



2025-2026  
**School  
CHOICE  
Guide**



**MAGNET SCHOOLS AND SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS**



## Superintendent's Message

### Mission:

Building a globally competitive school system that educates the whole child through teaching, learning, collaboration, and innovation.

### Vision:

The Richmond County School System will provide an equitable education for all students to prepare them for life beyond the classroom.

Dear students and families,

As you make important decisions regarding the next academic year, we understand that choosing the right school is a critical decision for you and your family. We are deeply committed to being a partner in the education of every one of our students and we are excited to offer diverse coursework and programs that prepare them for a career after graduation. Our school system is proud to offer highly skilled educators, dedicated principals, and a team of counselors and specialists who are ready to work alongside you to ensure you receive the best possible support. Your success is at the heart of what we do.

As you explore the School Choice Guide, I encourage you to take advantage of the links embedded on the pages to learn more about these schools and programs. These resources provide insight into the experiences of current students and offer you the opportunity to hear directly from our outstanding program teachers.

Beyond the guide, we invite you to attend open house sessions hosted by our schools and specialized programs. These events will give you the chance to meet faculty, engage with current students, and experience firsthand the opportunities available in our district. Information about open house sessions, choice programs, and key dates can be found on our website at [rcboe.info/choice](http://rcboe.info/choice).

At Richmond County, we are committed to preparing students not only for success in the classroom but also for success in life. By embracing technology, engaging with meaningful content, and developing essential social skills, our students are on the path to becoming lifelong learners, ready for college or a career.

Once again, thank you for choosing the Richmond County School System. We look forward to partnering with you to support the educational journey of your child.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Bradshaw, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
Richmond County School System

### November 1, 2024:

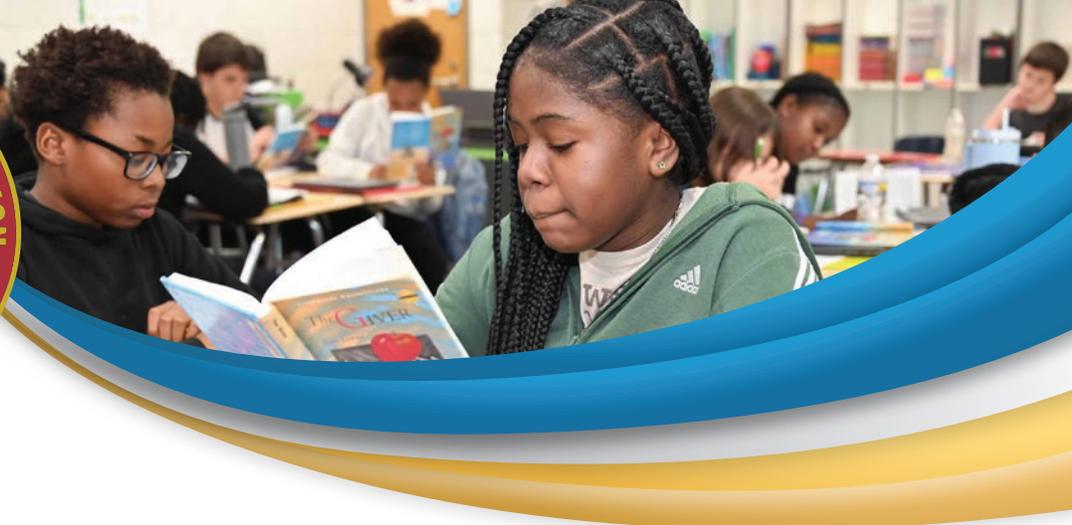
Applications open for magnet schools and specialized programs at 8 a.m.

### April 1 - May 1, 2025:

Spring Application Period.



Scan QR Code  
to Learn More About  
School Choice  
or visit  
[rcboe.info/choice](http://rcboe.info/choice)



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# What Is School Choice?

The Richmond County School System families are offered a variety of school choice options designed to meet the interests and academic needs of all our students.

Several of our schools offer specialized courses and programs open to all students in Richmond County. From International Baccalaureate Programmes to skilled trades, cybersecurity, robotics, and visual and performing arts, we have options to support your child(ren)'s diverse interests.

