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OUR MISSION IS STUDENT SUCCESS...ACADEMIC, ARTISTIC, AND HUMANISTIC

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## February Principal's Update:

School of the Arts needs your help. Social Media is causing many of our concerns with students. Students are posting outside of school hours, but issues are then brought into school. There are several ways you can assist us:

- Monitor your child's social media postings and activities
- Model appropriate social media behavior- post positive things and do not use it as an outlet to ridicule or complain about another person
- Follow or Friend your child so you can see their social media activity
- Let your child know that once it is posted- it is there forever

Here are some links that also offer suggestions about how to keep your child safe while online.

- [Center for Cyber Safety and Education](#)
- [Following Your Kids on Social Media: 24 Tips for Parents](#)
- [Social Networking Tips](#)

**Testing Kits:** The Governor's office is providing schools with another shipment of Covid 19 tests. Every student and staff member will a test. The tests will be distributed at dismissal on Thursday prior to break. It is recommended that students take the test prior to returning to school on Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Masking Survey:** This week, the Governor stated that the requirement to mask in schools will remain in place *at least* through the February recess. She plans to assess the mask requirement in early March. The Superintendent has asked that we survey students, families, and staff. The plan for the survey is as follows:

- Families and staff received a robocall advising them that they will be receiving a survey call on Monday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. This provides awareness of what is to come and will hopefully garner greater participation. All family surveys will be administered in the family's preferred language.
- On Monday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, the following [phone survey](#) will be sent via robocall and email to families and staff. Only one submission is allowed, therefore if someone responds to the phone survey, they will not be allowed to respond to the email survey. The robocall to not leave a voicemail message and try again three times in order to obtain a response.
- In addition, on Monday a student survey (7-12 grades) will be administered via the student's Chromebook. IM&T is assisting in the execution of this part of the surveying.
- The survey will remain open through Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup>.



### **7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade families!**

Do you feel like you don't quite know your way around School of the Arts? Are you interested in seeing where your student spends all day?

On **Saturday February 19<sup>th</sup> from 12:00PM to 2:00PM** your student can take you on a tour around the building. Unfortunately, they will not be able to show you inside their classrooms but you can walk their schedule with them, see where they eat their lunch and check out their lockers! All tours need to be concluded by 2:00PM and masks are required at all times while in the building.

Email [sotainfo@rcsdk12.org](mailto:sotainfo@rcsdk12.org) with your student's name and time you plan on coming to tour the building!

At 2:00PM you can stay and join us for a staged reading of the 2019 Pulitzer prize winning play, *Fairview*, presented by the SOTA Drama Department. Written by Jackie Sibbles Drury, *Fairview* follows the Frasier household, where preparations for Grandma's birthday party are underway. Beverly is holding on to her sanity by a thread to make sure this party is perfect, but her sister can't be bothered to help, her husband doesn't seem to listen, her brother is MIA, her daughter is a teenager, and maybe nothing is what it seems in the first place...! *Fairview* is a searing examination of families, drama, family dramas, and the insidiousness of white supremacy. The Pulitzer committee called the play "A hard-hitting drama that examines race in a highly conceptual, layered structure, ultimately bringing audiences into the actors' community to face deep-seated prejudices."

*Fairview* features 9 SOTA students ranging from 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

Tickets are \$8/ \$3 for SOTA students/ alumni and *must* be reserved in advance of February 19<sup>th</sup> at [sotaroc.boottix.com](https://sotaroc.boottix.com)

On March 24, 2022, RCSD is organizing a districtwide **Job Shadow Day for Seniors**. Job shadows may be remote or in-person depending on the company. Seniors — In order to participate in the Job Shadow Day, complete the following survey by scanning the QR code before 2/17/22. [www.rcsdk12.org/cte/survey](http://www.rcsdk12.org/cte/survey)

Wednesday, March 2 the **Juniors will take the SAT** free of charge during the school day. All students who are listed in grade 11 will participate during Periods 1-5.

**Summer of Opportunity-** On Tuesday, February 15, we will have a Summer of Opportunity representative in the foyer from 11:45 am-1:14 pm. Students should know their email and zip code and bring their Chromebook. The Summer of Opportunity Program (SOOP) for our 14-20-year old students. Students must be 14 by May 31<sup>st</sup> 2022.

**Afterschool tutoring-** Several teachers are staying afterschool offering extra help. After break, I will have a calendar that indicates which teachers and subjects are being offered afterschool each day for academic assistance.

**Saturday School-** Starting March 6, students may be assigned Saturday School from 9 am to 12 pm if they are caught in a hall sweep, minor disruption of educational process or they skipped a class. This will assist with vandalism, pulled fire alarms and improve grades.



### **Calendar Reminders:**

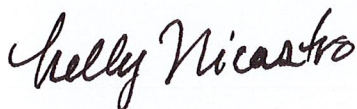
- February 15<sup>th</sup> at 7PM: **Black History Celebration Concert** with Jazz Band, Concert Choir, Mixed Choir and Middle School Choir. Seating is limited but it is going to be live streamed at [sotarochester.org](http://sotarochester.org)
- February 16<sup>th</sup> 7PM **PTSO Meeting** on Zoom
- February 17<sup>th</sup> at 4PM: **Student performance of *Fairview***. Tickets available from Ms. Gregoire M155
- February 18<sup>th</sup> **Black Lives Matter 2022 Day at SOTA** (students only)
- February 18<sup>th</sup> at 6PM **Senior Art opening II** in the gallery
- February 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>: ***Fairview*** performances. Tickets are \$8 and can be purchased at [sotaroc.booktix.com](http://sotaroc.booktix.com)
- **Winter Break** starting **February 19<sup>th</sup>** and students return to school on **February 28<sup>th</sup>**
- March 4<sup>th</sup> **Half day for students**. Dismissal at 12PM
- March 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> **Dance Concert**. Tickets can be purchased at [sotaroc.booktix.com](http://sotaroc.booktix.com)
- March 16<sup>th</sup> 7PM **PTSO Meeting** on Zoom

**Thank you for your support and if you have any questions, please contact:**

- \* your child's counselor for grades and academics
- \* your child's administrator for concerns
- \* the main office to update or change your contact information
- \* your child's house office to report their absence
- \* <mailto:sotainfo@rcsdk12.org> with other questions

I can also be reached at [kelly.nicastro@rcsdk12.org](mailto:kelly.nicastro@rcsdk12.org) if you need assistance.

Thank you and have a great day!



Kelly Nicastro  
Principal