



April 2022

## PRINCIPAL NICASTRO UPDATE

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

Happy spring! We are quickly approaching the end of the school year and we are looking forward to a happy and healthy conclusion in June.

### GOOD NEWS NOTES:

- Brava to a sold out run of **Dance Concert 2022!**
- **Congratulations to our Creative Writing Students who have been honored recently: Scholastic Writing contest--Regional East:** Hannah G., 12th grade, Silver, poetry, Ariel H., 12th grade, Honorable Mention, poetry, Pia N., 12th grade, Gold, poetry, Kianely O., 10<sup>th</sup> grade, Silver, poetry, David S., 12th grade, Honorable Mention, Flash Fiction, Simone W., 12th grade, Gold, poetry. The Gold medalists will go on to the national competition.  
  
**Sokol Awards--Friends of the Rochester Public Library:** Grayce P., 9th grade, 1st place in prose, Elani S., 11th grade, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in poetry, Aries C., 12th grade, 3rd place in Poetry .
- Felix S., 12th grade trumpet; Charles R., 10th grade flute and Peyton C., 9th grade viola represented School of the Arts at the **MCSMA All County Concert** on March 5th.
- Ella T. , 12th grade was honored with the **Susan B. Anthony Leadership Award** by the RCSD Board of Education.
- Anan B. and Genesis A. are appearing in **Blackfriar Theatre's Surely Goodness and Mercy**. \$5 SOTA tickets are available for performances through April 9th in person or by calling Black friar at 454.1260.
- Our **Math League Team** placed second in the Monroe County Math League. Senior, Felix S. was named MVP of the league.



### IMPORTANT DATES

**APRIL 4:** NYS ELA TESTING GR 7 & 8

**APRIL 4:** CLASS OF 2022

FUNDRAISER AT CHIPOTLE

**APRIL 5:** NYS ELA TESTING GR 7 & 8

**APRIL 6:** CHOIR CONCERT

**APRIL 8:** JAZZ BAND CONCERT

**APRIL 8:** END OF Q 3

**APRIL 11:** EARLY DISMISSAL AT NOON

**APRIL 12:** SUPERINTENDT DAY

**APRIL 15—APRIL 24:** SPRING BREAK

**APRIL 20:** PTSO MEETING

**APRIL 29:** ART SHPW OPENING

**APRIL 29:** SPONGEBOB PERFORMANCE

**APRIL 30:** SPONGEBOB PERFORMANCE

FURTHER DETAILS FOR ALL EVENTS AVAILABLE  
AT [SOTAROCHESTER.ORG](http://SOTAROCHESTER.ORG)

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

School of the Arts (SOTA) is a Rochester City School District secondary school serving nearly 1,200 students in grades 7 through 12, and we are located in The Neighborhood of the Arts.

Our students are talented, interested in the arts, desire high academic achievement, and want to develop skills for college, career development, and life.

We provide opportunities for students to participate in performances and exhibitions in their field of study.

SOTA offers students the opportunity to earn the Certificate of Employability, which is endorsed by employers throughout Rochester who consider it when making hiring decisions.

We have received the New York State Seal of Biliteracy and the New York State Seal of Civic Readiness.

Averages 92% daily attendance.

As of the 2020-2021, graduation rate of approximately 95%.

## School of the Arts Contact Information:

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Questions:  
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## Construction at Memorial Art Gallery

On Monday April 4th MAG will begin Phase 2 of their Centennial Sculpture Park . This will impact their Prince St facing Lot and driveway.

We are reminding everyone that parking in this lot and driveway is strictly prohibited during school hours. This is especially a concern at dismissal time. Please arrange to pick your student up south of University on Prince St or wait until busses have been dismissed and pick up in front of the school.

More Information on this sculpture park and it's significance to School of the Arts can be found at <https://mag.rochester.edu/centennial-sculpture-park/expansion/>

Thank you for respecting our neighbors at the Memorial Art Gallery!

## Food Ordering at School

Students are not permitted to place food orders and have them delivered to school. They should plan on packing a lunch from home or getting a school lunch during their scheduled lunch period. This includes after school as well unless it is part of a planned afterschool activity and the adult supervisor alerts the SSO on duty about it.

## After School Hours

Spring is a busy time for after school activities. We ask that students staying after for practice, rehearsals or tutoring report immediately to the activity location after dismissal. Please pick your students up by 3:40. Any students after school without an adult will be sent outside. A complete listing of after school tutoring available is located on the school website at [sotarochester.org](http://sotarochester.org)

## COVID-19 Test Kits

We have COVID-19 at home test kits available for students who need one. Please send your student to the main office to get a test kit to take home. KN95 masks are also available in the main office for students who need them. All students will receive tests before Spring Break and are asked to test before returning to school.

## Regents Testing

Regents testing will be administered normally and will be on June 15th. The full Regent exam schedule is available at <https://www.rcsdk12.org/domain/13944>.

## Crisis Prevention Intervention Training

Twenty-two SOTA staff members spent 13 hours over the last 2 weekends completing Nonviolent Crisis Prevention Training. We are grateful to have so many staff members trained in nonviolent de-escalation measures.

