



The Scholars' Academy

An Accelerated College Preparatory School for Grades 6-12
27Q323, A Knowledge Network Teaching and Learning Organization

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
Sorrentino

Assistant Principals

MS: ToniMarie

HS: Michele Smyth (M, W, F)

Principal's Report May 12, 2010

1) Survey Responses:

	Student Register	Grades	Parent	Teacher	Student
2009-2010	850 (approximate)	6-11	75%	91%	93%
2008-2009	750 (approximate)	6-10	92	100	98

Thank you to all who have completed the survey. Our survey response rates our lower this year.

We conducted incentive programs for students. Made numerous announcements.

Any ideas or assistance in getting surveys done would be appreciated.

2) School Adjustments and Budget:

We are in the process of doing modifications to our school structure for next year that will make the school structure and organization sustainable and less vulnerable to fluctuating budgets or Contractual Nuances. We have a plan that will help us absorb the budget cuts that should, depending on depth of cuts, prevent layoffs of staff. In these challenging economic times, we had to slightly rethink our structure. In the end,

contractual and budget issues may have prompted us to think more creatively about our school that most students, parents, and teachers will find reasonable if not better.

Adjustments that are forthcoming:

- Official school day for [middle school](#) students will take place from 8:00am-2:50pm, [and 8:45-3:35 for HS Students](#), by moving the 37.5 minutes of “extended day” into each of the five work days equally. This is a change from a school day of 8:05am-3:25pm, M-H and 2:35pm on Fridays.
- Moving “Extended Day” into “Contractual Day”: Such will enable approximately 12 options to be offered to our 7th and 8th graders. This is likely to happen during the period after lunch next year. [7th and 8th grade students will still submit preferences for these elective options.](#)
- *This mitigates gym use conflicts between high school and middle school as High School will still be on a second session time schedule of 8:45am-3:35pm on some days with earlier dismissals varying to student schedule. ????*
- This adjustments also lengthens the instructional period for each class from 42 minutes to 48 minutes or 50 minutes depending upon teacher homeroom vote.
- We are still working out [the details of](#) coursework implications. [Students programs will remain very similar to the current programs, with minor changes. The programs will reflect the state mandate for](#)

instructional time in each subject area, and in most cases will be 1 & 1/2 times the recommendation. Other changes include the possibility that grade six will lose the foreign language rotation, however, they could potentially receive Spanish in their program. Sixth grade will still have 3 periods of physical education per week within the regular school day.

- We will be able to maintain our cohort structure.

3) Construction Issues: Construction Project will take place through summer.

Units are being installed in classes. Rockaway Freeway work and DEP demolition was intercepted and put off to be completed after exams and during the summer.

4) Title I Parent Involvement and Title I Teacher Quality: Due to purchasing issues, timelines and consistent with our “Technology Today, Smarter Tomorrow” initiative, we have hired an AUSSIE consultant for technology and video to work with an inquiry or experimental group of teachers on using video to improve the quality of instruction and to improve home school communication. We are specifically looking for ways to improve video and edline use for access to instruction from home.

5) Edline, Website, etc. Surveys: We are drafting a survey which will go out to parents to identify ways to improve edline use by parents, teachers, and students. We are also soliciting feedback on how to improve our website, podcasts, Edline and School Messenger Releases, etc.

6) School Messenger: new home school communication method.

- 7) **Memorial Day: Boardwalk** a-thon a new route this year and our band will be marching in the parade!
- 8) **Saturday classes:** well attended for all subjects
- 9) **Middle School and High School Admissions:** We have confirmed 95 seats in our high school incoming 9th grade which is higher than prior years at this time. We reached out to offer potential of qualified students from Stella Maris to apply, pending transcript review. Students who are qualified and of whom we can program classes may still be admitted pending transcript review “over the counter” **and through appeals**. Middle School students: We had higher scoring and a higher number of applicants this year. We mailed out the letters and await seat responses. We formed the Peninsula Priority Waiting List again. However this year, seat offering is not guaranteed unless the following two things happen: 1) A seat opens up in their respective geographic zone. 2) The student attends all 9 summer sessions and receives approval from the summer teacher that he/she is ready for admittance to Scholars’ Academy or not. One must keep in mind that we offered slightly more seats than we are able to fill, so it is difficult to accurately predict likelihood of seat offering. Still, we want to be in a position to offer these students seats pending summer work/analysis/approval if a seat becomes available.
- 10) **New Assistant Principal Appointed:** Welcome to Ms. Smyth who is now a full-time appointed Assistant Principal!

Michele Smyth

From: O'Connell Brian (27Q323)
Sent: Wed 5/12/2010 11:40 AM
To: O'Connell Brian (27Q323); Smyth Michele (27Q323)
Subject: Principal's Report, any additions...draft, do not share but with me.

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- This adjustments also lengthens the instructional period for each class from 42 minutes to 48 minutes or 50 minutes depending upon teacher homeroom vote.
- We are still working out any coursework implications. For example grade six will possibly lose foreign language rotation, but could potentially receive Spanish in their program. Sixth grade will still have 3 periods of

physical education per week which is more than the mandated requirement.

- We will be able to maintain our cohort structure.

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