



SOTA Parent Informational Meeting - 5/7/2020

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Will fall sports take place?

A: This is yet to be determined. We will follow the guidance of the district, county, and state regarding large gatherings/events and work out a plan accordingly.

Q: How do I sign up for fall sports/clubs and activities?

A: More information will be forthcoming. Announcements will be made regarding requalification and physicals.

Q: Will we have concerts next year?

A: We will follow the guidance of the district, county, and state regarding large gatherings/events and work out a plan accordingly.

Q: Is the change in start time for next year final? I have another child at another school.

A: It seems to be final at this point. The school day begins at 8:30 AM; dismissal is 3:30 PM.

Q. Will the later start time apply to all grades within SOTA?

A. Yes.

Q: How does the late start affect transportation? Are times going to be shifted?

A: Times will be shifted. The school day will begin at 8:30 AM with dismissal at 3:30 PM. Students will be allowed entry beginning at 7:50 AM.

Q. What time will the school day end? My child has responsibilities to attend to after 2:30 PM.

A. As of right now, SOTA's school day will end at 3:30 PM.

Q: Can some after-school clubs meet via Zoom for the remainder of the year?

A: 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 via their school e-mail accounts.

Q: Do you know when the new bus schedules are sent out?

A: As in previous years, RTS will mail this information directly to student homes usually within two weeks from the start of school.

Q: Are plans currently being made for changes to online instruction in case students are not allowed back on campus in the fall? Or will the same delivery methods be used?

A: We will continue to assess this situation and await directives from the district and state.

Q. Do you know how the district cuts will affect SOTA staffing/programming?

A. At this point, we do not anticipate any major cuts to SOTA's staffing/programming.

Q: If my child has a new class on their schedule for Marking Period 4, like technology, when will it start using distance learning?

A: The Marking Period 4 teacher should have contacted students by this point. If you have not received communication, please reach out to the teacher and/or your child's administrator.

Q. My son said he did not have an interview about next year's course schedule.

A. Any questions regarding scheduling for next year can be directed to your child's counselor.

Q: Where can I find my Grade 7 schedule for next year?

A: Schedules for next school year have not been created yet. Course requests were based on discussions with the teachers and counselor after evaluating grades and recommendations.

Q: How do we know that our child has been promoted to the next grade?

A: It is critical that students stay academically engaged in their learning. Please monitor their progress with teachers. If there are any concerns regarding their class grade, please communicate with your child's teacher and counselor directly.

Q: How often are teachers required to put up work?

A: There is no set requirement and it varies by teacher. Most teachers are posting either daily or weekly assignments. Please reach out directly to the teacher with specific questions.

Q. How will Community service work?

A. Community service forms are available for download on our website. Please contact Ms. Aspenleiter with any questions. www.sotarochester.org

Q. What's going to happen to Community Service hours during the pandemic, especially since many sites are shut down.

A. Please contact Ms. Aspenleiter with any questions regarding Community Service hours.

Q: What are the requirements for Community Service?

A: Students are expected to complete 20-hours of Community Service prior to graduation. Students are encouraged to complete 10-hours a year beginning their junior year of high school. Questions about community service can be directed to Ms. Aspenleiter.

Q. What year do students start doing volunteer work?

A. Students begin completing their Community Service hours their junior year.

Q: Two of my daughter's teachers are scheduling Zoom meetings at the same time forcing her to choose between which one she wants to attend. Will you have the teachers communicate with one another, so this does not happen again?

A: We encourage teachers to use a school-wide weekly planning calendar as a reference for scheduling Zoom meetings. Every attempt is made to avoid conflicts. However, teachers also survey their classes checking student availability to maximize student engagement. Please be sure to notify your teachers of these conflicts.

Q. What content and standards will be covered through the end of the school year?

A. The district's content area directors have outlined specific anchor standards in each content area that teachers will address in their lessons to ensure students are adequately prepared for next year's classes. Guidance materials are also available on the RCSD website under RCSD Learns.

<https://www.rcsdk12.org/site/Default.aspx?PageType=6&SiteID=1&SearchString=RCSD%20LEARNS>

Q. I am concerned that kids are properly prepared for next year's classes, in subjects such as Math. What will be done to ensure that they have the skills necessary to take the next level of course?

A. The district's content area directors have outlined specific anchor standards in each content area that teachers will address in their lessons to ensure students are adequately prepared for next year's classes. **RCSD LEARNS** is a useful tool for parents to help mitigate these concerns, it can be found on the district website.

