

Our Mission is Student Success:
Academic, Artistic and Humanistic

AUDITION PROCESS

School
Of The
Arts

Where the **Electricity** of the **Creative Arts** and the
Energy of **Academic Learning** come together!





01



OVERVIEW

SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

@RCSDSOTA



Neighborhood of the Arts

The background features a light gray, textured surface. On the left, there is a vertical gray panel with a faint, abstract pattern. On the right, there is another vertical gray panel with a similar pattern. The word 'Arts' in the title is partially obscured by a large, bright orange paint splatter that drips downwards. Above the title, there is a green paint splatter. Below the title, there is a large green paint splatter on the left and a pink paint splatter on the right, both with drips.

School of the Arts is nestled in the heart of Rochester's Cultural District. Our Academic and Arts curriculum often benefit from Rochester's culturally diverse arts scene.



Students at School of the Arts

Must earn a minimum of 25.5 credits to **graduate with a SOTA diploma.** This requires an eight-credit sequence in their chosen field of study.

Upon graduation, students will receive a School of the Arts High School Diploma signifying successful completion of a fine arts sequence in one of six subject areas:

**Creative Writing, Dance, Drama,
Music, Theater Technology,
or Visual Arts**





02

SOTA facts

The WHY behind **The LOVE**
of School of the Arts

Key INGREDIENTS

Approximately **1,100** students in grades 7–12 with approximately 90 teachers and 6 administrators

Our **94.75%** graduation rate is the highest in the district.
NYSED 4YR AVERAGE 2019-2022

Our annual attendance rate is the highest in the district

More than **90%** of all SOTA graduates go on to higher education

Advanced Placement classes are offered in every academic and artistic field of study.

Comprehensive athletic program offering most sports modified through varsity.

TIMELINES

Deadlines not to miss!



03



Important **DATES**

November 14, 2024	SOTA School Selection Open House - SOTA Application Available
December 20, 2024	Deadline for Completed SOTA Application
January 21-23, 2025	SOTA Audition Dates Please Save the Dates Listed Above: your child will be scheduled to audition on ONE of these days. <i>Due to the high number of applicants, auditions cannot be rescheduled or changed for any reason!</i>
March 2025	Deadline for Completed RCSD Schools of Choice Application
April 2025	SOTA Acceptance Letters Mailed
August 2025	New Student Orientation


For more info:

SOTARochester.org | @RCSDSOTA | SOTAINFO@RCSDK12.org



SOTA AUDITION PROCESS

All the **details** you need to know in order to successfully
navigate through the **RCSD/SOTA Schools of Choice Process**





Be Available on audition dates.

January 21 - 23, 2025 from 5PM to 8PM

Due to large numbers of applicants,

Auditions CANNOT be rescheduled or changed for any reason.

Students can only audition in ONE art area.

Creative Writing, Dance, Drama,
Instrumental Music (Band, Strings, Piano),
Vocal Music, Theatre Technology, or Visual Arts

Audition **PROCEDURES**

Creative Writing Dance Drama

Music (Instrumental, Piano, Vocal)

Visual Arts

Theatre Technology





Audition **PROCEDURES**

Auditions begin promptly at **5 PM** and will end no later than **8 PM**

Approximate pick-up times:

Music / Theatre Technology	6 PM – 7:45 PM
Drama	7 PM – 7:30 PM
Creative Writing	7 PM – 7:45 PM
Visual Arts / Dance	7 PM – 7:45 PM

Audition **PROCESS**

- Each audition will resemble a **typical arts class**. Lessons will be taught, assignments will be given, and students will complete/perform their assignments in front of their teachers.
- Every audition will be measured according to a **standard rubric**. Each student will receive a numerical score from 1-10.
- Students who are accepted will be **notified** in April.



Sota **WAITLIST**



Students who are not accepted will receive a **ranking** on our waitlist. This ranking is valid until the first day of school in September.

Please Note: The waitlist is specific to each **grade level and area of art**. It is also specific for each instrument (Band and Strings).

School of the Arts will **only** contact you if we are able to offer an **acceptance** to your child from the waitlist.

Sota **WAITLIST**



Waitlist acceptances are based on **seat availability** in your child's **grade level** and **area of art / instrument**.

After the first day of school, students who are not accepted will need to **re-audition** in January.



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

FREQUENTLY Asked Questions

Can I audition for more than one major?

No. We feel that you will be more successful if you choose the major you are most passionate about and focus only on that major. Also, SOTA receives between 400–500 applications each year. Each applicant is guaranteed to be scheduled for an audition over the course of three days. We simply do not have enough time or resources to audition that many students in more than one major.

How many available seats are there each year?

SOTA typically accepts 250 new students each year. This equates to approximately 20 students per major. Statistically, SOTA will accept roughly one out of every five students who apply. Because of this, it is vital that you complete the RCSD Schools of Choice Booklet to secure a seat at your second or third choice school if you are not accepted into SOTA.

FREQUENTLY Asked Questions

Can I audition again next year if I do not get accepted this year?

Yes! You can audition each and every year. The largest number of acceptances, however, occur at the 7th grade level. Acceptance for off grade level auditions (students entering any grade beyond 7th grade) is not only based on the completion of a successful audition, but also seat availability specifically in your child's grade level and chosen major area of art.

What does the audition consist of?

SOTA's audition is a simulated experience. Within this time, students will experience what it would be like to attend SOTA. Because of this, our audition process is as much an audition of us as it is of your child. We have created a unique combination of group and individual work specific to each artistic discipline. The audition lasts for approx three hours and will consist of your child participating in class(es) and/or rehearsal(s), as well as an interview/performance component where your child will individually demonstrate their artistic ability.

FREQUENTLY Asked Questions

What do you look for in the audition?

We look for a unique combination of talent and potential to learn. We measure this through a simulated experience where students will be able to participate in a variety of group and individual work.

Do you factor in academics, behavior, attendance, etc. into your decision to accept students? No. Acceptance into SOTA is based only on your child's artistic ability as measured during the scheduled audition.

Do you give preference to students who have siblings that already attend SOTA?

No. The only possible exception would be in the case of a tiebreaker. However, in that situation we would also take other factors into consideration such as the completion of their application file, quality of student essays, letters of recommendation and artistic portfolio.

FREQUENTLY Asked Questions

If I get accepted into one arts major, will I have an opportunity to participate in other majors?

Yes, particularly in grades 7 and 8. Our Middle School curriculum in the Arts is exploratory in nature. Our Middle School music ensembles are open to all students. Additionally, Middle School students are scheduled into 10-week arts rollover classes where they will experience every major over the course of their two years in Middle School prior to entering grade 9 where they will essentially be locked into their majors through graduation. High School students also have opportunities to take elective classes in other majors, especially during Junior and Senior year when their schedule provides additional time. Any student can audition for our plays and musicals that take place throughout the year.

FREQUENTLY Asked Questions

How does SOTA compare academically to charter schools and other public schools in our area?

It is difficult to compare SOTA to charter schools because they operated under different guidelines. SOTA students are held to the same academic standards as any other public school. Our high graduation rate is evidence of our strong academic program. There are also full offerings of Advanced Placement courses within every department. SOTA will fully prepare your child to pursue any academic or artistic career of their choosing after graduation.

Does SOTA offer an athletic program?

Yes, SOTA offers athletics at the modified, JV, and Varsity level for most sports. SOTA also combines with RCSD schools to offer student access to all sports.

Additional Questions

School of the Arts

585-242-7682

sotainfo@rcsdk12.org

Student Equity and Placement

585-262-8241

placement@rcsdk12.org



Thank **you!**

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