Our school system is also home to four nationally award-winning magnet schools that offer rigorous academic programs and special focus areas:

• [John S. Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School \(6-12\)](#)



• [A.R. Johnson Health Science and Engineering Magnet School \(6-12\)](#)



• [Richmond County Technical Career Magnet School \(RCTCM\) \(6-12\)](#)



• [C.T. Walker Traditional Magnet School \(K-5\)](#)



In addition to our magnet schools and specialized programs, which require a competitive application, we offer school choice options established by Georgia law to meet our families' needs. House Bill 251 (HB251) makes it possible to request a transfer to another school in Richmond County without a hardship. HB251 transfer applications are open November 1 through May 1 each year. Families residing in Richmond County may request a zone exemption from one school attendance zone to another for extreme hardships. The hardships include medical, financial, and bullying. Proof of the hardship must be presented on the application. The school must have available space to be considered for the request.

For HB251 and zone exemptions, any school that is above 90% of their enrollment capacity is not eligible for consideration for students who are out of zone. Any newly-opened school is ineligible for school choice for a period of four years.

**November 1, 2024:** Applications open for magnet schools and specialized programs at 8 a.m.

**April 1 - May 1, 2025:** Spring Application Period.



## Dedicated Magnet Schools and Specialized Programs: Application Requirements for Early Conditional Acceptance

### System Requirements for all Magnet Schools and Specialized Programs:

- For a competitive application, students should have a final average of 80 in each of the core subjects (math, reading, science, social studies), and conduct (grades 1-6) from the previous school year.
- Applicants are required to participate in the system-wide reading and math assessment.
- Students considered for admissions must perform on grade level or higher.
- Applicants must be residents of Richmond County to enroll in any Richmond County magnet school or specialized program.
- Kindergarten applicants must reach the age of 5 by September 1 of year enrolling.
- K-3 applicants must maintain a “B” average or a rating of 2 (for students with standards-based report cards), in language arts and math for the current school year; applicants in grades 4-11 must maintain an 80 average in each core subject.
- Students in grades 4-6 must also maintain a “B” average in conduct.
- At the end of the current school year, magnet school candidates must present cumulative current report cards.

### Students Currently Enrolled in the Richmond County School System:

Before you begin the application, you will need your child’s 9-digit student identification number. This number may be obtained from your child(ren)’s current school, the Infinite Campus Parent Portal, or your child(ren)’s report card. The number typically begins with the digits 300. This is NOT your child’s social security number. Providing this number will allow us to access your child’s grades and streamline the application process.

For information on how to access your Infinite Campus ParentPortal account, visit [rcboe.org/parentportal](http://rcboe.org/parentportal).

### Students NOT Currently Enrolled in the Richmond County School System:

- Before you begin the application, you will need a copy of your child(ren)’s report card for the last school year (unless you are applying to kindergarten).
- Students applying to 10th, 11th, or 12th grade will also be required to submit a current high school transcript.
- During the online application process, you will be prompted to upload supporting documents. If you are unable to upload required documents, **please mail them to the address below**. All items must be postmarked **by January 6:**

**Richmond County School System**  
**Attn: Magnet/Choice Application**  
**864 Broad Street • Augusta, GA 30901**  
[rcboe.info/SchoolChoice](http://rcboe.info/SchoolChoice)



## Transportation

The following magnet schools and specialized programs offer transportation to and from school using a shuttle bus system:

- [Academy of Richmond County](#)
- [A.R. Johnson Health Science and Engineering Magnet School](#)
- [C.T. Walker Traditional Magnet School](#)
- [John S. Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School](#)
- [Lucy C. Laney Comprehensive High School](#)
- [Richmond County Technical Career Magnet School](#)



## 2025 Magnet School and Specialized Program Testing Schedule

All students applying to magnet schools and specialized programs must participate in a reading and math readiness assessment.

