



STEM SCHOOL

HIGHLANDS RANCH

Never Stop Innovating

Back-to-School Parent Info Session

Topic: Getting Involved

Parent Website

Your Hub for Parent News,
Procedures and Policies
stemk12.org/parents

STEM SCHOOL HIGHLANDS RANCH Financial Transparency

Students Parents **GIVE TO STEM**

Home About Us Enrollment Academics STEM Experience Calendars Contact Us

Information for Current STEM Parents

Welcome the STEM Parent Page. Informed and involved parents are so important to the success of our entire school. This page includes everything that our parents need to know while their student is enrolled at STEM.

Get Involved

Getting involved at STEM is easy. There are a variety of ways that include volunteering, the School Accountability Committee (SAC), Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), Board of Directors and more.

Click below to find information on:

- Volunteering at STEM
- The School Accountability Committee (SAC)
- Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)
- Board of Directors

[Explore How to Get Involved](#)

Get Connected

We want to hear from our families. Communication flow between STEM and our families includes our social media channels, weekly newsletters and our Communications Pathways process.

Click below to find more information on:

- Communications Pathways
- Newsletters
- Social Media Channels

[Explore How to Get Connected](#)

Get Informed

Informed families are empowered families. We want to make it as easy as possible for families to access all of the information needed to help their students have the best experience possible.

Click below to find information on:

- Student/Parent Handbook
- Transportation Management Plan/Driveline
- Attendance Information (Guidelines, Absence, etc.)
- Lunch Program
- Technology Support
- Health Services
- More

[Explore How to Get Informed](#)

Volunteering & Donations at STEM

We are extremely grateful for the time and energy donated by STEM parents each year.

Volunteering and giving to STEM are vital to the success of our school. Our school has a charter that requests a commitment of 30 volunteer hours per family (15 hours per single-parent family).

For questions about Volunteering at STEM, email info@stemk12.org.

Volunteering & Donations at STEM

- Volunteer and Donation opportunities are posted in the Newsletter each week
 - Volunteer/Donations Section
 - Opportunities are also listed on the Get Involved section of the Parent page.
 - We will share volunteer and donation opportunities on our social media channels

**Volunteer Skill Areas:**

We are working on some partnerships with various industry leaders, and will need volunteers to help facilitate. Please fill out [this form](#) and let us know your skill areas that you would be willing to share with STEM.

Opportunities to volunteer at STEM will be posted here as the school year starts. Be sure to check back each week to see all of the new volunteer opportunities. These opportunities will also be included in the Weekly Parent Newsletters.

On-Going Opportunities

Driveline (Earn Double Volunteer Hours):

- o Parent supervisors needed during AM & PM Driveline! Arrive 5 minutes early to find parking and grab a vest. Extra incentive: Earn double hours ie: log 60 hours in Driveline. (that's 30 actual volunteer hours). [Click here to sign up.](#)

Elementary Recess Volunteers:

We would like to invite parents to help during outdoor recess time each day. Recesses start at 10:30 a.m. and end at 1:30 p.m. [Click here to sign-up.](#)

Lunchroom Volunteers:

- o A great way to become involved and see our students during their non-learning time. [Click here to sign up.](#)

Spartan Afternoon Program:

A great way to avoid waiting in the afternoon drive-line, and maybe even take your own child home with homework complete. This opportunity is after school and only requires volunteers to monitor students (no tutoring involved). If you are interested, please [click here.](#)

TSA Volunteers

To volunteer for TSA or to provide snacks please [click here.](#)



Health Room and Front Office Donations

Both our Health Room and Front Offices are always in need of donated items. Click the button below to see what we need and to order through Amazon. Please bring the items to either the Elementary or Secondary Front Office with a label for what it is for.

[Click here to view the Amazon Wishlist](#)

Elementary Classroom Donation Wishlists

[Mr. Kavanaugh - K-8 Dean](#)

[Ms. Taylor - Kindergarten](#)

[Ms. Sanchez - Kindergarten](#)

[Ms. Bench - First Grade](#)

Gift Card Donation Request for Staff Prizes

If you're looking for a way to give to STEM, consider donating gift cards for our Staff Prizes. Gift Cards in \$5 increments are great for us to use to gift out when we do staff recognitions and games. Please drop gift cards off at either the Secondary Front Office and label them "Staff Prizes." Thank you!

