

US WEEKLY BULLETIN

Issue #11 | November 4, 2016 | Frank Volpe & Naomi Shanks

Important Dates

- **November 8th MS**
Girls Soccer (SCIS 2) @ NAIS 4:00
- **November 8th MS**
Girls Soccer (SCIS 1) @ WCIS 4:00
- **November 8th PAFA**
General Meeting & Let's Talk Cafeteria Meeting (10am–12pm)
- **November 9th Varsity**
Basketball vs. CISS (boys and girls) 4:30
- **November 9th JV** Boys Basketball @ CISS
- **November 15th-16th**
MYP Consultant Visit
- **November 19th** Bingo Night (5pm-9pm)
- **November 22nd-23rd**
James and the Giant Peach Auditions
- **November 25th**
Professional In-service (no school)
- **December 1st** IB Music Recital
- **December 8th** Winter Concert
- **December 9th-14th**
Semester Exams
- **December 16th** Last day of Semester One



Principals' Message

Dear SCIS Families,

We would like to congratulate the players and the coaches of the Upper School volleyball teams for a great season. Special congratulations goes out to the girls varsity volleyball squad and their Coaches Vic and Rian Caban. The girls were crowned ACAMIS volleyball champions last weekend after beating the previously undefeated team from the host school, International School of Tianjin. The girls demonstrated grit and strength of character along with considerable skill in their efforts. This accomplishment and the many small accomplishments over the course of the season for all of our girls and boys who participated in the volleyball program are cause for celebration. These players and coaches represent the important SCIS tradition of holistic growth in their balanced pursuit of athletic and academic excellence.

Over the course of the coming weeks leading up to the winter holiday, we will have a number of opportunities to support our students in their efforts to balance their pursuit of excellence in the classroom with the pursuit of their other passions outside the classroom. Whether it is athletics, club activities, or the arts, our students are doing amazing things every day. We appreciate your support as parents and the faculty's dedication in making these experiences possible.

Kind Regards,

Frank Volpe, PhD
Upper School Principal

Naomi Shanks
Upper School Vice Principal



What do Semester Exams Look Like at SCIS

The Upper School exam period will be run from Friday, December 9th through Wednesday, December 14th. During that time, we will follow the regular A/B schedule, but with two classes per day extended to two hours so that teachers can administer formal exams or other assessments that benefit from longer blocks of time. The regular timetable will resume on December 15th and our last day of the semester will be Friday December 16th.

Final Assessments in the MYP

The MYP does not have final exams in the traditional sense. Assessments given during the exam period for Grades 6-10 are simply the last of the range of summative assessment tasks that students complete throughout the semester, and are no more heavily weighted than others, though it is true that students' most recent work is often the best indicator of their current levels. The criteria assessed on these assessments will vary by subject and grade level, but in most subject groups, a written exam is only appropriate for assessing one or two criteria. Many teachers will use their extended assessment block to do different types of assessments, including projects, presentations, orals, labs, or any other form of assessment in which a longer block of time will allow students to produce stronger evidence of their knowledge, understanding and skills. In the next few weeks, teachers will be planning and communicating with students how their exam blocks will be used, and preparing students to make the most of their final assessment opportunities of the semester. As we move into grades 9-10, many teachers will move towards more formal written examinations as they are important preparation for the IB Diploma.

Final Exams in the DP

For students in Grades 11 and 12, most DP classes will use the exam period for formal written examinations based on the externally assessed "Papers" of the International Baccalaureate. Such exams often use real questions from past IB exams, or approximations thereof, and are graded according to IB style markschemes. Please refer to individual course syllabi to see how final exams are weighted in individual classes.

We ask for your support in helping students prepare for these assessments and the related projects and assignments. Below you will find the first semester exam schedule. Please don't hesitate to contact the administration with questions.

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.

Notes

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 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 accounts:

Official school communications will only be sent to @scis-parent.org email accounts that are provided to all SCIS parents. If you, your spouse, or another parent you know has not yet set up your SCIS parent email account, please head to <http://schoolid.scis-his.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 new process, please contact Barry Johnson at pd-technology@scis-china.org.

ManageBac:

Another big change for SCIS this year is the move from PowerSchool to ManageBac. A welcome email with instructions on how to sign in was sent to your new parent email address so if you haven't seen it, contact Barry Johnson. ManageBac is a web-based software that will allow you to see your child's academic information and it is widely used by IB schools worldwide.

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

Substitute Teachers Wanted:

With a new year, the SCIS has many new faces. As a school, we are always on the lookout for quality individuals in our community who might be able to substitute teach at school for a day or two. If you are a certified teacher or have experience in the classroom (or even if you know someone we could contact), we encourage you to contact the Joanna Zhou at jzhou@scis-china.org so that we can set up an interview. With a high-quality bank of substitutes, we are able to better serve our students. Our Dragon Community is a great asset, and this is one way you can help make our school a stronger one in 2016-17.

Flu Shot Update - This afternoon we sent out a follow-up email to all families about the rescheduling of our flu shot date to November 23. The consent form and payment deadline for this new date will be November 18, please refer to that email for further details. If you have any questions, please contact our Nurse Lynn: pd-nurse@scis-china.org

Halloween Photos - Thank you to all of our families and friends that came out to support the Halloween Bash last week. Special thanks to our PAFA parents for all of their hard work planning the event. Please visit our media site at <https://media.scis-his.net> for pictures of the event, along with our Halloween Photo Booth snapshots.

ACAMIS Volleyball Video - Parents that missed out on last week's ACAMIS Volleyball tournament in Tianjin can relive the magic thanks to this wonderful recap video from Grade 11 student Simon Wu. The video can be downloaded from our [media site](#), or streamed on Youtube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lukLbgoVsHY>