

# January 27, 2023 - STEM School Info 01/27

Parents/Guardians,

As we close out January, here are some items for you.

## **HCS Half Day – Feb 1**

Wednesday, February 1 is a half day for students in Hamilton County Schools. The STEM School will run classes from 9:30am to 12:30pm and have lunch available for students from 12:30pm to 1:00pm. Buses will run at the regular time in the morning and leave from STEM at 1:00pm for afternoon routes. **IMPORTANT NOTE:**Chattanooga State classes are on a normal schedule. Students with Chattanooga State classes are to report to their college classes as normal all day.

## **School Culture and Diversity Committee**

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 works to celebrate and recognize diversity in our school. The committee also works to address concerns, issues, and disparities that are identified and continue to work on improving processes implemented in the school.

Last year, the committee shared a survey with students to gain feedback on school diversity items. The committee will again provide students the opportunity to provide feedback through a survey in the beginning of February. Part of the process in our school is to iterate and get better. That takes place in the work we expect from students as well as the work we expect from our staff. The survey is an effort to get input from students on perceptions, realities, and concerns regarding school culture and racial concerns. The school Culture and Diversity Committee began this survey in the 2021-22 school year. This will be an annual survey to receive school input each year. Survey answers are anonymous. They will be shared with the Culture and Diversity Committee to be

evaluated. Ultimately, the input provided will help shape improvements we iterate. Please also note that the survey is requested from all students, but optional to participate in completing.

### **Silent Auction – Sponsored by the STEM Parent Leadership Team (info below from PLT)**

Starting Friday, March 10 at 8am, our week-long Virtual Silent Auction will be active online with nationwide bidding throughout the week. The auction ends on Friday, March 17. Because the auction raises funds to support STEM initiatives that all students benefit from, *we ask each and every STEM family to secure one auction-able donation in the form of gift certificates, merchandise, or professional services to be turned in to the school office by Thursday, March 2.* Thank you for your support!

- The Silent Auction Committee, Parent Leadership Team

### **4K STEM Microscopy Team – Applications Due Jan 31**

Calling all juniors! The application to be on the 4k Microscopy Team for the 23-24 school year is closing soon. Responses to the posed questions is crucial to move to the next round of the application process. [Click here](#) for the application. No applications will be accepted after the due date which is 11:59pm on Tuesday, Jan 31.

Students selected for the team become graduate assistants who work in collaboration with Mrs. Seigle, community partners, and other students and teachers in Hamilton County in the utilization of the 4K microscope that is housed at STEM School Chattanooga. These students are an integral part of the first-ever hub of the scaled microscopy project that was piloted with professors at the University of Southern California. Requirements of the position include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. attending organizational and/or training meetings in relation to the 4K microscope.
2. video teleconferencing with other teachers, students, and community partners.
3. preparing slides of various submitted samples.
4. collecting and sharing data using the 4K microscope.
5. cleaning and organizing the lab to maintain a cleanly work environment.

6. collaborating with other 4K grad assistants in relation to VTC scheduling, troubleshooting, data collection, etc..
7. consistently checking HCDE email, Google Classroom, text, and Google Calendar for project updates.
8. remaining up-to-date on class coursework at STEM and CSCC.
9. serving as a role model for other students at STEM and representing our school in a positive manner.
10. training the next cohort of junior 4K grad assistants next school year.

### **Math Lab and ELA Writing Labs**

Each week, we provide Math Lab time and ELA Writing Lab time before or after school. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to get assistance on items they have for English classes as well as support for math homework, practice and summative assessment preparation. The lab days and times are as follows. All students are welcome to participate. No prior appointment is necessary.

#### *ELA Writing Labs*

--Each Monday afternoon from 4:30pm to 6:00pm in Ms. Bolus' room

--Each Wednesday morning from 8:15am to 9:15am in Mr. Kubisak's room

#### *Math Labs*

--Each Tuesday AND Thursday mornings from 8:15am to 9:15am in a math classroom (Jaynes and Williamson)

### **School Closings – Inclement Weather**

Please note that the STEM School is part of Hamilton County Schools and is closed for inclement weather when Hamilton County Schools is closed. Hamilton County Schools district office will communicate with the parents and community regarding closures, late start and early dismissal situations.

