



TACOMA
SCHOOL
of the ARTS



sami
science and math institute



CHOOSE YOUR PASSION



“To see the new 3R’s (rigor, relationships and relevance) in action, you need look only as far as Tacoma’s School of the Arts.”

*Melinda French Gates
Co-Founder
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation*

HISTORY

- SOTA was established as a high school in Tacoma Public Schools in 2001
- SAMI was established as a high school in Tacoma Public Schools in 2009
- IDEA was established as a high school in Tacoma Public Schools in 2016
- Tacoma Public Schools is the second-largest school district in the State of Washington with nearly 29,000 students in pre K-12
- 1 out of every 5 high school students attend SOTA, SAMI and IDEA

RESULTS

- The highest graduation rates over the last 17 years. ranging from 92.5% to 100%
- 100% of juniors and seniors take college-level courses for college credit
- 87.1% of students go on to higher education
- 40% acceptance into highly selective 4-year universities and colleges
- 100% of students served in special education graduate with a standard diploma
- 12% of our students are in special education
- 100% of special education students are enrolled in general education classes

DIVERSITY, RIGOR & INCLUSION

- 46% of students are students of color
- 48% of students qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL)
- Some of the highest test scores (SBAC, HSPE, EOC) in our district and in the South Puget Sound Region
- SAT scores average 1480 with highest 2140 combined
- Students across the schools participate in year-long internships as juniors and seniors
- Over 20 college-level courses are offered to juniors and seniors while in high school
- Instructional staff on average have over 11 years of teaching experience
- 82% of staff members have a master’s degree or higher
- Many instructors are National Board Certified

MAJOR SUPPORTERS

- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- Russell Family Foundation
- Frank Russell Investment Company
- The Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation
- Washington State Arts Commission
- Robert B. McMillen Foundation
- Laird Norton Family Foundation
- Ben B. Cheney Foundation
- Washington STEM

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- Individual donations to Elements of Education (501(c)3 directly supports SOTA, SAMI, IDEA with donations that have exceeded \$4 million since 2001.

AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

- Kennedy Center’s National Schools of Distinction in Arts Education Award – (2010-11)
- OSPI STEM Lighthouse Award – (2011)
- OSPI Washington State Innovative Schools – (2011)
- OSPI School of Distinction – 2011
- Washington State Board of Education Achievement Award – (2012)
- OSPI School of Distinction – 2016