

Wednesday, April 07, 2004

**WELCOME TO
SCIS CHANGNING
COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY**

**From the tallest to the smallest,
SCIS Changning provides our students with
a world class Technology Education for the 21st Century!**



Are you



practicing your typing at home??

Mr. Jim Stratton
jstratton@scischina.org
Computer Technology Teacher
Preschool & Grades 1-6
Changning Campus
Technology Coordinator

**Please read the materials in this packet.
Return the School-To-Home Technology Survey to Mr. Stratton.
Welcome to SCIS!!!**



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Student Name

Grade

Dear Grade 3-6 parents,

Please read the following information with your daughter/son, and then **complete, print and sign** the form. Your daughter/son should return this form to Mr. Stratton by the next computer class.

I. HOME TECHNOLOGY

Does your student have access to a **computer or laptop** at home (either her/his own computer or one she/he can use)? **YES** **NO**
(If not, why not? Will this situation change? When?)

With **Windows 98/2000/ME/XP**? **YES** **NO** **Microsoft Office**? **YES** **NO**

Are Windows and Office **in English**? **YES** **NO** **English keyboard**? **YES** **NO**

Does the home computer have **Internet** access? **YES** **NO**

Does your student use the Internet at home for **web browsing** (looking at web pages)?
YES **NO**

For **email and/or instant messaging**? **YES** **NO**

Do you **monitor your student's use of the Internet** at home (web browsing email, chatting, instant messaging, etc.)? **YES** **NO**

Have you **discussed with your student the potential risks and hazards of the Internet** with your student (inappropriate websites, false or misleading information on websites, contact with strangers, giving out personal information, computer viruses, cheating using Internet resources, etc.)? **YES**
NO

Does your student have access to a **digital camera** at home? **YES** **NO**

Does your student have a **PDA** (e.g., a Palm Pilot)? **YES** **NO**

II. TYPING HOMEWORK **The following is homework for the entire year (Gr. 3-6):**

1. 10 to 15 minutes of proper typing practice 4 or 5 times a week.
2. Use TYPING TUTOR IV or another suitable typing program.
3. Follow our established typing guidelines for proper touch typing techniques and form—use proper posture, proper fingering, and use a typing cover (a handkerchief will work just fine) over your fingers.

YES Our daughter/son **IS** completing her/his typing homework.

NO Our daughter/son **IS NOT** completing her/his typing homework.

(If not, why not? Will this situation change? When?)

Please print and sign (along with your student) this completed survey and have your student return it to Mr. Stratton in computer class as soon as possible. Thank you!!!

_____/_____
(Parent Signature/Date)

_____/_____
(Parent Signature/Date)

_____/_____
(Student Signature/Date)

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Computer Bytes:

**GRADE 3-6 PARENTS AND STUDENTS:
GET A USB MEMORY STICK TO TRANSPORT
COMPUTER FILES SCHOOL-TO-HOME-TO-SCHOOL!!!**

Many SCIS students are now working with computer files at school that are well over the size that can be saved on a floppy diskette. Now, with electronic student portfolios on the horizon, this is even more the case. PowerPoint, graphics, and web site files can quickly grow to megabytes, and tens of megabytes in size—much too large to save on a single diskette. In addition, floppy diskettes do not seem to be a reliable storage medium. Yet, students increasingly will be asked to work on their computer projects both at home, as well as at school. A relatively new technology may prove to be an ideal method for SCIS students to transport large computer files to and from school—the USB portable memory unit. These types of products are marketed under various names: **USB Mini Flash Drive, Flash Drive Mini USB External, Portable USB Storage Device/Hard Drive, etc.**



These are inexpensive, small, portable storage devices that interface quickly and easily by plugging directly into the USB port of a Win2000/XP computer. The memory stick acts as a mini-hard drive, and allows users to save directly to it, as they would to a computer hard drive. The memory sticks can then be unplugged from one computer and plugged into another, allowing for easy transfer of data between non-networked computers. These items come with a Windows 98 software driver CD (no driver is necessary for Windows 2000 & XP), a USB extension cable, and often come with a handy cord attached so that the stick can be worn around the neck to avoid losing it.

Storage capacity ranges from 16 MB-512 MB (and larger), and prices vary according to capacity. Here are some estimated prices (remember to bargain for best prices):

Memory Storage Capacity	Approximate Price in RMB
16 MB	100-150
32 MB	150-250
64 MB	250-400
128 MB	300-500

These products are widely available in Shanghai. Try this location:

- ✓ Computer Center Xu Jia Hui, Cybermart Hong Kong Plaza (Huai Hai Lu)
- ✓ Other computer stores & shops all over town!

Mr. Stratton *highly recommends that all Grade 3-6 Students purchase a USB memory stick* (32 MB or 64 MB size is just fine) and bring it to school everyday (and especially to every computer class) in order to save computer files for transport to home computers.

Please note:

Your purchase of a memory stick for you student is recommended, not mandatory. Students will be fully responsible for taking care of their own memory sticks. SCIS will not be responsible for lost or broken devices. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Stratton: jstratton@scischina.org

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GIGGLEBYTES!



