

Parents,

The school year is officially in full gear. Chattanooga State classes began on Monday and the campus is full and vibrant. Now all we need is some fall weather (mild and beautiful days). Below are items of note we wanted to share.

The 1st House Competition

The 1st House Competition took place at the end of last week. The competition involved each house creating as many spaghetti and marshmallow only structures as possible. Each house had 29 minutes to accomplish the task and in the end, the total height of all structures were added together to figure out the house final total. The final results are below. As you can see, House Tesla (Rationalists) put together structures that practically totaled the height of the Eiffel Tower. Amazing!

--Tesla: 10,760 inches – Received 400 House Points

--Staupers: 3,744 inches – Received 300 House Points

--Mirzakhani: 3,532 inches – Received 200 House Points

--Einstein: 1,467 inches – Received 100 House Points

We will have a house competition each month on the day after the 9th and 10th grade Inertia Institute/Dividend Days. The House Committee will be creating the next competition. All competitions will have a different theme, different timeframe, and different scoring. However, we will keep track of the House Points throughout the year and award the first House Cup at the end of the year!

9th and 10th Grade PBLs

Our underclassmen have started in to their first large PBL (Project/Problem Based Learning) of the year. The 9th graders are working on a unit in Leadership and Collaboration. They are learning about themselves and each other, and will become experts in the 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens.

The 10th graders are kick starting their unit at the Hunter Museum of Art. They will be selecting art pieces to re-imagine into digital or 3D printed innovative works of art. I always can't wait to see their work when they act as docents later in the fall at the museum. The docent evening will be on Thursday, October 6th. All 10th grade parents should mark down that evening to be at the Hunter Museum and see their students work!

11th and 12th Grade Schedules

The 11th and 12th grade students have begun their college schedules. These schedules include a combination of STEM School classes, Virtual School classes, Chattanooga State classes, and/or

UTC classes. This process is doubly complicated as we do not create the STEM School master schedule until after the students are registered in the Chattanooga State and UTC classes. This allows us to make the best schedule possible that prioritizes the Chattanooga State and UTC classes.

To all of the 11th grade students and parents, I want to sincerely apologize for the mix-up in scheduling for this fall term with Chattanooga State. In the spring, I was under the impression that the rising 11th grade students had completed their dual enrollment grant information to receive funding for the fall classes. It turns out that was true. However, only students who also signed up for their fall classes through Chattanooga State's Tiger Web (student's online Chattanooga State account) prior to mid-June were set up to receive the grant funding at the beginning of the semester. All others will receive their grant funding, but not until later in the fall (most likely October or November). That means the students who did not go online to pick their courses through Tiger Web had to pay for their courses on the front end and wait for reimbursement.

Unfortunately, I was not aware of this scenario on the front end. What added to this issue was the fact that we did not have a counselor in place between the times that Ms. Miller moved to Texas in May and Ms. Millard began with us in August. I take responsibility for this error and we will have a process in place to make sure we have a much cleaner and clearer procedure this fall as the 11th grade students sign up for spring courses. We will also be revamping the spring information to include these pieces for next year's 11th grade group. I appreciate everyone's patience throughout this situation. If you continue to have questions or concerns, please contact me to discuss.

Dates of Note

Below are some dates of note for parents in the next two months:

--September 22 – Open House at 7pm

--October 18 – STEM 101 at 6:30pm

--October 24 thru 28 – STEM Spirit Week

--October 28 – STEM Jam from 5:30pm to 8:30pm

Here is some basic information on each item:

--Open House: Created, led and implemented by Student Council. A night for parents to find out more about each teacher's class and grade level information.

--STEM 101: Created in partnership with the Parent Orientation Committee from the PLT. A night for parents to learn about Google Classroom, Powerschool, Grading, and Technology.

--STEM Spirit Week: Created, led and implemented by Student Council. A week to celebrate STEM and implement school spirit activities.

--STEM Jam: Created and implemented in partnership by Student Council and the STEM Jam Committee from PLT. A social gathering for students that includes video games, haunted house, dancing, and other activities STEM students like to do.

Thank you for your support!

Dr. Tony Donen

Principal