



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

45 Prince Street at University

Rochester, NY 14607

242-7682

August 29, 2023

Dear SOTA Community,

This summer has gone by so quickly and we are now ready to welcome our students back for continued engagement in meaningful learning experiences as we move toward reaching our goal of student success...Academic, Artistic, and Humanistic.

SOTA is eager to start the 2023-24 school year on **Wednesday, September 6th 2023**. We are thrilled to have each and every one of you with us for what promises to be another exceptional year of learning, growth, and achievement.

We are excited to announce the addition of Ms. Emily Buss to our Administrative team! Our current team includes:

Kelly Nicastro, Principal
Alan Tarré, Academy Director, Grades 11 and 12
Richard Roche, Athletic Director

Emily Buss, Assistant Principal, Grade 10
Samantha Brody, Assistant Principal, Grade 9
Brian Chandler, Assistant Principal, Grades 7 and 8

A full listing of administrative responsibilities can be found on our website under the STAFF tab.

School of the Arts bell times are 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM with the building opening at 8:05 AM for breakfast and scanning. Students who walk or get a ride to school should plan on arriving as close to 8:05 AM as possible in order to be in class by 8:30 AM.

Please note: there is no student supervision after 3:30 PM. All students need must exit the building by 3:30 PM unless they are staying for an approved after school activity under the supervision of a faculty member. A calendar of important dates is included in this mailer. A full, up-to-the-minute, calendar of events can be found on-line at sotarochester.org.

THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF 2023-2024

- **Schedules** - Student schedules will be mailed home the **week of August 28** and uploaded to PowerSchool. A fresh copy will be given to students upon arrival to school in 1st period.
- **Attendance** - Parents and guardians have the obligation to inform the school if their child will be absent by phone prior to the absence, or as soon as they are aware of the intended absence. Written notification is required upon the student's return to school. Contact information for specific grade levels is available at [Attendance Offices](#). The switchboard is open and available for calls between 8 AM – 3:30 PM.
- **Chromebooks** – Students are issued a Chromebook and charger. It is the expectation that this will be used for all coursework. We encourage you to leave your personal laptops, iPads, etc. at home. Please bring your charged chrome book to school every day.
- **Personal Electronic Devices** - To put the focus on academic achievement, minimize school-time distractions, and encourage positive communication, use of cell phones, smart watches, headphones, etc. are prohibited throughout the school day. At the beginning of the school year, every student will be given a personal **Yondr Pouch**. It is each student's responsibility to

bring their pouch with them to school every day. If a student forgets or loses their pouch, they will surrender their phone for the day. Phones will be returned in the foyer at dismissal.

- **Breakfast** - Students who want breakfast will report to the cafeteria upon arrival. Breakfast ends promptly at 8:25 AM to support a timely start of the school day.
- **Scanning** - Rochester City School District policy requires that all students are subject to random metal detection scanning. **Anyone refusing to be scanned or found in the possession of any prohibited items may be referred for long-term suspension.** Some of these items are, but not limited to: glass bottles, colognes/ perfumes, permanent or Sharpie Markers, scissors and lighters/matches or weapons of any kind. Drugs or any type of alcohol, controlled substances and/or paraphernalia are also prohibited. All items that may be deemed inappropriate are at the discretion of the Administration. Parents may retrieve confiscated items from grade-level administrator.
- **Athletics** - Students interested in playing modified, JV or Varsity sports should visit our website at [Athletics](#).
- **Outside Food Ordering** - SOTA does not allow food delivery during the school day. Breakfast and lunch are provided daily at no cost to students. Please plan your meals accordingly.
- **Student Information Sheets** - Please send in or email the corrections.
- **PowerSchool log in** - You should have received an email with your new password. The directions for accessing PowerSchool can be found at our website under [PowerSchool](#)
- **Transportation and Student IDs** - Students will receive a temporary pass in the mail prior to the start of school. Temporary passes are good until they receive a permanent picture ID from SOTA.
- **Health Services Information** – Current health examinations are required for all 7, 9 & 11 graders. For more information, you can reach out to the health office at (585)242-7682 x1460. Full health information is available on our website under [Health Office](#).
- **Release of Student Information (Opt-Out)** - If you are concerned about protecting the privacy of your student, please read this letter carefully. **You must complete a new form for 2023-2024.** Note: This also includes the yearbook unless you let the Yearbook editor know directly.
- **SOTARochester.org** - The most up to date and current information you need to stay informed.

Our school will be stronger with the support of its community. I encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities to support our students' learning and experiences. I look forward to meeting you and working with you this academic year. I encourage each student to set ambitious goals for themselves, embrace challenges with determination, and approach each day with a positive attitude. Remember, every step you take towards your education is a step towards a brighter future.

Thank you,


Kelly Nicastro, Principal



2023-24 IMPORTANT DATES

September 27 th 5:30PM to 7:30PM	CURRICULUM NIGHT
October 3 rd 5:30PM to 7:30PM	FALL COLLEGE & CAREER NIGHT (12th Grade)
October 11 th DURING SCHOOL	PSAT & SAT TEST DAY (9-12 Grade)
October 12 th 5:00PM to 7:00PM	PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES
October 27 th	HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS
November 7 th	NO SCHOOL - SUPERINTENDENT'S DAY
November 10 th	END OF MARKING PERIOD 1
November 22 nd – 24 th	THANKSGIVING BREAK
December 8 th	HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS
December 25 th – January 1 st	RECESS
January 11 th 5:00 to 7:00PM	PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES
January 26 th	END OF MARKING PERIOD 2/ SEMESTER 1
February 19 th – 23 rd	RECESS
March 1 st	HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS
March 7 th 5:00PM to 7:00PM	PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES
March 29 th – April 8 th	RECESS
April 12 th	END OF MARKING PERIOD 3
April 16 th 6:00PM to 8:00PM	SPRING COLLEGE & CAREER NIGHT (11th Grade)
April 22 nd	NO SCHOOL - SUPERINTENDENT'S DAY
May 9 th 5:00PM to 7:00PM	PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES
May 17 th	NO SCHOOL - SUPERINTENDENT'S DAY
May 23 rd	HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS
May 24 th – May 27 th	RECESS
June 25 th	END OF MARKING PERIOD 4

To view the FULL School of the Arts calendar visit:

