



# Teacher Commitment

## The Staff of MC<sup>2</sup> STEM High School Commit to the following

### **Commitment to MC<sup>2</sup> STEM Mission and Vision**

We believe in the mission and vision of MC<sup>2</sup> STEM High School. As active members of this community we will work to fulfill its vision.

We choose to support all students as they develop as thinkers, activists, and community members.

### **Commitment to Student Achievement**

We believe in curricula that begin with the Ohio Academic Content Standards and Indicators and ends with successful participation in college level work without remediation.

We believe in curricula that employ essential questions and are aligned with developing "Habits of Mind".

### **Commitment to Progress**

As instructors we are committed to providing a variety of instructional strategies and assessments that support the development of habits of mind for all students.

Our classroom activities are structured democratically so that students are able to play a variety of roles, in a variety of settings with confidence and skill as each student fosters collaboration and independence of thought.

We believe that it is our responsibility to identify clear and measurable goals for all students and know where all students are in relation to those goals. Therefore, demonstrating our belief that all students can learn to use their minds well.

### **Commitment to Partnership**

We believe in forming learning environments that encourage trust and respectful behavior among all stakeholders.

We are committed to the provision of curriculum and activities that give students choices and numerous opportunities to succeed.

We are committed to provide opportunities for teachers, parents, and students to interact in a variety of settings (inside and outside the classroom), making effective partnerships on behalf of students.

### **Commitment to Personal Responsibility**

As instructors we are committed to analyze our teaching practices (i.e. ratio of teacher talk to student talk, opportunities for student initiated intellectual pursuits, quality and variety of learning activities, opportunities for multiple learning styles) and use a curriculum that is flexible enough to allow for independent exploration, student generated questions, and student reflection.

We are committed to the promotion of students based on their demonstration of mastery, not by time spent in class.

We believe that our role as a facilitator of learning goes beyond the classroom, or subject area. We are advisors, counselors, coaches, and learners.

We believe that understanding various student cultural differences (such as ethnic, gender, economic, linguistic) is a fundamental part of being a teacher.

We believe that it is our responsibility to help students see themselves as change agents in their own lives and in the world





# Parent Commitment

**As a family, we fully commit to MC² STEM High School in the following ways:**

## **Commitment to MC² STEM High School's Mission and Vision**

We believe in the vision and as members of the learning community, we will work to fulfill its promise.

We are dedicated to the academic success and overall well being of all students in the MC² STEM High School community in addition to our own.

## **Commitment to Policies and Attendance Requirements**

We understand that our child must follow the MC² STEM High School policies to contribute to his/her individual successes as well as that of the greater community.

We understand that the performance based and collaborative nature of the curriculum makes missing school time very difficult for our child. We will make careful decisions when allowing our child to miss school and will work with the school to engage in work that was missed.

## **Commitment to Progress**

We understand that the school has chosen Mastery Learning as its instructional performance methodology. We understand that this means that our child will not advance to a subsequent set of learning objectives until he/she has demonstrated proficiency with the current one.

We will ensure that we review our child's performance feedback carefully and will do our best to stay informed about daily assignments, projects and portfolio/exhibition work. We will help our child maintain the consistent effort required to thrive at MC² STEM High School.

## **Commitment to Partnership**

When our child is struggling in any class we will get in touch with his/her faculty advisor instead of waiting for an update from the school.

We will do our best to attend MC² STEM events and participate in the democratic governance afforded through the Student Parent Organization and meetings.

We will be active partners in MC² STEM High School by sharing ideas and resources that benefit the school.

## **Commitment to Personal Responsibility**

We will help our child understand that his/her success rests with his/her own choices and that s/he also has responsibilities to strengthen and add value to the MC² STEM community.





# Student Commitment

## Students of MC<sup>2</sup> STEM High School Are Committed to the Following:

### Commitment to Demonstration of Work

As a student, I demonstrate that learning is purposeful and that I have developed habits of mind by: questioning my work; taking ownership of my work; directing my own learning; reflecting on my work; assessing my work; revisiting my work; solving complex problems; sharing my understanding; making connections; finding and assessing evidence for ideas; asking critical questions of others; using a variety of tools (i.e. technology) to conduct research; conducting action research; and performing at a high level in assessments.

