

# South Tattnall Middle School

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"Whatever It Takes."



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Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are excited about the new opportunities that we have begun to provide at STMS, so we wanted to take some time to give you an update on some of these changes that you may have already heard about. This year we began offering accelerated math in 6<sup>th</sup> grade along with STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) exploratory classes in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. These introductory level courses were the first step in a three-year journey towards STEM Certification from the Georgia Department of Education. Currently there are only 15 STEM certified middle schools in the state of Georgia, and only three of them are located south of Macon.

Part of the STEM certification process requires us to evaluate all of the teaching practices that we use and how we can change to incorporate the core ideals of STEM. Beginning next year, students will see a shift in the ways we teach and present information in classes. STEM classrooms focus on project and problem based learning using an engineering design process. This process requires students to Ask, Imagine, Plan, Create and Improve when they are learning new information. Project based learning is centered around hands on lessons in which students work to apply previously taught information towards solving issues within our community. As we continue down our STEM journey, we will keep you updated with new information to include changes that will be coming for next school year.

An additional component of STEM certification is community partnerships. We would like to reach out to all of our community members to find people that would be interested in partnering with us in our journey. With the hands on project based learning that we will implement, we are in need of people that are willing to share their expertise in almost all fields of work including trades, subject knowledge and special talents. For example, we may have an 8<sup>th</sup> grade science class working on a rocketry project. They may need technical assistance with how to properly design a functioning rocket. Someone with experience in rocket design or engineering would be invited to come in to demonstrate or teach a small lesson to the class. If you are interested in becoming a community partner, please fill out the following survey:

<https://goo.gl/forms/Aq5JdwGnMWZDFUt52>.

The survey can also be found on our school web site ([stms.tattnallschools.org](http://stms.tattnallschools.org)). Once we compile our list of interested community partners, we will send out information regarding an informational meeting.

We are looking forward to continuing to work with all of our parents and community partners as we strive for STEM certification. As always, please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Adam Kirby

