



January 2024

## PRINCIPAL NICASTRO UPDATE

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

Happy 2024! It is hard to believe we are almost at the halfway point of the school year. Please read below for information about January exams and more!

### GOOD NEWS NOTES:

- Bravo to the cast and crew of ***Cinderella!*** They had a very successful run that included two student matinee performances for our RCSD Elementary friends and a special preview for RCSD Principals.
- Congratulations to our music department who spread holiday cheer through music at City Hall, Eastview mall, the Monroe County Office Building, and our own Allen Main Stage. Many thanks to the alumni who joined us for 'Hallelujah'.
- **Peyton C. (Viola), Logan R. (Violin), and Charles R. (Flute)** all attended NYSSMA All State in November.
- 193 students were recognized as **SOTA Superstars** in December 2023. These students have grades of a "C" or higher and NO tardies.

### Saturday & Before & After School Tutoring

We are offering tutoring sessions before school, after school and on Saturdays from 9am-12pm. The full schedule of available tutoring sessions is available [HERE](#).



### IMPORTANT DATES

**JAN 11:** PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES  
5-7PM

SEE GOOGLE CLASSROOM FOR TEACHER SCHEDULES

**JAN 15:** NO SCHOOL  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR

**JAN 23-26:** REGENTS EXAM WEEK  
SOTA AUDITIONS

**JAN 26:** MARKING PERIOD 2 ENDS

**FEB 9, 10:** ALL IN THE TIMING 7PM

**FEB 13:** BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION  
7PM

**FEB 16:** BLACK LIVES MATTER DAY  
SCHOOL EVENT FOR  
STUDENTS DURING THE DAY

**FEB 16, 17:** ALL IN THE TIMING 7PM

**FEB 19-23:** WINTER RECESS

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## January Regents Exams

January 23-26 is regents exam week. 7th & 8th graders follow their normal schedule and 9-12 graders report ONLY for regent exams, lab times, midterms, and review classes.

Please see the full schedule below.

**January 2024 Regents exams are scheduled as follows:**

**\*please note start time**

### REGENTS & LOCAL EXAMINATION SCHEDULE: JANUARY 2024 School of the Arts

January 23, 2024	January 24, 2024	January 25, 2024	January 26, 2024
8:30 am	8:30 am	8:30 am	8:30 am
English Language Arts Regents AP Seminar work session (351) AP Gov mid-term i-Ready Math CBT Math	Geometry Regents U.S. History & Government Regents Spanish IV H MCC midterm i-Ready ELA	Global History & Geography II Regents Earth Science Regents Lab Practical (A173) i-Ready Math	Physical Setting/Earth Science Physical Setting/Chemistry Creative Journalism Media Studies and Playwriting mid-term (Craddock)
12:30 pm	12:30 pm	12:30 pm	Uniform Admission Deadlines
Living Environment Regents AP World mid-term	Algebra I Regents Physical Setting/Physics*Regents	Algebra II Regents Chemistry mid-term AP Chemistry work session	Morning Examinations -- 10:00 a.m. Afternoon Examinations -- 2:00 p.m.

### School of the Arts Contact Information:

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## Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent Teacher conferences are Thursday, January 11th from 5PM to 7PM. Check Google Classroom or contact your student's teacher for more information on how to sign up for conferences.

## Promotion and Retention

Starting this school year, students in grades 7 and 8 who fail two or more subjects will not be promoted without a viable plan that shows they can meet grade-level standards. What this means is students who do not receive a final average of 65% or higher in their core classes (English Language Arts, math, science, and social studies) will be required to attend summer school.



# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## Paper Tutoring

Did you know that **Paper Tutoring** is available to all students 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week? Students get access to free, unlimited, and 24/7 academic support from fully vetted tutors, all from a secure platform. All Paper tutors are experts in their own academic areas, and students can get support across 200-plus subjects in four languages.

## Cell Phones

As a reminder, to put the focus on academic achievement, minimize school-time distractions, and encourage positive communication, cell phones are prohibited throughout the SOTA school day. Students are responsible for placing their phones in their Yondr pouch that was provided to them. Students are also responsible for the maintenance of their pouch. Replacement pouches may be purchased during morning arrival for \$10 (CASH ONLY). Failure to comply with school cell phone policy will result in parent pick up of cell phone.

## Outside Food and Drink

Another reminder that students should finish all outside food and drink before entering the building. Additionally, ordering food for delivery is NOT allowed.

## Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is a regular day of instruction. To limit distractions we would like to remind everyone of our policy on gifts that day. ALL gifts brought in on Valentine's day (stuffed animals, flowers, balloons, food, etc.) will need to be checked in upon arrival and retrieved at dismissal. Gifts like these have proven to be a distraction during the school day. Students should plan to give presents to each other outside of school hours.

