



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

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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*

PTA Meeting: Principal's Report by Brian O'Connell

September 15, 2010

- Welcome** New Parent Members and Returning Parents.
- Review and Discussion of Organization Sheet: New Staff Members and Staff Assignment Changes.**

We have several new staff members of our team this year:

Mrs. Ginger O'Hare is our new payroll secretary.

Ms. Christine Pallotta is our new grade 7 living environment teacher.

Ms. Lisa Farrell is our new 8th grade humanities teacher.

Mr. Paul Lakofka is our new HS Spanish teacher.

Mrs. Nancy Kaplan is our new HS English teacher.

Mr. Angelo Lancia is our new PE teacher.

Ms. Jennifer Shannon is our new librarian.

Mr. Steve Kinney is our new technology lead teacher.

Mr. Michael Johnson is our new HS guidance counselor and college advisor.

Returning:

Mr. Goodman is still assigned here as an Assistant principal. He is primarily supervising the arts, PE, and discipline/security, working closely with Mr. Foti.

Mrs. Kearon is our former Ms. Patricia Hubbard who recently became married.

- Review and Discussion of All June 2010 Testing Results.**

Test Results for our School were solid this year. In a nutshell, we saw a drop of 5% in level 4's in math, from 83% to 78% and an increase of 5% in level 4's in ELA, from 31% to 36%.

Summary Data for NYS ELA and Math Exams 2009-2010

Rankings are for New York State

ELA

Grade	Ranked	Mean Scale Score
6	6	696
7	9	705
8	12	691

Grade	2009-2010 NYS ELA Exam				2008-2009 NYS ELA Exam			
	Mean Scale Score	% Level 2	% Level 3	% Level 4	Mean Scale Score	% Level 2	% Level 3	% Level 4
All	697	2 %	63 %	36 %	697	0	69 %	31 %
6	696	1 %	65 %	34 %	702	0	56 %	44 %
7	705	2 %	53 %	45 %	697	0	68%	32%
8	691	2 %	70 %	28%	694	0	83%	17%

Math

Grade	Ranked	Mean Scale Score
6	18	719
7	11	712
8	11	716

Grade	2009-2010 NYS Math Exam				2008-2009 NYS Math Exam			
	Mean Scale Score	% Level 2	% Level 3	% Level 4	Mean Scale Score	% Level 2	% Level 3	% Level 4
All	715	1 %	21 %	78 %	720	0	17 %	83 %
6	719	1 %	19 %	79 %	718	0	22 %	78 %
7	712	0 %	12 %	88 %	723	0	10 %	90 %
8	716	2 %	33 %	65 %	721	0	20 %	80 %

Summary Data for Middle & High School Regents

Exam	0-54	55-64	65-84	85-100	Total Students
English Regents	0	0	19%	81%	118
US History & Government	0	0	10%	90%	118
Global History Regents	0	2%	40%	58%	92
Alg 2 /Trigonometry	8%	5%	55%	32%	91
Geometry Regents	3%	2%	61%	34%	112
Math B Regents	32%	27%	41%		22
Integrated Algebra	1%	0	69%	30%	200
Living Environment	0	0	34%	66%	182
Earth Science	0	1%	37%	62%	174
Chemistry	2%	13%	66%	19%	185
Physics	4%	8%	59%	29%	112
11 th Grade Spanish	0	1%	38%	61%	94
8 th Grade Spanish Prof.		1%	26%	72%	174

Summary Data for AP Examination 2009-2010

Subject	5	4	3	2	1
AP English	4%	22%	46%	17%	11%
AP Calculus		6.4%	13%	3.2%	77.4%
AP US Gov and Politics		5%	36%	39%	20%

Total Percentage	2%	12%	34%	21%	31%
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As you can see we had strong Regents Results.

We had strong Middle School Exam Results.

We have work to do in most Advanced Placement Courses, with strong results in Advanced Placement English.

***Given the scale score adjustment this year, we are assuming there will be some slippage, perhaps 5-10% in our overall progress report grade. This has yet to be determined. We are assuming we will lose a couple of % points in Performance as we were 100% last year and now are likely 97 or 98 %. We are also assuming there will be a one year's progress drop, although the accounting mechanisms are still unclear to us. We believe there will be a drop of 2 or 3% there. We know we likely had a 3% drop in school environment as we went down slightly, although still with city leading results, from last year. Add it up and we are looking at a 10% drop.

