

Good Morning, STEAM Families!

To best support you and your student during this unprecedented time, the STEAM staff has worked tirelessly to create meaningful content that not only addresses academic growth and curiosity but also social and emotional support. Your STEAM student has been enrolled into a google classroom with their mentor teacher to simplify this learning path and streamline all materials in one place. We honor and respect your time, resources, and participation - our hope is that this delivery method eases your burden.

Please know that our primary concern is for your child's social and emotional well-being during this time. Mary Tommelein, our STEAM counselor, is available for remote counseling services. She can be contacted at [mtommelein@tps.k12.mi.us](mailto:mtommelein@tps.k12.mi.us). You can also find more social-emotional resources by clicking the following links:

- Michigan Department of Education - [MDE COVID-19 Social and Emotional Learning Resources](#)
- C.S. Mott Children's Hospital - [Thrive With Your Family Web Series](#)
- Michigan Medicine - [Michigan Psychiatry Resources for COVID-19](#)
- Michigan Department of Education - [Educator's Guide to Supporting the Social and Emotional Needs of Students](#)

Your child's mentor teacher will be reaching out via email to instruct your child on how to login to their google classroom. Once inside the google classroom, your child will be able to view the weekly checklist, announcements, and additional materials. We understand that this remote instruction does not replace the normally delivered content. We understand that each and every STEAM student and family is in a different situation. We understand that this may be a stressful time. We are here for you. If you need help or assistance with anything during this time, please reach out. We will help in any way that we can.

We also want you to know that these activities have been specially created for equity - we want all students to be successful and achieve greatness. We know and believe that all students can learn and thrive given the proper supports and environment. With your partnership, we hope that every STEAM student can gain a deep sense of gratification and accomplishment through the activities presented. For the remainder of this school year, the emphasis for schoolwork is on continuous learning, supported by monitoring and feedback, not traditional grading.

As outlined in Governor Whitmer's address and the MDE guidelines, all students will be promoted to the next grade level. Therefore, all of our East STEAM students will be promoted to 9th grade next year and all of our West STEAM students will be promoted to 8th grade next year, regardless of participation in the distance learning for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. If you and your family do not wish to participate in distance learning, please reach out to your child's mentor teacher or myself.

At this point, our district is required to follow the "Stay at Home" directive from the governor. Therefore, students may not access their lockers at this time. However, please know that items will not be taken out of your student's locker or thrown away (with the exception of perishable food). When conditions improve and the restrictions are lifted, we will move forward with a plan to retrieve personal items from the school building. When that time comes, I will send an additional communication out to STEAM families.

For those students who are currently participating in high school credit-bearing courses (Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2), please refer to the information below this letter regarding final grades. If your student is not currently enrolled in one of the above mentioned high school credit-bearing classes, your child will be issued credit/no-credit for their enrolled courses.

For the East STEAM families who were signed up to attend the DC/Gettysburg trip, please know that I am in regular communication in Student Adventures to try to make this the best situation for our students. We are disappointed in the situation and hope to work with the company to improve the current plan as was communicated by the company a few days ago.

Again, we thank you for your partnership in your child's education during this difficult time. If you and your family are in need of support and/or resources, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or your child's mentor teacher for assistance. We are here for you!

[Food distribution information can be found on the school website.](#)

Stay Home. Stay Safe.

Thank you,

Melanie Nowak  
Principal  
East and West STEAM Center  
Tecumseh Public Schools

## High School Credit-Bearing Course Grading Guidelines:

It is our recommendation that as a 7th or 8th grader taking a high school level math class, if you are not earning an A or a B, you should retake the class next year.

Your grades on March 11th will be used as your 2nd Semester Grades

- For those students with a passing grade:
  - You will not be given the opportunity to raise or lower your grade during these last 7 weeks.
  - If you want to raise your grade, you will be given the opportunity to retake the specific class
- As required by the Governor's Executive Order, If you are failing your class(es), you will have the opportunity to raise it to a passing status and receive an "S".
  - An "S" on your transcript will not impact your cumulative GPA in a positive or negative way. It will only be counted as credit towards your graduation requirements.
- At the end of the semester, students will have several options.
  - Option One - Students will have the option of accepting their current "letter grade" from March 11th.
  - Option Two - Students will have the option to change their "letter grade" to an "S" grade onto their transcript.
  - Option Three - Those students who are failing can raise their failing grade from an "F" to an "S".
- The grading flowchart below will help each student determine which option is possible and suits their needs the best.

**THS Continuity of Learning Plan  
Grading Protocol Flowchart**

