

Parents and Guardians,

November... what a great time of the year. It is also that time of the year where we begin to have colder weather. This time of year brings out some similar conversations with students each year as well. One such popular conversation goes something like this: Student - "Its cold outside, do I have to walk across campus?" Me - "Yes... even if it rains." Here are some November items we wanted to share with you.

Recent Posts in STEM General

All students and staff are part of a Google Classroom class titled STEM General. Posts in STEM General represent school wide announcements and opportunities. Here is a sampling of what has been posted recently:

---STEM Climbing Team: Next meet is on Nov 12 from 2pm to 4pm at TN Bouldering Authority in St. Elmo.

---Student Election Survey: Student post providing students the opportunity to vote in a student poll for the president.

---University of Alabama-Huntsville and Alabama A&M Visit: Post by Ms. Kelle (College and Career Access Counselor) regarding a field trip opportunity to visit these two schools. Trip open to all 11th and 12th grade students.

---Step-Up Chattanooga: Post regarding the application for student paid internship opportunities in Chattanooga this upcoming summer.

---Chatt State Symphonic Band: Information on the Chattanooga State Symphonic Band, how to sign up, and details about the opportunity.

All of these posts took place within this past week. We encourage you to ask your son or daughter about items posted to STEM General each week.

Spring Semester - Chattanooga State Course Signup (11th and 12th Grades)

Chattanooga State Spring classes are available now. Please make sure that your 11th and 12th grade students have met or have scheduled their meeting with Mrs. Millard for Spring classes. [Advising appointments are available through a link in STEM Counseling, and will end on December 1st.](#) The priority deadline for the Dual Enrollment Grant is December 15th. All students must be registered and have applied for the grant by December 15th. Any questions on the signup process should be directed to Mrs. Millard at millard_anna@hcde.org.

Inertia Institute and Dividend Day (9th and 10th Grades)

Inertia Institute occurs each month starting in October and is required for 9th and 10th grade students with any scores of no mastery or below basic (scores that would prevent them from earning course credit). Students use the online program Edgenuity for the information, videos, and practice they need to raise all individual grades to a basic level of mastery.

Dividend Day occurs at the same time as Inertia Institute. 9th and 10th grade students who have all of their learning target grades at a basic, proficient, or advanced level can participate in Dividend Day. Dividend Day is an incentives program where students engage in enrichment opportunities and activities they want to do for the day. The Dividend Day in October included a game room, use of the Thinkspace, FabLab opportunities, and other opportunities. Students in Dividend Day are also allowed to be out of the STEM uniform and wear other appropriate clothing that day.

The second Inertia Institute and Dividend Day will take place on Monday, November 21. All learning target grades posted by Monday, November 7 are used for determining Inertia Institute and Dividend Day students. Any grades from November 7 and prior that are still either missing, incomplete, or below basic by Inertia Institute will result in Edgenuity work that must be completed in order to earn a score of basic in the gradebook. Once a student has earned the score of basic, a student can still seek out their teacher to remediate further and improve their score to a proficient or advanced. The opportunity to improve a learning target grade to proficient or advanced is in place up through April.

FYI... Why is it called Inertia Institute? Because inertia exemplifies the concept that an object at rest stays at rest unless a force acts upon it.

Young Innovator Winner

In the last email, we highlighted two STEM School seniors, Ellie Betts and Katie Stiffler, that were selected by the Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce as finalists for their Young Innovator award. Great news... the Young Innovator Winner for 2016 is Ellie Betts! Congrats to both students for their amazing work.

Thanksgiving Break Dates

Both the STEM School and Chattanooga State will be closed from Wednesday, November 23 thru Friday, November 25. We hope you have the opportunity to spend some quality time together this Thanksgiving with your son or daughter.

Have an excellent November. Thank you for your support!

Dr. Tony Donen
Principal