

US WEEKLY BULLETIN

Issue #16 | December 9, 2016 | Frank Volpe & Naomi Shanks

Important Dates

- December 9th-14th
Upper School Exams
- December 16th
International Breakfast
Early Dismissal: 11:30am
Last Day of Semester
- Dec 17th- Jan 8th
Winter Break
- January 9th
Professional In-service
New student orientation
- January 10th
First Day of Semester 2



Principals' Message

Dear SCIS Families,

This has been another showcase week for SCIS students. Between athletic events and the arts, our students took advantage of their time in the spotlight to display their hard work and talent. On behalf of the students we would like to thank all of the teachers, staff, and parents who made these events possible.

Wednesday's Big Game Night gave us a chance to celebrate our senior basketball players. Gillian Rowland, Maayke Vlas, and Wouter Vlas were honored for their achievements and thanked for their contributions to the boys and girls programs. The jazz band helped to create a festive atmosphere rounding out a great night of school spirit. Both the boys and girls teams were victorious against our rivals from NAIS.

Thursday night marked our annual winter concert celebrating the arts. Families enjoyed the student art on display in the gallery and were treated to live holiday music. Narnia, the feature presentation, did not disappoint. Student musicians, actors, and theater technicians created a magical experience for those that attended. Following the show, Ms. Enoch and Mr. Demas were honored for making the program a reality. A huge thank you to all of the volunteers and participants for putting together a wonderful community event.

We now turn our focus to semester exams as we approach the end of the first semester. We appreciate your support at home in helping students prepare to demonstrate the skills and knowledge they have acquired over the course of this semester.

Kind regards,

Frank Volpe, PhD
Upper School Principal

Naomi Shanks
Upper School Vice Principal



Notes

Winter Uniforms

Winter is coming fast, and we encourage Upper School students to dress for the weather, while continuing to support the school identity and community-mindedness represented by the SCIS uniform. Long sleeve shirts and long pants are available in the uniform shop, as well as SCIS hoodies, cardigans, and blazers. Sweatshirts and jackets distributed through ASAs are also acceptable as long as the SCIS logo appears.

Upper School Exam Schedule

The first semester Upper School exam period will be Friday, December 9th through Wednesday, December 14th. During these four days, we will continue with the A/B schedule, but the timetable will be modified to allow one extended block of time for each class. Teachers will use the extended blocks for a range of summative assessment activities, which may include projects and presentations as well as formal examinations. These assessments need not be cumulative, and are not weighted more heavily than a typical end of unit summative assessment.

The regular timetable will resume on December 15th and our last day of the semester will be Friday December 16th.

Honor Roll:

With our new grading system, we are introducing a new system for academic awards. Awards each semester will be based on the summative total of students' scores in all of their classes. For example, an MYP student who earned a final semester score of 7 in all eight of their subjects would earn 56 points. Students who are in enrolled in ungraded classes will have Honor Roll boundaries in proportion to their number of graded courses.

Award Boundaries

Program	Points Possible	Honor Roll	Principal's Honor Roll
MYP (7 x 8 classes)	56	48-51	52-56
DP (7 x 6 classes)	42	36-38	39-42

SCIS Parent Email:

Official school communications are only sent to @scis-parent.org email accounts that are provided to all SCIS parents. If you have not yet set up your SCIS parent email account, please head to <http://schoolid.scishis.net/> to create your email address, set your recovery email, and connect your children to your account. Once finished, you will receive a confirmation message with your new School ID and begin to receive school communications. If you have any questions about this process, please contact Barry Johnson at pd-technology@scis-china.org.

Attendance:

Please use ManageBac, email, or call the Upper School Secretary if your student will be absent. Jelly can be reached at jling@scis-china.org

ManageBac:

Screencasts demonstrating the use of ManageBac for parents are now online and available to watch or download at our website. Go to <http://pd.scis-his.net>, and choose "IT Support" on the left sidebar. Scroll down and you will see the following tutorials:

ManageBac Video Tutorials

Upper School Exam Schedule

December 2016

	Friday 9 Dec B	Monday 12 Dec A	Tuesday 13 Dec B	Wednesday 14 Dec A
8:00 - 8:55	B1	A1	B2	A2
8:55 - 9:10	Break			
9:10 - 11:10	B2 Exam	A2 Exam	B1 Exam	A1 Exam
11:10 - 11:55	Lunch			
11:55 - 12:50	B3	A3	B4	A4
12:50 - 1:00	Break			
1:00 - 3:00	B4 Exam	A4 Exam	B3 Exam	A3 Exam

Unless a teacher has made other arrangements, all exams are held in classrooms.

In the MYP, "Exams" are no more heavily weighted than other summative assessments for progress towards the criteria. Teachers are free to use this time for any form of summative assessment, and should not feel limited to formal examination approaches, though this may be appropriate in some subjects.