



## **The Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology Partnership Program**

### **9<sup>th</sup> Grade: Speaker Series**

The purpose of the Speaker Series is to expose our 9<sup>th</sup> grade students to the vast array of careers within the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) fields. Four times per year speakers are invited to the school to spend time with a small group of students who have expressed prior interest in the speaker's particular area of expertise. These informal discussions typically begin with the speaker spending fifteen minutes describing his/her education background, career path, and daily tasks. The remaining ten to fifteen minutes involve open discussion and Q & A. All GSMST classrooms are equipped with DVD players, computers, and overhead LCD projectors.

### **10<sup>th</sup> Grade: Job Readiness and STEM Site Experience**

Phase two of the Partnership Program involves our 10<sup>th</sup> grade students participating in a fall Job Readiness workshop and spring Site Visit event. The fall workshop involves business and post-secondary partners and faculty preparing students for interviews, cultivating their resume writing skills, and teaching business etiquette. In the spring semester, students travel to a business or post-secondary partner's location to experience the daily routine of an assigned employee or researcher. The STEM Site Experience event introduces students first-hand to business etiquette, protocols, and career requirements common to an industry. This phase also gives students an idea of which internship they would like to pursue the following year.

### **11<sup>th</sup> Grade: Junior Fellowship Experience**

During their 11<sup>th</sup> grade year, our students participate in the Junior Fellowship Experience (JFE). This program partners university and industry experts with our students to complete in-depth work assignments and projects. These internships are a graduation requirement for GSMST students and adhere to strict requirements regarding rigor, time commitment, and use of STEM skills. Students can choose to participate in a career internship or an independent project. The time-frames are either summer, short-term (one semester), or long-term (yearlong).

### **12<sup>th</sup> Grade: Senior Capstone Experience**

Upon completion of the JFE, our students pursue the Senior Capstone Experience (SCE). The SCE is built along three pathways of student choice: the Thinker, the Doer, and the Maker. All SCEs involve internship experience and a performance outcome to be submitted at the end of the experience. At the conclusion of the SCE students present their experience to a panel of judges. Students are able to choose from multiple options for their SCE, including research (Thinker), apprenticeship (Doer), and engineering/entrepreneurship (Maker). All SCEs are yearlong.