WELCOME BACK!

The 2017-18 Agora school year is here! We are so excited about the new school year and look forward to connecting with you through class sessions, emails and newsletters like this one! Every other week we send this newsletter to parents, legal guardians and/or learning coaches so you have information about events that are happening in the next few weeks. So let's get started!

Are You NEW to Agora? Here's How To Find The Resources You Need For Your Student to Have a Successful School Year!

Much of the information you need can be found on our new, ADA-compliant website at Agora.org. The robust SEARCH function, found in the upper right corner, makes it easier to find information when you're in a hurry. And all of the

latest NEWS can be found on the bottom of the home page, so check it out today!

Back to School CHECKLIST!

Our Orientation Team has put together a checklist to help families prepare for the start of school. This checklist is very helpful for families new to Agora but are also good reminders for returning families, too! This checklist can be found on our website, Agora.org, or by clicking the link below:

https://agora.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Agora-Cyber-Charter-School-Preparation-Checklist-2017-18-1.pdf

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NEW: Learning Coach Orientation!

We're very excited to introduce our brand new Orientation program for all parents and Learning Coaches of Agora students. In your role, you will have a tremendous impact on your student's success. The Learning Coach Orientation

program is designed to give you the tools you will need to assist them on a daily basis. Changes in attendance, new Sapphire functions and a tour of the all-new Agora.org website is included in this short program. You should complete this required course as soon as possible to give your student the best chance of success. Click the link below to get started on the road to success:

https://agora.org/academics/orientation/learning-coach-orientation/

 Coming to a Town Near You -
BACK TO SCHOOL EVENTS!

We are very excited to announce this year's Back to School Events.
Come learn about the school and enjoy a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) activity.

   All events are from **6 - 8 pm.** https://agora.org/our-school/back-to-school-events/

Dates and locations are below:

District/City	Date	Location
Philadelphia	September 11	Academy Of Natural Sciences 1900 Benjamin Franklin Pkwy. Philadelphia 19103
Allentown	September 12	Muhlenberg College, Moyer Hall 24th & Chew Streets Allentown 18104
Duncansville	September 13	Army Readiness Center 518 Municipal Drive Duncansville 16635
Reading	September 14	Calvary Baptist Church Community Center 201 Noble Street Reading 19611
Bloomsburg	September 18	Bloomsburg Christian Church 107 Deussen Drive Bloomsburg 17815
Erie	September 19	Bayfront Convention Center 1 Sassafras Pier Erie 16507
Monroeville	September 20	Doubletree Hotel 101 Mall Blvd. Monroeville 15146
Philadelphia	September 25	Bethel The Church at Philadelphia N 903 Franklin Mills Circle Philadelphia 19154
Williamsport	September 27	Penn College of Technology Thompson Professional Develop. Ce 1 College Ave. Williamsport 17701

Souderton	September 28	Calvary Church of Souderton 820 Route 113 Souderton 18964
Avoca	October 3	Queen of Apostles Parish Hall (Formerly St. Mary's) 742 Spring Street Avoca 18640

NEW This Year: Entering Attendance/Absence Excuses Through the Sapphire Community Web Portal

The Sapphire Community Web Portal has many functions and allows Agora families to securely access student information, access report cards, and view grades. And now, parents/legal guardians will use their Username, Password and PIN to enter the Sapphire Community Web Portal to enter excuses for absences from school.

SUBMITTING AN EXCUSE TO THE ATTENDANCE OFFICE

1. To begin, click this link to visit the Sapphire Community Web Portal: www.tinyurl.com/agorasapphire
2. Login with your Username, Password and PIN
3. Select your student and click on the Student Data Form
4. Complete the form - all fields with an asterisk (*) are required
5. Enter your name and email address
6. Select the date(s) of the absence and reason
7. Attach supporting documents, if available
8. Click the Complete Form box to enter the excuse

Complete step-by-step instructions along with illustrations are available on the Attendance page of our website at Agora.org or by clicking here.

CREATING AN ACCOUNT IN SAPPHIRE
The parent or legal guardian of a newly registered student is *required* to create a Sapphire Portal account. It's easy with these step-by-step instructions.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT
Forgot your Username or PIN? Send an email to

agorasystemssupport@agora.org and remember to include your first name, last name and phone number.

Forgot your Password? You can reset your Password by visiting www.tinyurl.com/agorasapphire and selecting "Forgot your password". Next enter your Username, PIN and answer the security questions. Your new password will be emailed to you.

September is Suicide Prevention Month
- Help is Just a Text Away!

Are you or someone you know in need of speaking with someone? Are you or someone you know experiencing a crisis, but do not feel comfortable talking to someone on the phone?

Text 741741 if you feel depressed, anxious, suicidal, and/or just needing someone to talk to. A live crisis counselor will text you until you feel the crisis is resolved. Everyone doesn't like talking on the phone or may be in a situation where talking is not possible. It's a free and confidential service.

HOW DOES CRISIS TEXT LINE WORK?
Text 741741 when in crisis. Anywhere, anytime. A live, trained crisis counselor receives the text and responds quickly. The crisis counselor helps you move from a hot moment to a cool calm to stay safe and healthy using effective active

listening and suggested referrals – all through text message using CTL's secure platform.

WHO SHOULD TEXT IN?
Anyone in crisis anytime.
**The Crisis Text Hotline ensures all text messages are anonymous and free, although charges may apply with carriers other than AT&T, T-Mobile, Sprint, or Verizon.

PSAT INFO - Plan NOW for Fall Testing!

The PSAT/NMSQT is a preliminary SAT exam through College Board that also serves as the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. The PSAT is very beneficial for college-bound students to take. Students can take the PSAT in their 10th and/or 11th grade, and is held every October.

Benefits:

- Practice for the SAT Test
- Links to free, personalized SAT practice through Khan Academy
- Identifies skills for improvement
- Connecting to Colleges through Student Search Program
- Provides entry to the National Merit Scholarship program

Things to Know:

- 2017 Test Dates: October 11 or October 14 (depending on the school district)
- Cost: Around $15

- Length: 2 hours and 45 minutes
- Components: Evidence-Based Reading & Writing, Math
- Sign up – at your local school district, you will receive a PSAT student guide
- Agora School Counselors will be giving a PSAT presentation to all 9th and 10th grade English classes in April.
- You will need photo identification (state ID, driver's license) to take the exam

The Time to Act is NOW!

Students interested in taking the PSAT will need to register by contacting their **local school district** in the spring prior to when they plan on taking the exam.   Agora does not administer the exam, but all college-bound students are highly encouraged to participate. The Agora High School Guidance Counselors provide resources, PSAT workshops, and are available to answer additional questions about the PSAT.

For more information:

Visit College Board's website: www.collegeboard.com

PSAT Video:

https://view.knowledgevision.com/presentation/d2640b1e2fdf4271b69e5646f420c88d

CollegeBoard
PSAT

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- September 6: High School Parent Meeting / Benchmark Window Opens
- September 7: Middle School Parent Meeting
- September 13: Elementary School Parent Meeting
- September 21 – 22: Rosh Hashanah (School and Administrative Offices Closed)

Agora **CALENDAR OF EVENTS and ADOs**:   https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=agoraevents2013%40gmail.com&ctz=America/New_York