

STEM School Chattanooga

PLT Purpose: To lead the greater parent group (Parent Organization) in support of the STEM School through planning, overseeing, and implementing PLT initiatives

Thursday, October 21

Parent Leadership Team Meeting (6:30pm-7:30pm)

- Welcome
 - Cheryl Cambron – PLT Meeting Facilitator
 - Terrie Quering – PLT Meeting Notetaker

- Attendance: In Person
 - Tatiana Allen
 - Courtney Cochman
 - Chris Cochron
 - Jim David
 - Stephanie deOlloqui
 - David Doss
 - Julie Gersch
 - Shannon Gonzalez
 - Brandie King
 - Terrie Quering
 - Brian Sledge
 - Andrew Tudor
 - Kim Tudor
 - Michelle Turner

- Committees for 21-22:
 - **Staff Appreciation Committee:** Brings meals monthly to the teachers; can be responsible for additional materials/supplies throughout the year; the team organizes meals or supply lists, creates a sign-up, the list is emailed to all parents for participation.
 - **21-22 Team:** Marcia Gloekler, Becci Furr, Cheryl Cambron, Maria Morales, Kim Tudor, Brian Sledge, Britteny Ferguson, Melanie Blake Singer, Tisha Walker
 - Update:
 - The meal for October is soup, bread, dessert, & drinks
 - All volunteer slots are full except for 1 soup and 2 clean-up help.
 - **Silent Auction Committee:** The auction is either in person or online (last year); it raises money for materials that kids use throughout the year (digital printing materials, etc.); all the money is used at the school's discretion; the auction has raised \$8000+ in years past; normally takes place during STEM Showcase (December) but last year it took place in February; this school year's date is to be determined
 - **21-22 Chairperson:** Julie Gersch; **Team:** Cortney Cochran, Amy Blankenship, Stefanie deOlloqui, Janna Gillard; Marcia Gloekler; Terrie Quering; Brian Sledge; Shannon Gonzalez
 - Update:
 - Committee hasn't met yet since no info about in-person or online has been given since the learning community hasn't determined if the showcase can be in person or virtual this school year.
 - Will not be able to host an in-person STEM Showcase event in December. Committee can make plans to run a virtual silent auction in the spring (February or March).
 - It's time to start asking for donations since spring is auction time for schools in Chattanooga.
 - Stephanie deOlloqui's son (freshmen last year) asked for donations online (filling out online forms) to about 50 businesses asking to donate to his school. Stephanie

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is willing to show others how to get their kids asking for donations. This could be done in an organized way so the same places don't get asked repeatedly by STEM.

- Julie had feedback from a meeting with Marcia Gloekler and a fundraiser from a local private school. The suggestions are below:
 - Change the letter to be more brief
 - yes to reworking
 - Be more specific about what the money is going to be used for
 - the money is generally used for PBLs and that isn't very specific but examples of how it has been used in the past can be added
 - Advertising about the auction could be more public
 - on the Public Facebook page & twitter; Mr. David will look in to the possibility of paying for a facebook; STEM Partners could also promote the event
 - Possibly add a video the auction site to explain STEM but not to get the donations given to STEM
- **Learning Community Meetings:** Hamilton County Schools are divided into learning communities (STEM is in the North River community) the community is designed to gather information (for example additional communication or parent engagement) that the schools need from the parents of that area; the learning communities also share how things are done well at the schools in the community; this is similar to a focus group; STEM parents have brought a lot of value to these meetings; the commitment involves a monthly or every-other-month meeting at a school or via zoom; the meeting lasts one hour; the team tries to have at least one person present for each learning community meeting
 - **21-22 Team:** Ian Mitchell, Maddie Lowry, Karen Walker, Becci Furr
 - Update: No participants here from this committee. There has not been a learning community meeting since our last PLT meeting.
 - There will be one in before PLT meets again in December.
- **Parent Connect Committee:** This committee will be creating different ways for parents to connect, meet each other, and create opportunities to work together.
 - **21-22 Chairperson:** Tisha Walker
 - Update: from Marcia Gloekler
 - STEM = Sharing Time Encouraging Members
 - Parents of older students mentoring the parents of younger students.
 - Anyone who wants to participate can be a member.
 - Ways to connect: Zoom, social functions, etc.
 - They are suggesting Amy send a letter to all the parents asking if they'd like to join & Cheryl to add to the facebook page.
- **STEM Jam:** The STEM Jam is a social event for STEM students that includes multiple activities. It is held in the evening and only for STEM students. Parents assist by volunteering to chaperone and organize snacks, drinks and food.
 - **21-22 Chairperson:** Maddie Lowry
 - Update:
 - Maddie Lowery wasn't present since she recently gave birth. Congratulations to her!

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- The STEM Jam has video game tournaments, board games, haunted hallway, and limited dancing. It's a time for STEM kids to be kids.
 - Parents have been chaperones in the past.
 - The email with the sign-up genius for donations has gone out and almost all items have been signed-up for.
 - The cost is \$10 to attend. The money raised goes to the Robotics Team.
- **Facebook Internal Parent Page:** The Facebook page is for parents to share information; emails to parents are posted there; families will resell used (or unused) uniforms; carpool info is posted; it's a parent-support group; it is a private group; to join the group you must answer a security question; the current security question is "Who sends the majority of STEM emails to you?"; an email will go out soon with information for parents who want to join
 - **21-22 Chairperson:** Cheryl Cambron, Michelle Turner
 - Update:
 - Michelle Turner posted about the STEM Jam and Spirit Week.
 - The name of the Facebook group is **STEM School Parents**.
 - It's open for anyone on Facebook
- Committees for Spring (no updates currently):
 - **National Honor Society Committee:** One night job; the STEM counselor runs this event; members help coordinate the induction ceremony; the ceremony this year will include last year's inductees as well as this year's; it is usually in late October or early November; this year's date is not determined yet
 - **21-22 Team:** Tatiana Allen; Val deOlloqui
 - **Media Committee:** This committee will start in the spring semester. Start could include trying to update the video on the STEM School website about the school.
 - **21-22 Team:** Candice Thompson, Becci Furr, Shannon Gonzalez
 - Update:
 - The equipment has started to arrive.
 - Things should be ready in the spring.
- Next PLT Meeting
 - Thursday December 2, 2021 at 6:30