

Parents and Guardians,

What a week to be a STEM Python! Please read below about upcoming items and special congratulations to our STEM robotics team for an amazing honor.

STEM Robotics Team – Go Pythons!

This past weekend our very own STEM robotics team was honored with the Engineering Inspiration Award at the Huntsville Regional FIRST Robotics Competition. We are so proud of our STEM students for this accomplishment. Here are some items from our amazing team sponsor and FabLab guru, Mr. Kranz.

What is the Engineering Inspiration Award?

As stated on the FIRST website, this award “celebrates outstanding success in advancing respect and appreciation for engineering within a team’s school and community.”

Why were we selected for this award?

In describing our team, the judges cited our activities such as Robotics 101, Robot Reveal Night, and our many community events. This award is especially for teams that impact their students and community outside of the competition season. The guidelines for the award are as follows:

- Extent and inventiveness of the team’s efforts to recruit students to engineering with particular emphasis on the most recent year’s efforts. Measurable success of those efforts.
- Extent and effectiveness of the team’s community outreach efforts with particular emphasis on the most recent year’s efforts. Measurable success of those efforts.
- A commitment to science and technology education among the team, school, and community.
- Achievement of the FIRST mission and ability to communicate that at the competition and away from it.
- Efforts are ongoing, not strictly concentrated on the build and competition season.

What does this award include?

The team received a plaque and a trophy and each team member received a medal. As part of this award, the team receives an invitation to the FIRST World Championship in Houston, Texas, on April 21. NASA will also fund our registration fee for this event which costs \$5,000.

STEM Jubilee Update – May 16 and 17

As a reminder the STEM Jubilee is an event created by the STEM Parent Leadership Team and STEM School to provide STEM experiences for elementary age students. It is a carnival type atmosphere with booths for students to experience STEM activities. This year the STEM Jubilee was offered as a field trip opportunity for elementary schools in HCDE at Coolidge Park. Just this week, we have had to close off registration to the event because we have reached capacity. There will be approximately 3000 elementary students participating this year! Yes, 3000! The STEM PLT (Parent Leadership Team) has a STEM Jubilee committee led by Michelle Brock. One of the main pieces for the committee this year is gaining corporate sponsorships. If you would either like to assist or know of a contact for the committee to connect with a potential

sponsor, please email Amy Robinson and/or Tony Donen and they will connect you with Michelle.

State Testing – April 16 thru May 4

It is approaching that time of year when state testing in Tennessee will take place for public schools. The testing window this year is three weeks long. Please note that only two absences will be excused during this timeframe – medically excused absences and robotic team students attending the World Championships in Houston. Please make sure that your student is present and ready to go. The TN Department of Education has informed districts that the state test will be included in student final grades.

Testing schedule is as follows. Exact times each day will be posted for students.

Apr 17: US History Part 1

Apr 18: Eng I, II, III – Part 1

Apr 19: Eng I, II, III – Part 2, 3

Apr 20: Eng I, II, III – Part 4

Apr 24: Alg II – Part 1, 2

Apr 25: Alg II – Part 3

Apr 26: Geom – Part 1, 2

Apr 27: Geom – Part 3

May 1: Alg I – Part 1, 2

May 2: Alg I – Part 3, US History – Part 2, 3

May 3: Chem, Bio

Any STEM students that have a college class at the exact same time as a state test must let their college instructor know about the state testing ahead of time. Absences for state testing from a college class will be excused. But students will still be responsible for making up any work missed.

Upcoming Dates

--Friday, March 30 thru Friday, April 6: Spring Break for Hamilton County Schools (No classes at STEM School; Chattanooga State classes are in session)

--Saturday, April 14: STEM Gala at Hunter Museum of Art

--Saturday, May 20: Graduation at Tivoli Theater

Thank you for your support!

Dr. Tony Donen