

US WEEKLY BULLETIN

Issue #15 | December 1, 2017 | Frank Volpe & Naomi Shanks

Important Dates

- **December 1st:** De-Stress Fest 4:30-8:00pm
- **December 2nd:** Boys Varsity Basketball Tournament @ SCIS 8am-12pm
- **December 4th:** Varsity Girls Basketball @ NAIS 4:30
- **December 5th:** PAFA General Meeting 10am
- **December 6th-11th:** Semester Exams
- **December 9th:** Girls & Boys Dragon Cup Basketball, SCIS HQ
- **December 13th:** Varsity Boys Basketball vs. YCIS 4:00
- **December 15th:** International Breakfast 8:30am, End of Semester Assembly 10am, Early Dismissal, 11:30am.
- **December 16th-January 8th:** Winter Break
- **Tuesday January 9th:** Semester Two Begins

Visit the SCIS calendar for the most up-to-date information.

Click on the following link:

[Master Calendar](#)

Still asking, "How was school today?" Changing the question may result in a more interesting answer. Next time try:

"What do your final assessments look like in your classes?"



Beginning musicians perform in the Gallery at Winter Arts Night.

Principals' Message

Dear SCIS Families,

This week was a celebration of the Arts in the Upper School. The festivities started Tuesday with the Drama production *School Daze* which was performed for Lower School students in grades 3-5. Thursday proved to be a showcase for the artistic talent and hard work of our students. The Drama students' production of *Beauty and the Bee* and *Pressure* received rave reviews from those in attendance. The music students brought a winter and holiday theme to the event through diverse ensembles on stage and in the gallery. The community had the chance to mingle and enjoy the work of our Design and Visual Art students between performances. A special thank you to Mr. Thomas, Ms. Whiteside, Mr. Demas, and Ms. Riddle for their time preparing and support of our students in preparation for last night's events!

Looking forward to next week, exams will begin on December 6th. The format for these final assessments of the semester will be different depending on the subject group and grade level. In the MYP, this exam time will be used to complete the final summative assessment for semester which will be connected to the current unit of study. IB-DP students will experience a more traditional exam setting aligned to the internal and external assessment requirements. We encourage students to prepare a schedule for how they will use their time outside of school in preparation for these assessments. It is important that students allocate sufficient time for sleeping during this time and avoid late night cramming sessions. We thank parents in advance for their support in helping students find this balance.

Kind regards,

Frank Volpe, PhD
Upper School Principal

Naomi Shanks
Upper School Vice Principal

NOVEMBER 28, 2017 BY DEREK LUEBBE
Bus Information

Dear Parents,

Starting on Monday, December 4 we are instituting additional procedures to ensure that our bus safety protocols are followed.

We have instituted a new procedure to have the younger students sit closer to the front of the bus, near the bus ayi. We have had a few minor instances where students are not responding to requests made by the bus ayis. In some cases, I have instructed the bus driver to not continue to drive the bus unless safety conditions are met. Upon being notified of these instances, the school can follow up with the students (and parents) to ensure that they are abiding by the rules and following the instructions of the bus ayi. In most cases, one warning will suffice for students.

If this warning is not sufficient for a student, then our next consequence for will be to remove the privilege of riding the bus for a short period of time. During this period, parents would be responsible for transporting their children to and from school. We certainly hope this consequence is never needed, but hope that you can take the time to remind your children of the importance of following all the bus rules and listening to the directions of the bus ayi.

On a related note, we occasionally receive requests to modify the bus route to accommodate a specific child's situation. Please be aware that we set the bus route to be the most effective bus route we can manage for all students on that route. We will review alterations to the bus route at the start of each semester, and make any necessary adjustments at that time.

If you have any questions about transportation, feel free to contact Stu Ren sren@scischina.org

Sincerely,
Derek Luebbe

Notes

ASA Buses and Post-Game Drop-off: Parents' please note that ASA buses and game day return transportation is only scheduled to stop at the designated ASA drop off locations. Only our 3pm bus service is designed to take students from school to their compounds directly. Each year we readjust our ASA and competition bus pickup and drop-off locations based on the geographic locations for the majority of our ASA participants. We choose locations that best accommodate our families while trying to be as efficient as possible in the context of Shanghai traffic. The locations have been chosen because they provide optimal safety and convenience for all students. Please see our ASA drop-off locations on our SCIS-Pudong portal: <http://pd.scis-his.net/content/asa-bus-drop-point>

Morning Bus Pick-Up Reminders: Please ensure your child arrives on time for bus pick-up in the morning. The bus will not wait for students who are late in the morning. Doing so causes all the students on the bus to arrive late for school. To help keep us on schedule, I have instructed to drivers to leave the bus stop promptly on time. To prevent problems, please be sure that your child arrives at the bus stop prior to his/her scheduled departure. If you have any bus questions, contact our transportation coordinator Stu Ren at pd-transportation@scis-china.org . Thank you for your help in keeping our bus times on schedule.

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.scis-china.org> to create your email address, set your recovery email, and connect your children to your account. 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 Jelly Ling, the Upper School Secretary, if your student will be absent. Jelly can be reached at jling@scis-china.org

Transportation

Please contact Stu Ren with any questions or concerns regarding transportation. Stu can be reached at sren@scis-china.org

Uniforms

Please help to ensure your student is in uniform each day. Now that the weather is changing, it is important that students have SCIS uniform hoodies or sweaters in order to stay warm and comfortable while supporting the dress code. The dress code is enforced strictly in alignment with the Upper School Parent-Student Handbook.

Upper School Exam Schedule

December 2017

	Wednesday 6 Dec A	Thursday 7 Dec B	Friday 8 Dec A	Monday 11 Dec B
8:00 - 8:55	A1	B1	A2	B2
8:55 - 9:10	Break			
9:10 - 11:10	A2 Exam	B2 Exam	A1 Exam	B1 Exam
11:10 - 11:55	Lunch			
11:55 - 12:50	A3	B3	A4	B4
12:50 - 1:00	Break			
1:00 - 3:00	A4 Exam	B4 Exam	A3 Exam	B3 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, particularly in Grades 9-10.