



STEM Academy at Showalter

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August 26, 2024

Dear STEM Academy Families:

I am very excited to **welcome our new and returning Families to the 2024-25 School Year!** This summer has been busy, as the STEM Team has been preparing for another great year. My name is Ronald C. Brown Jr, and I am the new Building Principal of STEM Academy. I also would like to introduce Ms. Meghan Sgro, the new Assistant Principal of STEM Academy. We hope that everyone is having a great summer vacation. Ms. Sgro and I look forward to a great school year. In addition to continuing our academic, extra-curricular, and student support programs, we have some fantastic new opportunities in the coming year.

First, let's highlight some of our achievements from 2023-24:

- Once again, we exceeded our assessment performances from the prior year:
 - 4 STEM Freshman scored **ADVANCED** on the Algebra Keystone
 - A record number of Students earned scores of 3, 4, and 5 on AP Exams
 - Across tested area subjects, Students outperformed benchmarks from the past two years.
- STEM expanded Student access to CTE programming – more than one-third of our rising Juniors and Seniors are enrolled in Career based programming in a variety of fields including Engineering, Communications Technology,
- Class of 2024 received over \$1 Million in College Scholarships
- STEM Students participated in six school and district concerts during the school year, displaying talents in music, dance, and the arts.

As we look toward the future, we will be implementing some changes designed to further the growth we have achieved.

- **New Schedule: 50-minute classes, instead of block-scheduled classes.**
- Expanded Dual Enrollment: This year, qualifying Students in Grades 11 & 12 can enroll in credit-bearing courses through Widener University and Delaware County Community College. This provides students with expanded access to upper-level college preparatory courses in addition to AP classes.
- College & Career Readiness: All STEM Seniors will have 1-on-1 meetings with their Senior Counselor, Ms. Barnes within the first month of school to solidify their post-graduation plans. This will build on the spring meeting they had in April.

As always, we want to thank our Families for their continued partnership as we approach another school year. Whether you are new to the STEM Community or have been with us for years, we are looking forward to working side-by-side to ensure our students are successful. Please be on the lookout for further communication in the coming weeks regarding the PowerSchool Parent Portal, Dress Code, and other important 2024-25 information.

Sincerely,

Ronald C. Brown Jr.

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