A Note from Principal Ben Ostrom

Welcome back! Hopefully everyone had some opportunities for rest and rejuvenation and are ready to jump back into STEM K-8 life after Spring Break.

This week I'm sharing our Smarter Balance Assessment (SBA) testing schedule. We will begin administering the SBA the week of May 13. STEM’s SBA grade level testing dates are pasted below. Most students will experience two mornings of testing each week their grade level is scheduled (because students may take as long as they want, some will test into the afternoon).

The window for Smarter Balance Assessment testing is set by WA State, and can’t be changed by Seattle Public Schools. One unfortunate overlap is that the SBA window overlaps Ramadan, which occurs between May 5 and June 4 this year. We are exploring ways to support students and families observing Ramadan, both during and outside of testing. We will be reaching out to families to discuss accommodations for students observing Ramadan.

There are many reasons to consider the Smarter Balance Assessment a worthy challenge for students: A) SBA results help staff become more aware of the strengths and needs of each child. B) SBA results help staff know as a school and as a district where we have done well and areas that need more work. C) SBA results can help parents see where their child is on the pathway to proficiency for graduation (the SBA or authorized alternative is required for graduation) and higher education. D) Seattle Public Schools is legally required to give the SBA and faces consequences if participation drops below 95%. E) STEM K-8 must deal with state accountability measures for lower student scores that including opt outs.

Although the Smarter Balanced Assessment is an important assessment, it represents a small part of students’ overall performance; many other indicators are also used to evaluate student progress. SBA results do not determine whether or not students are ready for the next grade. They should view the SBA as a worthy challenge rather than a worrisome barrier. It’s an opportunity to develop vital test taking skills and show some of what students know relative to national standards.
STEM K-8 must offer a climate that provides students with the opportunity to perform their best. However, Smarter Balance Assessments also raise legitimate questions. The limitations and failures of high stakes testing are well documented. We also recognize the right of any family to opt their child out of the SBA. To opt out families must provide written notice to the main office. The official Opt out form is linked here. Opt out notification needs to be provided annually. Because of the logistical demands of administering the SBA, we are unable to provide alternative curriculum during test periods. We will provide an alternative setting that for most students will look like being able to read, help, or work in another setting.

STEM’s 3rd-8th grade students will be taking the SBA on the weeks indicated below:

**STEM K-8 SBA Testing Schedule:**

**Week of May 13th: Testing Begins**
- May 13-May 14
  - 3rd Grade ELA Cat & PT
  - 4th Grade ELA CAT & PT

- May 15-Make Ups

- May 16-May 17
  - 5th Grade ELA CAT & PT

**Week of May 20th**
- May 20 – May 21
  - 3rd Grade Math CAT & PT
  - 6th Grade ELA CAT & PT

- May 22 – Make Ups

- May 23 – May 24
  - 7th Grade ELA CAT & PT
  - 8th Grade ELA-CAT & PT

**Week of May 27th**
- May 27th Memorial Day

- May 28
  - 5th Grade Science (WCAS)
  - 8th Grade Science (WCAS)

- May 29 – Make Ups

- May 30 – May 31
  - 4th Grade Math CAT & PT
  - 5th Grade Math CAT & PT

**Week of June 3**
- June 3 – June 4
  - 6th Grade Math CAT & PT

- June 5 – Make Ups

- June 6 – June 7
  - 7th Grade Math CAT & PT
  - 8th Grade Math CAT & PT

**June 10th - June 14th: Make Ups**

Ben Ostrom
Principal
Louisa Boren STEM K-8
Spring Art Show | April 18th 6:00-8:30pm

In celebration of the amazing art our students created for the 2019 Classic Seattle Auction, you are invited to the Auction Art Show where their work will be on display.

Join us for this STEM community event where there will be visual art, interactive art pieces, and some light refreshments.

Some items will be available for a low suggested donation in various formats, and all the art will be available for free download.

This is a "walk-through" event; a mock art gallery.

Simultaneously, the PTA meeting will be in the library and free childcare is always available from the YMCA.

