A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom

Welcoming the hundreds of visitors to our PBL Open House last Thursday was exciting! I observed many engaging conversations with proud students and dedicated staff regarding the process and products of Project Based Learning.

Our staff invests extra time and energy preparing classroom PBL work, and bringing the Use Project Based Learning to tackle real world challenges component of our school vision to life.

Not much slows down this week (with exception for the day between semesters as a non-school day for students on Wednesday, January 30)! On Tuesday and Friday we’ll be hosting middle school tours (10:15am-11:45am) and on Thursday, we’ll host an Open House (6:00pm-7:00pm) for prospective middle school families. STEM 5th grade families are welcome to attend the tours and/or the Open House to learn more about our middle school program. All 5th graders have a default option to attend STEM and will be automatically enrolled in our 6th grade. Encourage acquaintances looking for a middle school to visit.

Life at a K-8 school doesn’t stop on Fridays. Next weekend students and families will be participating in STEM activities all Saturday long! On Saturday, February 2, from 9:00am-3:00pm, STEM will host a Vex IQ Robotics Tournament in the gym (good luck Ms. Schmick and STEM robotics teams). Saturday will also find TSA students working in the middle school CTE lab, 9:30am girls and boys Varsity basketball games at Nathan Hale, and a 5:00 pm boys JV basketball game at Franklin. Come join the fun!

And don’t forget to look in the mail for your ballots for the February 12 school levy vote!

Ben Ostrom
Principal
Louisa Boren STEM K-8
Auction Tickets for Sale NOW!

Saturday, March 23
5:30pm – 11:30pm
The Hall at Fauntleroy

CLICK HERE TO BUY!

All information CLICK HERE

Want to make a dessert for the Dessert Dash?
auction@stemk8pta.org

SPED@STEM

We started the school year with our first SPED@STEM Community meeting for our Special Education families and it was so wonderful to meet in person and share our stories and resources. But the holidays and busy school schedules stymied our ability to schedule follow on meetings. But we have a schedule for the remainder of this school year and we hope you can join us.

Our SPED group was created by the PTA to create a support group for families with Special Education Students at STEM. The group was started out of a desire to create increased visibility and connection in a building that quietly serves so many students with special needs. Being invisible or not connected to the STEM community as a whole does not serve anyone’s needs. Special Education can mean that your student has a 504 for accommodations in their classroom, is a student in our Distinct classroom, gets services and support through Access or the Resource Room or you are a family that is seeking Special Education support and needs guidance and support from families that have navigated the process. All are welcome to come and learn and gain support.

All Meetings are held in the STEM Library from 6:30 - 7:30pm. Dates Below, mark your calendars:

2/13, 3/13, 4/17, 5/15, 6/19

If you have questions please contact: Rebecca Garcia Rebecca_garcia@mac.com or Shawna Murphy southernstreetkids@yahoo.com

And please join our Facebook group SPED@STEM.
Enrichment Program Coordinator – Job Announcement:

**Job Description.** Enrichment Coordinator works with enrichment program instructors, STEM staff, the PTA Board, parents, and students to administer and continually enhance STEM K-8’s before and after school enrichment program. Duties would include, among others:

- Work with PTA survey data to independently select and develop new programs and classes.
- Interface with instructors, STEM staff and administration, PTA board and web team, and parents regarding administration of the program.
- General administration, including enrollment, roster maintenance, communication with teachers and instructors, collection of payments, qualification and payment of instructors, and room applications and assignment.
- Respond in a timely manner to parent and teacher communications.
- Provide periodic reports to Enrichment Committee and PTA Executive Board regarding status of program.
- Work to develop strategies for the enrichment program, including development of forms and procedures.
- Be present before and after school on a frequent basis in order to oversee the program and deal with issues as they arise.

**Qualifications:**

- Detail oriented with strong organizational skills;
- Think creatively about enrichment class offerings that can serve all kids;
- Have a focus on equity, fairness and a perspective on serving all students and our community;
- Reasonably capable of using Excel or other database management software; familiarity with Digital PTO a bonus;
- Be generally available by email and cell phone for coordination with vendors, parents and school team;
- Have a flexible enough schedule to be around before and after school frequently in order to meet with instructors, parents, and school staff;
- Have some financial acuity to work with treasurer to manage invoices, scholarships and keep the enrichment budget balanced.

**Time Commitment.** The expected time commitment is approximately 5-10 hours per week, on average (though there will be busier and less busy times), for one calendar year, beginning in August 2019. Ideally, the new Enrichment Coordinator is prepared to shadow with the current Enrichment Coordinator, Ashlee Lyman, during the 2019 Spring Enrichment program cycle to gain knowledge of the administrative process.

The Enrichment Coordinator is also on the PTA Board as an important member of the team and is required to attend meetings of the board every other month. Attendance at PTA meetings is desired.