As for the college, students that have Chattanooga State college courses are expected to attend their college courses if those campuses remain open. All upperclassmen should be on the TigerAlert system for Chattanooga State that will allow them to receive texts from Chattanooga State regarding any changes in their regular schedule of classes. Information on TigerAlert can be found at [this TigerAlert link](#) for setting up this service. Students with college classes and transportation issues due to inclement weather should correspond by email with their college instructor (prior to class time).

### **Upcoming Dates**

Feb 1: Half Day for STEM Classes (Chattanooga State Classes in Session – Full Day)

Feb 20: Presidents' Day - No STEM School Classes (Chatt State Classes in Session)

Mar 3: Culminating PBL Events – Grade 9 and 10

Mar 3, 6: Benchmark Testing

Mar 6-10: ER (Extended Remediation) Week

Mar 6-10: Chattanooga State Spring Break

Mar 13: Teacher Professional Development Day - No STEM School Classes (Chatt State Classes in Session)

Thank you for your support!

Dr. Tony Donen

Principal

## **January 20, 2023 - STEM School Info 01/20**

Parents/Guardians,

Happy mid-January! Here are some items of note for you.

**Silent Auction – Sponsored by the STEM Parent Leadership Team (info below from PLT)**

Hot off the press... our 5th annual STEM Showcase is set for Friday, March 17, combined with the finale of our fabulous Silent Auction! The STEM Showcase is where our students highlight their STEM projects and community-based learning activities, so please mark your calendar for 6pm and plan to come. At the 8pm conclusion of this exciting in-person event, our week-long Virtual Silent Auction will come to an end, allowing families with winning bids to take home their items.

Starting Friday, March 10 at 8am, our week-long Virtual Silent Auction will be active online with nationwide bidding throughout the week. When you come in person to the school on Friday, March 17 for the STEM Showcase, you can see the auction items up close and personal and place your final bids!

*Because the auction raises funds to support STEM initiatives that all students benefit from, we ask each and every STEM family to secure one auction-able donation in the form of gift certificates, merchandise, or professional services to be turned in to the school office by Thursday, March 2.*

If you (or a favorite business, or your own company) can donate a gift certificate, service, or merchandise to support STEM (or if you would like more information), please email inquiries and donations to Amy Robinson at [robinson\\_amy@hcde.org](mailto:robinson_amy@hcde.org). All donated items should be turned in to the school office as soon as feasible. Thank you for your support!

- The Silent Auction Committee, Parent Leadership Team

#### **4K STEM Microscopy Team – Applications Available**

Calling all juniors! We are excited to announce that the application to be on the 4k Microscopy Team for the 23-24 school year is active. Responses to the posed questions is crucial to move to the next round of the application process. [Click here](#) for the application. No applications will be accepted after the due date which is 11:59pm on Tuesday, Jan 31.

Students selected for the team become graduate assistants who work in collaboration with Mrs. Seigle, community partners, and other students and teachers in Hamilton County in the utilization of the 4K microscope that is housed at STEM School Chattanooga. These students are an integral part of the first-ever hub of the scaled microscopy project that was piloted with professors at the University of Southern California. Requirements of the position include, but are not limited to, the following:

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### **STEM General**

STEM General is the name of a course that all students are signed up for in Canvas. This course is used for announcements that are made for the entire school. Announcements are posted that are procedural and informational (about schedules, safety drills, clubs, etc.), but also that provide students with opportunities outside the school. We encourage parents to ask their students about STEM General posts. Here are quick summaries of just some of the posts that have been made these past two weeks about unique opportunities for students. For more information on each, go to STEM General.

### Student CADNet Internship Application with TVA

CADNet is a program that trains students in computer-aided drafting (CAD) while providing low-cost, quality services for TVA and other organizations. In addition to expanding educational and

career opportunities for students, CADNet is a training ground for tomorrow's workforce who will need advanced computer skills to compete in a highly competitive job market.

