



The purpose of this mailing is to afford every 6th grade child in the RCSD the opportunity to audition for School of the Arts.

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING SOTA, PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THE ENCLOSED APPLICATION IMMEDIATELY.**

If SOTA does not interest you, please disregard this mailing.  
Thank you.

October 26, 2015

Dear Parents and Students:

This packet contains information regarding the *School of the Arts* application process for entry into the seventh grade in the 2016-2017 academic school year. It also contains an application for *School of the Arts*. **This application must be completed and returned to *School of the Arts* by December 11, 2015.** Private, Parochial, and Charter School students must provide a copy of their most recent report card for verification of your child's current grade level.

PLEASE NOTE: If you apply to *School of the Arts*, you must also complete the *Schools of Choice Application Booklet* identifying alternative school choice or placement preferences in the event that your child is not selected to attend *School of the Arts*. This booklet will be mailed to district families in December. The RCSD Secondary School Selection Application is due January 29, 2016. If your child is not accepted into *School of the Arts* and you have not completed the *Schools of Choice Application Booklet*, your child's placement into grade 7 will be determined solely by seat availability.

All students applying to *School of the Arts* must complete a successful audition. Please refer to the next page for additional information.

If you have questions about *School of the Arts* please call our Audition Hotline at 324-3502.

If you have questions about the secondary school selection process, please contact the *Office of Student Equity and Placement* at 262-8241. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Brenda Pacheco  
Principal, School of the Arts

Alan Tirre  
Assistant Principal for the Arts  
School of the Arts

**Important Dates:**

- **November 18, 2015** - SOTA Open House
- **December 11, 2015** - Deadline for Completed SOTA Application
- **January 9, 2016** - High School EXPO  
*Attendee applications will be accepted for scheduling*
- **January 26-28, 2016** - SOTA Audition Dates  
*Please Save These Dates - Your child will be scheduled to audition on ONE of these days.*
- **January 29, 2016** - Deadline for Completed RCSD Schools of Choice Application

# School of the Arts Audition Process

AUDITION DATES: JANUARY 26-28, 2016 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM

## • Be available on audition dates.

Auditions will be scheduled by School of the Arts. Applicants cannot request specific dates and/or times.

## • Auditions CANNOT be rescheduled for any reason.

• You must select ONE art area in which to audition. Applications will *not* be processed if you choose more than one art area. Do not call School of the Arts to schedule an audition. All applicants will receive a letter with an audition date.

• Each audition will resemble a typical class - a lesson will be taught, in-class assignments will be given. Students will complete/perform their assignment during the class in front of their teachers and peers. Every audition will be measured according to a standard rubric. Each student will receive a numerical score from 1-10, 10 being the highest.

## All students are required to bring:

1. A written essay (5-7 sentences in length) explaining why they want to attend SOTA.
2. A letter of recommendation from a previous or current teacher (Teacher Recommendation Forms are available on-line at [www.rcsdk12.org/sota](http://www.rcsdk12.org/sota)).

## Additional Audition Requirements by Art Area

### CREATIVE WRITING

#### Please bring:

- A full portfolio of your written work reflecting different genres and styles. Each portfolio should include a varied selection of poetry (rhymed and unrhymed), a varied selection of fiction (short stories, plays) and a variety of non-fiction work (essays, book reports, journalism, reviews, class projects that reflect research, etc.) Additionally, please include original drafts of work that has been revised.
- Pencil, pen (blue or black ink only). Paper will be provided.

#### You MAY be requested to:

- Participate in a writing workshop.

### DANCE

#### Please bring:

- Dance attire (leotard, tights) or close-fitting athletic wear (no shorts – no bare legs).
- For safety, use dance shoes or bare feet.
- A cassette or CD of music for the piece you will perform
- A list of any private lessons (past or present) or school extra-curricular activities (sports, clubs, etc.) in which you participate

### DANCE (Continued)

#### You MAY be requested to:

- Present a short dance sequence (at least 30 seconds to 1 minute in length).
- Respond to teacher-directed combinations.

### DRAMA

#### Please bring:

- A brief (approximately 100 words) memorized monologue from either a play or book in the first person (do not use speeches or rhyming poems). Your English teacher or librarian might be a wonderful resource.

#### You MAY be requested to:

- Do some improvisation.
- Do a short reading of our choice.
- Demonstrate ability to convey stage presence, emotion, body movement and response to direction.

### INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC (Band & Strings)

#### Please bring:

- Your instrument.
- One or two prepared selections.
- Sheet-music sample(s) or book(s) of music you are playing at this time.

#### You MAY be requested to:

- Play three major scales from memory.
- Play at least one prepared piece.
- Demonstrate sight reading ability.
- Set drummers will be requested to play at least three (3) of the following styles: swing, samba, funk, rock, bossa nova, disco, shuffle, jazz or waltz.

