

School Of The Arts

2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR VIRTUAL LEARNING FAQs

SOTA Website: SOTAROCHESTER.ORG

Send Questions: SOTAINFO@RCSDK12.ORG

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COMMUNICATIONS

Q: WHAT IS THE BEST WAY FOR PARENTS TO CONTACT TEACHERS?

A: SOTA's faculty is here to be as helpful as possible to all families. Please feel free to contact them with questions or concerns. Every teacher has a district email address which is listed in the Faculty Directory on SOTA's website at SOTAROCHESTER.ORG. The new **Power School App** should also allow you to contact teachers as well.

Q: WHERE CAN I SEND MY E-MAIL ADDRESS TO BE INCLUDED IN FUTURE MAILINGS?

A: Please click on the *'PLEASE UPDATE STUDENT CONTACT INFORMATION HERE'* link on the SOTA website at SOTAROCHESTER.ORG.

Q: WHAT DO I DO IF I NEED TO CONTACT MY CHILD'S ADMINISTRATOR?

A: Please refer to the following information to contact your child's administrator:

- Mrs. Aspenleiter - Joann.Aspenleiter@RCSDK12.ORG - Grades 11-12
- Mr. Belcufine - Mario.Belcufine@RCSDK12.ORG – Grade 10
- Mr. Chandler - Brian.Chandler@RCSDK12.ORG Grades 7-8
- Mr. Tirré - Alan.Tirre@RCSDK12.ORG – Grade 9

Q. HOW DO I CHECK ON MY CHILD'S PROGRESS OR SCORES.

A. The new **Power School App** will allow you to check student progress and grades. Passwords will be mailed soon.

Q: WHEN WILL I RECEIVE A COPY OF MY CHILD'S SCHEDULE?

A: The Superintendent said that schedules will be mailed home the first week of September along with a password for the new **Power School App** which will allow parents and guardians to see the schedule.

Q: HOW DO I HELP MY SEVENTH GRADE STUDENT TO ORGANIZE THEMSELVES FOR DISTANCE LEARNING? IT IS SUCH A DIFFERENT WAY TO LEARN AND STUDY.

A: In addition to the following information, please take a look at SOTA's Virtual Learning Success poster at the end of the FAQs:

- We will ask teachers to incorporate some organizational tools into daily instruction.
- It is a good idea to have your child develop a calendar/schedule with due dates and responsibilities.
- Designating a specific area at home for learning will help your child establish a good daily routine for study.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Q: WHERE CAN PARENTS AND STUDENTS LEARN HOW TO USE GOOGLE CLASSROOM?

A: There is a Google Classroom tutorial on the Home Page of the SOTA website at SOTAROCHESTER.ORG to assist students and parents with using Google Classroom, as well as documents to help students access other online teaching platforms. Students can also contact their teachers, counselors, or administrators for assistance.

Q. WHERE CAN FAMILIES FIND LEARNING RESOURCES FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

A. RCSD Learns provides excellent resources for students. They can be found on the RCSD's website at <https://www.rcsdk12.org>.

Q: WILL SOTA USE THE SAME LEARNING PLATFORMS AS THEY DID IN THE SPRING TO TEACH STUDENTS?

A: The SOTA faculty will rely on Google Classroom as its primary teaching platform. In addition, SOTA will use ELearning, Flip Grid, Jamboard, and Castle Learning, etc.

Q: HOW WILL MY CHILD'S CLASSES BE STRUCTURED DURING VIRTUAL LEARNING?

A: SOTA's school day will be broken into 9 periods as follows:



OUR MISSION IS STUDENT SUCCESS ... ACADEMIC, ARTISTIC AND HUMANISTIC
45 Prince Street at University Rochester, New York 14607 (585) 242-7682

The academic day at SOTA is nine (9) periods long. Teachers will deliver synchronous instruction following student schedules on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Virtual office hours will be held daily. Extended office hours will be scheduled on Wednesdays to address student needs. Daily attendance is taken in every class.