### Commitment to Making Connections

As a student I seek to deepen my understanding of subject areas by making connections between my academic and personal lives by applying knowledge gained and essential skills developed in school to my activities outside of school.

I am committed to demonstrate internal (intrinsic) motivation by becoming an increasingly independent learner.

### Commitment to Policies and Attendance Requirements

I understand that I must commit to follow the MC<sup>2</sup> STEM High School policies and will accept the consequences for my own choices.

I understand and recognize that the school applies high standards to all students and the performance based and collaborative nature of the curriculum makes missing school time very difficult for learning. If I am absent, I will take full responsibility for making up missed work and staying up to date with current work. This means that I will make the appropriate arrangements to get caught up with missed work outside of specified class time.

### Commitment to Progress

I am committed to work with the guidance of adults in the school to set academic and personal goals which are tailored to my individual strengths.

I will safely, respectfully, and persuasively articulate my ideas and opinions.

I will contribute to classroom, school and community decision making and problem solving through student governance.

As a student, I will create a portfolio throughout my academic career which demonstrates the evolution of my skills and knowledge.

### Commitment to Partnerships

As a student, I will be an ally to all students in our community. I will not bully, tease, exclude others, or physically fight. I will speak up if I witness others being mistreated and will offer my strengths to others through tutoring and collaboration. If I have a problem with another student, together we will find a peaceful solution.

I care for shared spaces and will help keep those spaces clean even when the mess is not of my doing.





# Student Expectations

The following are our core values and operating principles. These are targets by which measurement data will be consistently collected:

1. *Own your own potential*
2. *Master your own path*
3. *Make a difference*
4. *Recognize that problems are sources for innovation*
5. *Accept that it is your responsibility to take on issues of sustainability*

## **Classroom Expectations**

Follow all the rules outlined in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District Student Code of Conduct book.

Respect everyone and work towards building trust.  
Copying, cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated.

## **Professional Expectations**

Students have the privilege of interacting with STEM professionals on a daily basis. This is a unique opportunity and students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. These expectations include appropriate dress code, active participation in all activities, and behavior fitting for a professional community.

## **Consequences**

Discipline will be handled in a documented three step procedure and then handed over to the principal. For the first offense, the student will fill out a "Plan of Action" form and outline a plan to help them from repeating the behavior that warranted the form. The student will sign the form and the parents/guardians will be contacted to inform them of the student's plan. For the second offense, the student will fill out a "Disciplinary Action Form" on which the student will summarize the offense and then suggest an appropriate consequence for the action. Parents will be contacted and informed of the situation and the students' proposed consequence. The teacher and parent will discuss if this is an appropriate consequence for the action. A third offense will result in parents again being contacted and a conference will be set up. The conference will be with the student, parent/guardian, teacher, and administrator. Should a fourth occurrence happen, all documentation will be turned over to the administrator for his or her review and decisions will be made regarding appropriate disciplinary actions. Any issues that may occur in the presence of a substitute teacher will result in an automatic move to the disciplinary action form.

## **Absences**

When a student is absent it is his or her responsibility to get any make-up work that must be completed from each teacher. If a student is absent on the day of an assessment they will be required to take/perform the assessment the day they come back from their absence. Alternative assessments may need to be completed depending upon course.

## **Electronic Devices**

All electronic devices including cell phones, ipods, mp3 players must be put away. These devices will be confiscated if heard or seen in use during the school day. On the first offense students will be able to pick the item up at the end of the day from the office, all subsequent offenses will require a parent/guardian to pick up the device. Any device that is lost or stolen is not the responsibility of MC<sup>2</sup> STEM high school.

## **Dress Code**

MC<sup>2</sup> STEM High School Dress Code is different from the Cleveland Municipal School District dress code. See attached form for details.