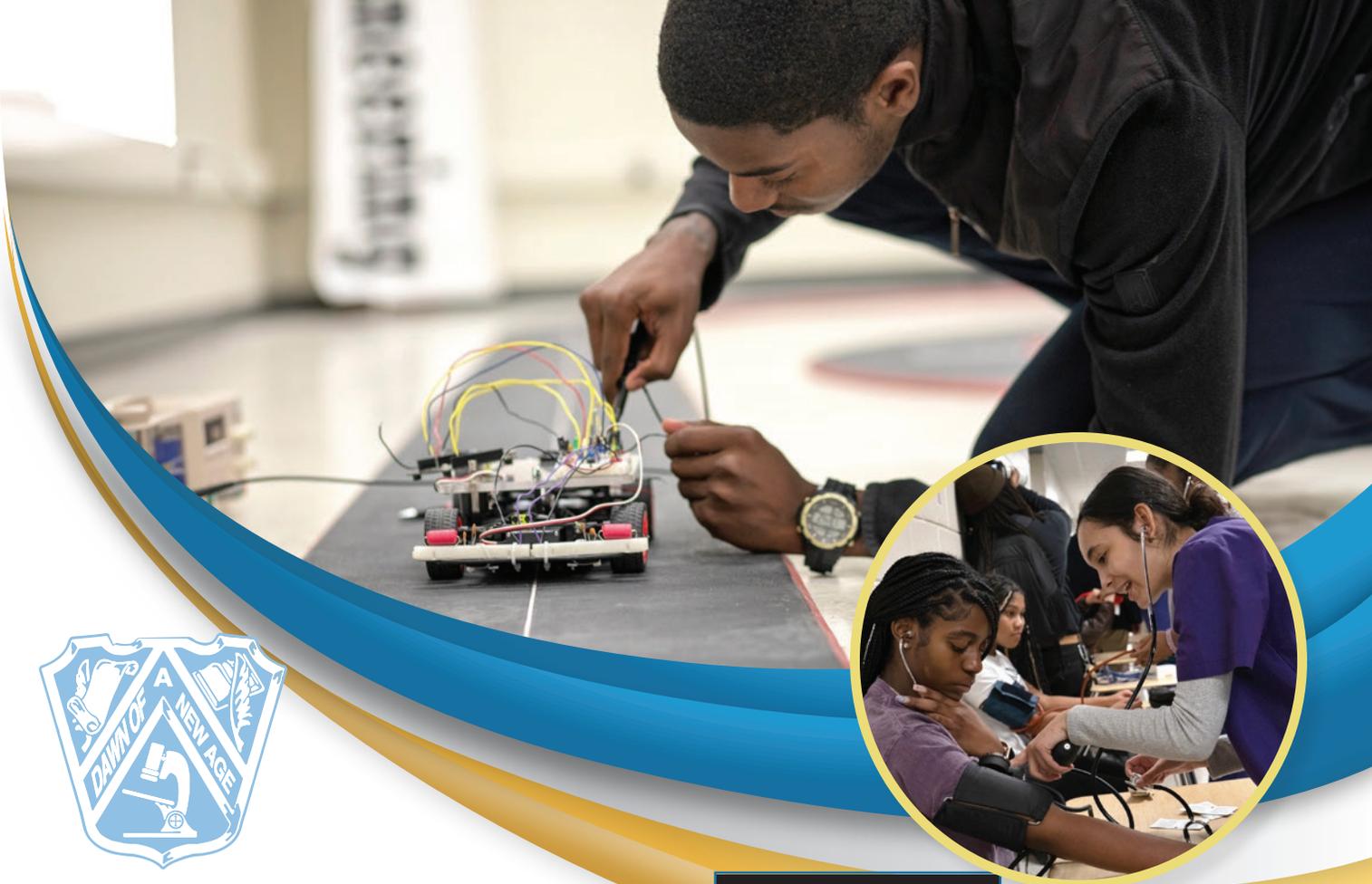
During the application process parents can select a preferred testing date and location. Students will take the test according to the grade for which they are applying.

**For Example: Students applying to kindergarten will test with kindergarten at Warren Road or C.T. Walker Magnet School.**

Grade Level	January 29, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.	February 1, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.	February 1, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.	February 1, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.
<b>Kindergarten</b>	Warren Road Elementary	C.T. Walker	C.T. Walker	
<b>1st-5th grade *</b>	Copeland Elementary Garrett Elementary	A. Dorothy Hains Elementary*		Lake Forest Hills Elementary Hephzibah Elementary
<b>6th-12th grade **</b>	Academy of Richmond County Davidson Fine Arts Laney High**	Hephzibah High Tutt Middle		A.R. Johnson RCTCM

\*1st-5th grade applicants with testing accommodation plans will test at A. Dorothy Hains Elementary School - **February 1, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.**

\*\*6th-12th grade applicants with testing accommodation plans will test at Lucy C. Laney Comprehensive High School - **January 29, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.**



# A.R. Johnson Health Science & Engineering Magnet School

A.R. Johnson is a public magnet school serving students in grades 6-12. With a comprehensive STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) academic focus integrated into all content areas, students are equipped to explore their interests and enhance their skills across multiple disciplines. Students specialize in engineering or health sciences while gaining hands-on experience that not only deepens their understanding but also provides practical application of classroom knowledge. Students earn hours toward certification in select programs of study, preparing them for future careers in cutting-edge professions.

