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○ ISSUE | ○ Spring | ○ 2019

Tech High Tech High



Welcome new Titans!

Dear Families:

Congratulations on your choice to attend Richard O. Jacobson Technical High School at Seminole! You will not be disappointed. We offer such a unique educational experience in a safe learning community where we encourage our students to take risks, challenge themselves and celebrate each other's achievements. Students have a chance to develop leadership, entrepreneurial and technical skills while gaining a strong academic base. Our highly skilled staff is dedicated to making each student successful.

I think you will be very excited to spend the next four years with us. I know we are excited to get to know each of our students personally and walk along with you to see students grow, mature and reach their goals.

Get ready, you are now a Titan and the adventure begins!

Mrs. Giancola, Principal
giancolam@pcsb.org



College Credit in High School

Advanced Placement® & Dual Enrollment

Jacobson Tech High students have the opportunity to take college-level courses in a high school setting as early as 9th grade. These courses are free to our students. Students have the opportunity to earn many college credit courses without leaving our high school. By taking college-level courses here students are in an environment receptive to teenagers and are learning with teachers willing to work with students toward their success. There are two types of college-level courses.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT

The College Board is a not-for-profit organization which governs and administers the PSAT, SAT and AP tests. The Advanced Placement (AP) course is nationally recognized for its standardized curriculum and test. Each student achieving credit is recognized by colleges as having an equal understanding of the subject.

Students should expect a rigorous class environment and heavy homework load for each AP course. Students will be administered the AP exam in the spring and must pass the test with a 3 or better on a 5 scale to receive college credit. Students who pass the course, but not pass the AP exam will receive high school credit. Teachers will work hard as academic coaches with practice tests to help each student.

AP instructors have an approved course syllabus by the College Board and take training in teaching at the AP level.

DUAL ENROLLMENT

Dual Enrollment courses are accredited by St. Petersburg college. DE classes are available only to juniors or seniors who have past the college placement tests. Students will receive college credit if they pass the course with a "C" or better. These courses are taught at a college level and are a great way for students to have the rigor of college in a high school setting. SPC requires its professors to have a master's degree in the subject being taught. Therefore an instructor who teaches English will have their master's degree and curriculum in English.

Most students will take one or two classes at SPC and remain enrolled at Jacobson. Four classes is considered full-time at SPC.

WHO SHOULD CONSIDER AP OR DE?

One complaint frequently heard by teachers who teach college-level courses is that the student was not ready for the rigor of the course. The student made a course selection that is currently beyond his/her skills. These are not high school courses. They are college courses being hosted at a high school or on the SPC campus.

Students who take honors level courses and receive As or

high Bs could consider taking a college level course. Students should expect to have a heavy course load for each course and nightly homework. AP level courses demand persuasive essay writing and extensive reading. Expect nightly homework.

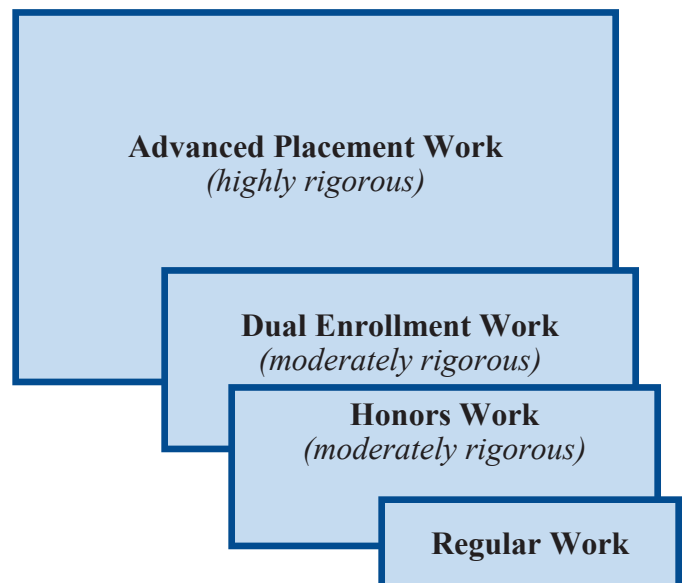
The courses also demand the student to be proactive and prepared for class each day. Studying class material prior to covering the subject is a good habit for a successful student.

