

Parents/Guardians:

May is here and we are finalizing our work in the last few weeks of school. Thank you for an amazing year and your support. STEM graduating class #3 is about to head out into the world to positively impact those around them! Here are quite a few items we wanted to share with you as we complete May.

STEM Jubilee – May 16 and 17

The largest school based STEM activity that has ever happened in Chattanooga is fast approaching! We are excited to host the STEM Jubilee at Coolidge Park for over 3000 elementary students over two days. STEM School students participating in the event will be bringing home field trip forms to be signed. 10th grade students will be running booths they created, while 11th and 12th grade students will help with logistic duties. 9th grade students in Dividend Days will also have an opportunity to attend and help with booths and other activities. As for parent volunteer information and opportunities, that will be forthcoming from the STEM Parent Leadership Team. Please note that this is not open to the general public. Parents interested will need to participate through the Parent Leadership Team volunteer opportunity. We are super excited to spread STEM throughout our community!

Testing

State testing is almost over! We are finishing this week and appreciate everyone's patience. I know even my patience has been tested multiple times. Unfortunately, testing has become a norm in schools throughout our country and highly emphasized in Tennessee. Please know that we spend the majority of our year focused on learning and application of content, and try to minimize "test prep" time. Maybe in the future TN will have a less intrusive and more organized system.

Raptor – Sign In

There is a new visitor monitoring system being used throughout Hamilton County for every school. The system is made by Raptor Technologies and we have started using the system at the STEM School as well. The system helps screen visitors as well as keep records of people who enter our school. The purpose of the system is to take another step in ensuring our schools in HCDE are safe.

How will this impact you? You will mostly see the impact in the sign in/sign out procedures. The system REQUIRES a state issued ID (driver's license, state issued ID, passport, military ID). All parents, guardians, persons on the approved sign out list or visitors will need a valid ID to enter the building and/or pick up a student. Once the system has scanned an ID one time, however, it is recorded in the system and each time the person comes, the ID will already be in the system. The system will also run an instant check for any potential safety concerns each time the person comes to the school. We look forward to implementing this system going forward.

iPad Items

iPad condition: All iPads for 9th, 10th and 11th graders are to be in good condition by May 14th. Good condition means that the iPad is working properly and there is no impeding physical damage to the iPad (examples of items to be fixed: screens with broken glass, images are blurry, etc.). Scratches only need to be fixed if the scratches distort iPad images or change the effectiveness of the iPad. It is the responsibility of the parent and student to make sure this is the case by **May 14th**. For those students and parents who need to repair the iPad, Simply Mac in Hamilton Place Mall does iPad repairs.

iPad summer usage: iPads may be rented for student use in the summer for students returning to the STEM School for the 2018-2019 school year. There is a \$40 rental fee for using the iPad over the summer. The fee must be paid by May 22nd. Checks should be made out to STEM School Chattanooga.

Senior iPads: 12th grade student iPads are to be submitted to Mr. Otero by May 11th. If the iPad requires repair, there will be a \$79 fee. If the student has lost the iPad, there will be a \$225 fee to get a replacement. Hamilton County Schools has decided to use these iPads in special education settings for next year to support elementary students. We look forward to providing the devices for this endeavor.

Teacher and Staff Appreciation

National Teacher Appreciation Day is May 8. Dr. Donen and Mr. David have a special surprise for teachers on Friday morning this week. Please feel free to also thank any of your student's teachers throughout this month. We have a tremendous staff who really care for your students. Teacher appreciation, even if it is just a note, is a great time to recognize your student's teachers for their efforts.

Yearbooks

Yearbooks will be passed out soon and they are amazing!!! The Yearbook Team is working on logistics to pass them out to students. Students will really enjoy the tremendous efforts made by the Yearbook Team and the endless number of pictures included.

Calendar of Events

- May 4 – Final day for 9th and 10th grade students to submit any missing learning targets
- May 11 – Final day for 9th and 10th grade students to re-submit learning targets for proficient or advanced
- May 11 – Final day for 9th grade students to submit PBL items
- May 11 – Last day of school for 12th grade students
- May 14 – First day of Inertia Institute and Dividend Days for 9th and 10th grade students

May 18 – Last day of school for 11th grade students

May 18 – Graduation Practice (required of all seniors participating in graduation ceremony) – 11:30am at Tivoli

May 19 – Graduation Ceremony – 2:30pm at Tivoli

May 24 – Last day of school for 9th and 10th grade students

June 4 – First day of summer school for 9th and 10th grade students

June 11 – Report cards

Items of note regarding calendar of events above:

- Dividend Days are reward day activities for 9th and 10th grade students who have mastered all learning targets. Dividend Days run from May 14 to May 24.
- Inertia Institute is for 9th and 10th grade students who will be continuing to work in Edgenuity to show mastery of learning targets. Inertia Institute runs from May 14 to May 24.
- ER (Extra Remediation) may be assigned for an 11th or 12th grade student beyond the last day of school date listed above. Parent will be contacted by 11th-12th grade teacher team if that is the case.
- Summer School is for 9th and 10th grade students who have not mastered learning targets by May 22nd. Mr. Otero will be contacting parents of these students with details.
- Report cards may be picked up starting Monday, June 11th. We are happy to send a digital copy of the report card to you at that time. If you would like the report card to be sent to you by email, please let Amy Robinson know (robinson_amy@hcde.org).

Final Note

I would like to thank you for your patience and support throughout the year. If you are a Twitter follower, you know we believe that #stemkidsarethebestkids. We truly are fortunate to have awesome students, a fabulous staff, and the best parents. If I do not see you before the end of the year, have a wonderful summer.

Thank you for your support!

Dr. Tony Donen
Principal