

Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for a great start to the first quarter of the school year. We love our new students this year and have been amazed at the growth of our returning students. Again, we really need to thank you because we know that awesome students are a result of awesome parents! Here are a few updates we wanted to share:

### **Powerschool Accounts**

9th and 10th grade Powerschool letters for accessing student grades were distributed last week. Powerschool is the Hamilton County student management system that also provides students and parents access to student grades. If you are a returning student's parent and need to remember your Powerschool access information, you are always welcome to contact Amy Robinson and she will get that information to you.

For more information on the grading system, please check out the STEM School Chattanooga website. On the left side toolbar on the website, click on the link titled "Grading, Google Classroom and Powerschool". This will open a page describing different aspects of each.

For new parents (and returning parents who would like to attend), we will be hosting our STEM 101 night on October 18th. Powerschool and grading will be topics presented that evening.

### **Fall Break**

Fall Break is practically here! Please note the following information regarding Fall Break as it is different for 9th/10th and 11th/12th.

9th and 10th Grades: Fall Break begins this Friday, October 7th. Your last day of classes this week is Thursday, October 6th (which is a full day). Students will return to school on Monday, October 17th, which is also a full day. Enjoy your time with your family during this extended break!

11th and 12th Grades: All STEM School classes are on Fall Break just like the 9th and 10th grades. However, Chattanooga State ONLY has Fall Break on Monday and Tuesday, October 10th and 11th. All other dates are in session for Chattanooga State classes. These are college classes, so students are not excused from these classes just because they are also STEM School students. Students are expected to be at all of their college classes.

The STEM School office will also be closed the week of October 10th – 14th. If you need assistance, please check with us this week or connect back with us on Monday, October 17th.

### **2nd House Competition**

We held our 2nd House Competition in September and we had another great event. This event was designed and led by students on the House Committee. The event was a version of the three-legged race but it also included blindfolds and obstacles. My personal favorite part were the cheers created by each house. There is no lack of creativity among our students and faculty.

The house standings after two competitions had a significant change. House Staupers (the guardians) is now currently in first place. The Staupers are followed by House Mirzakhani (the artisans), then House Einstein (the idealists), and going from the top spot after the first competition to the back is House Tesla (the

rationalists). There is no doubt that the standings will continue to change and go back and forth throughout the year.

### **STEP-UP Chattanooga**

We wanted to congratulate three students for their work this summer with STEP-UP Chattanooga. STEP-UP Chattanooga is an initiative to provide opportunities for young people to intern at local companies. Last summer, the below three STEM students applied to participate in STEP-UP Chattanooga and were hired. We look forward to future opportunities that were opened by the work of these three:

- Hunter Goodwin (Lamp Post Properties)
- Lake Miller (Chattanooga Zoo)
- Patrick Swiecichowski (Asa Engineering and Consulting)

### **Dates of Note**

Reminder, below are some dates of note.

- October 18 – STEM 101 at 6:30pm
- October 24 thru 28 – STEM Spirit Week
- October 28 – STEM Jam from 5:30pm to 8:30pm
- Nov 1-3 – Student Led Conferences

-STEM 101: 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 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.

-Student Led Conferences: Conference meeting led by the student to discuss with parents and a teacher the student's grades, progress, and plans for success. More information about sign up times will be forthcoming.

Thank you for your support!

Dr. Tony Donen  
Principal