Click HERE for the Facebook event page.
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
Louisa Boren STEM Locker Room Clean-Up! | April 27th 9am-2pm

On Saturday, April 27th, the school’s locker rooms will be cleared and cleaned. If you can help with sorting, boxing, and moving, please RSVP by clicking on the link below. You may also contact Adrienne Ollerenshaw at amollerensha@seattleschools.org or 503-544-5477.

http://evite.me/E9aqYcXxXP

Spring Cleaning Time!

Lost and Found will be cleaned out at the end of the day on April 19th. Items not picked up will be donated to charity. Please do not dump unwanted items in Lost and Found.

Also, we need a couple of volunteers to help tidy up the PTA area in the office. If you are able to help for a couple of hours, please contact Christa Howsmon at cjhowsmon@seattleschools.org.
The STEM PTA Advocacy Committee invites you to the 2nd of our ongoing workshops on race and equity, brought to you by PTA donations.

COUNTERING WHITENESS

What can you do to work for racial equity in predominately white settings?

Explore this question in a workshop led by Tracy Castro-gill, former STEM parent, 2019 Puget Sound Educational Service District Teacher of the Year and SPS Ethnic Studies Program Manager, and Jon Greenberg, an award-winning educator and writer whose pieces on racial justice have been featured in NPR, Huffington Post, and Yes! Magazine.

In this interactive workshop, develop your racial equity literacy and explore how racial inequities show up in our school and the world beyond. Learn concrete strategies to promote racial justice, including finding the pressure points for system change in Seattle Public Schools.

Tuesday April 23rd 6:30-8:30 @ LB STEM
FREE CHILD CARE PROVIDED BY THE YMCA
GGLOW OWLS Family Dance Party | May 31st 5:30-7:30pm

The new GGLOW OWLS t-shirts for 2019 are available for a limited time now via https://www.customink.com/fundraising/gglowowlsstemk82019

For those new to the Louisa Boren STEM K-8 Community, GGLOW OWLS stands for Gender non-conforming/Gender Queer, Gay, Lesbian or whatever, and is our way of celebrating and affirming our LGBTQIA students, staff, families and allies. This year our t-shirt design highlights gender identity. We will have our 3rd Annual GGLOW OWLS Family Dance Party our on our playground, Friday May 31st from 5:30-7:30 with Phorale and Full Tilt Food trucks and DJ Plaid Dad spinning the old school records. All are welcome!

Proceeds from our t-shirt sales are used to purchase LGBTQIA books for our school library and classrooms. Our 2019 book wish list will be published soon and donations are gladly accepted.

For more information and to find out how you can volunteer with the event and book collection, please contact GGLOW OWLS PTA Event Chair, Shawna Murphy southernstreetkids@yahoo.com.
Option High School Fair 2019

Middle College, Nova, Seattle World School, Skills Center & South Lake

APRIL 18, 2019
5:30PM – 7:30PM

Where: Nova HS
2410 E. Cherry Street
Seattle, WA 98122

Seattle Public Schools is pleased to showcase our Option Schools with Continuous Enrollment at our first annual Option high school fair exclusive to high school students looking for something more than a traditional high school. Come and learn about the variety of programs, smaller classroom sizes, flexible schedules and unique learning methods tailored for each students personality and learning style to achieve success.

For more information contact the Admissions office at 206-252-0760.

OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS
www.seattleschools.org
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

Spring Sports Schedules

Saturday, April 20

**Varsity Boys Soccer**
9:30am South Shore v. STEM
Location: Eagle Staff

**JV Boys Soccer**
2:00pm STEM v. Eagle Staff 2
Location: Eagle Staff

**Varsity Girls Volleyball**
9:30am TOPS v. STEM
Location: STEM

**JV Girls Volleyball**
8:00am Eagle Staff 2 v. STEM
Location: STEM

**Ultimate Frisbee**
6:00pm STEM v. Eastside Red Tigers
Franklin HS #2

Middle School Lock-In! April 26th 3:30-6:00pm

Suggested donation $10; all students can attend regardless of ability to pay.
Sign up for 1 or 20+ spots to sponsor other students.

Bleeker: Supersmash Brothers Ultimate Gaming
Parsley: Birdhouse Making
Paulson: Movie Room
Des: Mystery Room
Kincl: Conversation and Snacks
Martin: Boardgames

Restrictions: Students will need to follow the STEM conduct code. Teachers will have full discretion to call guardians to pick students up early.