

*Together We Can Cultivate the Next Generation of Innovators*

## **Charlotte STEAM / Harper Corp of America R.A.T. Rod Challenge**

Dear Montgomery County Schools,

Thank you for accepting the **Charlotte STEAM / Harper Corp of America R.A.T. Rod Challenge**. The acronym R.A.T. appropriately stands for **Radically Alternative Thinking**. This is a great opportunity for you to challenge your students to learn about the basic aspects of automotive repair, 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, and most importantly, thinking outside the box and problem solving! We encourage you to get as many departments within your school involved as we feel that, in order to obtain the full impact of what this program has to offer, cross curriculum collaboration is a must!

This letter serves as a contract between Charlotte STEAM/ Harper Corporation of America and **Montgomery County Schools** to build a R.A.T. Rod under the following guidelines:

- R.A.T. Rod will be designed and built by students only, with teacher instruction
- Encourage ethnic and gender blend of students
- R.A.T. Rod will be built from parts from no less than 10 different vehicles and a minimum of 80% of recycled materials must be used.
- R.A.T. Rod can be built by using any transportation vehicle parts, including car, tractor, truck, plane, or boat. (Use your RATovation!)
- Use local suppliers and support
- Must use STEAM vs. STEM curriculum (everything on this project must be referred to as STEAM)
- R.A.T. Rod must be operable and safe for the road, legally titled and insured
- **Montgomery County Schools** agrees to complete their R.A.T. Rod by April 1, 2018 and to display it at the Charlotte STEAM Festival.
- R.A.T. Rod must be built within a \$5000 budget **provided**. If the build is completed and displayed at Charlotte STEAM Festival, another \$1000 will be given to **Montgomery County Schools**. If R.A.T. Rod is not completed by our Charlotte STEAM Festival event, the incentive funding (\$1000) will be forfeited, and a date must be provided by **Montgomery County Schools** for the completion of the project
- If the local town/city newspaper gives recognition of the R.A.T. Rod build with at least a 200-word text with pictures, there will be a \$500 bonus provided within 30 days to the school. Funds must be used for the project or put in escrow for future R.A.T. Rod project.
- If article is written with at least a 200-word text with pictures and accepted by Rat Rod Magazine ([www.ratrodmagazine.com](http://www.ratrodmagazine.com)), a \$1000 bonus will be given with 60 days to the school. Funds must be used for the project or put in escrow for future R.A.T. Rod project.
- The Harper Corporation of America Logo (provided) must be displayed on the car and all printed materials (i.e. handouts, apparel, etc.), and must receive recognition as being sponsor of vehicle.
- R.A.T. Rod vehicle will be owned by the school.
- A detailed list of expenses must be maintained for auditing purposes.

*Together We Can Cultivate the Next Generation of Innovators*

- A monthly progress report must be submitted to Jim Harper of Harper Corporation of America ( [jharper@harperimage.com](mailto:jharper@harperimage.com) ) and Scott Brown of Charlotte STEAM ( [scottbrown@charlottesteam.org](mailto:scottbrown@charlottesteam.org) ), which will include status of build along with latest pictures.
- If vehicle is sold, 100% of the funds obtained from the sale must be put back into another R.A.T. Rod STEAM project immediately with the project being completed within one year, with Harper Corporation of America and Charlotte STEAM receiving continued recognition for the project.
- The students **must** video their building process and progress and edit it to make a loop video to be displayed on a flat screen TV in front of their car at Charlotte STEAM to show how they built it
- A copy of the video **must** be given to Charlotte S.T.E.A.M. with permission and all rights for use for advertising future R.A.T. Rod events.
- A letter of acknowledgement of receipt of funds must be provided to Harper Corporation of America within 10 working days. Please email this letter to [jharper@harperimage.com](mailto:jharper@harperimage.com) .

We look forward to seeing your kids do amazing things and standing proudly at Charlotte STEAM Festival. Thank you for participating in the **Charlotte STEAM / Harper Corp of America R.A.T. Rod Challenge**.

All the best and Full STEAM Ahead!

---

Jim Harper  
Harper Corporation of America

---

Scott Brown – Executive Director  
Charlotte STEAM

---

Benjie Brown - Principal  
West Montgomery High School

---

Brandon Britt – Automotive Instructor  
West Montgomery High School

---

Mr. Steve DeBerry – Chairman  
Montgomery County Schools, Board of Education

---

Dr. Dale Ellis – Superintendent  
Montgomery County Schools