For more information visit [rcboe.info/ARJChoice](http://rcboe.info/ARJChoice).

## SPECIAL OFFERINGS

- ✓ Computer Programming
- ✓ Computer Science
- ✓ Emergency & Sports Medicine
- ✓ Engineering & Technology
- ✓ Healthcare Services & Public Health



Scan QR Code to Learn More.

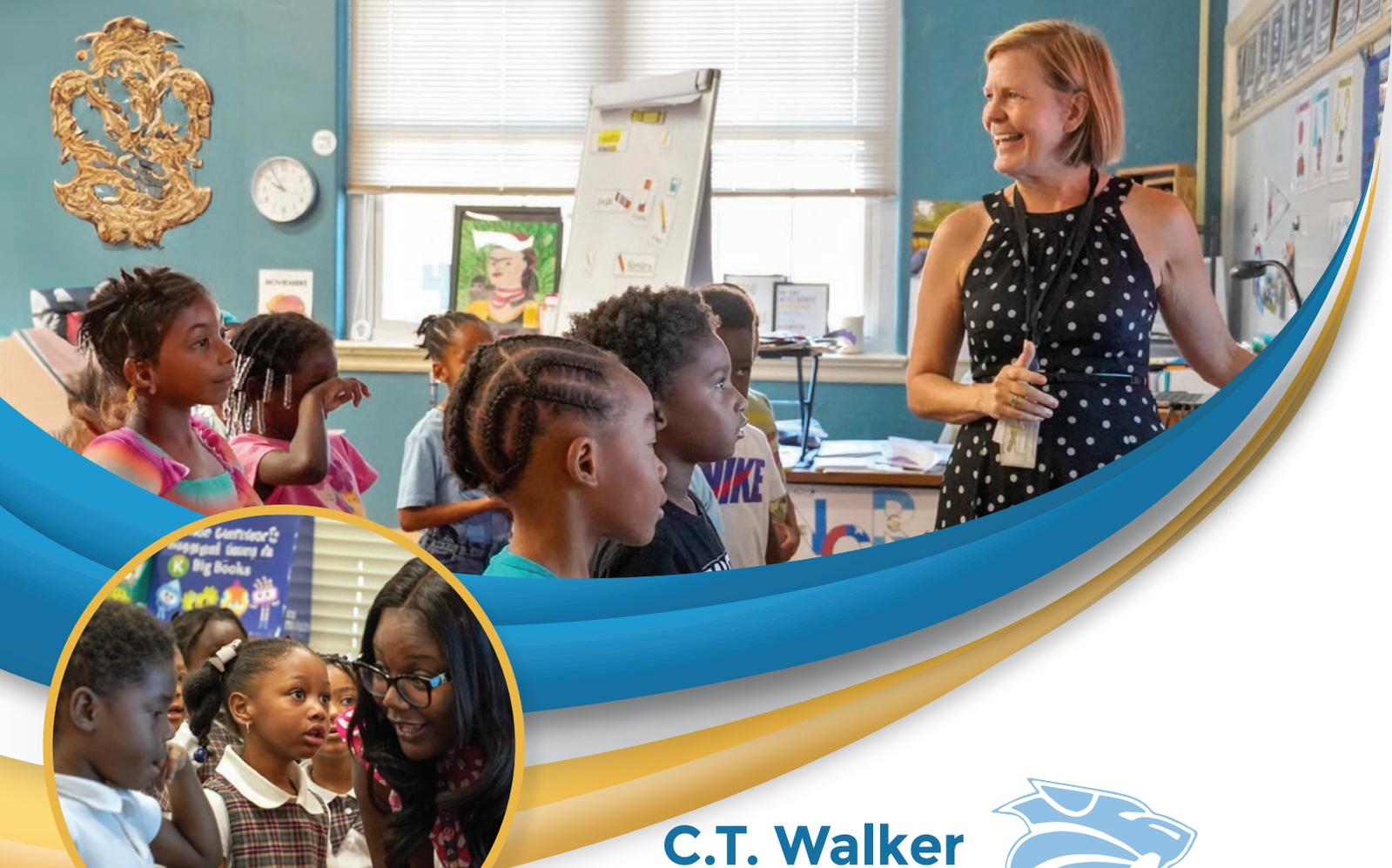
A.R. Johnson student Jonathan Ross, Jr. Was named a 2023 Gates Scholar. Only 750 students were selected out of 51,000 applicants across the nation.

