

Parents/Guardians,

Happy holiday season! We are heading into that tight window between Thanksgiving break and winter break with a lot to do. We look forward to working hard during this time and enjoying the process. Here are a couple of items we wanted to share as we finish up this first semester.

#### STEM Showcase - Dec 5

On Tuesday, December 5 we will be hosting our first annual STEM Showcase. The STEM Showcase will be an evening event from 6:30pm to 8:00pm in the STEM School and CETAS building. All students, 9th grade through 12th grade, will be showcasing a STEM workpiece for public display. The STEM Showcase will also include two other events. The first will be a silent auction fundraiser by the STEM Parent Leadership Team. The second will be promotional and informational booths for Chattanooga State Engineering and Information Technologies Division programs as well as University of Tennessee-Chattanooga programs.

All STEM students are expected to attend and will act as docents for their work during a 45 minute time slot that evening (either from 6:30pm-7:15pm or 7:15pm-8:00pm). Additionally, the STEM Showcase will be an interactive experience as parents and guests will be provided the opportunity to give brief written feedback on student work.

The STEM Showcase will be a large event and take over the entire CETAS building. 9th grade projects and the silent auction will be in Phase I of the STEM School, 10th grade projects will be in Phase II of the STEM School, 11th grade STEM III projects will be in the Wacker building, 12th grade entrepreneurial STEM IV businesses will be in the CETAS engineering hall, and Chattanooga State and UTC will be throughout the CETAS and Wacker building. We look forward to seeing everyone that evening and enjoying the showcase experience!

#### Bus Transportation

In the wake of the year remembrance for the tragic events of the Woodmore bus crash, we want you to know that improved bus transportation safety has been a focal point across HCDE. This also includes providing everyone with access to an online reporting system for bus concerns. You will notice on the STEM School website that a link has been added in the Quick Links section for Durham Bus Communication ([www.busreport.com](http://www.busreport.com)). Any complaints (or compliments) can be registered here online regarding HCDE buses.

#### End of Semester Dates

##### *9th and 10th Grades*

---**Tuesday, December 19th** – Last student day of fall semester. This is a half day (9:30am-1:00pm).

—**Monday, January 8th** – First student day of spring semester. This is a full day.

##### *11th and 12th Grades*

—**Friday, December 8th** – Last student day of fall semester for most 11th and 12th grade students.

—**Monday, December 11th thru Friday, December 15th** – These dates are for 11th and 12th grade students who have not finalized learning targets in a fall STEM School class. These students are REQUIRED to be here for Extended Remediation (ER) each day (9:30am-4:30pm).

—**Monday, January 8th thru Friday, January 12th** – All 11th and 12th grade students report to STEM School for our Upperclassmen STEM Community Development. Activities for students will run each day in the morning and afternoon with STEM School teachers. Students are to report at 9:30am on Monday, January 8th to meet with teachers, learn about the activity schedule, and choose their activities for participation.

---**Tuesday, January 16th** – First day of college and STEM schedule for spring semester.

Thank you for your support!

Dr. Tony Donen  
Principal