



## **STEM Parent Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Q: How long will the school be closed?**

Based on new CDC guidance, we will extend our spring break for 2 additional weeks- March 16- March 27. Our teachers and staff will use this time to prepare for moving all instruction online. Our goal will be to implement online learning plans on March 23rd.

### **Q: When and how will re-enrollment happen for next year?**

Re-enrollment for current STEM students for the 2020-2021 school year will be sent out the week of March 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>. STEM is working on a digital form that parents can complete since the campus is closed. Keep an eye on your emails and social media for when the form is available.

### **Q: Will the school year extend past the current end date of May 21<sup>st</sup>?**

At this time, there are no plans to extended the 2019-2020 school year beyond our current calendar.

### **Q: What will happen if I have already paid for student catered lunches?**

We strongly encourage you to reach out to the vendors to discuss a refund. Vendor contact information can be found at: <https://www.utpb.edu/academics/stem-academy/parent-and-student-resources>.

*MCM Elegante:* STEM has received confirmation that all orders placed for the next two weeks will be automatically refunded.

*Bubbas:* Please reach out to Chelsi Moorman at 432-924-8280 to request a refund.

*Chick-Fil-A:* Meals will be credited (they will have two additional weeks added to the date that they have already paid through.) If parents have paid through the end of the semester, they will be refunded at the end of the semester.

### **Q: Which school activities have been cancelled?**

*UIL Academic Meet in Van Horn* – Cancelled by state UIL organizers.

*Student Council STATE* – Travel cancelled locally.

*Spring Trip (Marble Falls)* – This trip has been cancelled locally. Process for refunds will be implemented as soon as possible.

*Robotics STATE* – Postponed currently.

*Destination Imagination STATE* – Cancelled.

State Science Fair – Moved online.

**Q: Where can I find resources for my student to get food during the closure?**

Please visit: <https://www.ectorcountysd.org/domain/177> for information.

**Q: What does the online learning method entail?**

STEM teachers will be using an enhanced version of “Flipped” to deliver online learning. Students can expect an instructional video to introduce the learning concept followed by an activity or independent practice. Teachers will give clear instructions on the daily expectations and the deliverables (items) to turn in. Teachers will also give an estimated completion time for the daily online instruction. Parents and students should expect to spend **about** 4 hours learning and working each day.

*\*Definition of Enhanced Flipped Learning:* Grade level teams will deliver instruction through online platforms (Google Classroom or PowerSchool) using either teacher-created or content based instructional videos. These instructional videos will be followed by an activity or assignment to be turned in digitally to the teacher for feedback, evaluation and/or a grade.

**Q: How will my student receive help from teachers?**

Teachers will have set office hours each day. Office hour times will be posted on each teacher’s learning platform (Google Classroom or PowerSchool). A link with instructions will be provided for the student to connect live to the teacher at that time. Teachers will also be available through email during the regular school hours of 8am-4pm, however, please allow teachers up to 24 hours to respond. Bottom line is we are here to help! Teachers are doing their best to create high quality instructional videos and will be available for help during their office hours. Please reach out for help, you are not alone in this journey!!! This is where we truly build parent/teacher partnerships it is our turn to support you!

**Q: How will students in speech, dyslexia, and special education receive services?**

If your student is currently receiving speech, dyslexia, and special education services you will be receiving an email later this week about how your student will be continuing those services. All services will begin March 23rd. Special education teachers will post office hours for assistance.

**Q: Will these assignments count as grades?**

Yes! The daily assignments and coursework will be the student grades. If you have questions or need extra assistance please take advantage of your teacher’s scheduled office hours, they are there to help you.

**Q: Will the counselor (Ms. Miller) be available during STEM@HOME?**

Yes! If you and/or your student is needing to schedule a counseling session, please click the following link: <https://calendly.com/tjjj65/30min>. We will be doing calls through google.hangout or via phone.

**Q: How can my student be successful @Home?**

- **Have a daily routine.** Stick to it. Be sure your routine includes breaks, time to be active, and time to eat lunch.
- **Have a learning space.** Use your learning space when it's time to learn. Make sure you have all the materials needed for learning (charged device, paper, pencil, learning journals, etc)
- **Be an active learner.** Getting used to an online learning environment and participating in virtual learning might take a little while. Some people will love it right away. Others might need some time to get used to how to participate in live video sessions or use a chat room. Stay positive. Be persistent.

**Q: Who do I contact for student device issues?**

Mr. Jerald Jolito is the IT Coordinator for the STEM Academy and maintains all school issued student devices. If you have any issues associated with your student's school issued device, please do not hesitate to email him at: [jolito\\_j@utpb.edu](mailto:jolito_j@utpb.edu). If you have not already purchased device insurance, we strongly encourage you to do so. Please visit <https://gpo.worthavegroup.com/gpo/utpbstemtx> for purchasing information.

**Q: My student has a Dual Credit class, are classes still in session?**

Yes, Dual Credit classes are all online and have been operating as normal. Please help monitor all Dual Credit course work. Help your student look at the upcoming due dates and schedule time each day to work on that course work. If your student has questions, please email the professor of the class or go to your student's STEM Dual Credit teacher's office hours for assistance.

**Q: How will my student receive attendance during online instruction?**

Attendance will be taken online daily through a google form. Elementary links will be on homeroom teacher's online learning platform and secondary links will be on 3rd period teacher's PowerSchool page.

**Q: With STAAR/EOC being canceled, how will STEM determine promotion to the next grade?**

Students will be promoted to the next grade level by demonstrating proficiency in their current grade level content areas. Proficiency is determined by grades in content area courses and locally given assessments.