## WHO IS BEST SUITED?

Students with a strong interest in STEAM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics)

Those who prefer hands-on learning and practical application of knowledge

Career-driven students with an analytical mind.



# C.T. Walker Traditional Magnet School



Scan QR Code to Learn More.

## SPECIAL OFFERINGS

- ✓ Civics and citizenship
- ✓ Manners and etiquette
- ✓ Classroom rituals and procedures

C.T. Walker was recognized by State Superintendent Richard Woods as a Literacy Leader during the 2024-2025 school year.

C.T. Walker Traditional Magnet School serves students in grades K-5. The school has a long and proud tradition of academic excellence spanning more than thirty years. The traditional program is committed to developing young citizens possessing leadership skills that are nurtured within and are demonstrated openly in service and responsibility to self, family, community, and country. C.T. Walker strives to instill the qualities of respect, patriotism, responsibility, and communication. C.T. Walker has been named a Georgia School of Excellence, a National Magnet School of Distinction by the Magnet Schools of America, and a 2019 National Blue Ribbon School.

For more information visit [rcboe.info/CTWalkerChoice](http://rcboe.info/CTWalkerChoice).

## WHO IS BEST SUITED?

Students who learn best in structured, routine environments

Those who value good citizenship in a democratic society

Those who respond successfully to high expectations for personal conduct and academics



# John S. Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School

John S. Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School was founded in 1981 as a pillar of excellence in academics and fine arts. In addition to rigorous academic preparation, students develop and explore the art forms of drama, dance, visual art, music and creative writing. Students specialize in areas of the arts as they advance each year.

This provides an enriching environment for the study of the arts, establishing Davidson as one the highest ranking schools in the state of Georgia and the nation. Davidson holds 11 national awards from the Magnet Schools for America, including Merit School of Distinction in 2024.

For more information visit [rcboe.info/DavidsonChoice](http://rcboe.info/DavidsonChoice).



- SPECIAL OFFERINGS**
- ✓ Music
  - ✓ Dance
  - ✓ Drama
  - ✓ Art
  - ✓ Creative writing



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Davidson ranked third out of more than 400 Georgia high schools by U.S. News and World Report in 2023.

WHO IS BEST SUITED?		
Self-disciplined students who are motivated to achieve.	Students who can specialize and advance in a specific area of study.	Those who can balance artistic expression with rigorous academic preparation.



**SPECIAL OFFERINGS**

- ✓ Cybersecurity
- ✓ Culinary Arts
- ✓ Networking
- ✓ Energy (Engineering)
- ✓ Robotics
- ✓ Audio/visual technology and film
- ✓ Web design
- ✓ Game design
- ✓ Entrepreneurship



Scan QR Code to Learn More.

# Richmond County Technical Career Magnet School (RCTCM)



RCTCM is a public magnet school serving students in grades 6–12. Students are admitted on selective criteria based upon prior school record, academic testing, and interest in computer science and technology fields. RCTCM is nextdoor neighbors to Augusta Technical College, where 40% of juniors and seniors participate in Dual Enrollment.

For more information visit [rcboe.info/RCTCMChoice](http://rcboe.info/RCTCMChoice).

RCTCM was ranked one of the top 60 high schools in Georgia by U.S. News and World Report in 2023.

WHO IS BEST SUITED?		
Ambitious students aiming to advance their academic careers by gaining real-world skills.	Students with a keen interest in technology, problem-solving, and digital systems.	Students who thrive in a technology-driven environment.



# Special Programs & Coursework

## Academy for Advanced Placement Studies



Advanced Placement (AP) Studies are designed to expose our high school students to rigorous, and accelerated curriculum. Successful candidates are challenged with opportunities in abstract thinking, problem-solving, and the use of higher-order thinking skills. Students who take AP classes are highly engaged and are working at least one grade level ahead of other students in their age group.

While all RCSS high schools offer AP courses, some schools are designated AP Academy schools. The Academy employs a schoolwide enrichment model and uses project-based, hands-on instructional techniques. The curriculum in these classes also helps prepare students who are interested in going to college after graduation. Completion of AP courses are exceptional addition to a college applications, and upon completion of the program students can receive an AP diploma. For more information visit [rcboe.info/AAPChoice](http://rcboe.info/AAPChoice).