### PIANO

#### Please bring:

- One or two prepared selections.
- Sheet music sample(s) or book(s) of music that you are playing at this time

#### You MAY be requested to:

- Play three scales with both hands from memory.
- Demonstrate sight reading ability.
- Play a simple arrangement of Beethoven's "Ode to Joy"
- Play at least one additional prepared piece.

### VOCAL MUSIC

#### Please bring:

- A copy of the sheet music for your prepared song.

#### You MAY be requested to:

- Sing one major scale.

### VOCAL MUSIC (Continued)

- Sing "America" (My Country, 'Tis of Thee). Diction is an important part of this segment.
- Sing one prepared song of your choice. An accompanist will be provided.
- Sight-sing a simple four measure melody.

### THEATRE TECHNOLOGY

#### Please bring any three of the following:

- A Drawing, Painting or Paper Mache project that you created at home or in your art class that you are proud of.
- Your ideas for a Dollhouse Ground Plan (living room, kitchen, bedroom, etc.)
- Something built from wood, like a box or bird house.
- A list of sets and props from an episode of your favorite TV show, movie or cartoon.
- Your ideas or plans about how you would build a bookshelf.
- An example of Computer Art or Computer Drawing you created.

#### You MAY be requested to:

- Do measuring activities with a standard ruler.
- Draw pictures based on moods/emotion/words, problem solve in a group activity, follow instructions to build a simple object.
- Work with basic hand tools.
- Learn to use a computer for drawing.

### VISUAL ARTS

#### Please bring:

- #2 pencil
  - Sample drawing (pencil drawing of an old shoe on a piece of 8.5" x 11" white paper that will be left at the audition)
  - Student Portfolio
- A Student Portfolio should include several samples of your best 2-dimensional art work. Students should include a collection of art work from their art classes in addition to items from your sketchbook (no cartoons or super heroes). In addition, please be sure to include the following types of drawings; 1) A Self-Portrait. 2) A Still-Life. 3) A Landscape (a view from outside or a picture of a room). Students may also bring examples of 3-dimensional work (a sculpture, a ceramic piece, etc.).

#### You MAY be requested to:

- Participate in a 3-4 hour long Visual Arts class. Class activities will include creativity, problem solving and writing exercises as well as creating two-dimensional and three-dimensional artwork.
- Respond to questions about your art work and art processes during an interview

**SOTA Applicants Must Successfully Complete an Arts Audition and Provide Proof of Residency Upon Acceptance.**

- Please visit [www.rcsdk12.org/sota](http://www.rcsdk12.org/sota) for more details -



# CELEBRATING STUDENT SUCCESS

## Academic - *Artistic* - **Humanistic**



School of the Arts will host its Annual Schools of Choice Open House on Wednesday, November 19, 2015 for prospective students and their families. The event begins promptly at 6:30 PM and will conclude by 8:30 PM. The Open House offers students interested in SOTA's arts-based education a look at both the academics and arts curriculums taught at the school.

SOTA's Open House is a great way to decide if an arts-based education is right for your child. We encourage all students who feel strongly about the arts, and believe they have a talent to share, to join us that evening. We encourage parents see what makes the School of the Arts the highest performing school in the Rochester City School District.

**SCHOOL OF THE ARTS**  
SCHOOLS OF CHOICE OPEN HOUSE  
**November 18, 2015**

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM  
Doors Open at 6:00 PM

**SCHOOL OF THE ARTS APPLICATION ON BACK  
BRING AND HAND IN ON NOVEMBER 18!**

# Application for School of the Arts

Student Identification Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
(get this from your teacher or student identification cards)

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Number Street Apartment  
City State Zip Code

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(as per official RCSD records)

Current School: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

## Check the **ONE** area in which you will be auditioning:

- Creative Writing    Dance    Drama    Instrumental Music \_\_\_\_\_  
(Only One Instrument)
- Theatre Technology    Visual Arts    Vocal Music    Piano

### Waiting List:

Any student not chosen through the selection process will be placed on a waiting list that will expire at the end of August 2016. In the event of placement through the waiting list, direct contact will be made through a letter of acceptance or phone call to the student's home.

### Sibling Preference:

Students will be given preference for admission only if they pass the school's audition and have a sibling that currently attends the school and who will be attending the school next year. **While sibling preference increases the student's chances of admission, it does not guarantee placement.**

- My brother/sister currently attends *School of the Arts*.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sibling's Full Name

### Acknowledgement of Application Process:

- I have read the above information and understand that I must also fill out and submit the *RCSD Schools of Choice Application* by January 29, 2016.

Parent/Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Return Completed Application to:

SCHOOL OF THE ARTS  
45 Prince Street  
Rochester, NY 14607

**SOTA Application Deadline: December 11, 2015**