WHY TAKE AP OR DE—WHAT DO THE COLLEGES WANT?

You should always challenge yourself to take courses that offer greater rigor; however, you also must recognize your own study habits and commitment to the course. Have you laid the foundation for success? Are you jumping too far ahead of your own learning potential (like jumping into the deep end of the pool...can you swim?)?

What do colleges want to see? According to Education.com, "colleges want to see that applicants challenge themselves." With that said, colleges also expect that if you take the course you will show success. "If you think that just being in an accelerated course and barely passing is going to impress a college admissions person, then you are mistaken."

A good start for taking AP courses is Human Geography. APHG is considered one of the easiest AP classes to pass. Students will study geography, cultures and societies.



School Bus Transportation

Postcards will be mailed



Postcards will be mailed to all PCSB students who ride the bus. How does PCSB determine who will ride the bus? The system uses your registered address and your designated school to determine if you need transportation to school.

Students who live within 2 miles of Tech High School are considered within walking distance. Bus transportation is provided to all students who live outside the 2 mile radius and within the mid-county bus service.

Please take a moment to review your address in Focus.

To change your address, go to the Student Reservation (<http://reservation.pcsb.org>). Using your Focus password, you will be directed to a page which enables you to update your address. Please make sure to click "change address ONLY" otherwise you will be withdrawn from Tech High and sent to your zoned school.

The process is not complete until you bring in two (2) proofs of address into your child's **current** school. Proof of address may be a utility bill, lease agreement, or any service on your dwelling.

It takes approximately **10 days to change a bus route**. Once the proposed routes are complete, it is very difficult to have stops added or moved. Don't wait! Call our office if you have questions or need assistance.

We anticipate having a copy of the routes in early August.

Parents' "to-do" list



Here is a list of things parents should accomplish this summer.

- ◆ Register your email address with Ms. Howard at: howardd@pcsb.org so you are included in her email communication.
- ◆ Bookmark both the Richard O. Jacobson Technical High School web page so you will have school updates.

www.TechHigh.pcsb.org

- ◆ Log onto Focus to see your child's records. If you don't see a child on your account, notify our office so we can connect your Focus account to your child (and other children you have in Pinellas County public schools)

Before you shop...

Each year we hear, "if I only had known I wouldn't have bought.." from a parent whose child is being challenged by our dress code.

PCS posts our dress code on their web page and in the Student Code of Conduct. The policy states clothing should cover underwear and mid-riffs; shirts should have sleeves (for both genders); pants, shorts or skirts should not have rips above the knee and clothing should not contain messages about topics such as drugs, weaponry, or messages of hate toward any group. (for the complete list of the dress code policy, please see the Student Code of Conduct).

Hats and hoodies are off the head in our buildings.

Students in Nursing and Veterinary Science programs will be required to wear scrubs five (5) days a week. Both programs require closed-toe shoes be worn every day too. Scrub bottoms should be dark navy. The nursing program requests solid color tops and the vet program permits scrub tops in various designs.

In addition, both programs require the purchase of our Tech High School scrub set which will be worn on Fridays, clinicals, and program events.

Our vendor for the embroidered scrubs is **Scrubin Uniforms**. You can order online at:

<https://pths.scrubin.com/home.cfm>

It is recommended that students in the vet program purchase boots or galoshes that can withstand mud, water and animal waste.

Please check with the program teachers in Nursing & Veterinary Science programs as policies on attire may be subject to change.



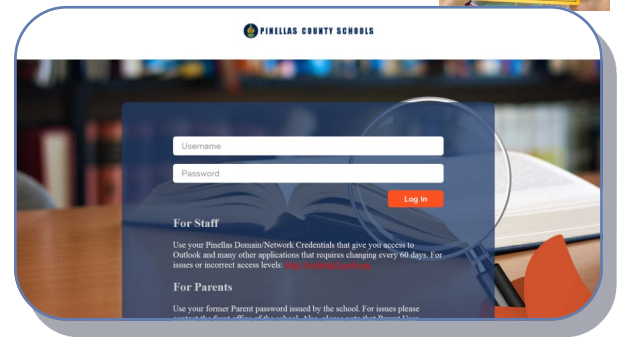
Focus—Parent's best friend

Focus provides parents and students with real-time updates on grades, attendance and communication with teachers. To log-in, go to:

<http://focus.pcsb.org>

Parents should see their child or children's records. Parents who don't see a current schedule or student name should call our office to have their child's records attached to their account. Click the course or grade and the user will see the assignments and grades for those assignments. Click the box next to the teacher's name and you may email the teacher questions. If you are having issues with Focus, please contact our office. Resetting your password normally resolves most issues.

