



The Scholars' Academy

An Accelerated College Preparatory School for Grades 6-12

27Q323, A Teaching and Learning Organization

"Technology Today, Smarter Tomorrow: Removing Time and Place from Teaching and Learning"

320 Beach 104 Street, Rockaway Park, NY 11694

www.schools.nyc.gov/schoolportals/27/Q323

Tel: (718) 474-6918 Fax: (718) 945-8958

Principal

Brian O'Connell

Assistant Principals

HS and Math: Michele Smyth

MS and Foreign Language: Toni Marie Sorrentino

Safety/Discipline/Arts/Tech/PE: Drew Goodman

Scholars' Academy Principal's Report April, 2011

Music, Art, Film, etc.

Music Technology Classroom is on the Way!

Room 145 is being converted to a state of the art composing classroom. Envision students leveraging technology to prime them to better read and play music, with the ultimate goal of learning how to compose music!

\$44,161, mac-books

\$16,229 soundtree supplies, equipment and installation

\$4,449 furniture

\$64,839 Instructional space

Theory of Action and Technology Innovations/Updates

Scholars' Academy is piloting a teaching and learning tool next year called "Safari Montage." This tool is a library of instructional video clips that teachers and students can access through our "in school" network. These videos will enhance teaching and learning. At this point, however, we do not believe the videos will be accessible from home due to Department of Education Technical issues. Still, this pilot is valued at over \$15,000. We will have free use of it for one year and then be able to decide whether this product should become a part of our technology infrastructure.

Facility Enhancements/Issues

The school yard will appear differently next year. Through our close communication with the School Construction Authority and City Parks Department, we are planning for several enhancements of the school yard layout to provide greater community and school flexibility of use including:

Resurfacing of the yard.

Maintaining and repositioning 5 basketball half-courts.

Fence and gate reconfiguration to provide play/practice space for team sports.

Installation of removable tennis net/tennis court lines: Space permitting, we anticipate 2 or 3 courts.

These courts may also serve as volleyball practice areas as well.

Holly bushes will be planted on Seaside Avenue in the planting boxes.

Three circular designed tree and shrub combinations will be planted on B104 side of the building.

White gravel/rocks will be put down to limit lawn maintenance issues going forward.

Middle School Events and Trips

Middle school talent show will be held this Friday periods 7 and 8 in the school theatre. Parents of performers are invited to attend.

There was an information meeting tonight at 6pm about next year's February 2012 high school international trips to Italy and Spain with Mr. Bierman and Ms. Sorrentino. All parents and students were invited to attend of current eighth to eleventh graders.

Special Announcements/Requests

30 middle school students received congratulations letters this month for drastically improving their grades and were removed from academic probation. We are very proud of them!
Saturday school is in full effect, classes are offered in SAT prep, math, ela, biology, earth science, chemistry for state tests, regents and AP.

Parent Issues/Upcoming Events Not Referenced

6th grade band, 7th and 8th grade band, and HS Band will perform at the NYSSMA major evaluation festival on Saturday, May 14, 2011 at JHS 278.

Save the date Tuesday May 17th we will be holding our annual Spring Arts Festival where we highlight all our visual and performing artists. Doors open at 6pm for viewing the visual arts gallery and at 7pm we will have musical performances in the Theatre.

The Marching Band will perform at the Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 30, 2011.

The annual Science Fair will be held on Wednesday May 18th.

Next month's PTA meeting will be preceded by an Academic Boot Camp presented by our PTA president Dr. Marybeth Dawson who as many of you may not know is a professor at Kingsborough Community College. Parents will be given helpful information to enable them support their child's advancement in an increasingly rigorous program. Study skills, organization and independent learning are a few of the topics that will be covered.

The CEC Election Process is underway, the Parent Advisory Vote mailers will be backpacked home by April 29th with individual students so parents can login and cast a non-binding advisory vote at www.powertotheparents.org

The advisory vote is open between May 1st and May 7th .

If you wish to apply for the CEC the deadline to apply has been extended to April 22nd. Parents can logon to www.powertotheparents.org and submit an application.

The CECs are education policy advisory bodies responsible for reviewing and evaluating schools' instructional programs, approving zoning lines and advising the Chancellor. Meetings are held once a month with the superintendent and the public at large to discuss the current state of the schools in the district.