<https://www.rcsdk12.org/site/Default.aspx?PageType=6&SiteID=1&SearchString=RCSD%20LEARNS>

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 our school website.

Q: How do I update my information when I live in a different home than the primary parent?

A: Please click on the '**PLEASE UPDATE STUDENT CONTACT INFORMATION HERE**' link on our school website. www.sotarochester.org

Q: As her father, how do I update my information when I live in a different home than the primary parent? I have not received any info via e-mail.

A: Please click on the '**PLEASE UPDATE STUDENT CONTACT INFORMATION HERE**' link on the home page of our school website If you live in a different home. To change the address officially, please send an e-mail with a photo of any type of document which lists your address, or you text a photo of the document to your child's administrator and it will be added to the child's file.

Q. I am a parent that did not receive the e-mail for the last Zoom meeting. How can I ensure I get future e-mails from SOTA?

A. For security purposes, Zoom links were only sent to student district e-mail addresses. To ensure we have accurate student and parent contact information, please visit SOTA's website, www.sotarochester.org, and click the '**PLEASE UPDATE STUDENT CONTACT INFORMATION HERE**' link.

Q: What do we do if teachers or counselor do not answer us?

A: Contact your child's administrator.

Q: Did the contract with Parent Connect end at the beginning of the year?

A: Parent Connect was replaced by RCSD Link. Information is posted on the district website, <https://www.rcsdk12.org/rcsdlink>. We are not sure if it is being updated because of the current circumstances.

Q. What support is planned to assist the college search and application process?

A: Counselors are always available to assist with this process. Please e-mail your child's counselor directly.

Q: Since the Regents review will not be necessary this year, what type of instruction/work will happen for students enrolled in AP courses once they complete AP exams next week? Will there be SAT prep?

A: We will reach out to AP teachers to determine a course of action for the period of instruction after the AP exam. In the past, AP teachers used this time for Regents review. They also use this time as an opportunity to create real-world projects and authentic learning experiences related to the application on learned material from the course. Also, the College Board is teamed up with Khan Academy to provide SAT prep.

Q. My child has been attending all online classes as per the schedule, but I am not able to check his progress or scores.

A: Please contact your child's teacher directly with questions regarding assignments and grades.

Q: How were grades determined for the Marking Period 3?

A: Only work/grades completed before school shut down on March 13 are factored into the Marking Period 3 grade. Any work completed after March 13 could be used as make-up work. Students were not penalized for not completing work after March 13 for Marking Period 3 only.

Q: Was the work that was given just for refresher, or extra credit if needed?

A: Work that was given prior to the start of Marking Period 4 was viewed as review. Teachers worked with students to allow extra credit and make-up work for assignments missed prior to closures.

Q: Is SOTA going to providing classroom instructional time via Zoom like our surrounding districts are doing? Zoom meetings so far seem to be used for questions and to check ins, it feels like it could be used for more.

A: Moving forward, the focus is on new learning. While Zoom classes were primarily review during Marking Period 3, it has moved to new instruction and new material during Marking Period 4.

Q: Is there a set date when teachers are required to post grades from previous quarters?

A: Marking Period 3 ended last week. MP3 report cards are being mailed home this week. For high school students enrolled in Regents courses who failed Marking Period 1 or Marking Period 2, please contact your counselor to see if marking period recovery is a valid option for your child.

Q: I have an incoming Grade 7 student. How will he be placed without having the state testing scores?

A: NYS Exams are the last factor of the equation that we use in the placement of students. We will move forward in collecting teacher data to inform us in the placement of students.

Q. How do you sign up for summer school?

A. More information will be forthcoming from the RCSD regarding summer school. There will be no summer school for students in grades 7 and 8.

Q. Does my child need to take the Spanish test to pass Spanish?

A. Please contact your child's teacher for more information.

Q: My daughter e-mailed the teacher an hour before the Zoom meeting and said she could not attend, but he lowered her grade anyways, who can I talk to about that?

A: Please contact your child's administrator.

Q: As a parent, how can we learn what is required for a P (pass) in each online class?

A: Please contact your child's teacher for specific questions on grading.

Q. What are the plans for graduation?

A. We are in the process of working out a safe plan for graduation, and the distribution of diplomas based on the state's current guidelines on large gatherings and social distancing. More information will be forthcoming.

Q: It would be great if there could be a course or courses for the students on how to organize themselves on this new distance learning platform. It is such a different way to learn and study.

A: We will ask teachers to incorporate some of these items into daily instruction. Grades 7 and 8 provide weekly organizer by subject. These documents can be found on the home page of SOTA's website. www.sotarochester.org

Q: How can I get a copy of my children schedules to contact their teachers to see what they are missing and need to do?