This being said, we are still pleased with our school's quality and testing results. We will look at this data, examine how it is being sliced, and make adjustments as needed.

4. Instructional Agenda/Mission this year:

**Technology Today, Smarter Tomorrow Initiative has a new chapter:
"Removing Time and Place from Teaching and Learning."**

As part of this initiative, we:

- Hired a technology lead teacher
- Purchased power speak using contract for excellence funds
- Plan to purchase computers for 7th grade Spanish to support this pilot using the same funding
- We will continue improving our edline.net pages and our school websites.
- Teachers will be encouraged to experiment with video to enhance instruction.
- We are empowering the teachers with the technical tools and savvy
- Are piloting the use of curriculum mapping software that included the new national standards for math and science
- Ordered a new teacher mac desktop for most teachers
- Have smartboards with projector arms being installed in most teacher rooms
- Purchased School Messenger and Edline.net as part of communication initiative

We are also adding components for our students use:

- Internet café is almost completely wired
- Room 145 will become another flexible technology/music space
- Room 103 lab is getting remodeled and has all new computers and a heavy duty X server
- TEAL room received a power and internet upgrade
- The wireless signals in the gym, dining rooms, and hallways have all been upgraded
- Ordered over 100 new laptops for student use
- Ordered a printer for every class
- Are piloting Innovation Zone online coursework for high school students: both high school and advanced placement courses
- Are investigating various online instructional video resources for students and teachers
- New electric in dining room for future dining room stationed stand up computers

5. Sports and Trips:

- We are continuing our sports programs this year even with tight budgetary concerns. We believe we will be offering the same sports as last year with the addition of wrestling and

archery. We recently received an archery grant for select pupils. This will be a pilot after school program likely. We plan on starting a wrestling HS team and getting our MS wrestling team back on the mat.

- We plan on continuing our trip trends from last year this year as well as dances and awards ceremonies.
- We have career awareness and college awareness trips planned already.

6. Transportation/Safety Update and Systems/Routines

- We only received yellow bus service for grade 6 students between 1-5 miles and Breezy Point/Roxbury grade six students.
- We have received curbside pickup at dismissal for students via MTA buses. Q21, Q22 east and west. These buses depart at both 2:50pm and 3:35pm daily.
- We are still lobbying the DOT and SCA to make the rear of the building safer with proper sidewalks and traffic safety devices. We suggested directly to DOT Commissioner McCarthy that a traffic light and camera be installed at B105 Street and the Freeway. We were informed that the agency is "studying the matter."
- Signs on the Freeway indicating a school exists here were recently put up as well as speed limits.
- We did receive one crossing guard that we posted at Seaside Avenue.

7. Construction Updates:

Items not stated yet:

New curtains, new sound system with wireless mics,

New lighting system with remote control from rear of theatre

Every classroom painted

Exterior wall being painted

Electric vault work behind building being completed

Duct work and testing under way

AC Project should be completed by December 2010***

8. **SLT Title I Parent Liaison Input as per use of Title I Parent Involvement Funds:** We are waiting to learn the parent recommendations for use of the Title I Parent Involvement Funds. See below.

Budget Details: Essentially our CEP goals are tied directly to the use of these funding sources.

Detailed Title I ARRA budget walkthrough and Contract For Excellence Budget Walkthrough

Title I ARRA Parent Involvement Funds:

\$3,430 or 1% of total Title I Allocation

Contract For Excellence Budget Summary

\$48,276

C4E Personnel:

C4E \$1,410 Summer School Administrator AP Pay AIS/Acceleration summer regents and gr. 6 program.

C4E \$1,347 Summer School Teacher Pay AIS /Acceleration summer regents and gr. 6 program.

C4E \$ 898 Summer School Teacher Pay AIS/Acceleration summer regents and gr. 6 program.

C4E OTPS (Other than Personnel Services)

C4E \$36,670 Planned for computers for innovative Spanish Instruction based upon CEP Power Speak.

C4E \$7,950 Planned for Powerspeak online access and professional development as per CEP.

Discussion of all Title I ARRA Allocation Uses

\$2,027 Title I Translation Services: Currently in OTPS for supplies for translations: paper, etc.

Professional Development Use of Funds for Per Session PD/Testing/Data Systems/Scoring/Curriculum Mapping

Title I ARRA \$5,000 for Teacher Course Reimbursement for Highly Qualified Status up to 50% for AP courses and PD.