



January 2023

PRINCIPAL NICASTRO UPDATE

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

Happy 2023! 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 **Once On This Island!** They had a very successful run that included two student matinee performances for our RCSD Elementary friends.
- 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’.
- **Righteous B.**, 10th grader, won 1st place in the University of Rochester Medical Center Equity in Health Care Art Contest Awards. **Ja'Nasia B.** (8th Grade) received an Honorable Mention in the contest.
- We are happy to have celebrated over 870 of our students during our VIP recognition week! We will continue to celebrate our students who are attending classes, focusing on academics, and generally making School of the Arts an enjoyable place.

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

January 24-27 is regents exam week. 7th & 8th graders follow their normal schedule and 9-12 graders report **ONLY** for exams or lab times.

Please see the full schedule or labs and exams [HERE](#)

March 22nd will be SAT day for all 11th grade students. More information will be shared with students.



IMPORTANT DATES

JAN 24-27: REGENTS EXAM WEEK

JAN 27: MARKING PERIOD 2 ENDS

FEB 7: BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION 7PM
OVATION ARTS IN ACTION AWARD
PRESENTATION 6PM

FEB 10: FALSE CREEDS 7PM

FEB 11: FALSE CREEDS 7PM

FEB 15: BLACK LIVES MATTER DAY
**SCHOOL TIME EVENT FOR
STUDENTS**

FEB 16: FALSE CREEDS 7PM

FEB 17: FALSE CREEDS 7PM

FEB 20-24: WINTER RECESS

FURTHER DETAILS FOR ALL EVENTS AVAILABLE AT
SOTAROCHESTER.ORG

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

School of the Arts (SOTA) is a Rochester City School District secondary school serving nearly 1,100 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 89% daily attendance.

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

School of the Arts Contact Information:

Phone Number:
585-242-7682

Fax Number:
585-256-6580

Questions:
sotainfo@rcsdk12.org

Website:
sotarochester.org
Facebook: RCSDSOTA
Instagram: @RCSDSOTA



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.

New RTS Bus Schedules & Dismissal Process

Everyone seems to be adjusting well to the new RTS morning schedule, As reminder buses now arrive 8:15am. If you are dropping your student off they may still arrive at 8:00am. The updated schedule is available [HERE](#).

At the end of the day students must leave the building at 3:30 unless they are staying for an approved activity, with an adult. There is no security on duty after school to supervise students in the lobby. Students who have activities after school must remain in the building at dismissal.

Outside Food and Drink

Another reminder that students are not allowed to bring food and drinks purchased and brought in for consumption from outside the school. Additionally, ordering food for delivery is NOT allowed. Delivery times are unpredictable and frequently do not arrive in time for students to enjoy them in the commons before they need to head to their next class.

Filtering Out Social Media Distractions

We do our best to minimize distractions from social media by using Yondr pouches during the school day, mediating social media conflicts between students, and connecting caregivers to mediate ongoing conflicts. While these have helped decrease the frequency of disruptions, we still need your help. Many students continue to report feeling unsafe due to interactions on social media or continue to engage in conflicts after they have been mediated. Most of this inappropriate use is done outside of the school day.

The responsibility for monitoring a student's use of social media must start with families. We encourage you to discuss this with your student and to monitor and/or limit their use of social media. Social media situations that take place outside of school should be referred to the Office of Parent Engagement (585-324-9999 or parentcenter@rcsdk12.org). If your child is receiving threats over social media we encourage you to contact 3-1-1.

As a school, we will continue to 1. Educate students on digital citizenship and appropriate social media use; 2. support parents on tackling inappropriate use; 3. maintain a social media free environment during the day.

We also ask that iPads be left at home. If they are brought to school, they will need to be checked in with an Administrator. Thank you for your support.

Stay Tuned

Information about additional academic tutoring sessions that will be offered after school and on Saturdays beginning in March will be available on our website soon. Additionally, our prom criteria will updated on the site soon.