PERIOD	DISTANCE LEARNING DAILY SCHEDULE
SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL CHECK AND CONNECT	8:30 AM - 8:50 AM
1	8:55 AM - 9:25 AM
2	9:30 AM - 10:00 AM
3	10:05 AM - 10:35 AM
4	10:40 AM - 11:10 AM
5	11:15 AM - 11:45 AM
LUNCH	
6	12:45 PM - 1:15 PM
7	1:15 PM - 1:45 PM
8	1:50 PM - 2:20 PM
9	2:25 PM - 2:55 PM
PLANNING & ENGAGEMENT	3:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Please Note: Colored rows indicate regularly scheduled lunch periods. These will serve as built-in screen breaks during distance learning. Colors will be reflected on student identification cards for school reference once on-site instruction resumes. Revised 12/15/20

Q. IS IT CORRECT THAT ZOOM OR SYNCHRONOUS INSTRUCTION WILL BE ON MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY, AND FRIDAY?

A: Students will follow their schedule for 30-minute classes with a 60-minute break for lunch on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. On Wednesdays, students will work asynchronously, and can attend office hours.

Q: WHAT SUPPLIES WILL BE REQUIRED BESIDES CHROMEBOOKS AND INTERNET?

A: Teachers will provide information about their courses, expectations, and needed materials on their course criteria sheet.

Q: HOW DOES GOING VIRTUAL IMPACT ARTS TEACHERS, STUDENTS' ARTS MAJORS, ARTS CLASSES, AND THE ARTS PERFORMANCE CALENDAR?

A: Arts teachers will continue to teach their arts classes, and students will continue to take arts classes working toward their major. Teaching will proceed as planned.

Q: SINCE MY CHILD IS LEARNING REMOTELY, DO THEY HAVE TO ATTEND SCHOOL DAILY?

A: Even when instruction is being provided in a remote learning environment, students must attend instruction daily from 8:30 AM until 3:30 PM. School buildings may be closed, but school is in session. Daily attendance will be taken in PowerSchool by each teacher for each class by the child's teacher. The SOTA administration will support teachers and families relative to student engagement with remote learning protocols and expectations, including regular attendance and work completion. Our building Attendance Team will support teachers and families relative to student engagement with remote learning protocols and expectations, including regular attendance and work completion.

Q: HOW DO I CONTACT MY COUNSELOR?

A: You can contact your counselor through their RCS D email account. Every counselor has a district email address which is listed in the Faculty Directory on SOTA's website at SOTAROCHESTER.ORG. Make sure to check the Counselor Corner on the SOTA website for counselor information.

Q: WHEN CAN STUDENTS MAKE COURSE CHANGES AND WITH WHOM SHOULD THEY TALK TO ABOUT IT?

A: All schedule changes are handled through your child's counselor; they may be contacted through their RCSD email account.

Q: HOW WILL MY CHILD BE GRADED?

A: Your child's grades will be based on a rubric and standards.

Q: MY CHILD IS A VISUAL ART MAJOR; HOW DO I GET THE SUPPLIES THEY WILL NEED FOR THEIR CLASS ASSIGNMENTS?

A: SOTA will provide a list of standard supplies which students will need to purchase. Additional supplies needed for specific classroom projects will be provided by the Visual Arts Department. SOTA will notify parents and students of curb-side pick-up dates, as necessary.

Q: WILL SOTA STILL HAVE ART OPENINGS FOR THE VARIOUS GRADES DURING THIS SCHOOL YEAR?

A: SOTA will follow RCSD guidelines for all after-school events. Currently, the RCSD has cancelled all after-school events until further notice. SOTA will still have art openings using virtual technology to celebrate our students' achievements.

TECHNOLOGY/CHROMEBOOKS

Q. WHAT DO I DO IF MY CHILD NEEDS A CHROMEBOOK, OR DOES NOT HAVE INTERNET ACCESS?

A: In support of remote learning, the RCSD has made computer devices available to students and teachers who need them, including 'hot spots' for families that lack consistent and reliable Internet access. The District will provide students and their families with multiple ways to contact schools and teachers during remote learning, including contacting their school directly by phone, email, Zoom, Microsoft Teams, and those offered by the GSuite.