### 2023 Explorations in Engineering and Computing Summer Camp - Tennessee Tech

Tennessee Tech's College of Engineering would like to extend an invitation to rising 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students for the 2023 Exploration in Engineering and Computing Summer Camp. This is a 3-day summer camp to learn about engineering, computing, and engineering technology.

### United States Naval Academy Summer Programs

A flyer is posted detailing out the varied summer programs offered by the US Naval Academy this summer.

### UTK's PreCollege Programs

Information is posted on the following UTK pre-college programs: Virtual Science Club, Tennessee Junior Science & Humanities Symposium, Southern Appalachian Science & Engineering Fair, Tennessee Science Olympiad, and Tennessee Governor's School for the Sciences & Engineering (GSSE).

### Appalachian Entrepreneurship Academy Application

In partnership with Appalachian State University, EntreEd, and STEM West, ARC's Appalachian Entrepreneurship Academy (AEA) prepares the next generation of entrepreneurial leaders and thinkers. Chosen via a competitive application process, 26 high school students from across the Appalachian Region participate in experiential learning designed to cultivate creativity and develop essential entrepreneurial skills.

### Empower Your Future, A Free Forum for Young Women Highlighting Degrees and Careers in Finance and Economics

Participating students and teachers will learn more about degrees and career opportunities in Finance and Economics, get academic and career advice, learn about scholarships and have the chance to meet and learn from local female professionals who are building successful careers in



the fields of Finance and/or Economics. You'll also hear from UTC Finance and Economics students and learn more about the UTC Gary W. Rollins College of Business experience.

#### Student Engagement Council Application

Applications will open on January 9, 2023, for current 11th and 12th grade students to apply to join the Student Engagement Council. Engagement councils provide the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) with input, feedback, and recommendations on the implementation of Best for All and TDOE initiatives, and other topics. Engagement councils meet virtually once a month to collaborate with the department to move our state and its students forward.

#### **Upcoming Dates**

Feb 1: Half Day for STEM Classes (Chattanooga State Classes in Session – Full Day)

Feb 20: Presidents' Day - No STEM School Classes (Chattanooga State Classes in Session)

Thank you for your support!

Dr. Tony Donen

Principal

## **January 13, 2023 - STEM School Info 01/13**

Parents/Guardians,

As the college starts back up and we start all class schedules, here are a few items of note we wanted to share with you.

#### **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Monday, Jan 16**

Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday is a federal holiday that celebrates the civil rights leader's life and legacy. There will be no classes that day and the Chattanooga State campus will also be closed.

Here is a link to an [article in the Times Free Press](#) that provides a list of many of the events taking place in the Chattanooga area with opportunities to celebrate on Monday the life and legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr..

### **College Start Date – Grades 11 and 12 Schedule Start – Tuesday, Jan 17**

Grade 11 and 12 students begin their academic hybrid STEM and college course calendar on Tuesday, January 17. These schedules have been shared with each student in their online Google Calendar previously and parents have been sent an email today as well. Any students or parents with questions and/or concerns should contact Ms. Millard, millard\_anna@hcde.org, by the end of the day on Tuesday.

January 17 is the first day of college classes for Chattanooga State for the spring semester. To everyone, please note that the campus will be very busy next week as all the college students and instructors return for classes. Please be patient as traffic will significantly increase throughout the campus.

### **Math Lab and ELA Writing Labs**

Lab times have started back up this spring! This spring we are again hosting Math Lab time and ELA Writing Lab time each week before or after school. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to get assistance on items they have for English classes as well as support for math homework, practice and summative assessment preparation. The lab days and times are as follows. All students are welcome to participate. No prior appointment is necessary.

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## **Graduation Items for Seniors**

A representative from Balfour was on campus this past Tuesday to explain the ordering process to your senior for their graduation items. Cap, gown, tassel, diploma and diploma cover, as well as the purchase of class cords, Robotics cords, NHS cords, 4K cords, Honor stoles and Scholar stoles are ordered through Balfour. All students are eligible to order their house cord, while Robotics, 4K and NHS members can order their specific cords. Balfour will return on January 24 at 10:00am to pick up order forms and payments. Payments need to be PAID IN FULL at that time to Balfour.

