



School of the Arts | 2021-22 Profile

Location and Description

The Rochester City School District (RCSD) is one of the largest urban districts in New York State and is located in Rochester, New York. Rochester City School District serves a diverse population of students in grades PreK -12 at 55 Pre-K sites, 46 elementary and secondary schools, and 10 alternative programs. There are 26, 078 students enrolled in the district. The demographics are as followed: Black or African American - 53.1%, Hispanic - 32.7%, White -9.6%, Asian -2.9%, and Other - 1.7%.

Mission: to foster students’ individual talents and abilities in a nurturing environment of equity.

Vision: The Rochester City School District’s vision is to ensure all students have equitable access to high-quality education and graduate each student as a productive member of society.

MISSION

School of the Arts mission is student success... academic, artistic and humanistic. We are a teaching and learning community dedicated to infusing the arts, humanities and academics into all facets of education. We value the dignity and inherent worth of self and others. We celebrate the richness and diversity that forms our community. We challenge students and staff by expecting and modeling high standards of performance. SOTA’s commitment to educational excellence has earned the school a national reputation. Chosen as one of America’s Best High Schools by Newsweek, The Daily Beast and US News & World Report. School of the Arts graduates embrace lifelong learning and reflect the values instilled by artistic disciplines. It is our belief that our graduates are cognizant of the gifts they possess and understand the responsibility and privilege of contributing to a larger community.

OUR SCHOOL

Nestled in the heart of Rochester’s Cultural District, the School of the Arts - SOTA - is a public school for urban residents. Qualifying candidates are admitted through audition or portfolio. School of the Arts honors diversity. Our student population is comprised of: 47.1% African Americans, 23.8% Hispanics, 25% Caucasians, and 4.1% American Indian, Asian, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and other. SOTA makes its own contributions to the arts by combining its extensive arts program with a myriad of community resources. SOTA students repeatedly win prestigious awards including the National Foundation for the Advancement in the Arts Award, the National Merit Scholarship, the National High School Dance Festival Award, the Orrin Shapiro Writing Award and the George Eastman Young Leaders Award. In addition to fulfilling New York State’s Regents graduation requirements, a School of the Arts diploma signifies the completion of an eight-credit sequence in one of the following arts disciplines: Creative Writing, Dance, Drama, Music, Theatre Technology, or Visual Arts. Each semester students are required to participate in performances and exhibitions in their major field of study. SOTA views the arts as a powerful stimulus for scholarship. Its academic program includes: the New York State Regents, Honors and Advanced Placement Courses in American History, Biology, Chemistry, Calculus AB, Government and Politics: United States, English Language and Composition, Human Geography, Music Theory, Physics and World History: Modern. Our catalog of Virtual Advanced Placement Course offerings has grown to include Art History, Computer Science, English Literature, Environmental Science, Psychology, and Statistics.

OUR COMMUNITY

Rochester, the third largest city in New York State, is a city rich in history. It was the former home to Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony, and is located on Lake Ontario in the beautiful Finger Lakes Region. Rochester is the corporate headquarters for Wegmans, Kodak, and Paychex. It claims one of the most skilled workforces of any major U.S. metropolis. Education is a high priority in the Greater Rochester Community; numerous nationally recognized institutions of higher education are located here including: Rochester Institute of Technology, University of Rochester, and the Eastman School of Music. Rochester is renowned for its cultural resources and is generous in its support for education and the arts.

In addition to fulfilling New York State’s graduation requirements, a School of the Arts diploma signifies the completion of an eight -credit sequence in one of the following arts disciplines: Creative Writing, Dance, Drama, Music: Instrumental and Vocal, Theatre Technology, or Visual Arts

Curriculum Information

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

Course Credits*

English.....	4.0
Social Studies.....	4.0
Math.....	3.0
Science.....	3.0
Health.....	0.5
Foreign Language.....	1.0 **
Fine/Performing Arts.....	8.0
Physical Education	2.0 ***
Minimum Credits Required.....	25.5 *

Students must meet Regents test requirements as outlined on New York State Education Department Section 100.5 Diploma Requirements.

A credit is awarded for a full-year of study of a particular course.

**A 5-credit sequence in Fine Art exempts students from LOTE requirement for Advanced Regents Diploma.

***School of the Arts students may substitute a dance class for a Physical Education class.

Course Data and Post-Secondary Options

Number of students in 2017 cohort 173

Number of students in 2016 cohort 177

SCHOOL OF THE ARTS CLASS PROFILE AVERAGE

Enrollment: 706 Students Grades 9–12

Cohort 2016/ Class of 2020

POST-SECONDARY PLACEMENTS

4-Year College or University 35%

Community College 56.5%

Employment/Other 7.5%

Military 1%

National Assessments

SAT Assessment Data Not Available Due to COVID-19.

Average SAT Scores

	RCSD	State
Reading & Writing	467	528
Mathematics	451	523
Cumulative	917	1052

Course Descriptions

Social Studies:

Social Studies education is required for all students every year of their school careers from Kindergarten through grade twelve. In the early grades, students explore their own families, communities, and the communities of others as they build their historical thinking skills. As the years progress, students conduct more in-depth investigations of peoples in the United States and the rest of the world in order to develop a better understanding of the core areas of social studies: government, economics, geography, and history. Ultimately, it is the goal of the social studies program to help students develop the critical skills needed to be active citizens in our community, our country, and our world.

