



**STEM SCHOOL**  
HIGHLANDS RANCH

# Welcome to STEM

Connecting with our New to STEM Families

*Never Stop Innovating*

# Tonight's Agenda

- Welcome and introductions
- What's happening at STEM School Highlands Ranch
  - K-5 Experience in Virtual/Online Learning
  - 6-8 Experience in Virtual/Online Learning
  - 9-12 Experience in Virtual/Online Learning
  - How are we connecting with our students outside of academics?
- What to Expect for the 2020-21 School Year
  - Academics
  - Enrichment
  - Athletics
  - Support Services for Students
- Additional Topics (to be covered closer to start of school year)

# Our Team at STEM

## Our Leadership/Administrative Team

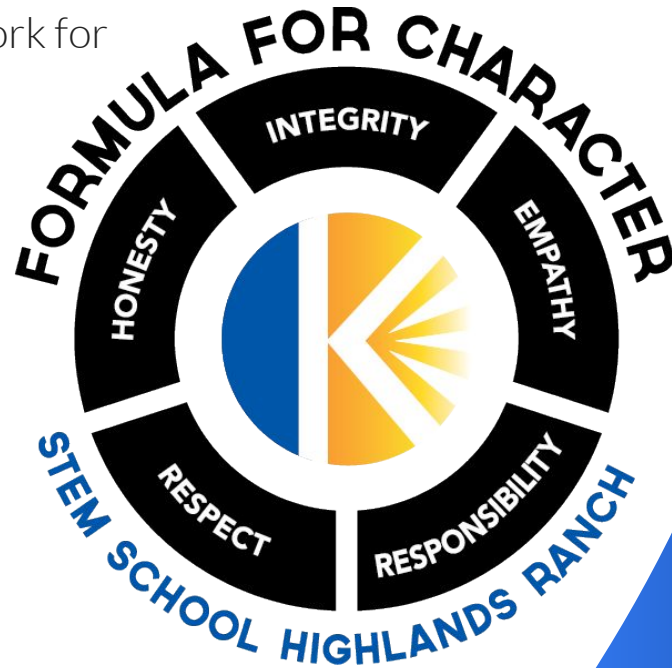
- Dr. Penny Eucker, Executive Director
- Dr. Leanne Weyman, Director
- Dr. Karen Johnson, Director of Curriculum and Accountability
- Stephanie Mendrala, Director of Professional Development
- LynAnn Kovalsky, Assistant Director Elementary (K-5)
- Anna Magle-Haberek, Assistant Director Middle (6-8)
- Dan Hoffman, Assistant Director High (9-12)
- Liz Dougan, Assistant Director of Student Success
- Jenny Johnson, Assistant Director of Student Support
- Meghan Tokunaga, Dean of Students
- Hannah Reese, Recovery Coordinator

# What it Means to be a Spartan

## STEM Formula for Character

The Formula for Character is the framework for character development at STEM.

- Honesty
- Integrity
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Empathy



# We're Going to Brag for just a Minute...

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST SCHOOL YEAR

- Highest overall SAT score within Douglas County and ranked 10th in Colorado for SAT Scores.
- Received fifth John Irwin School of Excellence Award.
- Ranked No. 9 among Colorado High Schools by US News and World Report.
- Secured a 95.6% Achievement Rating and an 87% Overall Performance Rating by CDE.
- 87% of our 2019 seniors applied and were accepted to college.
- Had 400 students registered in AP courses.
- Just to name a few...

# What's Happening at STEM

We're living our mission of *Never Stop Innovating*

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# Virtual/Online Learning

## Building off of Current Virtual Day Model

- We expanded our Virtual Day Model to allow for a seamless transition to Virtual/Online Learning that provides students with synchronous and asynchronous learning opportunities.
  - Using Canvas, a Learning Management Platform, to post assignments, office hours, connection opportunities, grades and important announcements.
  - Using Zoom to conduct live teaching and lectures, as well as hold office hours.
  - Recording lessons for students to access at their own pace.
  - Providing approved and secure educational resources that match curriculum requirements to further lessons.

# K-5 Virtual/Online Learning Experience

## KINDERGARTEN CONDUCTED INVENTOR VISITS VIRTUALLY

- Using Zoom, Inventor Ian Bernstein held a video conference with the kindergarten classes to mark the beginning of the Innovation Unit in which each kindie has the opportunity to invent something and present their innovations to the US Patent and Trademark Office.

## FOURTH GRADE MYSTERY ROOMS

- Fourth grade students participated in a virtual mystery room where they had to solve area and perimeter math problems in order to figure out who committed the crime. Students worked together in Zoom Breakout Rooms to solve clues,

## FIFTH GRADERS CREATE PROTHSTETICS

- Working on a bioengineering unit, fifth graders were tasked with designing and engineering lower leg prosthetics. They shared their work using images and videos showing on how they were able to walk with prosthetic legs, bionic hands that are able to grasp and pick up cans and other objects, and assistive slings to support a pulled bicep muscle.