Safety/Transportation/Logistics/Youth Development

Thanks to the respectful and appropriate attention and presence of the Community Affairs Unit of the 100th Precinct, the April 8th Board-Walk-A-Thon went smoothly and safely. We are reminding staff and students to safeguard personal and public property as we head into Spring Recess. Upon our return, we will continue to practice safety through Fire Drills, Shelter-In Drills, etc...Enjoy the break.

Professional Development Happenings

The work from the Common Core Pilot Team has recently been highlighted by the Department of Education. A video crew recently taped teachers and the video will shortly be found on the Department of Education's website. Also, the technology initiatives put forth by the school were recognized nationally by the Curriculum 21 Network led by Heidi Hayes Jacobs.

Testing

We are proud to announce that 104 high school students registered with the College Board to take Advanced Placement exams. The Scholars' Academy will administer approximately 270 Advanced Placement exams beginning May 2. The date of exams can be found on the Scholars' Academy calendar.

ELA exams will be administered on Tuesday and Wednesday May 3rd and 4th.

NYS Math exams will be administered on Wednesday and Thursday May 11th and 12th.

Physical Education:

The Physical Education Department started a new program this week that will test students Fitness Levels. There are 5 components (Balance, Flexibility, Muscular Strength, Muscular Endurance and Aerobic Fitness). Students will also be learning about nutrition and the heart. Both Fitnessgram and the Presidents Council tests will be administered.

Athletics:

Congratulations to the HS Girls Basketball team with their great season and representing Scholars' Academy at the States in Albany.

The HS Golf team is currently 1-0. Both HS Archery and HS Softball seasons are underway.

The MS Cheer team has been selected to participate in the CHAMPS Movement Arts Showcase in May.

MS Cheer, Lacrosse, Tennis and Girls Basketball seasons are underway.

MS Boys Basketball team has their playoff game this Thursday at MS 105 at 10:00AM.

High School Applications

This month students are making final decisions about which high school they will attend in the 2011-2012 school year. Students have until this Friday to submit their high school decision form to Ms. Rozman indicating whether they are continuing with Scholars', attending a private school, a specialized high school, or another public school. Without this form we will not be able to send student records to the appropriate schools. Students that are dissatisfied with their high school match should speak with the guidance counselor about the possibility of submitting an appeal. Appeals can be submitted to the guidance counselor up until June 3rd.

High School Events and Trips

The juniors had a great time studying government in Washington DC last week. Sophomores are off to Medieval Times as it relates to their studies in Global History on Thursday, April 28th. Freshmen will be going to Six Flags for Physics Day on Friday, April 29th.

Seniors are gearing up for the trip to Disney World for a leadership conference in Epcot on June 8th.

Graduation planning is underway - the ceremony will take place on Monday, June 27th at 5pm at the Performing Arts Center at Kingsboro Community College. Dates for rehearsal will be announced when we return from vacation.

Seniors will attend a picnic on June 2nd at Ft. Tilden.

The senior prom is on June 22nd at Terrace on the Park.

College Applications

Our senior class has received many acceptances from many institutions. We have students accepted to the MacCauley honors program at CUNY, Cornell, NYU, Howard, Penn State, Boston University, Morehouse, NYU Polytechnic, Syracuse, Albany, Stony Brook, Northeastern.

It is very important that seniors submit copies of these acceptance letters to the College Office so we can publish these amazing accomplishments. We would like to formally congratulate the students, but we have not received all of the letters. Seniors who submit all of their acceptance letters will receive a dress down day ticket to redeem on the day of their choice! Please bring the letters in!!!

Scholarships

- \$1.9 Million in total scholarships (\$1,941,000) excluding full scholarships
- 6 Full scholarships
- 45 Partial Scholarships (\$32,000 average)
- 51 Total scholarships received

Highlighted Schools

- Macaulay Honors (Hunter, Brooklyn)
- Cornell University
- University of Hawaii
- Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT)
- NYU

Community Service/ Youth Employment

This month, the application for the 2011 Summer Youth Employment Program will become available online at nyc.gov. Students that are interested in securing employment for the summer and will be 14 years old by the end of June should see Ms. Rozman for an Employment Permit Application or refer to the Guidance Edline page for more information on how to obtain working papers and how to apply for the SYEP.

This month there are also various community service opportunities. On Saturday, April 30th there is an Earth Day Rockaway event at B. 59th Street & the Boardwalk. On the same day, in Manhattan, is the Revlon Run/Walk for Women at 9:00 in Times Square and finally, the Annual Rockaway Rotary Ocean Run/Walk is Sunday, May 1st at 10:00 am kicking off at B. 116 St and the Boardwalk.