



SciTech Family Newsletter

January 2016

Inside this issue:

SciTech Website	2
Keystone Documents	2
Scheduling	2
SciTech Ski Trip	3
Parent Resource Center	3
PSCC: Social Networking Safety	4

Update on Restorative Practices at SciTech

One important concept emphasized within restorative practices is based upon the premise that students who misbehave are not aware of the impact of their behavior. Ted Wachtel, International Institute for Restorative Practices (IIRP) President and founder, states that an incident of conflict and wrongdoing represents an opportunity for learning. In our effort to implement restorative practices, SciTech administration and staff are working to help students understand the impact of behavior and incidents that disrupt the classroom and school environment. Informal restorative questions, classroom circles and restorative conferences allow students to hear directly from those they have affected and better understand the impact of their behavior. Families should be aware that restorative processes emphasize high levels of accountability while offering support to address the negative behavior. Thank your support and please feel free to reach out to us with any questions regarding restorative practices at SciTech.

School Closures and Delays

Unfortunately it is that time of year when the weather may affect school. All school closures and delays are posted on the Pittsburgh Public Schools website (www.pghboe.net) and are announced on the local news channels and websites. **Please do not call the school.** In the case of a delay, school will begin two hours later than normal and we will follow an adjusted schedule in the building and we will still dismiss at 1:46 PM on Wednesday's. School based activities that occur after school, are cancelled when we have a snow delay. However, athletic contests between schools are only cancelled when schools are closed for the day or if the students have been dismissed early due to bad weather. If the weather becomes problematic during the school day, we will determine if it is appropriate to cancel our after school activities and then send a Blackboard message out to families.

High School Semester Exams

The semester finals for students in grades 9-12 will be given on January 21st & 22nd. Period 1 and 2 finals will take place on January 21st and period 4 and 5 finals will take place on January 22nd. *If a student arrives late, or is absent, without a medical or legal excuse, the student cannot make up the final.* Please note that these are half days for ALL students at SciTech, dismissing at 11:21 and lunch will not be served on these days.

Check Out the SciTech Facebook Page and Website

Check out the SciTech Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pittsburghscitech. Use this site to stay even more up to date with all things SciTech! Also, check out our website at www.pittsburghscitech.com. This website has updates and happenings of SciTech, course descriptions, school information and much more.



Keystone Testing Documents

Please find important Keystone Testing documents included with this newsletter. Keystones will be administered the month of January.



SciTech Office Hours

The office hours during the school year are Monday through Friday 6:30 AM – 3:30 PM (except for holidays). If you call outside of these hours, please make sure to leave a message and we will return your call the next school day.



Family Addresses & Phone Numbers

Families are reminded that if their address, phone number or email address changes during the school year, it is very important to call and notify the main office. The addresses we have on file are used for mailings and the phone numbers are used for our automatic calling system as well as for emergency purposes. At the start of the school year, all families are asked to complete and return Student Emergency Forms.



Scheduling for Next School Year

Over the coming weeks, high school students will receive information regarding the scheduling process for next school year. We do ask that all parents/guardians look through this information with students so that everyone is aware of the course offerings that are available. Course descriptions are available on our school website, www.pittsburghscitech.com.



SciTech Ski Trip

SciTech's seventh annual ski trip to Hidden Valley is scheduled for Friday, February 19th. Students will leave school around 2:30 pm and return around 10:30 that evening. The price for the bus and lift ticket will be around \$40. Ski and snowboard rentals will be available for a cost of \$15 and \$18 dollars, respectively. Lessons are also available from Hidden Valley for an additional fee. Permission slips will be available in the next week, this will have more specific prices and information. Any questions can be directed to Mr. Rose at brose1@pghboe.net or 412-529-7632.



Parent Resource Area at SciTech

Have you had a chance to check out the Parent Resource Area at SciTech? It's located right next to the entrance of the main office. There are shelves of booklets and books that our students and parents can use. There are many different topics such as:

- Helping your student with homework
- Raising a teenager of character
- Parents and stress
- Financing a college education
- Understanding standardized tests
- Parenting teen girls
- And much more!

Stop in today to check it out!



Classroom Resources on Website

Many of our SciTech families have expressed concerns with not knowing what their students are learning in class. We have learned this through discussions at PSCC meetings, conversations with our families and by analyzing the most recent parent survey results distributed by Pittsburgh Public Schools.

Although it isn't possible for our families to learn all of the content that their students are learning in school, we can help families know what it is that their student is learning and where to find more resources. Our staff at SciTech have put together resources for families that can help them help their students. These range from Moodle tutorials to Remind Text Message invites.

These resources can be found in the Academics section of our website at www.pittsburghscitech.com.

Moodle tutorials and guides detail where assigned homework is, how to tell if your student submitted their work and what assignments are coming up next. There are resources that are frequently used in class that can help your student as they complete their work. Many teachers provided the Remind text message invites so that you can join your student's class and get all of the homework and assignment reminders that are sent out. There are many other resources specific to each course.

Please note that these resources will be updated regularly. If you have any questions about the resources please contact the SciTech staff member directly.

