show)

---Tuesday – Duos Day (find a partner or more and have the same theme)

---Wednesday – Meme Day (have a favorite meme, let's see it!)

---Thursday – Decades Day (anyone for the 80's? or whatever decade you like)

---Friday – House Out (represent your house in house attire and colors)

House Competition Oct 28

On Friday, students will compete in the second full school House Competition. Competitions will include giant Jenga, pumpkin carving, soccer, and scavenger hunt. It's time to earn some more house points as we move forward in figuring out which houses are vying for the House Championship this year!

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This year's STEM Jam will also include a Haunted Hallway. The Haunted Hallway is the STEM School adaptation 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 for admission is \$10 per student. Tickets can be purchased from Ms. Condra during Phase 1 lunch and at the door the night of the event. The STEM Jam will take place on Friday, October 28 from 5:30pm to 8pm. Only STEM students are allowed to attend.

IMPORTANT: The school day dismisses at 4:30pm for grade 9 and 10 students. Underclassmen students who decide to stay for the STEM Jam should not be wandering around the Chattanooga State campus. There will be activities they can participate in outside with the Heads of House or they may wait in the Commons at STEM until the STEM Jam begins. They should not be in the college building areas.

What will STEM Jam feature? Music, costume contest (with prize), pizza, snacks, drinks, Super Smash Brothers competition (\$5 competition entry fee), haunted hallway, and more!

From the STEM Parent Leadership Team: We are looking for parent donations to support the fun through food, drinks, and decorations that may be taking up space in your attic. You can find all of the sign ups through the following

link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4EA9A72AA0FAC43-stem1>

Still have questions? Email Ms. Jones at jones_mckenzie@hcde.org.

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To accommodate parents and students to make the conference as convenient as possible for you, all conferences will be held virtually through Zoom. **Each parent and student will be sent an email from their House faculty advisor inviting the parent to the SLC.** Parents will have the opportunity to email with the House faculty advisor to set up a time between 6pm and 8pm for the conference. The House faculty advisor will share a Zoom link with the parent and student for the meeting.

Parents and students are expected to participate in the SLC. The student will be sharing information during the SLC. If you do not see the email from your student's house faculty advisor by Wednesday, October 26, please let us know. We can help connect you.

Food City and Publix Partnerships

Food City and Publix have partnered with area educators to raise money for local schools. We would love for you to participate in these programs by simply linking your Food City ValuCard to STEM School Chattanooga and signing up for Club Publix. There is no better time than the present to link the STEM School to your card or account and raise money for our wonderful school.

Please click on [this link for instructions](#) on linking your ValuCard and signing up for Club Publix. Let the shopping begin!

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Upcoming Dates

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Nov 9: Half Day at STEM (9:30am-1:00pm)

Nov 23-25: Thanksgiving Break

Thank you for your support!

Dr. Tony Donen

Principal

October 7, 2022 – STEM School Info 10/07

Parents/Guardians,

Hard to believe, but the first quarter has ended! Thank you to everyone for a fabulous start to the school year!!! Please note that the STEM School will be closed next week, and staff will be on fall break. Emails, calls, etc. will be returned the week we return (Oct 17-21). The next STEM Info email will also take place on Oct 21.

STEM 101 and Math Night Information

Thank you to the many families who attended the STEM 101 and Math Night on Monday night. For those who were unable to attend or interested in learning more about STEM 101 and Math Homework items, we've got some good news. All the STEM 101 activities and information are on our website for you!

Everything parents did with their student is at the following link:[STEM 101 site](#). Here is also the worksheet that parents and students worked through together:[STEM 101 Worksheet](#).

If you have questions about any of the information, you are always welcome to contact our lead teacher in grades 9 and 10 – Ms. Condra (conda_erica@hcde.org).

Fall Break Information

Fall Break for Hamilton County Schools takes place from October 10 through October 17. Fall Break for Chattanooga State takes place from October 3 through October 7. 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 7. STEM School classes will resume on Tuesday, October 18.

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, September 30. Chattanooga State college classes will resume on Monday, October 10.

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 11 (even though the STEM School is closed on this date).

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Upcoming Dates

Oct 10-17: STEM School Fall Break

Oct 20: Grade 10 Docent Night at the Hunter Museum

Nov 7 and 10: Student Led Conferences – *more info to come*

Nov 9: Half Day at STEM (9:30am-1:00pm)

Nov 23-25: Thanksgiving Break

Thank you for your support!

Dr. Tony Donen

Principal