### AP SCHOOLS

- [Lucy C. Laney Comprehensive High School](#)
- [Westside Comprehensive High School](#)

More than 60 RCSS students received recognition from the College Board for their exemplary AP scores in 2024.

Scan QR Code  
to Learn More.



### WHO IS BEST SUITED?

Highly engaged,  
abstract thinkers

Self-motivated students  
with a desire to excel

Intellectually curious and  
critical thinkers

Students willing to commit  
to college-level work



# Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts,

## STE(A)M

STE(A)M fuses arts and creativity with STEM to engage the whole child and foster high achievement in all areas by blending the arts, and sciences. Both STEM and STEAM employ the artistic process and scientific method of relying on exploration of ideas and possibilities. Both require high student engagement in exploring creative and critical thinking. STEAM compliments 21st century skills, particularly the “4 C’s:” creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and communication.

For more information visit [rcboe.info/STEAMChoice](http://rcboe.info/STEAMChoice).



Scan QR Code to Learn More.

- STEM & STEAM SCHOOLS**
- [Goshen Elementary School](#)
  - [A. Dorothy Hains Elementary School](#)
  - [A.R. Johnson Health Science & Engineering Magnet School](#)

WHO IS BEST SUITED?		
Intellectually curious and critical thinkers.	Students who thrive in environments that encourage exploration.	Students who respond to problem solving with fluency, flexibility, and originality



# Visual And Performing Arts

Visual and Performing Arts Programs develop a student's talents and passion for the arts.

Students receive specialized instruction in dance, music, theatre, and visual arts. As part of a strong academic program, the arts are approached through education, integration, and exposure.

At the elementary level, students receive weekly classes in each of the four arts disciplines, as well as arts-integrated instruction in grade-based classrooms.

Students continuing to middle and high school programs will receive more rigorous, intensive instruction in the visual and performing arts specific to their area of interest.

For more information visit [rcboe.info/ArtsChoice](http://rcboe.info/ArtsChoice).

Davidson won the Region 4-AA one-act play competition for the second year in a row during the 2023-2024 school year.

## WHO IS BEST SUITED?

Students committed to developing personal artistic abilities

Those who desire to participate in artistic exhibitions and performances

Students who work well independently and in groups

Those willing to receive constructive feedback for continued growth in the arts

## SPECIAL FEATURES

- Students receive instruction in dance, music, theatre arts, and visual arts
- Performance opportunities available at all levels
- Collaboration with businesses and community organizations to provide resources and give insight to the skills students need to become successful adults

## VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS SCHOOLS

- [Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School](#)
- [Garrett Elementary School](#)
- [Hephzibah Elementary School](#)
- [Warren Road Elementary School](#)



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# Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education (CTAE)



Scan QR Code to Learn More.

**Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education (CTAE)** provides students with the skills and knowledge needed to excel in a variety of career pathways. Through hands-on learning, industry certifications, and partnerships with local businesses, CTAE prepares students for success in both higher education and the workforce. Many schools offer CTAE-oriented course work and some schools and programs in our school system specialize in these fields.

For more information visit [rcboe.info/CTAEChoice](http://rcboe.info/CTAEChoice).

## SPECIAL OFFERINGS

- ✓ Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
- ✓ Audio/Video Technology and Film
- ✓ Automotive
- ✓ Business Management & Administration
- ✓ Computer Networking & Information Technology
- ✓ Cybersecurity
- ✓ Culinary Arts
- ✓ Education & Training
- ✓ Energy
- ✓ Electronics
- ✓ Finance
- ✓ Health Sciences
- ✓ Hospitality & Tourism
- ✓ Law & Public Safety
- ✓ Manufacturing
- ✓ Marketing

## WHO IS BEST SUITED?

- Students with a passion and intense drive to succeed with perseverance and determination.
- Those with a strong sense of self.
- Students who are adaptable to changing circumstances.
- Those with enterprising skills and desire to be their own boss.

## Programs of Study and Curriculum Maps

Contact your school to see what programs and classes are available.



# Cyber Academy Of Excellence

The Cyber Academy of Excellence is open to students attending our traditional and magnet high schools who wish to pursue Cybersecurity Training as well as seek Industry Certification.

The students are provided transportation to the Cyber Academy of Excellence at the Richmond County Technical Career Magnet School.

Cyber Academy of Excellence students have the opportunity to prepare for the CompTIA Security+ Certification while earning college credits and following the guidelines of the dual enrollment students.

