A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom

With conferences and Thanksgiving break it’s been a little while since our halls were full. Welcome back! Hope you all had some time to breathe and also think about all the things we have to be thankful for even in the midst of crazy times. If there were last minute scheduling conflicts that got in the way of a teacher conference, please reschedule. We want to connect with every family!

Some of you may be aware that the SPS transportation provider First Student and the Teamsters local representing drivers have been in ongoing negotiations. Please monitor SPS communications and think about alternative school transportation plans. If there are any labor actions school will continue on a regular schedule.

Middle School Math Pathway

Over the last six months STEM staff have invested significant planning and research into math instructional materials and the scope and sequence of math skills students learn. From the beginning our mission has valued challenge and preparing students to take advanced math courses in high school and beyond. Currently within Seattle Public Schools and nationally, completing Algebra by 8th grade is a common pathway to advanced mathematics in high school.

To support this aspect of STEM K-8’s vision we made important choices affecting our middle school. As a K-8 school, we are staffed to provide one primary sequence of math classes for students (students receiving Special Education services for math in middle school may follow a different course sequence). To complete Algebra 1 by the end of 8th grade, students who entered 6th grade in 2017 will follow the “Accelerated Traditional Pathway for the Common Core State Mathematics Standards” laid out in the Common Core Mathematics Standards.

This pathway, detailed in http://www.corestandards.org/assets/CCSSI_Mathematics_Appendix_A.pdf (pages 80-146) lays out an accelerated math curriculum covering 7th and 8th grade. This pathway does not omit any content or Common Core Standards; instead, it compacts three years’ worth of standards into two years. Students will learn seventh grade standards plus portions of 8th grade standards in 7th grade, and the remaining 8th grade standards plus Algebra 1 in their 8th grade year. The research behind this pathway and detailing of standards is laid out in the appendix referenced above.

A compacted math pathway entails a fast pace and a high level of academic rigor. With this understanding, we are providing multiple supports, including middle school Math Empowerment Pathway classes designed to provide students with additional opportunities to practice mathematical skills. It will also require a strong commitment from students and families. We are prioritizing preparation for advanced math, and students needing math support may have additional homework, need further support, or miss other opportunities. Choosing STEM K-8 as an option school is also making a significant math commitment. Parents interested in discussing our middle school math pathway are invited to join me for a discussion before school on Friday, December 15 from 8:15am-8:45am.

Ben Ostrom
STEM K-8 Principal
This Week is All for Books!

Today is the start of our week-long All for Books campaign. We’re raising money so teachers can build their classroom libraries during our Book Fair Blizzard (December 6, 7 & 8). The money we raise also helps readers beyond our school. Every year, Scholastic matches the All for Books money raised nationwide with a donation of up to one million books to the Kids in Need Foundation and Kids in Distressed Situations, Inc.

Monday November 27 - Penny Day
Tuesday November 28 - Nickel Day
Wednesday November 29 - Dime Day
Thursday November 30 - Quarter Day
Friday December 1 - Dollar Day (coins or bills)

(Of course, spare change will be accepted on any of the above days!)

Students can donate every morning at the school entrance between 8:20am and 8:50am. Our goal is to beat our record of $560, raised in 2015.

All purchases benefit the STEM K-8 Library and Classroom Libraries

Bring the Whole Family!

Wednesday, December 6 2:10pm – 8:30pm
Thursday, December 7 3:25pm – 8:30pm
Friday, December 8 8:00am - 10am

Book Fair is also online
(Nov. 18 through Dec. 8)
Use Code FALLFAIR for 15% off your online order

Here you’ll find a bigger selection of books (from preschool to adult). You can also send wish-lists and e-cards to family and friends.

Book Fairs App Makes Finding the Right Book a Snap!

VOLUNTEER FOR THE BOOK FAIR BLIZZARD
SPIRIT WEAR SALES ARE LIVE!

Don’t miss this opportunity to show your support for Louisa Boren STEM with some stylish new gear. They make great holiday gifts, too!

