



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

Parent Association Meeting March 12th, 2014

Dear Parents and Caregivers:

I hope this correspondence finds you and your loved ones are well. As you know, "testing season" will be upon us soon enough. **The best way to manage stress is by being informed, organized, and prepared.** Please be certain to check the school calendar each month and academic/testing calendar this month. Plan ahead with your child to ensure he/she understands the timeline until his/her respective exams take place. If there is a specific topic or type of problem/task, he or she is still having issues with, do not hesitate to email his/her respective teacher for additional focus and support. Academic Supports are available in the form of elective period support, peer tutoring, after/before school help, and forthcoming Saturday academic acceleration classes. Please engage your child and child's teacher via email, or contact the parent coordinator(s) or guidance office, to find the best support for your child.

Important Contacts:

Grade 6: Gianfranco Moretta gmoretta@scholarsnyc.com
Grade 7/8 Lorry Gilgur lqilgur@scholarsnyc.com
Grade 9/10 Rosa Lagombra rlagombra@scholarsnyc.com
Grade 11/12 Michele Villa mvilla@scholarsnyc.com
or Deanna DeBlasio ddeblasio@scholarsnyc.com
Middle School Parent Coordinator: Marta Moskal mmoskal@scholarsnyc.com
High School Parent Coordinator: Felicia Williams fwilliams@scholarsnyc.com

Testing Information:

Additional information will be provided by Ms. Colleran re: AP exams, etc. Be sure to keep an eye on the monthly Scholars' Academy Calendars and our Scholarsnyc.com landing page. If you have a testing or 504 related question, please email Ms. Colleran: dcolleran@scholarsnyc.com.

NYC link to State Assessments Calendar:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/32ED0DB5-0632-4E06-BBC9-7F38883BB3F6/0/SY1314TESTCALENDAREnglish.pdf>

Scholars' Academy Landing Page Link:

<http://scholarsnyc.com/>

<https://sites.google.com/a/scholarsnyc.com/scholars-academy-parent-resources/>

Parent/Student/Teacher Surveys:

Parents have the option of completing paper or online surveys. These surveys directly generate our school's progress report grade "learning environment" component score.

Student and teacher surveys are done online in school. Please contact the parent coordinators or Ms. Lagombra if you have any questions about your survey's completion.

mmoskal@scholarsnyc.com

fwilliams@scholarsnyc.com

rlagombra@scholarsnyc.com

In the remaining sections of this Principal's Report, you will find additional specific news and information that may be relevant to your child. Thank you for reading!

Sincerely,
Principal O'Connell

High School Admissions Updates:

- All 8th graders and select 9th graders received results of the high school applications on Monday, March 10th
- Of the 151 grade 8 students that took the SHSAT, 44 students received offers to Specialized High Schools (28%)
- Students who are planning to accept their seat offer to a specialized high school are highly encouraged to attend the school's open house in the coming weeks
- 135 current 8th grade students will be continuing at SAHS for sure; 30 additional Scholars' students may remain here for high school depending on whether they accept their seat here, at a Specialized school, or at a Catholic/Private school
- Students have until Friday, March 21st to submit a final decision to Ms. Gilgur about which high school they plan to attend in September 2014
- Students also have until Friday, March 21st to submit a Round 2 application if they are interested in applying to schools that have seat availability in Round 2 or new high schools opening in September
- Ms. Gilgur will be conducting a High School Admissions workshop for 6th & 7th grade students and their families before the May PTA meeting on May 14th at 5:00 PM
- Due to the Scholars' Academy's efforts to integrate more students with special needs into the school's culture and programming starting in grade six, coupled with the high number (far over capacity) of our continuing students remaining in our 2014-2015 high school (grade 9), Scholars' Academy is lobbying the Office of Student Enrollment to not force place students into the school's registers in grade nine and to reconsider special education targets for grade six to account for the impact on the percentage of students with special needs that will ultimately be enrolled in the high school over time. Current projections, if continued and realized, will result in a high school that has approximately 27% of its students with special needs. Scholars' Academy School Leadership Team does not want OSE to force place any students GE or SE into grade 9 due to the many programming and space challenges faced by the school.

Chess Club Updates:

The Scholars' Chess Club is currently hosting a chess tournament. It is taking place over four months, one day a month. Each participant will play a total of eight games. Scholars' Chess club also has their very own website. This site was created by an 8th grader, Arron Fernando. It's on the landing page. See link: <http://ourchess.weebly.com/>. And, our Chess Club, won the 1st Place Team Trophy in the Grade 6-12 Section of The Right Move Chess Tournament on Sunday Feb 2nd. The chess team consisted of Lorelie Conklin, Yafa Elmasri, Joshua Feliciano & Nicholas Rao. Also Chess Club President, Yvonne Scorcia, won a medal in the under 1000 section.

Scholars' Science Symposium:

Our annual science fair will be held on Tuesday March, 25 2014. All students will be creating Google Presentations for this digital science fair. During the school day students will be visiting each other's classrooms and presenting their research and projects. In the evening from 5:30-7pm all 6th and 7th graders will be presenting for parents and guests. In addition, select projects from grades 8-12 will also be presenting their projects. More information to follow, we hope to see you there!

Family Math Night

Our annual Family Math Night took place tonight. Students and caregivers had the chance to work on math problems and puzzles and learn about our after-school programs Mathletes, Stock Market Game and Lego Robotics.

