



# SciTech Parent Newsletter

November 2014

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## Fall Festival

We would like to thank our PTO for sponsoring our annual SciTech Fall Festival last month and all of the families that joined us for the great evening. This continues to be one of our highest attended events for our families. During this event, students were able to participate in hands on activities facilitated by local organizations and universities. At Pittsburgh Science and Technology Academy we recognize that a great school has great parental support. We need the help of parents and families who are active partners in creating a learning environment that is focused on excellence. It is our goal to create a school and parent partnership to foster the success of each and every SciTech student. Please consider joining our PTO and PSCC. As a member of the PTO/PSCC, you will work with the principal, teachers, community members and other parents on topics that are important to student success. No matter what grade your child is in, it is never too early or too late to get involved and help students stay on the Pathways to the Promise. Our next PSCC meeting will be Thursday, December 11th at 6pm, and we will be discussing equity at SciTech. Dinner and childcare is provided. The PTO meeting will immediately follow.

We would like to thank all of our parents that came out to the October PSCC meeting. During the meeting, we reviewed the Parent Survey results from last year and discussed what is working well and how we could increase family involvement at SciTech. We appreciate the feedback and suggestions that we received from everyone at the meeting.

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## New SciTech Website

The new SciTech website is up and running. This website includes news and happenings at SciTech, school information, highlights about SciTech, academic course offerings, student opportunities, activity information, a parent section and more. The previous website will no longer be updated regularly so please find all of the information you need at the new website.



[www.pittsburghscitech.com](http://www.pittsburghscitech.com)

## Attendance Reminders (School District Policy)

Students should always try to arrive to school in a timely manner. Students who are not in their classroom prior to the first bell which is at 7:36 AM are considered tardy for school. Please note that students are permitted in the school building at 7:10 a.m. Excessive tardiness to school can result in a magistrate hearing.

### Unexcused Absences:

All absences that are not excused pursuant to this policy will be considered Unexcused. If a student is under the age of 17, then an absence that is not excused pursuant to this policy will be considered Unlawful and Unexcused. If the school does not receive a written explanation within three (3) calendar days of any absence, the absence will be permanently counted as Unexcused and/or Unlawful. Unexcused absences can result in a magistrate hearing.

### Excused Absences:

If absences occur remember to send in a note from a parent/guardian, within three days of the day of absence. Examples of excused absences are: Illness, health care, bereavement, religious holidays and religious instruction, weather emergency, involuntary exclusions and school approved activity. When you are sending in an absence note for your child, please be sure that it includes the following:

- Student's first and last name
- Date(s) absent
- Reason for the absence
- Parent/guardian signature and the date

**Copies of the attendance policy for SciTech can be found in the student planner.**

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## Parent-Student Resource Area at SciTech

We are excited to announce that we have a Parent-Student Resource Area at SciTech, 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!



## Parent 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.



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## Parent Involvement Policy

The SciTech Parent Involvement Policy has been updated for the 2014-2015 with input from our parents and guardians at the last PSCC Meeting. Please find this on the website at [www.pghscitech.net](http://www.pghscitech.net) under "Resources." If you would like a hard copy please contact Mrs. Theuret at 412-529-7652 or [stheuret1@pghboe.net](mailto:stheuret1@pghboe.net).

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## Parent Online Access– Access Your Student's Grades

We have now received login information for all SciTech parents to access student grades online. If you would like your login information please contact any of your student's teachers directly or Mrs. Theuret at [stheuret1@pghboe.net](mailto:stheuret1@pghboe.net) or 412-529-7652, email is best so that instructions can also be provided.

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## Thank You Event for Parents/Guardians– Yoga Night

We know that being a parent/guardian is hard work! Therefore, we want to THANK YOU for all that you do with a night of relaxing yoga at SciTech. This will be gentle and restorative yoga for all body types, facilitated by two of our own SciTech parents and students. Never tried yoga before? Well now is the time to try it out! Bring your student or just bring yourself.

**When:** Thursday, November 6th from 6-7pm

**Where:** SciTech iCenter

**What to Bring:** Comfortable Clothes, a Yoga Mat (optional- we will have some available)

Childcare will be provided.

