

Parents and Guardians,

We are excited to be back in school after Fall Break and to see our students with us again today. We cannot wait to get started on our next adventures! Below are items we wanted to share with you.

### **STEM 101**

STEM 101 is here! STEM 101 is a night designed to help parents learn about Google Classroom, Powerschool Grading, and Tech Safety. For those parents who plan to attend, you will need to bring the following with you:

1. iPad and iPad Password – yes, it's your turn to take the student iPad for the evening (don't forget that you will need the password to access the iPad)
2. Student Google Account Info – please bring your student's google email address and password
3. Powerschool Account info – please bring your Powerschool login and password
4. Earbuds (Headphones) – please bring headphones for yourself as we will have some short videos for you to watch

STEM 101 will start at 6:30pm on Tuesday, October 18. Come prepared to work and learn!

### **Student Led Conferences**

At the STEM School, we do not have traditional Parent Teacher Conferences where the parent comes in and a teacher talks about all the things your child is doing. Instead, our conferences are focused on the student leading a conference with parents and faculty members. The reason for doing so is because it is vitally important for the student to take ownership in their progress, be able to communicate what they have learned, and be able to communicate at what level of understanding/mastery they are performing. Because our conferences are student led, we will be having these conferences the first week of November. This will provide the students the opportunity to talk about their work from August thru October.

Important Note: If after the student led conference, you would like to come back on a different day and have a conference with a particular teacher or teachers, you can set that up through our front office.

Student Led Conferences will take place on the following dates and times. All parents are expected to participate.

#### 9th and 10th Grade Parents

The student led conference will include your son/daughter, you, and a STEM faculty member. Please contact Amy Robinson, [robinson\\_amy@hcde.org](mailto:robinson_amy@hcde.org), to reserve your 20 minute time slot. —Tuesday, November 1st: 8am, 8:20am, 8:40am, 9am

—Wednesday, November 2nd: 8am, 8:20am, 8:40am, 9am

—Thursday, November 3rd: 4:40pm, 5pm, 5:20pm, 5:40pm, 6pm, 6:20pm, 6:40pm

### 11th and 12th Grade Parents

The student led conference will include your son/daughter and you, and your son/daughter will take you from class to class. You can come anytime between 8am and 9:15am on Wednesday, November 2 OR between 4:40pm and 7:00pm on Thursday, November 3. Teachers will be in each room as you move from one room to the next with the student leading the activity. This is a required student led activity for all 11th and 12th grade students. You do not need to sign up prior to coming.

### **2nd Annual Haunted Hallway**

Message from Student Council and the PLT STEM Jam Committee:

The Student Council has requested help with getting supplies together for the 2nd Annual Haunted Hallway (at the STEM Jam on October 28th). The list includes makeup, clothing, and props they need to use / borrow. Check the list of needed items at [signup.com](http://signup.com) to see if you can help. The goal is to collect everything as soon as possible, but no later than 10/26. The link with all the information is <http://signup.com/go/9KFVPO>.

### **PBLs Upcoming**

9th grade students have just completed their unit on Energy where they attempted to create a Carnot Engine (which is technically impossible to make, but that didn't stop our 9th grade inventors). The 9th graders next challenge begins this next week as they start in to a unit on Dynamics. We look forward to watching as they build catapults for a Pumpkin Chucking.

10th grade students are finished with their innovative STEM art piece for the Hunter Museum and were tremendous in their docent work at the Hunter prior to Fall Break. The 10th graders will soon be starting into their next PBL in collaboration with the Creative Discovery Museum. Teams will be developing STEM lessons for elementary schools. This is a constant favorite PBL for students throughout their four years with us. When the 10th graders have an opportunity to actually work with elementary students in the spring, our 10th graders will experience just how much of an impact they can have in our community.

11th grade students are finished with their choice PBL from the first quarter. They are kicking off their 2nd quarter PBL choice this week. PBLs in this quarter include STEM School outdoor classroom build, WestRock merchandise display design, Komatsu 3D-printed demonstration model, Fillauer prosthetic design project, CodeScience open workspace design, EPB holiday windows display build, and the UTC cube satellite project.

12th grade students are continuing to hone their STEM business proposals. 12th grade students will compete in an entrepreneurial pitch competition in January. Student teams have defined a

problem, are developing solution ideas, and are creating prototypes for their products and/or services.

Have a great week. Thank you for your support!

Dr. Tony Donen  
Principal