Glenda Pearson is our graduation coordinator at STEM. If you have questions regarding graduation, please connect with Ms. Pearson at [pearson\\_g@hcde.org](mailto:pearson_g@hcde.org).

## **Upcoming Dates**

Jan 16: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (School Closed)

Jan 17: First Day of College Classes

Feb 1: Half Day for STEM Classes (Full Day Chattanooga State Classes)

Thank you for your support!

Dr. Tony Donen

Principal

# **January 6, 2023 - STEM School Info 01/06**

Parents/Guardians,

Happy 2023! Connecting back with our students has been wonderful this week. We are looking forward to a fabulous spring semester!

## **Spring Semester Start – Grades 11 and 12**

Grade 11 and 12 students report to school each day from 9:30am-4:30pm through January 13. These students will participate in enrichment and content activities during this timeframe. Enrichment activities this week for seniors included preparing for job interviews, updating resumes, and completing mock interviews. Here is a [link to one article](#), recently posted in December and shared with the seniors, highlighting the importance of this skill. Juniors, on the other hand, began an introduction to business pitches by choosing a Grand Challenge for Engineering, developing an idea and prototype for addressing a specific area of the challenge, and presenting an entrepreneurial style pitch for their prototype.

Grade 11 and 12 students begin their academic hybrid STEM and college course calendar on Tuesday, January 17. These schedules have been shared with each student in their online Google Calendar. January 17 is the first day of college classes for Chattanooga State for the spring semester.

## **PBL Kickoffs – Grades 9 and 10**

Grade 10 students kickoff their quarter long PBL unit in computer science applications on Monday. The STEM School has partnered with BlueCross BlueSky for this unit. BlueSky Tennessee Institute provides a unique opportunity for students to complete an accelerated bachelor's degree in Computing from ETSU in Chattanooga and earn a job in IS from BlueCross, all within 27 months. In this PBL unit grade 10 students are engaged in learning about digital fabrication and coding as they develop and create an arcade game using MIT's Scratch and a custom joystick using MakeyMakeys. The arcade game will include content questions from four core subject areas - mathematics, language arts, social studies, and science. Student coding experts, who developed a sample game and video tutorials, will act as the technical expertise for the coding portion of the PBL. The joystick will be digitally fabricated. Teachers will support students in facilitation of their teams as well as provide content expertise in one of the four subject areas. BlueSky will engage students and teachers in a kickoff event and act as the final judge for student products and presentations at

the end of the unit. The unit will conclude with teams presenting their Arcade game and control to BlueSky staff in a Shark Tank style pitch, showcasing games.

Grade 9 students kickoff their quarter long PBL unit in dynamics on Wednesday. The Unit 3 PBL on dynamics will introduce students to the essential concepts underlying the principles of two-dimensional dynamics in a gravitational field. Along with the study of dynamics, students will construct a medieval catapult or custom launching device and use qualitative data to analyze the two-dimensional motion of a projectile in Earth's gravitational field. Students will use digital fabrication in the final designs and document their process in the Catapult EDP Discussions. Students will then demonstrate their design process, final design, and functionality of the launching device in a Catapult Challenge Competition.

### **Graduation Items for Seniors**

A representative from Balfour will be on campus this Tuesday, January 10 at 9:30am to explain the ordering process to your senior for their graduation items. Cap, gown, tassel, diploma and diploma cover, as well as the purchase of class cords, Robotics cords, NHS cords, 4K cords, Honor stoles and Scholar stoles are ordered through Balfour. All students are eligible to order their house cord, while Robotics, 4K and NHS members can order their specific cords. We will notify your student before the Balfour meeting if they qualify for either an Honor or Scholar stole. Balfour will return on January 24 at 10:00am to pick up order forms and payments. Payments need to be PAID IN FULL at that time to Balfour.

Glenda Pearson is our graduation coordinator at STEM. If you have questions regarding graduation, please connect with Ms. Pearson at [pearson\\_g@hcde.org](mailto:pearson_g@hcde.org).

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Dr. Tony Donen

Principal