



PSHS: Cradle of Filipino Scientists and Technologists

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Introduction

The Philippine Science High School (PSHS) was established to become the breeding-ground of the country's future scientists and technologists. Its street address, Agham Road, bespeaks of its science and technology orientation. How has PSHS performed its mandate? What are the components of its academic program/curriculum that would produce graduates who would fill the country's need for scientists and technologists?

PSHS's Academic Program

PSHS offers advanced courses in science and mathematics. From second to fourth year, a student takes biology, chemistry and physics as separate subjects. A research subject in the third and fourth years trains the student to conduct a research project supervised by an adviser. Computer science is offered in all year levels.

The electives include field biology and a summer science internship in a research institution. Drafting and electronics are offered to students who intend to pursue engineering careers. Students intending to pursue a career in pure science/mathematics may take additional science/mathematics elective courses.

The curriculum, though heavy on science, math and technology, aims to promote the total development of the scholar in line with the objective of the PSHS system of providing a well-rounded education. The school thus encourages and supports sports and other co-curricular activities generally handled by several student organizations and interest groups. These activities aim to develop aptitudes, special abilities and talents and promote moral values and leadership skills.

Humanities and related subjects

develop creativity and social responsibility by providing enriching curricular and co-curricular experiences.

Scholarship and Other Privileges

PSHS students enjoy a package of benefits specified in the Scholarship Agreement they sign upon entrance. They may fall under one of four categories. These categories, based on economic and social factors that indicate the student's need for financial assistance, are Full, Partial 1, Partial 2, and Special. They vary according to the amount of monthly living allowance, grants for P.E. and Scout/CAT uniforms, and transportation allowance, computation of which is based on available transportation facilities (bus, ship, airplane) and current fares. Privileges include free tuition fees, loan of textbooks and monthly stipend of P300 for ten months.

The Scholarship Agreement binds the students to take up a course in the fields of basic and applied sciences, and engineering when they go to college. The agreement states that failure to take up a science career at the university level may be enough ground for PSHS to demand reimbursement of the money value of the privileges obtained from the school.

The scholarship also requires a student to maintain a yearly average of 2.5 or better, and a cumulative average of 2.5 or better in the sciences and mathematics. A student who obtains a grade of 5.0 in any subject in the final quarter automatically loses his/her scholarship.

Regional Campuses

The Diliman Campus was established in 1964 by Republic Act 3661 (or the PSHS Charter), an act establishing the Philippine Science High School on June 22, 1963. The Mindanao Campus (in Mintal, Davao



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City) opened in July 1988 and the Western Visayas Campus (in Jaro, Iloilo City) started admitting students in July 1993. Both campuses were established by Executive Order No. 1090 dated February 5, 1986). Finally, the Eastern Visayas Science High School (in Palo, Leyte), established by RA 7373, opened in July 1994.

The Diliman Campus admits 240 first year students every year, while the other campuses admit 90 students each out of an average of 15,000 examinees.

Services, Facilities and Support Organizations

All first year scholars could be accommodated in the residence halls which, however, are primarily for those coming from the provinces. Accommodations for upper levels are limited and selective. Students pay a

minimal monthly rent and their meals are covered by a contract with the canteen.

Along with the full range of student services rendered by the staff and the different offices within campus, there are also various subject-related or interest clubs run by the students and recognized by the school. Support organizations like the PTA and the PSHS Foundation actively work for the school.



More Science Humor

Some daffy definitions inadvertently made by students*

- Three kinds of blood vessels are arteries, vanes and caterpillars.
- The process of turning steam back into water again is called conversation.
- The Earth makes one resolution every 24 hours.
- The pistol of a flower is its only protection against insects.
- The moon is a planet just like the Earth, only it is even deader.
- Dew is formed on leaves when the sun shines down on them and makes them perspire.
- If conditions are not favorable, bacteria go into a period of adolescence.
- A magnet is something you find crawling all over a dead cat.
- To remove air from a flask, fill it with water, tip the water out, and put the cork in quick before the air can get back in.
- To collect fumes of sulfur, hold a deacon over a flame in a test tube.

*<http://www.dakota.net/~pwinn/humor/education.html>