

April 3, 2020

Dear STC Students & Parents:

On behalf of the staff and faculty of Schuylkill Technology Center, we hope this communication finds you and your families safe and well. As you know, Governor Wolf ordered all schools in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to be closed until further notice. In response to these unprecedented circumstances, Schuylkill Technology Center prepared a Continuity of Education Plan, which was submitted to PA Department of Education and posted to our website at www.stcenters.org.

The Schuylkill Technology Center (STC) Continuity of Education Plan for enrichment and review reflects a good faith effort to provide all students with equitable access to meaningful activities, directly related to each student's academic path. Throughout the COVID-19 school closure, teachers and administrators will work collaboratively to facilitate activities that enhance prior learning, while maintaining the integrity of our school community's health and safety. Engagement in enrichment and review activities, along with a daily schedule, provides structure and focus, promotes mental and physical activity, and reassurance of normalcy in regular routines. STC intends to progress through the Continuity of Education Plan in weekly increments, following the direction of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania Department of Education.

In addition to enrichment for all students, STC will offer planned instruction for students enrolled in the Emerging Health Program (EHP) will continue with planned instruction through distance education technology in coordination with Penn State University. EHP students who successfully complete the program, will earn PSU Credits.

Enrichment and review content will be provided to 12th grade students no later than Monday 4/6/2020 via digital delivery. Content for 9th-11th grade students will be provided no later than Tuesday 4/14/2020 via digital delivery or paper copies depending upon how families responded to the technology survey. Instructors will be communicating with students via Zoom, Google Meet, TexNow app and the Remind App. If your child has not heard from his or her instructor, please reach out to me directly at sbrennan@stcenters.org.

Please note that our Itinerant Instructors and Instructional Aides are available to assist students with enrichment and review. Itinerant staff will be communicating directly with students on their roster.

Below, please find answers to some frequently asked questions:

1. Are we going to take the NOCTI or NIMS test? On March 23, the Secretary of PDE cancelled standardized testing for students in career and technical education (CTE) programs for the 2019-20 school year. These include exams from the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI) and National Institute of Metalworking Skills (NIMS).

2. Can seniors earn a PA Skills Certificate? No. Since the NOCTI test is not being offered, students enrolled in B Cycle at STC will not be able to receive a PA Skills Certificate.

3. Can I still apply for SOARS credits? As per PDE, 2020 graduates will not be eligible for SOARS credits because NOCTI is part of the requirements and many students will be unable to complete their POS task lists. STC administration has reached out to PDE to get guidance regarding the availability of this opportunity for A Cycle 2020 graduates. We are waiting for a response and will update everyone when we get one.

4. This crisis is scary and overwhelming. What can I do if I am feeling sad or anxious? We are all in this together and we have to rely on each other for support. Mrs. Picht (picht@stcenters.org) and Mrs. Witman (witmg@stcenters.org) are available by email and can help connect you to additional help, if necessary. You can also text **741741** to reach a live

person day or night if you feel lonely and need help. The National Suicide Prevention Hotline (1-800-273-8255) is another valuable resource and is accessible 24 hours a day.

Most importantly, we are asking that you take care of yourselves by eating healthy, getting adequate sleep, exercising, limiting exposure to social media and the 24 hour news cycle, and staying busy with hobbies you enjoy!

5. How do I refer myself or a friend to SAP while we are off? The SAP (Student Assistance Program) is still up and running. You can still refer using the SAP online form on our website. If it is an emergency, please remember to use **Safe2Say (1-844-SAF@SAY)** or **Crisis @ (1-877-993-4357)**. Both are 24 hours a day and confidential.

6. Is there going to be a Spring Fling Dance? Currently, the Spring Fling has been postponed; we are planning to reschedule and look forward to celebrating with you once things return to normal.

7. Will there be a school yearbook? Yes. Mr. Horan is currently working on the yearbook with his students, and they are still planning to sell them. More information will be provided soon.

8. Is PA SkillsUSA competition still happening? Unfortunately, the competitions have been cancelled for this school year, but we will be sure t-shirts are distributed to students.

9. When can we come back to school? Unfortunately, we are unable to answer that question. On Monday, March 30, Governor Wolf closed all Pennsylvania schools "indefinitely." This means that school buildings will be closed for the foreseeable future. The Governor's office and PDE will monitor the COVID-19 situation carefully and will let us know when it is safe to return to school.

10. Can I get into the school to get my belongings out of my locker?

At this time, all schools in Pennsylvania are closed by Governor Wolf. As we are following the state's guidelines, both buildings are currently closed. Once we are told social distancing is no longer mandated, and it becomes safe to allow people in the buildings, we will determine a time for students to get their belongings. We will share that information with you when it becomes available.

Again, thank you for your patience and understanding. If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to administration.

Sincerely,



Shannon Brennan, M.Ed.

Director

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cc. Chris Groody, Assistant Director STC North, grooc@stcenters.org
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