**Pay.** Currently budgeted up to $8,000 per year payable through the Seattle Public Schools payroll system for the 2019-20 school calendar year.

**To Apply.** Please send an email indicating your interest to Melinda Luke-White, PTA President at president@stemk8pta.org. Please email a letter explaining who you are and why you’re interested.

**Additional info:** This is a very important role for our community and students; the work is intensive. Pay is more of a stipend to offset the huge volunteer commitment this person makes to our community. We hope that anyone that takes it on would do so as much as a labor of love as for the pay. About half the students at STEM participate in the enrichment program. Because it includes scholarships and an extremely wide variety of classes, many kids participate in the STEM enrichment program who otherwise wouldn’t participate in any extracurricular activities at all. The enrichment program coordinator works directly with many of STEM’s teachers, parents, other staff and administration. If it is your goal to get to know the STEM community, this is a great way to do so. In summary, it is a demanding, involved job, but because it impacts many STEM families, it is also very rewarding.
Safer Internet Day – February 5

“Safer Internet Day is an international education and awareness-raising effort spanning more than 100 countries. It aims to not only create a safer internet but also a better internet, where everyone is empowered to use technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively.”

STEM K-8 Librarian Mary Bannister recommends STEM parents check out the Safer Internet Day Family Night on February 5 -- featuring children’s author Trudy Ludwig, and hosted by ConnectSafely and National PTA. The evening is intended for elementary school children and their parents but all ages are invited.

When: Tuesday, February 5. 5:30pm – 7:00pm
Where: New Holly Gathering Hall, 7054 32nd Ave S., Seattle, WA 98118
Cost: FREE. Registration Required (registration ends February 4).

Free dinner and an evening of fun, information and prizes!

More Information
Spirit Wear Shop is Live!

STEM will celebrate Black Lives Matter at School Week from February 4-8. Custom STEM Black Lives Matter t-shirts and hoodies are available for purchase. We have two fantastic designs to choose from.

Go to cafepress.com/stemspiritwear to order yours in time to wear it for Black Lives Matter at School Week!

Joy Sparks of Hella Black Books to Visit STEM

We are also honored to host Joy Sparks, founder of Hella Black Books. She'll be at school on February 8 from 8:15am-9:15am and again from 3:15pm-4:15pm to sell books featuring people of color.

After seeing her daughters struggle academically it reminded her of her own learning challenges in school. She began to understand the importance of reading, comprehension and personally connecting with the reading material. Initially her focus was to attract her children to literacy, art and culture but after about a year hunting for used books specifically with black and brown characters it had soon became her hobby and passion. You can follow Hella Black Books on Facebook and Instagram, and you can email Joy Sparks at hellablackbooks@gmail.com if you can't make it that day and want to buy books.

Back of t-shirt features the values the Black Lives Matter movement stands for:

**Restorative Justice** is the commitment to build a beloved and loving community that is sustainable and growing.

**Empathy** is one’s ability to connect with others by building relationships built on mutual trust and understanding.

**Loving Engagement** is the commitment to practice justice, liberation and peace.

**Diversity** is the celebration and acknowledgment of differences and commonalities across cultures.

**Globalism** is our ability to see how we are impacted or privileged within the Black global family that exists across the world in different regions.

**Transgender Affirming** is the commitment to continue to make space for our trans brothers and sisters by encouraging leadership and recognizing trans-antagonistic violence.

**Queer Affirming** is working towards a queer-affirming network where heteronormative thinking no longer exists.

**Collective Value** means that all Black lives, regardless of actual or perceived sexual identity, gender identity, gender expression, economic status, ability, disability, religious beliefs or disbeliefs, immigration status or location matter.

**Intergenerational** is a space free from ageism where we can learn from each other.

**Black Families** creates a space that is family friendly and free from patriarchal practices.
Global Reading Challenge Author Visit - Friday

We are so fortunate to host Global Reading Challenge author Hena Khan at STEM Library this Friday, February 1. Third Place Books is very generous to provide us this opportunity. We can offer the four titles for sale at STEM (see order form on next page), but I also encourage families to look at her entire list of books available.

https://www.henakhan.com/new-gallery/


Also please mark your calendars for STEM’s In-School Global Reading Challenge on Friday, February 15 at 9:15 am in the cafeteria.

Mary Bannister
STEM K-8 Librarian
mebannister@seattleschools.org

*Print the order form page directly from this Owl Post or [download it here](https://example.com).
MEET AUTHOR HENA KHAN AT LOUISA BOREN!
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1st, 2019

Pre-order a book from Third Place Books to have it delivered & signed at the event!

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GRAND TOTAL

Please provide CHECK (payable to Third Place Books) or EXACT CHANGE only to Mrs. B. in the STEM Library with the order form by Tuesday, January 29th.

