



# STEEL CENTER

for CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

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Friday, January 22, 2021

Dear Steel Center students and families,

I hope this communication finds you well. I am writing to share some important information with you regarding some changes to our *Instructional Model* that will be taking place at the beginning of February. As I have shared with you previously, Steel Center's operations under Covid-19 conditions will continue to evolve support and work cooperatively with your school districts' plans. Steel Center's Health and Safety and Instructional plan was written to be responsive and accommodating to the member school districts' plans and operating models and as some of our districts will be modifying their operations, so will we.

So beginning Monday, February 1 2021, six of our member school districts who have modified their *Instructional Model* for their respective high schools, will be increasing the amount of days in-person learning for their students will have access to from two to four days per week. Students in these districts will have increased access to in-person learning both at their high school and here. Steel Center's schedule for in-person learning may not match all districts and will remain the same as we have operated since the beginning of the school year: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday with Wednesday being a full-remote learning day for Steel Center classes. Also, students still have the option to follow a fully remote *Instructional Model* for their Steel Center class if they wish. The breakdown of these changes for the school districts making this change by date is as follows:

**February 1, 2021: Baldwin-Whitehall, Bethel Park, and Steel Valley**

**February 8, 2021: South Allegheny, West Jefferson Hills, West Mifflin Area**

Steel Center's faculty and staff remain committed to our ongoing efforts to deliver meaningful learning experiences for all of our students in a safe and healthy environment. By having more people here at the school, our successful transition into this *Instructional Model* will require all of us to remain committed to Covid-19 mitigation strategies. These of course include wearing facial coverings, remaining socially distant, staying home when sick and washing our hands. Following these simple acts have enabled us to stay open so far this year, and will help us successfully to safely increase the amount of in-person learning for our students.

Next, as we did in the fall following the end of the first nine weeks, we will be again asking that you help us assess the effectiveness of our *Instructional Model* and overall operations by taking a student survey as well as a parent survey. We will prompt you to do this next week with an automated call. The data we

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BALDWIN-WHITEHALL • BETHEL PARK • BRENTWOOD • CLAIRTON • DUQUESNE • ELIZABETH FORWARD  
SOUTH ALLEGHENY • SOUTH PARK • STEEL VALLEY • WEST JEFFERSON HILLS • WEST MIFFLIN AREA

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*An Equal Rights and Opportunity School*



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collect from your responses will be used to improve our efforts and to help shape changes to how we may modify our delivery of learning between now and the end of the year.

For your reference, the January 2021 COVID-19 Case Report has been posted to the COVID-19 Information section of our website [www.steelcentertech.com](http://www.steelcentertech.com). I am happy to report that as of today our number of positive cases as well as number of potential cases has dropped from last month. I am also happy to share (for anyone not aware) that the case counts in our communities and across Allegheny county has decreased significantly since last month. I hope and pray that this trend continues and that the vaccine process continues improve our ability to operate Steel Center as well.

Finally, all of us have gone through some very challenging circumstances in this past year. From the pandemic to economic hardships to community unrest for social justice, to the most intense political climate most of us have ever seen. We have all likely experienced fear, anxiety, anger, and doubt. Our country has seen division and hardships that challenged the very fabric of who we are as people. Yet here we are.....fractured but not broken, tested but not defeated, and wanting to do the best we can for ourselves, our families, and our communities. For our part at Steel Center, we strive to stay focused in spite of all the issues that cause hardships and push people apart. Serving a wonderfully diverse collection of communities, Steel Center is truly a melting pot. At the heart of our mission, we know that regardless of a person's zip code, background, political views, or position in society, we are here to connect our students to a brighter tomorrow. We are here to strengthen our communities by serving as the intersection between the public school system and the businesses and industries they depend on. Our focus has never been greater, our resolve never stronger, and we could not be more honored to have this incredible opportunity to guide our students on their **Pathway to Success**. Your continued support is greatly appreciated and please reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

All the best,

Mr. Kevin E. Rice  
Executive Director  
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