



**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](http://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](#)

# Back-to-School Hub

Visit the Back-to-School Hub to find out all the important information to prepare for the first day of school.

<https://stemk12.org/back-to-school-2024-25-information-hub/>

Email [info@stemk12.org](mailto:info@stemk12.org) with any questions.

## Back to School – 2024-25 Information Hub



📅 July 16, 2024 📁 Athletics News, Elementary News, High School News, Home Page, Middle School News, Parent News, School News, Student News 👤 by Nicole Bostel

School Starts on Tuesday, Aug. 6

# Express Check-In Update

- DCSD Express Check-In is open and we are asking all families to complete this step (Phase One) by Monday, Aug. 5.
  - If having difficulty with DCSD Express Check-In, please call DCSD IT. We cannot help with this part.
- STEM's Express Check-In (Phase Two) was emailed on Saturday, July 27.
  - Email includes the STEM Express Check-In Google Form
  - Please complete by Monday, Aug. 5.

# 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 [volunteer@stemk12.org](mailto:volunteer@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

# 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

## Volunteer Hours Donation

- Many families have asked if they can just make a donation to cover their volunteer hours.
- We are finally able to accommodate that request. If you'd rather make a monetary donation to go toward your volunteer hours, click the button below and select Volunteer Hours Donation.
- Please remember that if you select this option you cannot claim this donation on your taxes at the end of the year.



# Volunteering & Donations at STEM

## Get Connected by Galaxy Digital

- We've partnered with Get Connected by Galaxy Digital to assist us with our Volunteer Coordination and Management. Get Connected is a secure volunteer management solution for K-12 Schools.
- Our new platform will be set to launch the first week of school.
- This new platform will allow families to sign up for volunteer opportunities, log their hours and also see an interactive dashboard to see how far they are from reaching their volunteer hour goal.

# Volunteering & Donations at STEM

## Background Checks

- Certain volunteer positions will require volunteers to complete a detailed background check prior to volunteering.
  - Volunteers will be notified in advance if this is needed
- Please also remember that all volunteers who come during school hours will also be run through our Raptor Check-In System using their Driver's License.

# 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](https://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.
- Check out the <https://linktr.ee/stempto> page to find out more information.
- Want to get involved? Email [pto@stemk12.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:communications@stemk12.org).
- Find more information at [stemk12.org/about-us/board-of-directors](https://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. and are available to watch via Zoom
- 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, which typically happens in February-March
  - All information is shared in the Weekly Parent Newsletter.

**Questions?**

The background features a white upper section and a lower section with wavy, overlapping shapes in orange and blue. The orange shapes are on the left and bottom, while the blue shape is on the right and top.