Be connected at your finger tips



School Supplies Shopping List



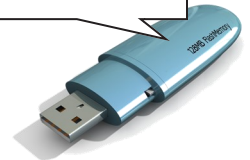
1. **Scientific calculator** (no cell phone calculator) Required for math & testing.
2. **Flash Drive**
3. **1" Binders**
4. **Pocketed folders**
5. **Blue & black ink pens**
6. **Colored markers**
7. **Construction Paper**
8. **Colored pencils**
9. **Pencils**
10. **Graph Paper**
11. **Highlighters**
12. **White Glue**
13. **Index Cards**
14. **Glue Sticks**

Program Wish List Items:

- ☆ Gift cards to Publix, Walmart, Target, Winn Dixie, etc. used to purchase food for perfect grade celebrations.
- ☆ Facial tissues
- ☆ Clorox/Lysol Wipes
- ☆ Hand sanitizer
- ☆ Loose-leaf paper or spiral bound notebooks for students-in-need
- ☆ Composition Books

Flash Drive keeping yours safe

Hi, I belong to Ashley!



A wealth of information can be contained on your flash drive — except who they belong to when lost. Every student should have one for high school.

To help reunite the owner to flash drive, we suggest renaming it with your first initial and last name.

1. Select **Flash Drive**
2. Right click your flash drive and select "rename."

Attendance—an explanation from Ms. Howard

One of the hardest policies to explain is the attendance policy. Students and parents...and sometimes staff...get confused at what counts; what doesn't count; is it five or four absences...etc. My goal is to write this column well enough to have the reader completely understand the attendance policy. **Attendance in high school counts more and has higher consequences.**

truancy

Let's first discuss truancy. Truancy is when a student is absent and a parent hasn't contacted the school. As the system sees it, without a parent contact, the student is skipping school. Officially, parents have 48 hours from the actual absence to notify the school. I'm not a stickler for this rule; however, your contact must be timely. You may call the office at 727-545-6405, email me at howardd@pcsb.org or send in a note with your child upon return to school to authenticate the absence as being excused.



The State of Florida has mandated that students have good regular attendance. If the student is habitually truant, the state will revoke the student's driving privilege (or the ability to get a license). Once a driving privilege is revoked (suspended), it takes 30 days of nearly perfect attendance to have the privilege returned. Habitual truants will be referred to our Child Study Team who looks at problematic students and work together to support the students' successes in school. In the magnet program, we place students with poor attendance habits on probation and work at supporting punctuality.

5 times

Parents may excuse five (5) absences during the semester without any further documentation (such as a doctor's note). These five days can be whole days or partial (arriving late or leaving early) days. Once the parent exceeds the five excused absences, I am not permitted to correct any further absences. Please contact me with the absence as I'll write in the notation, "Sick, parent exceeded 5." The intention of the five absences a parent may excuse are for legitimate absences. The school board has officially stated in policy that being out of school for family vacations or trips; power outages at home; car troubles or missing the school bus are not legitimate reasons for missing school.

In the same policy, the school board has established that legitimate absences for going to the doctor, dentist, or eye doctor and appointments with the courts or attorneys (along with supporting documentation) are not limited. Students attending religious services or religious conferences (along with supporting documentation) are also excusable.



Students are considered tardy to class if they are not in the classroom before the final bell. It may sound finicky, but their body...their person...the physical being must be in the classroom—not the hallway, not in the rest room—no their books and book bag don't count either. I hear so many wonderful reasons why THIS tardy is not the same as being *really* tardy. "My books were there," sounds like the student was in the classroom at some point; however, it just doesn't count.

tardy

The only way I can write a pass to class to excuse a tardy for a student arriving late to school is with documentation of the **legitimate appointment** that happened that morning. Same rules apply for tardiness as they do for absences, car issues and power outages are not legitimate reasons for being late to school. Please don't drag mom into the office with hair curlers, slippers and robe (actually happened) to say, "It's my fault we overslept!" I empathize, but can't excuse the tardiness.