Student Name:________________________________________________________

Teacher:____________________________________________________________

Sign this book to:____________________________________________________

Third Place Books
Lake Forest Park – Ravenna – Seward Park
http://www.thirdplacebooks.com

Please return order forms and payment to school by: Tuesday, January 29th
Upcoming High School Tours/Open Houses

THE CENTER SCHOOL
February 13, Wednesday, 6:30pm – 8:30pm
Free parking passes located outside Ms. Danielle’s office in High School folder.

CLEVELAND STEM
February 2, Saturday, 9:00am – 11:30am
February 7, Thursday, 9:00am – 11:30am
RSVP HERE

NOVA
Intro Meetings for 8th Graders
January 29, Monday, 8:45am – 11:45am
February 7, Thursday, 8:45am – 11:45am
February 13, Wednesday, 8:45am – 11:45am
February 27, Wednesday, 8:45am – 11:45am
Call Karen to register at (206) 252-3500
Tour the school, round table discussion with students about what it's like to be a Nova student, choose a class to observe. Meet with Mark, Nova's Principal, to learn more about Nova.

Family Tour (no sign-up necessary)
February 8, Friday, 12:30pm – 1:30pm
Tour the school, 30 minute Q & A Session with Mark, Nova’s Principal.

The Nova Project – an alternative public high school in the heart of Seattle

A note from Nova’s Principal:

Nova High School is an innovator in non-traditional education. We are a competency, inquiry and project-based school that uses performance and portfolio assessment to gauge the level and depth of student work.

As a social and racial justice school, we believe personalization in education is key to building trust and academic success in preparing all students for college and the workforce after high school.

If you have any questions, please give us a call at (206)-252-3500

Mark Perry, PhD

SPS SCHOOL CHOICE DATES
February 4: Open Enrollment Begins. February 15: Open Enrollment Ends

LOTTERY FOR RAISBECK AVIATION HIGH SCHOOL
The application window for the 2019-20 school year is January 1-31. If there are more applications than space at any particular grade level, Highline Public Schools will hold a lottery including all students with completed applications (the lottery will take place on March 1. Families will be notified immediately. Full results will be posted in March). Students not accepted in the lottery will be placed on a waitlist in the order they are chosen from the pool of remaining students.

*No open house/tour information available for Chief Sealth High School at this time.
Volunteers needed to lead school tours! Email tours@stemk8pta.org. It's a chance to show off your school!

Know any families interested in joining the STEM K-8 community? We are hosting school tours and open houses in January and February. These tours are open to any families of children entering kindergarten through 8th grade. We host separate elementary and middle school tours to address the specific questions and concerns of each group.

Current STEM K-8 Students are automatically assigned 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 preschool student and you would like them to attend STEM, you need to apply for STEM through Open Enrollment.

Open Houses

No reservations are necessary to attend an Open House.

- Middle School Open House will take place on Thursday, January 31 from 6:00–7:00 pm
- Elementary Open House will take place on Thursday, February 7 from 6:00–7:00 pm

Elementary School Tours

For families of prospective elementary (K-5) students, tours are conducted from **9:00–10:30 am** on the following dates:

- January 29
- February 1
- February 7

Reserve your spot on one of these tours.

Middle School Tours

For families of prospective middle school (6-8) students, tours are conducted from **10:15–11:45 am** on the following dates:

- January 29
- February 1

Reserve your spot on one of these tours.
**Spring Ultimate!**

Spring Ultimate will be a Spring Enrichment program for grades 6-8. A limited number of scholarships will be available. Please let Coach Conner know now if your student plans to participate – he needs to know if he’ll have enough players.

Are you interested in playing Ultimate this spring?

STEM students who played spring 2018 got more individualized coaching, more play-time, and more ownership over their development as players than was available during the larger varsity season.

The [2019 DiscNW Spring MS Mixed Ultimate](#) season runs from the beginning of March through mid-May, with games on Saturdays. Practices would be Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:40-5:15pm. Spring Ultimate would include 30-40 hours of weekday practice time plus 10-12 games on weekends.

Spring Ultimate is a bonus club season, rather than a spring varsity sport like volleyball and soccer. This means we would get to play against some private schools, and that the team would not receive support from the school district athletics department. Covering costs of league registration, coaching, and equipment for spring Ultimate will be $100-125 per player.

We will need at least 15 players to field a team. **Please respond to my email by the end of January if you are interested**, so that I have enough time to register a team and get each player rostered with the league before the February deadlines.

Coach Connor
cplee@seattleschools.org

**Middle School Basketball Schedule**

**Saturday, February 2**

**K-8 Varsity Boys**
Blaine vs STEM  
9:30am Nathan Hale

**K-8 Varsity Girls**
Blaine vs STEM  
9:30am Nathan Hale

**K-8 Junior Varsity Boys**
Meany C vs STEM C  
5:00pm Franklin (A)