In addition, the Information Management & Technology Department (IM&T) will provide ongoing technology support to teachers, students, and families via the IT HelpDesk. **The IT Help Desk can be reached through [ROconnect.rcsdk12.org](https://roconnect.rcsdk12.org); please click on the HelpDesk icon to create a ticket. Or call the RCSD at 585-262-8700.**

Q: WHO DO I TALK TO ABOUT TECHNOLOGY ISSUES?

A: For Chromebook and MiFi needs and broken Chromebooks, call the RCSD COVID-19 Hotline at 585-262-8700. For assistance with passwords, please contact SOTA's Librarian, Jonathan Kelly at Jonathan.Kelly@RCSDK12.ORG.

Q: I DROPPED MY CHROMEBOOK AND THE SCREEN IS DISPLAYING RANDOM LINES.

A: Your Chromebook will need to be repaired, but it is possible to keep using it in the meantime, if you have an HDMI cable and a monitor or television that has HDMI inputs. Plug the cable into both, making sure that the input is selected in the tv or monitor and turn both on. The Chromebook will initially connect in 'Extended' mode. To change this to 'Mirrored' mode so all the menus and buttons show on the TV, point and click at the time display in the bottom right corner of the screen. Then point and click on 'Settings;' in the Devices Section, select 'Displays.' Then select 'Mirror' built in the display.

Q: MY KEYBOARD AND/OR TOUCH PAD STOPPED WORKING ON MY CHROMEBOOK.

A: It is possible to use a USB keyboard and/or a USB mouse to replace the ones on the Chromebook. Just plug them in to any of the USB ports. They should start functioning immediately. You can also use wireless keyboards and a mouse by plugging the receiver into a Chromebook USB port. You can also pair a Bluetooth keyboard to your Chromebook. Follow the instructions that came with your Bluetooth keyboard.

Q: I RAN MY CHROMEBOOK BATTERY ALL THE WAY DOWN, AND NOW IT DOES NOT WORK WHEN I CONNECT THE CHARGER.

A: Sometimes the charger will not power the Chromebook and charge it at the same time. This frequently happens when the battery is run down to zero. Simply plug it in to the charger, making sure that the indicator light turns on, and leave it charging for an hour with the screen closed, before you try to open the screen and turn it on.

Q: CAN YOU OFFER SUGGESTIONS FOR HOW STUDENTS CAN PREPARE TO BE SUCCESSFUL WHEN LEARNING REMOTELY?

A: Here is a list of things that students and parents can do together to ensure success:

- **CHECK-IN** – Talk to your teachers daily.
- **QUIET AREA** - Designate a specific “Quiet Area” for students to receive their daily instruction – it should be set-up in advance so that students can go to it every day.
- **SLEEP WELL** - Getting a good night’s sleep and being well-rested builds brain power.
- **EAT WELL** - Having a nourishing breakfast and lunch before instruction begins will help students stay focused. The RCSD will continue its Meals Offsite/Remote Meal Program. **Pre-made breakfasts and lunches will be available to all students at various RCSD schools on Monday through Friday from 10:00 AM- 2:00 PM. Please see complete list below under Food Distribution.**
- **PERSONAL SELF-CARE** – Before school begins in the morning, take a shower, brush your teeth, get dressed, and get ready to learn – these simple steps make a big difference.
- **TIME MANAGEMENT** - Keep a notebook handy to write down assignments, reminders, and responsibilities.
- **STRETCH BREAKS** – Stand-up between classes, get a drink of water, and stretch before sitting back down again.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND AFTER-SCHOOL EVENTS
COMMUNITY SERVICE

Q: WILL FALL SPORTS TAKE PLACE?

A: Currently extracurricular and Interscholastic Sports are not permitted at this time. Additional information on athletic activities will be forthcoming from NYSED. RCSD will not be able to provide any in-person extracurricular programs after considering social distancing guidelines, PPE usage, cleaning, and disinfection protocols, as well as the risk of COVID-19 transmission. RCSD will continue to look for opportunities to offer extracurricular activities that can be continued remotely.

Q: WILL WE HAVE CONCERTS, RECITALS AND PLAYS AT THIS TIME?

A: Large group events, such as student assemblies, athletics events/practices, performances, and school-wide meetings are cancelled or postponed until further notice.

