



The Scholars' Academy

An Accelerated College Preparatory School for Grades 6-12
27Q323, A Knowledge Network Teaching and Learning Organization
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June 28, 2010

Dear Parents & Guardians,

As the school year comes to a close, we would like to take this opportunity to inform you of several changes that will be in effect for the 2010-2011 school year. We are dedicated to maintaining the academic and structural foundation that has been paramount to the success and rigor of Scholars' Academy. Please read through a summary of the programming and logistical implications for September.

1. **Yellow School Bus Service:** Due to citywide budget cuts, our variance for full yellow bus service for all middle school students has been revoked. In most cases, sixth grade students who live between one and five miles from the school will continue to receive yellow bus service. All other students will be provided with a Metro card for public transportation. Parents are encouraged to file an individual variance to maintain bus service by following the directions on the school website. Parents and guardians may also wish to explore the option of acquiring private transportation (see our school website for information). OPT Phone #718-392-8855; website Opt-osfns.org
2. **Middle School Regents Exams:** There is a change in the Regents regulations from the State Education Department that grade seven students are no longer eligible to take regents examinations. We have received a waiver from the State Board of Regents to enable us to credit our current grade seven students, as well as all previous grade seven students, for passing scores on the Living Environment Regents. However, as of now, we will not be able to credit any additional students in grade seven for this exam. Accelerated courses and regents exams are reserved for students in grade eight only. We have applied for an additional waiver and we are awaiting a response. In the meantime, we will continue to utilize the living environment curriculum as our seventh grade science course. If we are not able to administer the regents examination, we will provide further information in the spring of 2011 to inform you of the science curriculum for grade 8. Our grade 8 and high school science curriculum would be adjusted for the 2011-2012 school year if necessary.
3. **Bell Schedule & Period Length:** The additional contractual time required by the UFT contract will be included in the regular school day, resulting in a standard schedule of 8:00AM-2:50PM, Monday through Friday for middle school students, and 8:45AM-3:35PM for high school students (with varied dismissal times). The

length of each period will be increased. Homerooms and the basic cohort structure will be maintained.

4. **Elective Courses:** Students in grades 7 & 8 will be enrolled in an elective courses, such as drama, film, set design, etc., four periods per week in lieu of extended day. The elective period will take place during the school day. Student preference will be carefully considered when assigning these courses. Grade six foreign language exposure program will be discontinued. Students in grades 9 & 10 will continue to be enrolled in an elective course two periods per week, with consideration to student preference.
5. **Band Program:** High school band will continue to meet five periods per week during the first period (8:00-8:45). The middle school band (grades 7 & 8 only) will meet four times per week as the elective course during the school day. The grade six developmental band program will be continued as an after-school program from 3pm to 4pm three days per week. Detailed information for the grade six developmental band program will be provided in September.
6. **Advanced Placement / College Courses:** We are planning to offer additional AP courses and courses for college credit including Advanced Biology, Advanced Chemistry, AP English Literature, AP US History and AP Statistics. Elective courses in science and mathematics will be offered as well for eligible juniors and seniors. Several of the AP courses for seniors will be online courses.
7. **Internship Program:** We will be developing an internship program for interested seniors. Seniors will be responsible to arrange for the internship with a business or organization. Applications are available on the school website and must be submitted to the school. Students who wish to experience a full day internship must submit their applications before the end of the school year so that programming may be arranged. The school will examine and approve all applications.
8. **Scholars' Academy Planners:** We will be distributing planners on the first day of school to the entire school. It is a school-wide expectation for all students to bring their planners to school daily and use them in every class to record conferencing notes, learning goals, action plans, homework assignments, test dates, school events and morning announcements. It is also recommended for parents and guardians to refer to them daily as well. The faculty will focus lessons on how students need to organize for effort and maintain positive work and study habits.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this letter. We are excited about the upcoming school year and we are confident that we will continue to achieve academic excellence. Summer assignments have been distributed to all students; please ensure your child does not leave their work for the last minute. We hope you have a restful, safe and enjoyable summer. We look forward to seeing you again in September. The first day of school is September 8th, 2010.

Sincerely,
Brian O'Connell
ToniMarie Sorrentino
Michele Smyth