



March 2023

PRINCIPAL NICASTRO UPDATE

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

Happy Spring! It is hard to believe we are almost at the 3/4 point of the school year.

GOOD NEWS NOTES:

- Bravo to the cast and crew of **Dance Concert 2023!** They had a very successful run that included two student matinee performances for our RCSD Elementary friends.
- Congratulations to our Creative Writing Department for a successful return of **Playwrights' Festival.**
- **Gianna A.**, 12th Grade, was 1 of 7 finalists for the Princeton Prize in Race Relations for the Greater Rochester Area
- The following Creative Writing majors received accolades from Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library:
Nicholas C., Elani S., and Myles A.
- We have several musicians heading to All County: **William A. (Percussion/ Alternate), Peyton C. (Viola), Jacob L. (Percussion), Charles R. (Flute), Colden B. (Clarinet), Graham F. (Violin)**
- Two students received awards from **Just Law—Zoe D.**, and **Zahra H.** Congratulations to both.

IMPORTANT REMINDER ABOUT EARLY DISMISSALS:

To report an early dismissal you can: 1. send a note to your student's house office detailing the reason for the dismissal, and the number where you can be reached; 2. email sotattendance@rcsdk12.org with details of the dismissal; or call your student's house office early on the day of the dismissal.



IMPORTANT DATES

MAR 28: PIANO RECITAL 7PM

MAR 29: MINDFUL MOVEMENT SEMINAR
6PM

APR 3-7: SPRING RECESS

APR 11: COLLEGE & CAREER NIGHT 6PM

APR 12: CHOIR CONCERT 7PM

APR 24: HIGH SCHOOL TRANSITION NIGHT
6PM

APR 28, 29 &

MAY 5, 6: *THE WEDDING SINGER*
PERFORMANCES

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



Daily Arrival & Dismissal Process

As reminder, buses now arrive by 8:15am. We are asking that students come right in the building when they arrive. If you are dropping your student off they may still arrive at 8:00am. If your student needs breakfast, please be sure they arrive by 8:15.

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. We ask that all students be picked up from school property by 4:00PM.

Use of Technical Devices at School

We understand that technology is a part of everyday life. We are also aware of the distractions it can cause. We are asking that ALL technology (iPads, Mac Books, Nintendo Switch devices, etc.) be left at home and all school work be done on the school provided Chromebooks. If a student has an IEP or 504 Plan allowing devices other than a Chromebook they are able to continue using them.

If these devices are brought to school, they will need to be checked in with an Administrator. Thank you for your support.

Prom 2023

We are so excited for our Prom on Friday, June 2nd at Urban Euphoria! This event is for our 11th and 12th graders, and their guests (grades 10 through age under 21). In order to attend the 2023 prom you must be meeting the criteria posted [HERE](#). Information on tickets will be shared with all Juniors and Seniors.

Saturday & After School Tutoring

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

Social Media Distractions

We do our best to minimize distractions from social media throughout the day. However, 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.

We remind you that 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.