Featuring winning student designs by

7th Grader Ethan Tagocon
1st Grader Mena Griffin

plus 2 different styles of shirts

Order details on the back.

Order DEADLINE
December 4th

Orders ARRIVE
December 13-22

Proceeds benefit the STEM K-8 PTA
All shirts come in these styles.

- Youth Unisex T $20
- Premium Unisex T $22
- V-Neck Unisex T $22
- Pullover Hoodie $35

See individual links for color options.
STEM K-8 School Tours & Open Houses

Know any families interested in joining our community? We will have school tours and open houses in January and February. If you would like to volunteer to lead a tour, email tours@stemk8pta.org.

Enrollment:
- Jan. 8, 2018: Online Registration begins for the 2018-2019 school year
- Feb. 5, 2018: Open Enrollment Begins; Choice forms available
- Feb. 16, 2018: Open Enrollment Ends (on time applications)

STEM K-8 Students are automatically reassigned to STEM and do not need to re-enroll. This includes 5th graders (5th graders are automatically assigned to 6th grade at STEM). Enrollment is for new students.

Unfortunately, STEM pre-school students are not automatically assigned to kindergarten at STEM. If you have a pre-school student and you would like them to attend STEM, you need to apply for STEM through Open Enrollment.

School Tours—Elementary
Louisa Boren STEM K-8
1/23/18 8:55am – 10:25am

School Tours—Elementary
Louisa Boren STEM K-8
1/26/18 8:55am – 10:25am

School Tours—Middle School
Louisa Boren STEM K-8
1/26/18 10:15am – 11:45am

School Tours—Elementary
Louisa Boren STEM K-8
1/30/18 8:55am – 10:25am

School Tours—Middle School
Louisa Boren STEM K-8
1/30/18 10:15am – 11:45am

Open House—Elementary
Cafeteria
2/1/18 6:00pm – 7:00pm

Open House—Middle School
Cafeteria
2/1/17 7:30pm – 8:30pm

School Tours—Elementary
Louisa Boren STEM K-8
2/2/18 8:55am – 10:25am

Open Enrollment Begins
SPS
2/5/18

School Tours—Elementary
Louisa Boren STEM K-8
2/6/18 8:55am – 10:25am
**Stay Connected**

**PTA Website** – all things PTA (become a member, volunteer, shop and earn, how YOU can be involved).

**STEM K-8 school website** – our SPS school website (curriculum, staff details and more).

**STEM K-8 Facebook**

**STEM PTA Twitter**

**Principal Ostrom’s Twitter**

**Principal Ostrom’s Blog**

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**Sports Corner**

**STEM K-8 Boys’ and Girls’ Basketball Season Update**

Registration is now open, for both Boys’ and Girls’ middle school basketball. Registration packets are located in the middle school hallway, next to room 124. Registration fee is $15, which is to be included with registration packet. Practice will begin the week of December 4, 2017. Please contact Mrs. Noble (kfnoble@seattleschools.org) or Chad Smith (cgsmith@seattleschools.org) (STEM’s Athletics Coordinator), if you have any questions or concerns.

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**Bake Sale!**

A big THANK YOU goes out to all of the STEM families and STEM community that supported the Fall Bake Sale on Friday, November 17. It was a HUGE success. All proceeds will go directly to the Middle School Athletics Program. We could not have done it without you!

Thank you again for your support!

Mrs. Noble

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**Upcoming High School Open Houses**

**Nova High School**

Family session. Wed. 11/29, 12:30-1:30pm

**Summit Atlas** (charter school in West Seattle): Tues. 11/28, 5:00-6:30pm

**West Seattle High School** Thurs. 11/30, 6:30-8:00pm

**Raisbeck Aviation High School** Thurs. 12/7, 6:00-8:00pm

**Cleveland STEM High School** Fri. 1/19; Sat. 2/2; Fri. 2/15—all 9:00-11:30am