Q. WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS DURING THIS SCHOOL YEAR, ESPECIALLY SINCE MANY SITES ARE SHUT DOWN.

A. Community Service hours are on hold at this time and will be until school reopens in person. All juniors and seniors will receive additional information at the virtual Town Meetings scheduled in September.

Q. WILL EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, CLUBS, STUDENT GROUPS, AND PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES BE REIMAGINED FOR THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL YEAR?

A. We are working with club advisors and performance groups to look at how to integrate these into a virtual learning platform. We will reach out to club advisors to see how feasible it is to meet via Zoom. Once a determination is made, we will communicate to students and families.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION INFORMATION

Q: WHERE DO I GO TO GET ASSISTANCE WITH SECURING FOOD FOR MY CHILD?

A: The RCSD will continue its Meals Offsite/Remote Meal Program. Students may visit any RCSD Food Distribution site to pick-up meals as needed. **Pre-made breakfasts and lunches will be available at the following schools on Monday through Friday from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM:**

- John Williams School #5: (555 Plymouth Ave., 14608)
- Virgil I. Grissom School #7: (31 Bryan St., 14613)
- Roberto Clemente School #8: (1180 St. Paul St., 14621)
- Dr. Martin L. King School #9: (485 Clinton Ave. 14605)
- Anna Murray-Douglass #12: (999 South Ave., 14620)
- John Walton Spencer School #16: (321 Post Ave. 14619)
- Enrico Fermi School #17: (158 Orchard St., 14611)
- Dr. Charles Lunsford Sch. #19: (465 Seward St., 14608)
- Henry Hudson School #28: (450 Humboldt St. 14610)
- John James Audubon #33: (500 Webster Ave., 14609)
- Pinnacle School #35: (194 Field St., 14620)
- Abelard Reynolds School #42: (3330 Lake Ave., 14612)
- Mary McLeod Bethune Sch. #45: (1445 Clifford Ave., 14621)
- Helen Barret Montgomery Sch. #50: (301 Seneca Ave., 14621)
- Dr. Freddie Thomas Campus: (625 Scio St., 14605)
- RIA/Jefferson High Sch. Campus: (1 Edgerton Park, 14608)
- Wilson Foundation Academy: (200 Genesee St., 14611)
- Franklin High School: (950 Norton Street, 14621)
- Monroe High School: (164 Alexander Street, 14607)
- Nathaniel Rochester: (85 Adam Street, 14608)

REOPENING PLAN

Q: I HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING THE REOPENING OF SCHOOLS. WHO CAN I CONTACT FOR INFORMATION?

A: Please e-mail the Rochester City School District at reopening@rcsdk12.org, or call the RCSD Support Hotline at 585-262-8700 for assistance.

Q: HOW WILL SCHOOL PHOTOS BE HANDLED THIS SCHOOL YEAR?

A: SOTA is exploring a variety of way to facilitate school photos; information will be sent out as soon as possible.

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL ASSISTANCE

Q. MY CHILD IS WORRIED ABOUT GETTING SICK AND HOW THE PANDEMIC IS IMPACTING HER SOCIAL LIFE. WHO DO I TALK TO ABOUT GETTING SOME EMOTIONAL SUPPORT FOR HER?

A. We recognize that the social/emotional well-being of our students during these challenging times is critically important. SOTA has a Social/Emotional Support Team to assist students; please contact your child's counselor for assistance.

Q: I AM CONCERNED ABOUT THE COVID-19 VIRUS, AND ITS IMPACT ON MY CHILD. WHO CAN I CALL TO DISCUSS THIS?

A: Please check with your child's counselor or visit: covid@rcsdk12.org.

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ACADEMIC, ARTISTIC AND HUMANISTIC!***

Get Up
and
Get Ready!

Check-In
with
SOTA!

Virtual Learning Success!

Get
Organized...
Keep a Planner!

Designate a Quiet Study Area!

The Building Might Be Closed...

School of the Arts is...

OPEN!

Sleep
Well...
Go to Bed
Early!

Eat Well...
Visit RCSD's
Meal Sites!

Drink
Water!

Take a Screen Break!

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