



STEEL CENTER

for CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

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Tuesday, March 24, 2020 [5:00 PM]

Dear Students/Families, Staff, and Community Partners,

As I write this "Steel Center for Career and Technical Education COVID-19 UPDATE", I am hopeful that all of you are well and making the best of this challenging time. There have been many developments since our last update, I encourage all of you to keep informed and updated through your member school districts as well as the abundance of information available from local, state, and federal authorities.

The following items summarize information specific to Steel Center:

- **Beginning on Monday, March 30, 2020, we will start offering our students learning activities through a focused effort we have named: "The Steel Center COVID-19 Modified CTE Program Delivery Plan".** This decision has come after thoughtful study of the information available to public schools by state and federal officials, and with high regard to meeting the needs of ALL of our students during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Providing "Modified" Career and Technical Education learning activities will be a huge change from what a "normal day" looks like here at Steel Center. The driving force behind this plan is the high regard that Steel Center's team has for you- our students, and our absolute commitment to support your education and career development process. As you already know, Steel Center has an incredibly talented and dedicated faculty and support staff that gives their best to you. In order to make this meaningful and productive for ALL of our students, we will use a variety of modalities such as Technology-Based Strategies, Telephonic Strategies, and Paper Packets (if appropriate). "Modified Delivery" means your teachers will be using several tools available to them including but not limited to: the Steel Center website, our Social Media pages, Schoology, Zoom, YouTube, Email, Text Messaging/Phone Calls, and if needed/possible snail mail. Whatever it takes, we will get the job done.
- Steel Center teachers and staff began this past weekend to prepare for offering our students modified Career and Technical Education learning activities on March 30, 2020. They are hard at work this week designing lessons and planning activities that will enable ALL of our students to participate in meaningful learning activities related to their CTE program of study.
- Many questions and issues still need to be resolved by state and federal authorities concerning the impact on Career and Technical Education programs. We are working closely with the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Bureau of Career and Technical Education and other entities to obtain answers. If you have any specific questions regarding certification questions or other related concerns, please contact my direct office phone at 412-394-6741 or krice@steelcentertech.com.

- Steel Center has been working closely with our member school districts in communicating our plan of resuming learning activities on March 30, 2020. All information and directives received by Steel Center students from their own high schools and school districts regarding their assigned learning activities should be followed.
- Our state and federal governments have issued several decisions that affect Career and Technical Education students. These include but are not limited to:
 - The NOCTI testing requirement has been waived for the class of 2020, all NOCTI tests are cancelled.
 - The 360 hour instructional requirement for 2019-2020 has been waived.
 - The State Board of Cosmetology is permitting up to 250 hours toward licensure to be delivered through distance learning activities.
 - Other CTE related changes like these will be shared in the days and weeks to come.
- Students and families will be receiving multiple phone contacts from Steel Center this week beginning today. Most will come from the Blackboard Connect® system, however you may receive some direct phone calls from Steel Center staff working from home. These calls may be coming from phone numbers that are “blocked” or “unknown” due to our school policy related to approved communications. Please accept those calls. If you are unable to or if students and families have any questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Frioni’s direct office phone at 412-394-6743 or email him at rfrioni@steelcentertech.com.
- Since students may be asked to participate in technology related activities as part of the Modified CTE Program Delivery Plan, there may be a need for some support concerning technology. Please direct those questions and concerns to Mrs. White’s direct office phone at 412-394-6745 or email her at rwhite@steelcentertech.com.
- **“The Steel Center COVID-19 Modified CTE Program Delivery Plan”** will be updated as needed and in accordance with all guidance received from our local, state, and federal authorities. Additional details will be posted to our website periodically this week and for the duration of the COVID-19 school closure.
- Steel Center continues to understand that our stakeholders may have questions or want access to information regarding this shutdown. We remain committed to only sharing information with you that is both timely and accurate. We continue to encourage everyone to continue following the recommendations of our local, state, and federal officials regarding this public health issue. UPDATES will continue to be posted to the Steel Center website www.steelcentertech.com and on social media Twitter @SteelCenterCTE, and Facebook @steelcenterforcte as they become available. **If there is a critical update, we will utilize the Blackboard Connect® system to inform all students and their families as well as staff.**

Warm regards,



Mr. Kevin E. Rice
Executive Director

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