Parents and students should periodically check Focus for errors in attendance. If you find an error in a single class period, the student should go to the teacher who reported the absence. Most frequently the teacher "clicked" the wrong student absent in the system. By notifying the teacher, adjustments can be made to correct any errors. We also run reports on attendance on a weekly basis looking for irregularities.

errors

All corrections should be made within a **few days** of detecting the error. I am not comfortable about challenging an absence that goes back weeks or months later. Do you remember what you had for dinner three weeks ago? Imagine a teacher with 150 students trying to recall attendance from a month ago. Timely challenges are important. The responsibility for monitoring attendance falls back onto the student.

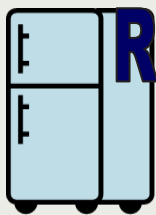


Finally, attendance for exams and exempting final tests. Students must have a "B" or better to exempt and have less than five absences **IN ANY CLASS** (no more than four days). If a student should accumulate a fifth absence in **ANY class** then the student is unable to exempt ANY exams for that semester. Other rules apply about exempting which will be sent out prior to exams.

If you have any questions, please give me a call. I'm here to help you.
☺ Deb Howard, Data Management Technician.

727-545-6405

howardd@pcsb.org



Refrigerator Page

This handy page is designed for continued use.

2019 / 2020

ROJTHS SCHOOL CALENDAR



Jacobson Technical High School

Student Hours 7:30 to 2:00

Office Hours 6:45 to 2:45

Wed., Aug. 14All schools open

Mon., Sept. 2Labor Day Holiday - schools closed

Fri., Oct. 11 End of 1st Quarter

Mon., Oct. 14 ProEd Day - no school for students

Nov. 23 - Dec. 1 Thanksgiving Holidays

Fri., Dec. 20End of 2nd Quarter/End of 1st Semester

Dec. 21 - Jan. 5, 2020 Winter Holidays

Mon., Jan. 6 ProEd Day - no school for students



Second semester begins

Tues., Jan. 7 Schools reopen. Classes resume.

Mon., Jan. 20 M. L. King Holiday - schools closed

Mon., Feb. 17 ProEd Day - no school for students

Fri., March 13..... End of 3rd Quarter

March 14 - 22Spring Holidays - schools closed

Mon., March 23 ProEd Day - no school for students

Fri., April 10 ProEd Day - no school for students

Mon, May 25Memorial Day Holiday

Fri., May 29 Last day for students



Websites

Richard O. Jacobson Technical

High School: www.TechHigh.pcsb.org

Pinellas County Schools: www.pcsb.org

Focus: <http://focus.pcsb.org>

SSRPM: <https://sap.pinellas.k12.fl.us/ssrpm/Logon.asp>

(SSRPM is the automated password reset program, once you create an account YOU can reset or retrieve your lost password)

Pinellas County Schools'

Homework Help-Line

Call to speak to a tutor for general guidance questions, mathematics, language arts, or science assistance.

727-547-7223

Mon.—Thursday

5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Sponsored by PCTA/Pinellas County Schools

Khan Academy



www.KhanAcademy.org

It started as a project to help family with tutoring over a long distance. Salman Khan (who has 3 degrees from MIT) used the internet to post tutorials he created to demonstrate the topic he was teaching. In 2006 Khan Academy was launched which offers online tutoring free to all.

The site consists of topic areas of school instruction from elementary to college level topics. It was recently expanded to offer financial planning to older adults too.

Select a topic discipline and subtopic area. For example, Chemistry, covalent bonds. Users will select the subtopic and watch a brief video followed by a short test of comprehension. If the user doesn't understand, another video is presented.

This remote tutoring program enables students to get help from the finest teaching professionals at any hour of the day or night.

Bookmark the site in your favorites. It is one of many useful online tools available on the web.

727-545-6405

www.TechHigh.pcsb.org