The program delivers a technically-focused, security-related curriculum explicitly designed to address the fast-growing careers in cybersecurity and computer science. The interdisciplinary nature of the program allows potential students to develop deep technological skills and an understanding of the business, managerial, and administrative elements of networking and coding principles. For more information visit [rcboe.info/CyberacademyChoice](http://rcboe.info/CyberacademyChoice).



### WHO IS BEST SUITED?

Students who enjoy working with computers and digital platforms.

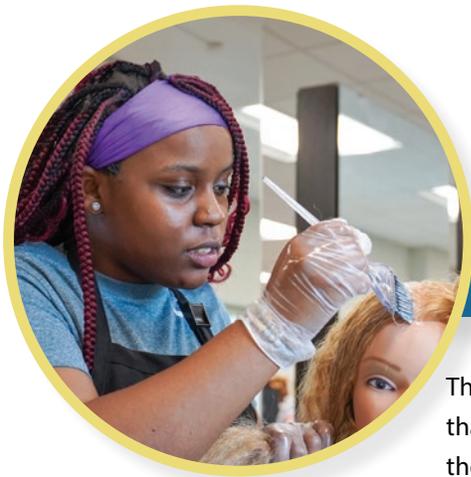
High school students who are passionate about cybersecurity and computer science.

### HOW TO APPLY:

See school guidance counselor or administrator for referral



Scan QR Code to Learn More.



## Marion E. Barnes Career Center



### SPECIAL OFFERINGS

- ✓ Barbering
- ✓ Carpentry
- ✓ Cosmetology
- ✓ Fine Furniture
- ✓ HVACR Electrical
- ✓ Low Voltage Electrical
- ✓ Masonry
- ✓ Nail Technology
- ✓ Plumbing
- ✓ Welding

The skilled trades center is a unique opportunity that provides hands-on experience for students of the Richmond County School System. Students are introduced to career fields related to manufacturing and skilled labor professions.

Students are afforded the opportunity to experience work-based learning, internships, and participate in volunteer efforts with Habitat for Humanity.

Success in any of these programs can lead to specified certifications, apprenticeship opportunities, post-secondary education, and possible employment immediately after graduation. Students wishing to participate are transported to the skilled trades center for specified courses.

For more information visit [rcboe.info/MEBCCChoice](http://rcboe.info/MEBCCChoice).

### WHO IS BEST SUITED?

Motivated and hardworking high school students

Students who need a flexible school/work schedule

### HOW TO APPLY:

See school guidance counselor or administrator for referral



Scan QR Code to Learn More.



# International Baccalaureate



The International Baccalaureate (IB) program is a rigorous program of study geared towards elementary, middle and high school students. The program focuses on critical thinking and international mindedness. Designed to reinforce a positive attitude, the IB program teaches students to ask challenging questions, reflect critically, develop research skills, and learn how to learn. The continuum of education spans from Kindergarten to 12th grade. IB schools maintain high standards by actively training and supporting teachers in the IB curriculum. IB schools are evaluated and authorized by the International Baccalaureate Organization in order to receive IB World School designation.

## PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAMME (PYP)

For K-5th grade students, the PYP nurtures and develops learners who are caring and active participants in a lifelong journey of learning. The PYP is an example of best educational practices globally, responding to the challenges and opportunities facing students in our rapidly changing world. By learning through inquiry and reflecting on their own learning, PYP students develop the knowledge, conceptual understandings, skills, and attributes of the IB Learner Profile to make a difference in their own lives, their communities, and beyond.

### OUR IB SCHOOLS

- [Lake Forest Hills Elementary School](#)
- [Hephzibah Comprehensive High School](#)
- [Tutt Middle School](#)
- [Hephzibah Middle School](#)
- [Copeland Elementary School](#)
- [Hephzibah Elementary School](#)
- [Academy of Richmond County \(ARC\)](#)



Scan QR Code to Learn More.



**MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME (MYP)**

For grades 6-10, MYP emphasizes the learning profile and focuses on an intensive study of core subjects, while integrating concept based learning through global contexts and key concepts. Students study a variety of disciplines and how they relate. MYP students complete community activities and service hours; a personal project is the culminating assessment for the program.

**DIPLOMA PROGRAMME (DP)**

For 11-12th grade students, DP is a two-year curriculum and among the most academically rigorous programs offered at the Academy of Richmond County (ARC). The program emphasizes intellectual and international understanding, responsible citizenship, and community service. Students are encouraged to sit for international exams with the opportunity to earn the IB Diploma are also required to complete Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS) hours, the Theory of Knowledge Course, and an Extended Essay.

