



The Scholars' Academy

Mission Statement: To Prepare for College and Careers of the 21st Century
"Technology Today, Smarter Tomorrow: Removing Time and Place from Teaching and Learning"
27Q323 is an Accelerated College Preparatory School for Grades 6-12
320 Beach 104 Street, Rockaway Park, NY 11694
<http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolPortals/27/Q323>
Tel: (718) 474-6918 Fax: (718) 945-8958

Principal
Brian O'Connell

Assistant Principals
Math/Arts: Michele Smyth
Humanities/Foreign Language: Toni Marie Sorrentino
Science/Technology/Safety/PE: Scott Milczewski

Principal's PA Report 2013-2014

PA Meeting December 11th, 2013

1) Principal's Statement:

Please accept my apology for not being present this evening due to an event taking place at Russos wherein I am receiving a leadership award from the Catholic Teachers' Association. Also, if you look in the trophy case, you will see a red apple. This is called the "Blackboard Award," which our school received this past November 18th, 2013 from Scholastic Inc. and several other sponsors. I was grateful to have a dedicated group of parents and students in attendance with me at this event. I am grateful for all for all of the accolades received due to the hard work of our students, staff, and parents.

The November Parent Teacher Conferences were a success.

We attempted to adapt the format that we used at the Aviator Sports Complex which helped parents have their conferences more efficiently and faster.

We have also surveyed many parents and will be making several changes based upon parent and teacher grade leader feedback for the Spring Conferences. We will utilize the same format, but will likely move the sixth grade conferences into the gymnasium (which was unavailable due to a volleyball game during the Fall Conference). This will alleviate any feeling of being crowded, while also providing a greater feeling of privacy. We are also reconsidering the high school conference rooms selected for the same reasons.

Open Classrooms were conducted and turn out was lower than expected. We believe this was due to the fact that we had open classrooms after Parent Teacher Conferences. In the Spring, we will try to do the Open Classrooms **a week or two** before the Parent Teacher Conferences.

The total number of parents that came in for the Fall PTC (November) is 894.

The breakdown is as follows:

6th Grade: A total of 278 parents.

Day:105

Night:173

7th Grade: A total of 187 parents.

Day: 97

Night:90

8th Grade: A total of 207 parents.

Day:80

Night:127

9th Grade: A total of 145 parents.

Day: 60

Night:85

10th-12th Grades: A combined total of 77 Parents.

The New Year:

As we complete December and move into the new year, 2014, we will continue our focus on teaching and learning. We have an incredible mentoring and staff development program in place and we continue to leverage both Friday afternoon time for Professional Development, Extended Parent Conferences, and Teacher Team Meetings. We are convinced that this "Adult Learning" time has been the pivotal component which has permitted our school to be more successful than most both in integrating the common core learning standards into our unit and lesson plans as well as in achieving high progress report grades. As you may already be aware, we earned (for the second year in a row) the highest grade available for both middle and high school in all categories!

We earned an A for Middle School and an A for High School.

Please click on the DOE homepage for Scholars' Academy. There is a "Statistics" link on the left side which takes you to the learning environment surveys and progress reports.

2) College Office:

- All 11th grade students participated in our annual Broadridge Career Day on Monday 12/9
- St. Francis College will be sending two admissions representatives to Scholars' tomorrow to interview 12th graders. They will be giving every 12th grader an admissions decision and scholarship information on the spot at this on-site admissions day
- Monday, 12/16 is our annual Financial Aid Night. A financial aid representative from the Higher Education Department of NY State will be at Scholars' Academy discussing the FAFSA, TAP and all matters of financial aid for all 12th grade students and parents.
- School Report Week for all 12th grade students is 12/16-12/20. This is the week that the College Office sends all required documents to the colleges that the students are applying to
- Long Island University will be sending two admissions representatives to Scholars' on 12/19 to interview 12th graders. They will be giving interested students an admissions decision and scholarship information on the spot at this on-site admissions day

Middle School Admissions:

The application deadline was December 3, 2013. We have received 752 applicants for grade 6, 76 applicants for grade 7 and 24 applicants for grade 8. Counselors have a deadline of December 19 to submit all supporting documentation. Applications will be reviewed and notification of the status of application will go out to parents in mid to late February.

Athletics

- Congratulations to both the Boys and Girls Varsity Basketball teams they are both off to undefeated starts (3-0).
- The Middle School Coed Soccer team took part in is the 1st Annual Turkey Bowl tournament which included 4 schools (Kappa VI, Scholars, Waterside School, MS 105). The tournament took place at the Beach 32St. turf field and the took home 2nd place. This event is part of our Peninsula Athletic League.
- A big shout out the Varsity Swim team who took on 1st place Bayside HS last week. They did an amazing job.
- Middle School Boys Basketball tryouts begin Monday December 26th at 7:00am.
- A big thank you to Ms Mainhart and the Scholars' Academy HS Cheerleaders and all their support during home basketball games.

December Events:

Monday December 2 - Eleanor Dougherty, curriculum specialist, visits The Scholars' Academy and provides professional development to our 6th & 7th grade science and humanities teachers.

Thursday December 5 - Children's First Network 112 Principal's Conference is held at The Scholars' Academy. Principals and network team members will visit classrooms throughout the school.

Saturday December 7 - Little North Pole Event

Monday December 9 - Broadridge Career Day Event

Wednesday December 11 - Operation Santa

Monday December 16 - Grades reported on Pupilpath, High School Outstanding Scholar Assembly & Financial Aid College Workshop

Tuesday December 17 - 12th grade Graduation Pictures, Children's First Network will lead a lunch and learn session on differentiated approaches for learners to interested teachers

Wednesday December 18 - Middle School Outstanding Scholar Breakfast & Assembly

Thursday December 19 - Winter Concert 6:30pm

Friday December 20 - Staff Meeting / Holiday Breakfast 7am-8am

Professional Development Updates

- Eleanor Dougherty from Literacy Design Collaborative met with humanities and science teachers on December 2
- Scholars' teachers attended professional development training through a DOE Curriculum Team; the teachers learned close reading strategies and strategies for enhancing classroom discussions
- The teacher inquiry sessions for December has been focused on a lesson study cycle in which teachers review the lesson of a host teacher, the teachers observe the lesson, and then they provide feedback to the teacher on the lesson. These collaborative sessions have been well received by all teachers.

Testing

- Mrs. Colleran and Mrs. Lewner will conduct a parent workshop on January 8 from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm that will focus on the changes to the 2014 NYS ELA and Math CCLS exams
- January Regents & Finals Week will take place beginning January 27 to January 31
 - During this week high school students will take their Term 1 finals, a detailed schedule will be sent out to students and placed on the school calendar
 - Regents Exams are scheduled as follows:
 - January 27 -- English Regents from 1:00 to 4:00 pm
 - January 28 -- Algebra 2/Trigonometry Regents from 1:00 to 4:00
 - January 29 -- Geometry Regents from 8 to 11 AM; Chemistry from 12:00 to 3:00
 - January 30 -- Integrated Algebra Regents from 8 to 11 AM