English

English I – English IV

Four units of English and the English Regents are required for high school students to graduate in New York State. Our program is designed to foster the reading, writing, listening, speaking, language, and critical thinking skills necessary to be college and career ready. Students will be required to read, analyze and synthesize across literary and informational texts, write for multiple audiences, tasks, and purposes, listen and speak in collaborative discussions with their peers, and demonstrate a solid command of the English language. English classes are selected with students according to reading and writing skill level, as determined by state assessments, student performance and student interest. Students who demonstrate a need for additional assistance with English skills will receive these services through supplemental instruction. All students are required by New York State to take the Common Core English Regents Examination; a student must pass this

exam in order to earn a diploma in New York State. Eligible students may take the exam in other grade levels.

Science

Science offerings for the secondary level include the following: Living Environment, Physical Setting/Earth Science, Physical Setting/ Chemistry, Physical Setting/ Physics, General Chemistry, Environmental science and Anatomy & Physiology.

Mathematics

There are a variety of mathematics offerings to meet the needs of scholars. The following courses are offered at the secondary level. Algebra 1 Regents, Algebra I Math lab (taking currently with Algebra I R), Geometry, Algebra- Geometry Blend, Geometry Regents, Advanced Algebra with Financial Applications, Algebra 2, Algebra II Regents, Algebra II Regents Honors, Pre-Calculus, AP Statistics and AP Calculus.

CTE

CTE offers work-based learning, Career Pathways to Public Safety programs as well as the following pathways: Automotive, Manufacturing and Engineering, Construction and Design, Digital Media Arts and Communication

World Languages

RCSD World language courses offers scholars American Sign Language, French, Latin, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese and AP offerings.

Visual Arts

Offerings include Studio in Art I, Student in Art II, Studio in Draw & Paint, Studio in Sequence, Studio in Photo II, Three-D I, Three D-II, Three-D III, Video Art I, Video Art II, Video Art III, Media I, Media II, Media III, Draw/Paint I, Draw/Paint II and Draw/Paint III. Other Visual Arts electives include Art History, Principles of Design, Printmaking, AP Art History and Art Portfolio.

Music

Offerings include Music in Our Lives, Piano I, Piano II, Chorus I, Chorus II, Chorus III, Voice I, Voice II, Voice III, Percussion I, Percussion II, Percussion III, Beginner's Band, Intermediate Band, Advanced Band, Beginner's Orchestra, Intermediate Orchestra and Advanced Orchestra. Other music electives will include History of Music, Music Theory, Jazz Band, and AP Music History.

Health

Health courses include Death and Dying, Health 10 -12, and Global Health

Letter/Numeric Grade

Conversions

A+	Superior (95-100)
A	Excellent (90-94)
B+	Very Good (85-89)
B	Good (80-84)
C+	Above Average (75-79)
C	Average (70-74)
D	Below Average (65-69)
F	Failure (Below 65)

Grade Point Average

Grade Achieved	Honors Class	Regents Class	Non-Regents Class
A+	6.5	5.5	4.5
A	6.0	5.0	4.0
B+	5.5	4.5	3.5
B	5.0	4.0	3.0
C+	4.5	3.5	2.5
C	4.0	3.0	2.0
D	3.0	2.0	1.0
F	0	0	0

Graduation Requirements

COURSE	CREDITS	LOCAL DIPLOMA	REGENTS DIPLOMA	REGENTS DIPLOMA WITH ADVANCED DESIGNATION
English	4	English Language Arts	English Language Arts	English Language Arts R or C.C.
Soc. Studies	4	1 Regents Social Studies	1 Regents Social Studies	Global History Regents and US History Regents
Math	3	1 Regents Math	1 Regents Math	Integrated Algebra R or C.C., Geometry R or C.C., & Algebra 2/ Trigonometry Regents or C.C.
Science	3	1 Regents Science	1 Regents Science	2 Regents Sciences
LOTE*	1 or 3	1 Science, Social Studies, Math or LOTE	1 Science, Social Studies, Math or LOTE	LOTE Comprehensive Exam
Fine Arts	1			
Health	.5	Passing Score	Passing Score	Passing Score
Physical Education	2	Only for students with an IEP or a 504 Plan	65+ on 5 exams	All Cohorts: 65+ on all 8 or 9 exams
Electives	1.5 to 3.5	Safety Net Option: 55% - 64% on 5 required exams		
Min. Credits Required	22	Compensatory Safety Net Option: Up to two scores of 45% - 54% (except in English & Math) can be compensated by another exam with the score of 65% or higher		

Superintendent of Schools
Lesli C. Myers-Small, Ed.D.

www.rcsdk12.org/SOTA
School of the Arts
45 Prince St, Rochester, NY 14607
Phone: 585-242-7682
CEEB Code: 334835

Kelly Nicastro, Principal
kelly.nicastro@rcsdk12.org
Jo Ann Aspenleiter, Assistant Principal
joann.aspenleiter@rcsdk12.org
Mario Belcufine, Assistant Principal
mario.belcufine@rcsdk12.org
Brian Chandler, Assistant Principal
brian.chandler@rcsdk12.org
Dave Michelsen, Athletic Director
dave.michelsen@rcsdk12.org
Alan Tirre, Assistant Principal
alan.tirre@rcsdk12.org

School Counselors
Grades 10 - 12
Michael Murphy - michael.murphy@rcsdk12.org
Julie Rossette - julie.rossette@rcsdk12.org
Talya Sirianni - talya.sirianni@rcsdk12.org

Grades 7 - 9
Michelle Coccia - michelle.coccia@rcsdk12.org
Sarah Coe - sarah.coe@rcsdk12.org