# 6-8 Virtual/Online Learning Experience

## World War II & Holocaust Virtual Museum

- A cross-curricular unit for seventh graders that provides collaboration between science, social studies, computer science and language arts.
- Students and families had the opportunity to hear from a survivor of the Holocaust via a Live Webinar.

## Language Arts Using Creativity to Teach Classic Literature

- Sixth-grade language arts teacher used Zoom and YouTube to teach her students about Fever 1793, incorporating props and geographic backdrops to enhance the learning experience.

# 9-12 Virtual/Online Learning Experience

## Business Classes Continue Collaboration with Industry Partner

- In the first-of-its kind, VISA Everywhere partnered with STEM to allow high school business students to develop and present socially-responsible entrepreneurial business ideas to a panel of judges to ultimately win a prestigious internship.

## Deloitte and Junior Achievement

- Junior Achievement and Deloitte are teaming up to present Cloud Computing and Machine Learning to STEM middle and high school computer science and engineering students via a webinar hosted on ZOOM.

## Virtual Art Show

- Students submit drawings each week to a website for judges to pick from to then showcase on the District's website.

# Connecting with Students Outside of Academics

## SOCIAL HOURS

- Social time with Ms. Kovalesky
- Educational Assistants using normal study hall times to interact with students to create a Meme Challenge.

## VIRTUAL SPIRIT WEEK

- K-12 created a Virtual Spirit Week to engage students, families and staff in sharing photos and videos of Career Day, Senior Citizen Day, Leaving the Ranch, Throwback Thursday, Decision Day.

## WALKING THE BEAT LIVE, WITH DEPUTY GABE

- Our School Resource Officer and Douglas County Sheriff Officer will be conducting a live drop-in chat session for students to check-in and say hi.

# Connecting with Students Outside of Academics

## STUDENT SUPPORT TEAM

- Counselors are working with students to make sure they are check-in with their teachers, staying on track and making sure they are doing well emotionally.
- Offering workshops for students in the transitional grades to prepare them for the new school year and what to expect in sixth and ninth grades.
- Students are sent a form weekly that they fill out to request a meeting with their counselor

## MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS

- Counselors and the mental health support team are conducting their regular check-ins and sessions with students who have expressed needs for additional supports.
- Weekly support groups for students and families are being conducted virtually.

## BUILDING SHIPS

- Building Ships is a program within STEM that connects students with industry partners to create networking opportunities.
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# **What to Expect for 2020-21 School Year**

We can't wait to see everyone!

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# Academics

## Problem-Based Learning

- Empowering students to solve rigorous real-world problems with innovation and creativity.

## STEM Success Skills

- Critical Thinking, Collaboration, Communication, Self-Direction, Creativity & Innovation, Global and local connections, Use of technology as a tool for learning

## Grade-Level and Department Collaboration

# Enrichment

## BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL

- For a small fee, students can take part in enrichment classes and clubs that provide a focus on academics, athletics, special interests and more.
  - Elementary Offerings include: Chess Club, Choir, Craft Club, Crossfit, Fencing, Game Club, Garden Club, Hip-Hop Dance and more.
  - Middle School Offerings include: Boys Basketball, BEST Robotics, Broadcasting Club, Choir, CyberPatriots, Fencing, Game Club, Technology Student Association and more.
- Middle and High School students can take part in before and after school care for a small fee. (7-7:50 a.m. & 2:55-6 p.m.)

## BASE PROGRAM

- Run through Douglas County School District, BASE is for Elementary students and provides activities for students before and after school.

# Athletics

## HOME OF THE SPARTANS

- Athletics at STEM is for students in grades 9-12
- STEM will officially apply to join CHSAA in 2021 School Year.
- Sports Offered:
  - Boys Soccer
  - Boys Lacrosse
  - Boys Basketball
  - Girls Volleyball
  - Girls Soccer
  - Co-Ed Cross Country
  - Co-Ed Golf
  - Co-Ed Cheer & Spirit
  - Co-Ed Track and Field



# Support for Students

## A LAYERED APPROACH

At STEM School Highlands Ranch, a layered continuum of prevention-based supports are in place to improve the outcomes of every student. The framework of a Multi-Tiered System of Supports encompasses support of:

- Academic
- Behavior
- Mental Health
- Family & Community
- Health & Wellness



# Support for Students

## MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS AND COUNSELING SERVICES

- Social and Emotional Support and Intervention
  - Regular student check-ins and monitoring as needed
  - Restorative practices
  - Support groups and Lunch Brunch
  - On site school based clinician via Allheath
- Crisis Prevention and Intervention
  - Sources of Strength
- Secondary Grade-Level Seminars

# Additional Topics

What we'll cover closer to the start of the school year.

# Still to come!

## PREPARING FAMILIES AT THE START OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

- Parent Expectations & Responsibilities
  - Driveline
  - Volunteer Hours
  - Fees
  - How to get Involved (PTO, SAC, Board of Directors, etc.)
- Student Expectations & Responsibilities
  - Assessments
- Optional Field Trips & STEM-Wide Events
- Safety & Security
- Communications Channels and How to Connect with Us

# Thanks!



## Any questions?

Please type your questions into the Q&A or the chat box to allow our panelists to answer. You can also raise your hand to be approved to speak if you'd like.