

GES Title I S.T.E.M. Family Challenge Event

Monday, March 23-Friday, March 27, 2020

Online Event for Families to Experience at Home

Minutes

A drastic change had to be implemented for our Title I S.T.E.M. Family Challenge night due to the county-wide school closing because of the Covid-19 outbreak. In order to stay compliant with the school closings, GES Title I converted the planned school event into an at-home event for students and their families.

The Parent Involvement Coordinator researched and adapted 5 different S.T.E.M. challenges that would be easy for the majority of our students to do from home, utilizing items that most people would find in their homes. GES teachers reviewed the challenges and assisted in aligning the S.T.E.M. challenges to the GA Standards of Excellence. This event was then posted online on the school's website and went live on Monday, March 23, 2020. Parents were sent a school-cast text/email with the link and encouraged to participate as a family in any capacity. Teachers also shared the event link in their Google Classrooms and with parents through their class communication apps; Dojo, Remind, or Bloomz.

Students and their families could select to attempt all 5 challenges or select one or two that piqued their curiosity. Each challenge had a link on the school's website to a sheet that listed the materials needed, the basic instructions, which GA Standards of Excellence applied to the challenge, and a link to a Google Form to record their results. Once families had completed their challenge or challenges, they were asked to complete the Evaluation at the end of the Google Form linked in the challenge pages and on the school's website. Students and their families were also asked to submit photos to the PIC via email of them attempting or completing their challenge(s).

Families also had access to the following handouts and brochures via a links page created by the PIC and linked on the S.T.E.M. Challenge Event page: School Policy, District Policy, Policy trifold, GA Standards, Annual Meeting Agenda/Minutes, Testing in Georgia, Components of a Schoolwide Plan, How to Communicate with Your Child's Teacher and translated versions of those documents in the office.

The S.T.E.M. Challenge event was open all week for students and their families to attempt the challenges at their convenience. This new form of event was fairly well received by parents, who enjoyed working with their students on fun and educational mini projects. While "attendance" was not as good as our normal school events, families who did participate offered positive feedback, with one parent stating, "I thought this event was lots of fun for the kids and adults. Gave the kids something fun, but educational to work on while participating in digital learning. Working on these challenges gave us a

break from the regular class work." Evaluation results were shared with administrators, teachers, and Title I staff. Overall, we felt this event was a success for our school and during this unprecedented time in our country and was a good learning opportunity in online meeting preparation and execution for our Title I program.