



July 30, 2021

Dear SciTech Families:

On behalf of the faculty and staff at Pittsburgh Science & Technology Academy, I am pleased to welcome our new and returning families to the 2021-2022 academic year. We hope all of our families have had a healthy, safe, and enjoyable summer. Included in this Back to School mailing is SciTech's Educational Equity Policy. Please note that we remain focused and committed to the objectives that are outlined in this policy. In order to create more equitable learning outcomes we must implement policies and practices that support the removal of barriers and provide students with increased opportunities to learn.

One area of focus for our professional learning has been our grading practices. Our staff has spent a considerable amount of time discussing and learning about the importance of implementing equitable and restorative grading practices. Over the coming weeks, students and families will learn more details about how these practices will be incorporated across all classrooms. As we continue working toward equity in our school community we will ensure that our grading practices **Accurately Reflect Student Academic Performance**, are **Bias-Resistant**, and **Support a Growth Mindset**. I look forward to sharing more details with you about these changes.

As I enter my ninth year as principal of SciTech, I am thankful to work with such dedicated educators. We are committed to ensuring that all students experience academic success within an environment that is safe, supportive, and responsive to the needs of our students and families.

Thank you for your feedback and support as we continue this new journey together. I encourage you to utilize our school website to access resources and receive the latest school information. We will keep everyone updated through email, so please join our email list. Our Back to School mailing includes policies, procedures, and events that will take place throughout the school year. Please take the time to carefully review this information.

Enjoy the final few weeks of your summer vacation and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Dr. Shawn McNeil
Principal

Pittsburgh
Science & Technology
Academy 6-12



Shawn McNeil, Principal
Darlene Corris, Assistant Principal

107 Thackeray Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Phone: 412-529-7620
Fax: 412-622-5991

Parent Hotline:
412-529-HELP (4357)
discoverpps.org/scitech



Camp Guyasuta Field Trip – 9th and 10th Grade Students

Wednesday, August 25 - All 9th grade students will participate in a field trip to Camp Guyasuta, a 175-acre facility owned and operated by the Laurel Highlands Council of Boy Scouts of America. Students will participate in team-building activities, a Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience (C.O.P.E.) ropes course as well as a mobile climbing wall, basketball, and more. **As a next step, please complete and return the enclosed forms to us as soon as possible so your student can participate in the Camp Guyasuta field trip.** A stamped envelope is included with this letter. We hope to have 100% participation in this activity on the first day for 9th grade students!

Tuesday, August 31 - Our 10th grade students are also scheduled to participate in field trip to Camp Guyasuta Tuesday, August 31. We are asking that 10th grade families complete and return the enclosed form to us as soon as possible so your student can participate in this field trip Tuesday, August 31.

Wednesday, August 25 will be the first day of school for all Middle School Students, 9th and 12th grade students only. The first day of school for ALL students will be Thursday, August 26.

Middle School Port Authority Transportation

As explained in the back to school mailing sent to all PPS families, the ongoing bus driver shortage of approximately 300 bus drivers has created significant student transportation challenges and a seat gap of approximately 11,000 students. To reduce the number of yellow busses needed and gain efficiencies in transportation services, the school Board of Directors has approved moving approximately 1,000 students to Port Authority Transportation this school year. SciTech middle school students are among those students who are impacted by this transition. *Students receiving specialized transportation per their IEP will continue to receive those services.*

How Students and Parents can Prepare for Port Authority:

- Participate in free “practice” rides during the week of Monday, August 16 to Friday, August 20. Students can practice tapping their Connect Card during the hours they would be traveling to and from school each day. Parents/guardians are encouraged to join their student.
- Attend school-based virtual meetings to review travel routes, bus safety and other proactive travel procedures to use when navigating Port Authority.
- Visit www.portauthority.org to review route information and health and safety protocols. At this time, the Port Authority requires all riders to wear masks.
- Download one or more of the following apps to a Smartphone for route information in real time. These apps are all free and provide students with the time and location of their desired bus route.

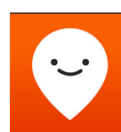
Transit



PGH Transit



Moovit



Pittsburgh
Science & Technology
Academy 6-12



Shawn McNeil, Principal
Darlene Corris, Assistant Principal

107 Thackeray Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Phone: 412-529-7620
Fax: 412-622-5991

Parent Hotline:
412-529-HELP (4357)
discoverpps.org/scitech