

SCHOOL OF THE ARTS REOPENING FAQs

As we prepare to reopen SOTA and begin Hybrid Instruction for students, here are the answers to some frequently asked questions about the reopening plan. If you have additional questions, please email SOTAinfo@rcsdk12.org and we will respond to your question.

WHAT TIME SCHEDULE WILL BE USED FOR SOTA STUDENTS?

Beginning on Monday, February 8, 2021, all students, both Hybrid and Remote Learners, will follow the bell schedule listed below on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. This schedule does not include SEL Time, or the one-hour lunch break. On Wednesdays, all SOTA students will participate in asynchronous learning activities.



The academic day at SOTA is nine (9) periods long. Daily attendance is taken in every class.

PERIOD	DAILY SCHEDULE
1 <small>ANNOUNCEMENTS @ 9:12 AM</small>	8:30 AM - 9:17 AM
2	9:21 AM - 10:04 AM
3	10:08 AM - 10:50 AM
4	10:54 AM - 11:36 AM
5	11:40 AM - 12:23 AM
6	12:27 AM - 1:10 PM
7	1:14 PM - 1:57 PM
8	2:01 PM - 2:44 PM
9	2:48 PM - 3:30 PM

Students may not remain in the building after school at this time.

Please Note: Colored rows indicate scheduled lunch periods. Colors are reflected on student identification cards for school reference.

WILL MY CHILD'S TEACHERS STILL OFFER OFFICE HOURS?

Please e-mail your child's teacher/teachers, or check their Google Classroom page for their updated office hours information.

WHAT IF MY CHILD IS GOING TO BE ABSENT?

Attendance will be recorded according to NYS guidelines for in-person instruction, as well as for participating in both synchronous and asynchronous learning activities. When your child is not able to attend classes, contact the Attendance Clerk at 585-242-7682, ext. 1002, or email SOTAattendance@RCSDK12.ORG. Students are responsible for all assignments and missed work.

WHEN WILL HYBRID INSTRUCTION BEGIN?

SOTA will begin Hybrid Instruction on Thursday, February 25, 2021. The school day begins at 8:30 AM and will end at 3:30 PM. Please Note: There will not be a second bus run.

WILL STUDENTS NEED TO BRING THEIR CHROMBOOKS TO SCHOOL WITH THEM?

Students are required to bring their fully-charged Chromebook and any necessary art supplies to school. These items will need to be brought home at the end of the day. We will limit sharing materials as much as possible. Cleaning protocols will be in place in each classroom. If you have technology issues, please email SOTA's Librarian, jonathan.kelly@rcsdk12.org.

DO I HAVE TO SCREEN MY CHILD FOR COVID-19 BEFORE THEY LEAVE FOR SCHOOL?

Yes, parents must screen their children for COVID-19 symptoms before coming to school. If your child has tested positive or has been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 10-days, please do not send them to school. If your child exhibits any of these COVID-19 symptoms: fever, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, sore throat, cough, sudden loss of taste or smell, muscle or body aches, headache, congestion, runny nose, diarrhea or vomiting, please do not send them to school.

WILL MY CHILD NEED IDENTIFICATION WHEN THEY RETURN TO SOTA?

Students who are returning to the building will be given a Hybrid Learning ID with a lanyard which must be presented upon entrance to the building. This identifies them as a SOTA student and confirms that they are scheduled for Hybrid Instruction. They must carry this ID with them at all times while on campus. If a student forgets their ID, they will need to wait in the foyer for an administrator to confirm that they are scheduled for Hybrid Instruction.

HOW WILL SOCIAL DISTANCING BE MAINTAINED WHEN STUDENTS ARRIVE TO SCHOOL?

To maintain social distancing and manage traffic flow, School of the Arts will use both the Main Entrance and Entrance # 13 located by the gym in the morning. Students eating breakfast will enter school by the gym at Entrance 13. All other students will enter through the Main doors.

WHO WILL PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION FOR MY CHILD?

Transportation service will be provided via yellow busses to the RTS stop nearest to your house. Letters with details indicating bus numbers and routing information will be mailed mid-February. The RCSD will not use RTS. Students will be instructed to sit one per seat and must be wearing a mask at all times.

DOES MY CHILD HAVE TO WEAR A MASK WHILE RIDING THE BUS AND DURING CLASS TIME?

As soon as your child leaves the house, they should be wearing a mask; they must maintain proper mask wearing while on the bus. Students will be required to properly wear masks at all times while on campus unless they are medically excused from wearing one. Students can only be excused if they have a signed [MCDPH Mask Exemption Form](#). Friends of School of the Arts will provide a free reusable facemask for all students! Disposable masks will be available for those who may have forgotten one.

