



STEEL CENTER

for CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

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Monday, April 6, 2020 [6:00 PM]

Dear Students/Families, Staff, and Community Partners,

I hope this UPDATE finds you and your loved ones healthy. I continue to wish for your safety and well-being along with that of the entire Steel Center Community. The impact that COVID-19 has on our school and students continues to evolve, there are a number of developments that have happened since our last update that you need to know about. So along with encouraging you to keep informed and updated on the overall effect of COVID-19 through your member school districts, and local, state, and federal authorities; I am offering you this letter. We will continue to provide you with Steel Center specific UPDATES using multiple strategies including letters like this, the "Blackboard Connect" (our automated calling system), posts to the Steel Center website www.steelcentertech.com, and posts on our Facebook and Twitter pages.

The following items summarize NEW or UPDATED information specific to Steel Center:

- Steel Center's CTE teachers began providing "Distance Learning" for students on Monday, March 30, 2020, by implementing our "Continuity of Education Plan". The details of this plan are posted to the COVID-19 section of our website. Our first week of implementation presented various challenges and barriers in connecting with our students. I am however, happy to report that 95% of our students did connect with their CTE teacher by Friday, April 3, 2020. These efforts are being closely monitored for their effectiveness, and concerns are being addressed as they arise. The administrative team is working closely with CTE teachers and will make revisions to the plan as needed.
- One such revision be made this week pertains to the method of record keeping for student attendance. Beginning Wednesday, April 8, 2020, and for the duration of our "Distance Learning" plan, Steel Center students will need to sign in **daily** using our website: www.steelcentertech.com to be considered as present. This process is separate from the connection we expect them to make with their CTE teachers every day. Students must respond to their CTE teacher, participate in learning activities, and complete the work assigned to them. It is understood that students and families may have challenges and barriers that will affect their ability to participate, and meet the expectations for submitting assigned work. Steel Center's CTE teachers, support staff, and administrators are committed to exercising flexibility where it is needed. It is important that students/families communicate these needs to the appropriate members of the Steel Center team. We are here to help.

- Students, please work with your CTE teachers to ensure that you have turned in all required work for the third marking period by Monday, April 13, 2020. Officially, the end of the third marking period was Friday, March 13, 2020. Beginning March 30, 2020, our CTE teachers have informed students of missed work or other assigned tasks that will count for the third marking period (incompletes may be issued if needed).
- Due to the COVID-19 closure of school, the Steel Center 2019-2020 school calendar has been adjusted consistent with Pennsylvania's Act 13 of 2020, which significantly revised the Pennsylvania Public School Code. The 'Draft' Revised 2019-2020 Calendar has been posted to the website for your reference, it will become official following the May board meeting.
- **Current 10th and 11th grade students:** Please verify your enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year by completing the "Returning Student Enrollment Form 20-21 School Year" found on our website. This needs done **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**, thank you.
- We are taking every step possible to ensure that members Steel Center's Class of 2020 will have a successful end to the school year. Looking out for their needs is a high priority during this time. The administration along with student services team members will be reviewing the records of our twelfth graders to ensure that they are on pace to complete their CTE program of study under the guidance of the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and meet their graduation requirements. Additionally, our graduating seniors and their families have my commitment that **WE WILL HOLD A SENIOR RECOGNITION CEREMONY** for the Class of 2020, regardless of how this school year ends. A plan to do so has been put into place, and the work has begun to create a "Virtual Senior Recognition Ceremony" if needed, should schools remain physically closed. More details to come on this later.
- It is with regret that I announce a change in plans for our the opening of three new CTE programs of study that were scheduled to begin this fall for the 2020-2021 school year. The opening of Exercise Science and Rehabilitation Services (CIP Code: 51.2604), Medical Professions (CIP Code: 51.9999), and the Veterinary Assistant (CIP Code: 51.0808) **will be delayed for one year**. These courses will not be an option for students to enroll in until the fall of 2021. We were truly looking forward to begin offering these exciting programs in the fall; however, the impact of the COVID-19 school closure has created indefinite delays in the work needed to make this happen. This along with state and federal social distancing directives have required us to delay their launch. Students that will be in grades 10 or 11 next school year may still have the opportunity to enroll in those programs the following year. Also, we will now be maintaining the current Health Assistants (CIP Code: 51.0899) for all students currently enrolled in that program with no changes. Students will be able to earn their Pennsylvanian State Nurse Aide Registry Certification (CNA) as has been traditionally offered in that program. Our sincere apologies for anyone that is affected negatively by this development.
- Steel Center continues to work closely with our member school districts in our effort to support and provide appropriate learning for our students during this time. 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.

- We are aware that students have personal property here at the school. Until a decision is made regarding the end of the state mandated closure of schools, we are not permitting students to come to the school to retrieve such items. If a student has an item that is needed for medical or health reasons (such as medicine kept for use at the school), we can work with you to get you such items. If you have a vehicle here that is here for repair, and having it here is causing a hardship to your family regarding essential transportation, we can also work with you to address that. For either of those circumstances, contact Dr. Frioni.
- For questions regarding the impact COVID-19 has had on Career and Technical Education programs, or state and federal compliance matters, please contact my direct office phone at 412-394-6741 or krice@steelcentertech.com.
- For students and families have any questions or concerns regarding Steel Center's Distance Learning plan, please contact Dr. Frioni's direct office phone at 412-394-6743 or email him at rfrioni@steelcentertech.com.
- For students and families have any questions or concerns regarding technology related our Distance Learning plan, please contact Mrs. White's direct office phone at 412-394-6745 or email her at rwhite@steelcnetertech.com.
- **"The Steel Center Continuity of Education 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.
- We remain committed to only sharing information with you that is both timely and accurate and 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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