Secondary Classroom Donation Wishlists

Volunteering & Donations at STEM

- Every \$20 of donated items translates to one volunteer hour.
 - Remember, the law states that you cannot deduct the value of your time.
 - The IRS does not allow a charitable deduction for volunteering your services.
 - By IRS definition, charitable contributions represent gifts given without reciprocity.
 - Our donation policy is that every \$20 donated equates to one hour of volunteer time.

Volunteering & Donations at STEM

Raptor Technologies

- We are transitioning to Raptor Technologies Volunteers and Events this year.
- Volunteers must be background checked prior to starting as a volunteer.
- Families indicated they wanted to volunteer during Express Check-In.
 - Families will receive an email from Raptor once the system is up and running, with instructions on how to complete the background check.

Volunteering & Donations at STEM

Raptor Technologies

- Volunteers will set up an account in Raptor and will be able to sign up for volunteer events.
- Volunteers will also be able to log hours for events after hours as well as for monetary donations from the Amazon Wishlists or Event Donation Requests.

Parent-Teacher Organization

PTO's mission is to work in partnership with the school to foster a strong sense of community, provide enhancement activities for student, staff and families and to help increase the educational, social and emotional experience for all.

Visit: stemk12.org/about-us/pto

Parent-Teacher Organization

What does the PTO do?

Our mission ensures STEM PTO works in partnership with STEM School Highlands Ranch to foster a strong sense of community, provide enhancement activities for student, faculty, staff and families and help increase the educational, social and emotional experience for the members and their families.

Parent-Teacher Organization

- PTO meets the second Wednesday of every month.
- Please check the All-STEM Events Calendar on the website for location and meeting access.
- Want to get involved? Email pto@stemk12.org

School Accountability Committee

- Colo state law requires every school to have a SAC committee
- 4+ Parents, 1 Elementary Teacher, 1 Secondary Teacher, PTO Rep, Administrator, and Community Rep
- Purpose of SAC is to be an advisory committee
 - Inform and encourage participation from parents and school community
- SAC provides recommendations regarding
 - School's overall performance - Unified Improvement Plan
 - Budget priorities/requests
 - Parent and School community concerns related to school performance or safety issues

School Accountability Committee

- Meetings are typically 3rd Wednesday of each month during school year
- Provide presentations on pertinent topics
 - Examples: Tri-County Health, STEM Counseling Team, Standards Based Learning
- Meeting agendas defined based on SAC responsibilities and community feedback
 - Include reports from STEM Admin, Teachers, PTO, Community Rep, DAC Rep
- Subcommittees
 - UIP development
 - Administer Parent survey and review feedback
 - Communications
 - SAC Bylaws Update
- SAC Representative(s) participate in STEM Diversity, Equity & Inclusion committee

School Accountability Committee

How can I get involved?

- Come to the monthly meetings!
- Review the SAC meeting agendas and meeting minutes on the STEM SAC website. Send email to SAC@STEMK12.org
 - Feedback or Ideas for meeting presentations
 - Concerns regarding overall school performance, safety issues
 - Ideas for budget requests - noise attenuation in elementary lunchroom
- Looking for new parent volunteers every Spring

KOSON/STEM Board of Directors

- STEM School Highlands Ranch is a self-governed charter school authorized by DCSD. Our Board of Directors set the school's policies.
- Where a policy is not developed, we follow DCSD's policies. For any questions about the Board of Directors, please email communications@stemk12.org.
- Find more information at stemk12.org/about-us/board-of-directors

KOSON/STEM Board of Directors

- The BOD is a nine-member board of parents and community members. It is all volunteer-based.
- Meetings are the first Tuesday of every month in the Mechatronics Lab of the P-TECH/KOSON Schools Building at 8920 Barrons Blvd.
- Meetings start at 5:30 p.m.
- Everyone is welcome to attend and observe our Board in action.
- People can sign-up for Public Comment on the calendar or on the BOD page on the website.

KOSON/STEM Board of Directors

- Want to get involved?
 - BOD new-member elections are held every April-May.
 - Parents can put their name in for consideration prior to that time frame during our Call for New BOD Members window.
 - All information is shared in the Weekly Parent Newsletter.

STEM Athletics Booster Club

- Our STEM Athletics Booster Club is being developed.
- Our NEW Athletics Director, Susan Jones will be leading this effort with our Athletics Booster Club President.
- Be on the lookout for more information in the coming weeks on how to get involved.