A: Please contact your child's counselor.

Q. What will happen with students with IEPs?

A. Distance Learning Plans that outline how and when IEP services will be delivered remotely have been created for each child with an IEP. Please contact your child's CASE manager for more information regarding your child's services.

Q: How does grading students as a pass with distinction/pass/no pass affect the GPA?

A: We are waiting for this answer.

Q: How will final grades be calculated?

A: We are waiting for this answer.

Q: If a student receives an Incomplete for the year, or for Marking Period 4 does that mean they will pick up where they left off during summer learning, or will they be simply re-taking the course over the summer?

A: The Incomplete is based on the entire course and meeting the required standards to advance to the next course.

Q: If a student failed a Regents exam last year and was supposed to take it this year, will they be able to take the course next year? Or have they already passed it?

A: Check with the student's counselor.

Q: How long are teachers supposed to give a student to turn in past due work for Marking Period 4?

A: Talk to the teacher - all assignments vary in length.

Q: Our son has an instrument that he is using that he needs to be returned. He borrowed the same instrument from School # 46 and they say it wasn't returned. We want to make sure it is returned and signed off on.

A: More information will be forthcoming from the district regarding instrument pick-up/return.

Q: Where do we drop off our library books?

A: The district is working out a plan for the safe pick-up and return of materials and supplies. Once it is complete, these procedures will be communicated to students, staff, and parents.

Q: Will gym locker clean-out be combined with regular school locker clean-out?

A: Yes.

Q: How are we going to get the summer work for the AP classes that are being taken next year?

A: The district is in the process of developing a process for the meetings in addition to establishing guidelines for the safe collection and distribution of textbooks and other educational materials.

Q. Since many students share lockers, how are the contents being sorted?

A. More information regarding safe locker clean out will be forthcoming.

Q: There is an 8 go 9 meeting scheduled for next week, is that still going ahead as scheduled?

A: No, it will be rescheduled for September. This meeting is more beneficial to parents and students when held in person.

Q. How long are the student e-mails available after graduation?

A. District e-mails are valid until graduation, however, considering the current circumstances, that date may be extended.

Q. Can the students get work permits?

A. There is a link on the SOTA homepage, www.sotarochester.org, that outlines procedures for obtaining work permits during the school closure.

Q: How can we stay informed of senior activities?

A: Google Classroom Page has been created for members of the Class of 2020 please use code: 75zj5ct

Q: If my child needs social and emotional support, whom do I contact?

A: Please reach out to your child's counselor or any administrator. You can also contact the SOTA Help Zone @sota_help_zone. A complete listing of resources can be found on our school website.

Q: Will SOTA be a SAT test site in August?

A: No, SOTA is scheduled to be a host site for the exams in September and November 2020, and May and June November 2021. The College Board added the September exam and we will be a host site. Students can access SAT preparation through their College Board accounts and link to Khan Academy.

Q. How will students sign up for classes next year?

A. Classes will be assigned based on the course request forms that were completed prior to the school shut down. Please contact your child's counselor with any questions related to course selection for next year.

Q. When will the seniors receive their caps and gowns? How can I order a class ring?

A. Please direct any questions regarding graduation and senior paraphernalia to Ms. Aspenleiter.

Q: Do students need to get a chrome book for next year, if they are using personal one now?

A: Yes

Q. Do students have to return their Chromebook?

A. This is yet to be determined. More information will be forthcoming.

Q. If our Chromebook is having a problem, how do we get it fixed?

A. Please call 585-262-8151, or 585-262-8700 with any technology questions or concerns.

Q: Are all bus passes valid for riding the bus for the next school year?

A: Any changes to current RTS policy will be communicated by RTS.

Q. When will yearbooks be available?

A. Yearbook distribution plans and a date will also be announced as soon as it is available. Please e-mail any yearbook questions to Ms. Rudy, susan.rudy@rcsdk12.org

Q: Are yearbooks still available to be ordered?

A: The last day to order yearbooks was 5/8/2020. Yearbooks can be ordered at this link: <https://www.buytheyearbook.online/schoolofthearts.aspx>. Extra yearbooks will not be ordered this year. You can also find the link on the SOTA website, under School Life, then SOTA Yearbook.

Q. How is attendance for Zoom meetings being tallied? I ask because some teachers have switched meeting dates and times causing conflict with other class times.

A. Teachers are recording daily contact with students which includes attendance at Zoom meetings, logging into Google classroom, phone calls, e-mails, etc.