

STEM Newsletter

"Let's build the change we wish to see" – Emily Pilloton

Volume 3, Issue 4

December 5, 2020

In this issue:

Important Reminders

Technology News

Mind Mapping

Googly Tools for Primary

Pixton

Flip Grid

Ditch That Textbook

Google Meet Shortcuts

Google Meet Host Controls

STEM News

STEM ideas

At home STEM activity

Grow your own Crystal Ornament

Skype a Scientist

Senior Science Society

Winter STEM activities

Important Reminders

1. Update your Monthly Newsletter.

Technology News

Mind Mapping is a great tool for students to use. [MindMup](#) is a great resource to use for students to visually see their thinking!

Eric Curtis is an amazing resource when it comes to all things technology. He has a great [list of resources and ideas](#) for primary students!

Need a comic creator? Check out [Pixton](#). It is a free comic strip creator!

[Flip Grid](#) is a great tool for student voice. Teachers can create a topic for the students to respond to. Students can video themselves answering the question!

[Ditch that Textbook](#) is a great resource with lesson plans and free templates. One of the templates they have is a Tik Tok template for google slides. Students can use the template to show what a character would do in a Tik Tok-style video, what would they say, how would you use TikTok to describe a new concept.

Google Meet Shortcuts

Ctrl + e - turn camera on/off

Ctrl + d - turn microphone on/off

New Google Meet Host Controls

Grid View - see more students at once

Manage Chat - turn it on or off

Background blur - you can also get different backgrounds

Breakout Rooms - put students in small groups

Hand Raising - students can raise their hands to answer/ask questions

Attendance - after each meeting you will receive an email of students who were online.

STILL TO COME:

Digital whiteboard

Noise Cancellation

Click on the shield or the three dots to find these settings.

STEM News

- Looking for more STEM ideas? Follow us on Instagram [@vivifystem](#) or join "[The STEM Space](#)" Facebook group.
- Need STEM curriculum for the spring? Any middle school site can join - for free - in the spring [Space Club Mission to the Moon!](#) The program is perfect for distance, classroom, or hybrid learning.

STEM Space At Home Activity Guides

[Engineering design challenge handouts](#) for the [STEM Space At Home video series](#). Password is *vivifystem*.

Grow your own Crystal Ornaments

https://www.instagram.com/p/Brwa2hkBWH_/

Questions to ask STEM professional

Could be useful for Skype sessions with scientists or other professionals:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54807be6e4b053bc20c8b2a0/t/5e4ab87196cdbe0b66ced453/1581955190235/STEM+Professional+Questions.pdf>

The Senior Science Society

wants to help HCPS teachers bring STEM topics to the students. Some proposed ideas that they are willing to pursue:

1. Providing simple demonstrations of science topics within your curriculum, e.g., Newton's Pendulum, buoyancy using the Cartesian Diver, States of Matter clips from the video, etc.
2. Holding a general science problem solving session or problem solving for a topic of choice.
3. Holding a Q & A session for an introduction to a new topic being studied within your curriculum, e.g., Energy, Motion, etc.
4. Other sessions that you may wish us to address that relate to areas in which we may provide help and inspire a student interest in STEM activities.

The SSS website for GUIDELINES for SCHOOLS and SENIOR SCIENCE SOCIETY COORDINATORS can be found at: https://seniorsciencesociety.org/docs/modules/guidelines_schools_coord_20jul19.pdf and the resource modules they currently have available (albeit normally used during regular school sessions) can be found at: https://seniorsciencesociety.org/docs/modules/module_descript_20jul19.pdf

If you are interested, please contact: Rob Lieb, Senior Science Society roblieb@comcast.net 443-528-1019

Looking for a project to do with your student over the winter holidays?

Check out the 2021 Maryland Engineering Challenges! With projects for 1st-12th grade, there is something for everyone:

1. CHOOSE a Challenge and check out the perspective dates for each competition on the BMI challenge event [page](#)
2. CHECK OUT our [suggestions](#) on how to participate during a pandemic.
3. DOWNLOAD the challenge guide to learn more about the project.
4. CONNECT with the engineer leader of your challenge with any questions and to access the project materials.

Find more information on our website:

<http://www.thebmi.org/visit/maryland-engineering-challenges/>

For Middle and High School Coaches:

Robot Virtual Workshop

January 23, 2021 -- 10:00-2:00 PM.

Interested in the Robot Challenge, but not sure how to start?

Learn the practical aspects of the Robot Challenge in this virtual workshop hosted on Zoom. Work with engineers to explore design and construction aspects of this project. Especially helpful for first-time Coaches and/or those with little engineering experience. Free.

There are still spots remaining:

Register here: <https://bit.ly/RobotWorkshop2Registration>