Face masks must cover the nose and mouth at all times. Students who violate this expectation could be removed from Hybrid instruction. Bandanas are NOT an acceptable mask. Mask breaks and scheduled breakfast/lunch time in the cafeteria are examples of when a student will be allowed to remove their mask.

ON WHAT DAYS DOES HYBRID INSTRUCTION TAKE PLACE?

Hybrid students will come to school on Thursday and Friday and follow a regular schedule of classes. On Monday and Tuesday, they will have synchronous instruction through Zoom with their teacher. This schedule does not include SEL Time or the one-hour lunch break. On Wednesdays, all SOTA students will participate in asynchronous learning activities.

WHAT IF I HAVE CHANGED MY MIND AND WANT MY CHILD TO ATTEND HYBRID INSTRUCTION?

If you changed your mind from your original response in December 2020, please contact your child's counselor or administrator. Your child will be put on a waiting list. Spaces from the waiting list will be filled based on availability, and SOTA's ability to meet CDC COVID-19 guidelines regarding maximum class size and health regulations. SOTA will contact the parent or guardian if space becomes available.

HOW WILL WE BE NOTIFIED ABOUT WHAT BUS MY CHILD IS SUPPOSED TO RIDE?

Hybrid students will receive information about transportation in the mail.

WHERE DOES MY CHILD REPORT FOR THEIR FIRST PERIOD CLASS ON THE FIRST DAY?

SOTA will mail complete information regarding where your child should report, what classes they are assigned, and their Period 1 room assignment prior to the reopening on Thursday, February 25, 2021.

WE MOVED RECENTLY, HOW DO WE UPDATE OUR CONTACT INFORMATION?

Updating family contact information is critical. Schools must be able to reach parents when necessary. Please visit <https://rb.gy/fy1uyy> with any changes to your contact information.

WHAT IS SOTA DOING REGARDING CELL PHONE COLLECTION THIS YEAR?

SOTA is committed to maintaining a distraction-free, learning-centered environment. We will be using *Yondr*, a patented phone security system which creates phone-free spaces for schools. As students enter SOTA they will be given a *Yondr* pouch. They will place their phone in the pouch and the pouch will automatically lock. Students will maintain possession of the pouch and their phone at all times. When they leave the building, they will tap the pouch on the unlocking base to remove their phone. Students will be required to store their *Yonder* pouch in a safe place to use throughout the school year.

CAN STUDENTS USE THEIR LOCKERS?

Lockers are not available for use this year. Students will be required to carry their books, coat, and other supplies throughout the day. Students will be asked to remove their head gear, hats, hoods, and Do Rags. Bandanas may not be worn or visible at any time.

HOW IS SOTA HANDLING SOCIAL DISTANCING REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES?

Students must maintain physical distancing in all common areas throughout the building and will adhere to room limits. Gathering in groups is not allowed; hugging, touching, and physical contact is not permitted. Students will follow traffic flow patterns and may carry backpacks.

DOES SOTA PLAN TO CLEAN AND SANITIZE THE BUILDING AT REGULAR INTERVALS?

Yes, SOTA's Custodial staff will conduct cleaning and sanitizing of the building on a daily basis. Proper hand-washing hygiene and use of hand sanitizer is mandatory. Disinfectant and NYS approved cleaning supplies will be available in every classroom; SOTA's staff and faculty will be assisting with cleaning the classrooms after each class. Sanitizer stations will be available in set locations throughout the building. Students are expected to sanitize their hands upon entry and departure to and from class.

HOW MANY STUDENTS WILL BE ASSIGNED TO EACH CLASSROOM?

Desks will be arranged as per CDC guidelines. Students will maintain 6-foot social distancing and properly wear masks at all times while on campus. Classes are scheduled according to room size, social distancing, and CDC guidelines. Music, Dance, and Physical Education classes will maintain 12-feet when appropriate.

WILL STUDENTS BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND SPORTS?

Additional information on athletic activities is available from SOTA's Athletic Director Dave Michelsen. After-school activities will be limited as late busses will not be available. Student performances and Art Exhibits will remain virtual. If offered remotely, these activities would be available for students engaging in both Hybrid and Remote Learning.

HOW DOES SOTA PLAN TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH FAMILIES DURING THE REMAINDER OF THE SCHOOL YEAR?

Regular communication will come from teachers via email, District and School ROBO calls, SOTA's website, and postings on official Social Media outlets. An informational letter will be mailed to parents mid-February containing details on transportation, consent for testing, and where students should report for first period. Questions may be sent to SOTAinfo@rcsdk12.org.

For Additional Information, please visit the RCSD Reopening Plan: <https://rb.gy/dxm70a>