



# *The Scholars' Academy*

*An Accelerated College Preparatory School for Grades 6-12*  
*27Q323, A Knowledge Network Teaching and Learning Organization*  
320 Beach 104 Street, Rockaway Park, NY 11694  
Tel: (718) 474-6918 Fax: (718) 945-8958

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## Principal

Brian O'Connell

## Assistant Principals

MS AP: Toni Marie Sorrentino  
HS AP: Michele Smyth (M, W, F)

September 22, 2009

Dear 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students, Parents/Guardians, and Faculty,

Over the course of the next few months, students will be preparing for high school admissions exams, auditions, preparing applications and making important decisions regarding their future high school. To assist with this process, I will be meeting with each 8<sup>th</sup> grade class this week to review very important information regarding the high school admissions process. I will also have a workshop for parents and students on the High School Admissions process on Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm, in the Scholars' Academy theatre. Below is an outline of important deadlines, timelines, instructions, and recommendations for 8<sup>th</sup> graders:

## ***Scholars' Academy High School***

### **Benefits of attending Scholars' Academy:**

- High school course work is aligned with courses that students have already taken in the middle school
- Students have the opportunity to complete NYC high school requirements by the end of 10th grade
- Students will have the opportunity to take college and AP courses with St. Francis College in the 11th and 12th grade
- Students will have an impressive high school portfolio as a result of vigorous course work
- Students will have the opportunity to obtain an advanced regents diploma as well as an honors advanced regents diploma
- Small class size = more 1:1 attention from teachers
- Students and parents already accustomed to commute
- Safe school environment
- To apply for admissions to the Scholars' Academy High School, students must list Scholars' Academy as one of their choices on the public high school application they will receive in early October.

***High School Fairs – See Attached Flyer for details***

## ***SHSAT – Specialized High School Admissions Test***

<b>Test Site:</b>	John Adams High School 101-01 Rockaway Blvd. Ozone Park, NY 11417
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<b>Students</b>	<b>Test Dates:</b>
8 <sup>th</sup> graders	Sat. Nov. 7 <sup>th</sup> or Sun. Nov. 8 <sup>th</sup> (Ticket will indicate which day you must attend.)
8 <sup>th</sup> graders observing Sabbath	Sun. Nov. 8 <sup>th</sup>
9 <sup>th</sup> graders	Sat. Nov. 14 <sup>th</sup>
8 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup> graders with test accommodations	Sat. Nov. 14 <sup>th</sup>
8 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup> graders observing Sabbath and with test accommodations	Sun. Nov. 22 <sup>nd</sup>
9 <sup>th</sup> graders observing Sabbath	Sun. Nov. 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Make-up date (For students that are ill on the day they are scheduled to take the exam – only)	Sun. Nov. 22 <sup>nd</sup>

Students interested in taking the SHSAT will have the opportunity to sign up for the exam throughout the week of 9/22/09 – 9/25/09 during in-class high school admissions workshops with their guidance counselor, Ms. Rozman. When signing up, students should indicate their name, class, and whether or not they are Sabbath observers and need to take the exam on a Sunday and/or they need test accommodations as a result of an IEP or 504 plan.

Students will receive their ticket for the SHSAT on or around Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup> – only if they previously signed up for the exam. If a student has a scheduling conflict with the SHSAT exam and another exam, or they lose their SHSAT ticket, they should inform Ms. Rozman immediately by leaving a note in her mailbox (located in the cafeteria).

## ***High School Applications – for public schools only***

- High school applications will be distributed to all 8th graders on or around Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup>
- These applications are already personalized with the students' final 7th grade marks
- Regents scores are not indicated on the high school applications because not all middle schools offer regents exams
- Final due date: December 1<sup>st</sup> 2009
- Completed applications can be submitted any time before December 1<sup>st</sup>
- Ms. Caraccio will pick up completed applications twice a week during am homeroom. Please have them in your communication folders read to be picked up if you are finished with it
- Remember- Although there are spaces to list up to 12 schools, only list those that you are absolutely sure you are willing to attend, you may get matched to your last choice school.
- If you are taking the SHSAT or auditioning for a program at Fiorello H. LaGuardia, be sure to bubble in the appropriate space on your application

## ***Bard High School Early College***

- To register for exam go to:  
Manhattan: [www.bard.edu/bhsec](http://www.bard.edu/bhsec)  
Queens: [www.bard.edu/bhsec2](http://www.bard.edu/bhsec2)
- See High School Directory for details regarding test dates & locations
- Students must bring a copy of their final 7<sup>th</sup> grade report card with them on day of the exam, along with a completed Bard application which can be found on the school's website

## ***TACHS – Test for Admissions to Catholic High Schools***

- Contact Ms. Suzanne Murphy for questions regarding the TACHS, the Applicant Record, Recommendations, Scholarships, and any other inquiries regarding admissions to catholic/private high schools – [smurphy4@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:smurphy4@schools.nyc.gov) or 718-474-6918 ext. 114
- Students interested in taking the TACHS should log on to the TACHS website for details regarding test dates, registration & locations
- Deadline to submit applicant records to Ms. Murphy is November 19<sup>th</sup>
- Applicant records can be found online at <http://www.tachsinfo.com>

## ***Performing/Visual Arts & Audition Schools***

- Admission tickets for various performing/visual arts schools can be found in the guidance suite – room 111
- Tickets should be filled out and returned to the guidance office by October 16<sup>th</sup> (a copy will be made and then returned to you)
- Any requests for audition tickets received after October 16<sup>th</sup> will not be accepted
- Make sure you read tickets very carefully- information about audition dates & locations are printed on the back