Testing Updates:

Double Testing Announcement:

NYC DOE announced on Wednesday that due to the waiver granted by the US department of education, grade 8 students who are enrolled in an accelerated course will take ONLY the Common Core Algebra Regents exam this year. Students will not take the grade eight NYS math exam in April.

Middle School State Exams:

The NYS ELA Exams will take place on April 1, 2, and 3 and the NYS math exams will take place on April 30, May 1 and May 2. For more information, please log onto the Scholars' Academy Parent Testing Information Website.

HS AP (Advanced Placement) Exams:

The first AP exam will take place on Monday, May 5, 2014. Payment and registration were due by February 28th.

MS Admissions:

We will be having interviews for prospective MS students on Thursday March 20 from 4:00 - 7:15 pm. Over 400 students will be interviewed.

-As part of our participation in the Special Education Reform, we are interviewing an additional 36 students with special needs for potential entry into grade six. The goal is to gain a deeper understanding of these students to identify which students will show the most potential to succeed in our competitive and rigorous coursework through middle and high school.

Athletics:

- Both the girls and boys PSAL basketball teams made it to the playoffs this year. Neither team will continue to the championship this year, but we are very proud of our Seawolves!
- PSAL Spring Sports begin today
 - Girls Tennis

- Girls Softball
- Co-ed Golf
- PSAL Boys Developmental Baseball begins 3/17
 - This is a new program that will run on a modified schedule for this year
 - We are expecting 8 games this season

Academic Acceleration Spring Programs

- The Scholars' Academy will be open every Saturday for the rest of the year except during Spring Break and Memorial Day weekends from 9am to 12 noon. AAT classes will be held for middle school math, middle school ELA, Regents and AP courses. Some of these AAT classes will take place Monday through Friday from 7am-8am or after-school as well.

Spring Performances:

- Once on This Island Jr. Middle School Production will take place March 28th 6pm
- Spring Showcase will take place Thursday May 22nd 6pm

Spring Trips:

- 6th & 7th grade Classic Stage Shakespeare Company
- 7th grade trip to Philadelphia May
- 7th grade trip to Math Museum
- 8th grade trip to Chelsea Piers
- 9th grade physics trip to Six Flags
- 10th grade trip to Medieval Times
- College Visit Trips
- High School Art Trips to the Met
- High School Chorus to see Wicked on Broadway
- High School Drama Trip to see Of Mice and Men on Broadway
- 12th grade Disney Trip
- Holocaust Moving Museum coming to Scholars for all grades
- Unfortunately our April Washington DC Spring Break trip has been cancelled due to not having enough students signing up for the coach bus/trip itinerary

Dean's Office:

1. The next School Safety Meeting will be this Friday, March 14th, period 3, in the conference room.

2. Rockaway Waterfront Alliance Petition:

As part of the Greater Rockaway Community Vision Plan, residents emphasized the need for safer transportation corridors along the entire length of the Rockaway Peninsula.

Rockaway Freeway runs underneath the elevated tracks of the A Train, connecting the eastern end of the Rockaway Peninsula to the western end. With a lack of ADA accessible sidewalks, pedestrians and bicyclists often choose to use the striped buffers in the middle of the street because it is a safer space to walk and bike on Rockaway Freeway.

Although walking under the freeway is a safer option than using the narrow and hazardous sidewalks currently, cars often speed, harming the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists.

They recommend turning the striped buffers into formal walking and bicycling spaces on Rockaway Freeway. Please sign the petition if you support a walking/biking lane on Rockaway Freeway and encourage friends to sign it too.

<http://www.change.org/petitions/bill-de-blasio-pedestrian-walkway-bike-lane-under-the-a-train-on-rockaway-freeway>

College Office:

- Tomorrow is our Annual College Fair! We are excited to announce that we will have representatives from 45 different colleges here to meet with sophomores and juniors
- Next week is March to College! All sophomores will be going on a college trip on Wednesday, March 19th. Additionally, there are college events all week that are geared toward college awareness and readiness
- Our current seniors so far have been awarded 134 scholarships, totaling:
\$6,298,900.00!

Technology:

Screencasting: The overwhelming majority of Scholars' Academy teachers are meeting the expectation of 1 screencast per unit this year. This tool is proving to be real asset to staff and students alike.

This year, the Scholars' Academy invested **\$356,197 in technology**, not including the generous support we received in the form of \$50,000 of technology from the Happy Hearts Fund (Petra Nemcova). This investment puts us in a phenomenal position to better impact teacher planning to better integrate technology into instruction.

apple	6 Imacs	\$ 5,874.00
apple	ipad cases	\$ 5,568.00
compros	Computerized poster maker	\$ 5,200.00
apple	60 Ipads	\$ 23,280.00
cdw	ats printer	\$ 2,221.89
apple	apple care	\$ 693.00
apple	67 ipad mini	\$ 23,573.00
apple	37 mac books	\$ 43,253.00
apple	28 mac books	\$ 32,732.00
B&H	ipad cases	\$ 336.32
cdw	5 lexmark printers	\$ 2,115.70
cdw	5 snapscan	\$ 1,750.68
apple	27 macbooks	\$ 31,563.00
apple	32 ipad minis	\$ 9,568.00
apple	28 mac books	\$ 32,732.00
apple	25 macbooks	\$ 29,225.00
cdw	4 lexmark printers	\$ 1,692.56
cdw	1 ats printer	\$ 3,132.95
apple	61 ipads	\$ 23,363.00
apple	97 macbooks	\$ 78,323.00
	2014 Tech Purchase Total	\$ 356,197.10