



April 28, 2022

Dear Families,

As you may be aware, there was a lesson that caused great concern during your child's Social Studies class this past Tuesday. I want to assure you that we take these allegations very seriously. The teacher was immediately placed on leave, and an investigation is underway.

A substitute teacher has been assigned to this class to ensure that learning is not interrupted. As we investigate this situation thoroughly, your child may be interviewed. If this occurs, you will be notified.

Please know that the social emotional well-being of our students is incredibly important to us. School counselors are available for students who may need to discuss this situation. In addition, if you have any information to share related to this, please email us at [SOTAinfo@rcsdk12.org](mailto:SOTAinfo@rcsdk12.org).

Thank you for your continued support as we work to resolve this situation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly Nicastro".

Kelly Nicastro  
Principal  
School of the Arts



Rochester City School District

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope your day is off to a promising start. Recently your student was impacted by a lesson that was taught during a Social Studies class here at School of the Arts which took place Tuesday April 26th. The school is still gathering all of the facts, but we want to assure you that as a SOTA School family, we are taking proactive measures to support our students, families and surrounding community. One way we are offering support is by having the RocRestorative Team into the building to facilitate community-trauma circles. Circles are a protocol used to allow **ALL** participants to have a space to convey what is on their mind if they would like to do so. If students do not want to verbalize how they are feeling, they will not be forced to do so. We will be providing this support by facilitating circles with those that would like to participate by doing the following:

- Offering those impacted a space to articulate what their experience was or is currently.**
- Providing an opportunity for participants to convey how they have been impacted by the lesson taught.**
- What do you personally need to happen for this scenario to be made right?**
- What do you need from the adults here at SOTA or from the district to help you cope with this unfortunate circumstance?**