



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>
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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 June 11th, 2014

Message from Principal O'Connell

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As expected, this year has flown by! Pedagogically, our teachers have sincerely "dug in" with the students; ensuring tasks are strategically engaging the children with their learning in a socially constructive and focused fashion. In a year of intense testing, we have rallied as a team to take on numerous challenges. Our students stepped up their efforts to juggle the numerous exams and intense courses they have faced this year. Our teachers have been incredibly resourceful with regard to how to make student learning, as well as the examination process, as stress-mitigated as possible. Our testing team, led by Mrs. Colleran took on exam after exam...ensuring teachers, proctors, students, support staff, and scorers were in the right place and ready at the right time.

Even with this intense year of testing, I am proud to state that our school's professional development plan focused on sharing and enhancing strong teaching practices so that learning does not become "teaching to the test." I am very grateful to Ms. Smyth for her leadership with this regard as well as Ms. Viera and Mr. Milczewski who led their respective teacher teams through a series of lesson studies which permitted the cross-pollination of wonderful ideas from teacher to teacher.

Our enrichment, before/after school programs, arts programs and sports programs flourished this year. We had the huge honor of several students' art work being showcased in Tweed this year as part of a Diversity Lens Project. I am very proud of our: drama groups, media/live streaming program, band, chorus(es), step team, dance groups, guitar electives, and sports teams. Our boys' and girls' basketball teams made the playoffs, our golf, tennis, bowling, and swimming teams had strong seasons, our boys' baseball team is getting established, and our girls' softball team won the B Division championship in dramatic fashion.

We look forward to adding girls' high school soccer and girls' *stunt* cheerleading as well in 2014-2015.

Our school's technology use to enhance instruction received numerous visitors from schools across the nation and globe, interested in learning how we leverage technology to enhance student learning. Our greatest focus this year was on "flipping" instruction and it is getting rave reviews from students as teachers increase the use of screen-casting to maximize learning time in the classroom. We also had several staff recognized for their hard work this year such as Ms. Pineiro who is a Big Apple Awards Finalist. Ms. Viera is also receiving the Educator of the Year Award from Education Update!

Each year, I am especially proud of our graduating 8th and 12th graders. Of our graduating 8th graders, this year, we have the greatest number of students remaining with us at Scholars' Academy, over 150! We are especially proud of our graduating 12th graders who have generated a 100% graduation rate and over \$9.5 Million in Scholarships!

As we wind things down, we look forward to next year as another action-packed cavalcade of challenges for us to tackle. Next year, we will be able to keep our current schedule via the SBO and parent voting process that took place during May. We are focusing our school on 3 Comprehensive Education Plan Goals and we plan on getting better every day, so that we provide a fun, rigorous, and rich experience for your children and our students.

- CEP Goal #1: To implement a Comprehensive Advisory and Support Program School-wide to support social, emotional and academic well-being of students as individuals, learners and members of the community.
- CEP Goal 2: To implement a school-wide instructional focus on Differentiated Instruction in order to improve in the following Danielson Competencies: 3b, 3c and 3d, while ensuring that tiered tasks, and access points are central to lesson plan task development.
- CEP Goal 3: To ensure professional development plans support our work to have an increased knowledge of our students and instructional focus.

I want to thank each of you for the great work you do at home with your children each and every day. Your focus and your support permit us to better focus and support the students when they are with us in school. Thank you for a great year and we look forward to seeing you in September. The first day of school for students is Thursday, September 4th, 2014. Middle school students must arrive between 7:30-8:00am and high school students must arrive between 8:15-8:45am.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Donnell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "B".

Principal

Final 2013-2014 Highlights from Various School Personnel

Middle School Orientation

Tomorrow, Thursday June 12, is our Middle School New Student Orientation. We have 264 new sixth grade students beginning in September. Students will meet their future teachers and classmates. They will receive their summer homework packets and supply lists. Parents will receive an overview of school policies and procedures. They will also have the opportunity to purchase school uniforms.

College Office:

Congratulations to the Class of 2014!

Anniesa B., Valedictorian and Mudassir M., Salutatorian

- 97% of the students will be receiving an Advanced Regents Diploma
- 23% of the students will be receiving an Advanced Regents Diploma with Honors
- 100% of the students are College Prepared
- 97% of the students are College Ready
- 20 students received Mastery in Mathematics
- 20 students received Mastery in Science
- 9 students were designated as AP Scholars
- 3 students were designated as AP Scholars with Honors

**Congratulations to Alexandra Sasha F., Valedictorian
and Helen Z., Salutatorian of the 8th grade Graduating Class of 2014**

8th Grade Graduation

- Wednesday, June 25, 2014
- Beach Channel High School
- Doors open for guests at 9:00am
- Ceremony begins 9:30am

High School Graduation

- Monday June 23rd, 2014
- Takes Place at Kingsborough Community College
- Doors Open for Guests at 4:45pm
- Ceremony begins at 5:00pm

Dean's Office:

- Five representatives from Queens Collegiate will be visiting Scholars' this Thursday, June 12th, for a tour of the building and to learn some of our best practices with implemented our PBIS initiative over the course of the last two years. Queens Collegiate was impressed with Scholars' PBIS initiative and wanted to see us in action, as they begin their own process of implementing PBIS next year.
- We have three upcoming pizza parties, and two full court basketball games, as incentives for students who have submitted enough Scholar Dollars' they have earned for exhibiting scholarly CHART behavior. Congratulations to all of these students for consistently being cooperative, hardworking, amiable, respectful and trustworthy.

Final 2013-2014 Highlights from Various School Personnel

Science:

- We would like to congratulate Kailey S. and Sabastian R. for competing and being a finalist in the city-wide Urban Barcoding Competition. They competed in the finals against the five remaining teams out of an impressive original sixty teams. They delivered an outstanding talk on their project and faced questions from judges at the Museum of Natural History, earning them an honorable mention in this competition. If you would like to view there talk it can be found here: <http://new.livestream.com/cshl-dnalc/UBP-Symposium-2014> (it is the second video at about 51:33 minutes into the livestream). Congratulations to Kailey and Sabastian!

Summer 2014

- Enrichment, athletic and free camp programs will be offered through Counseling in Schools and Millennium Development for Scholars' students at Channel View School for Research this summer (Taking Trips around NYC , Basketball, Soccer Kickball, Dance, Step, Volleyball, Walking Club, Jump Rope, Gardening, Nature Club, Art Club, Student Newspaper with The Wave, Making Music and Hip Hop Beats Learning through Leadership, Building and Programming, Robotics, Hands-On Geometric Engineering, Photography, Science Club, Drama and Movie Club, Spirit and Camp Club, Kayaking and Hiking)
- Students will be given flyers this Friday about these free camp programs and a parent orientation will be held at Scholars' on Tuesday June 17th at 6pm with Millennium Development
- The Scholars Academy will be offering Regents Prep and Remedial Classes this summer for students in ELA, Math, Living Environment and Integrated Algebra

Testing

- High school students last day of school due to June Regents week is June 16
- Regent's week will take place from June 17 - 26
- Students must arrive to school 30 minutes prior to the exam start time
- Students must bring pens, pencils, and calculators if applicable
- Students must wear Scholars' uniform for the exam
- All information for testing can be found on the [Parent Resource Site for Testing](#) located on the scholarsnyc.com page