Note from Mr. Stratton for Grade 3-6 Parents:

Typing practice homework is coming! I am sending Typing Tutor IV home to your 3rd-6th Grade students this week on diskette and USB memory stick.

This typing program requires:

- an English version of Windows on it (Win 3.x, 95, 98, 2000, ME or XP);
- an English (QWERTY) keyboard.

Your students are familiar with this program. They can run Typing Tutor IV by:

- opening the Typing Tutor Complete folder on diskette or USB memory stick;
- opening the program icon named “Tt.exe” (look for the blue rectangle with tt.exe below it)
- finding their name in the user list and following the directions on the screen!



Grade 6 students practice typing in computer class. Notice the use of a typing cover and proper posture. Great job, 6th graders!!!

If Typing Tutor IV will not run on your home computer, please purchase another suitable typing program for your student that teaches touch typing using an English (QWERTY) keyboard. Due to copyright laws, we are unable to provide proprietary typing software (such as Mavis Beacon) for student use at home.

The following is standing Computer homework for the entire year for Grades 3-6):

- ✓ 10 to 15 minutes of proper typing practice 4 or 5 times a week.
- ✓ Use TYPING TUTOR IV or another suitable typing program.
- ✓ Follow our established typing guidelines for

proper touch typing techniques and form—use proper posture, proper fingering, and use a typing cover (a handkerchief will work just fine) over your fingers. Students are highly encouraged to practice at home in the manner in which they will be tested at school—i.e., using the same software and proper form.

- ✓ Typing practice in class will be limited, due to the short length of computer classes, and the need to cover other elements of the computer curriculum during class time.
- ✓ Typing is an essential computer skill that SCIS students should master quickly. Homework practice is the best way to do this.

* Grade 2 students are welcome to take home Typing Tutor IV on diskette, as well. They are not required to do the typing Computer homework, but it’s never too early to begin to master touch typing!

Thank you for your cooperation and support in developing your student’s computer technology skills at home! It does make a difference!! Please contact Mr. Stratton with any questions, concerns and comments. jstratton@scischina.org

Hee, hee, hee!
Ha, ha, ha!

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Giggle Bytes



Parents are often very interested in the learning software their children use at school. They hear of intriguing titles such as “Math Blaster” and “Storybook Weaver” spoken of by their kids, and they wonder how and where they can get this software for use by their children at home. The Internet is a prime source for locating and purchasing much of this type of computer software. Many educational software publishers and other software companies maintain web sites with extensive collections of learning software, and have on-line ordering

capabilities. Most learning software titles are priced within the USD \$10-50 range (shipping and handling costs vary, especially for overseas delivery) and are available on CD in both Windows and Mac format. Some pieces of software can be purchased and downloaded directly to your home computer.

Here is a list of learning software commonly used by SCIS students, and the web sites through which these software titles can be ordered. This list is by no means exhaustive nor all-inclusive. There are many other fine pieces of educational software available on these and other web sites. We encourage parents to explore many different learning software titles with their children at home.

Software Title	Educational Subject or Software Type	Web Sites Featuring This Software Title
Print Artist	Graphics, Creativity & Publishing	printartist.sierrahome.com www.amazon.com
Kid Pix Studio Deluxe and Kid Pix Deluxe 3	Graphics, Creativity & Publishing	www.kidpix.com www.kidsclick.com www.amazon.com
Storybook Weaver	Writing/Language Arts	www.riverdeep.net
Reading Blaster Series	Reading/Language Arts	www.amazon.com www.kidsclick.com
Reader Rabbit Series	Reading/Language Arts	www.riverdeep.net www.kidsclick.com
Bailey's Book House	Reading/Language Arts	www.riverdeep.net/edmark
Mighty Math Series	Math (Number Heroes, Calculating Crew, Cosmic Geometry)	www.riverdeep.net/edmark www.kidsclick.com
Living Books (Interactive Children's Stories)	Reading/Language Arts	www.riverdeep.net www.kidsclick.com
Arthur (Various Arthur titles)	Reading/Language Arts, Math, Critical Thinking/Problem Solving	www.broderbund.com www.broderbund.com www.kidsclick.com
Math Blaster Series	Math (Various Ages, Geometry Blaster)	www.amazon.com www.kidsclick.com
I Spy	Critical Thinking/Problem Solving	www.tomsnyder.com
Jumpstart (From Preschool to	Reading/Language Arts, Math, Critical Thinking/Problem Solving	www.knowledgeadventure.com www.sunburst.com www.kidsclick.com www.amazon.com
Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing	Typing/Keyboarding	www.mindscape.co.uk www.kidsclick.com www.amazon.com
Thinkin' Things	Critical Thinking/Problem Solving (Collections 1-3, Fribbletown)	www.riverdeep.net/edmark www.amazon.com
Putt Putt	Early Childhood	www.humongous.com www.funkidsgames.com
Millie and Bailey (Preschool, Kinder)	Early Childhood, Reading/Language Arts, Math, Critical Thinking/Problem Solving	www.riverdeep.net/edmark www.broderbund.com
Encarta	Multimedia Encyclopedia/Reference	encarta.msn.com/shop www.amazon.com