**CAREER-RELATED PROGRAMME (CRP)**

The IB Career-Related Programme is rigorous 11th and 12th grade curriculum available at ARC that prepares students to enter college or the workforce. Students choose a career pathway, such as engineering or cybersecurity. In addition, CRP students take a selection of rigorous IB courses and engage in service learning, language acquisition, and reflection and investigation into ethical issues in their fields of study. Students who successfully complete the programme requirements earn the IB Career-Related Certificate and may also earn college credit.

**Think It's A Fit For You?**

Visit [rcboe.info/IBChoice](http://rcboe.info/IBChoice) to learn more.

**WHO IS BEST SUITED?**

Students with reading, writing, and mathematical skills at or above grade level.

Students with effective time management skills and basic computer skills.

Self-directed learners who are motivated and independent.

Caring, balanced, and open-minded students.

Students who are willing to take risks while maintaining principles.



## Reaching Potential Through Manufacturing

Reaching Potential through Manufacturing (RPM) is an exciting partnership between Textron Specialized Vehicles Inc. and the Richmond County School System, now nearing a decade of collaboration. This innovative program gives students a unique opportunity to catch up on their high school credits while earning an income and gaining hands-on work experience in a real manufacturing environment. With over 100 students enrolled, RPM combines classroom learning with a four-hour shift at a facility producing parts for top brands like E-Z Go®, Cushman®, Textron Off Road®, TUG™, and Douglas™ brands. Beyond the manufacturing floor, students also receive comprehensive support services, including therapeutic counseling, resumé building, interview preparation, and money management, all designed to equip them with the skills needed for long-term success as they work toward their high school diplomas. For more information visit [rcboe.info/RPTMChoice](http://rcboe.info/RPTMChoice).



**Think It's A Fit For You?**  
Contact your school's guidance counselor to learn more and apply.  
**Scan QR Code to Learn More .**

**HOW TO APPLY:**  
See school guidance counselor or administrator for referral

**WHO IS BEST SUITED?**  
Those who are interested in manufacturing careers.  
Students who can balance academics with earning an income and developing valuable life and career skills.



# Performance Learning Center

The Performance Learning Center (PLC) is a non-traditional, **virtual high school program in Richmond County** that offers an In-Person and At-Home Option for students. The school promotes high academic standards through the implementation of the curriculum set forth by the Georgia Department of Education and the expectations of the Richmond County School System. PLC provides a place where all students are challenged and expected to be responsible for their education; in this setting, teachers serve as learning facilitators.

The Performance Learning Center offers a strong curriculum with more than 100 possible course selections in math, science, language arts, social studies, visual art, physical education, and the Entrepreneurship Pathway in CTAE.

While attending PLC, students will master the knowledge and skills that will prepare them for success in technical school, college, the military, or the workforce.

For more information visit [rcboe.info/PLCChoice](http://rcboe.info/PLCChoice).



Scan QR Code to Learn More.

### HOW TO APPLY:

See school guidance counselor or administrator for referral

### WHO IS BEST SUITED?

Independent, motivated students

Students with strong computer skills

Students who wish to complete their coursework online rather than through a traditional approach



## House Bill 251 Application Period



### NOVEMBER 1 - MAY 1

Under a 2009 state law (OCGA 20-2-2131), parents may request a transfer to another public school within their local school district to specified schools and grades designated as having available space. Each year, the school system identifies schools with available space and accepts applications from families requesting a transfer under this law. **Applications are accepted November 1 – May 1 each year.** Remaining seats will be available for applications **July 1 - August 16.** The

list of schools with space available and the application can be found at [rcboe.org/choice](http://rcboe.org/choice). In the Richmond County School System, any school with an enrollment below 90% capacity is considered a participating school.

If a parent chooses to transfer a child to another school, Georgia law requires the parent assume all costs and responsibilities related to the transportation of the child to and from school, as long as the child remains at the school. If a parent does not enroll their child/children in the school they are approved to attend by the first week of school, the House Bill 251 becomes obsolete.

In addition, any change of school placement which is not the result of a bona fide change of residency may impact a student's eligibility to participate in Georgia High School Association sanctioned varsity activities and events for one calendar year. The parent or legal guardian is responsible for investigating and determining such impact on eligibility. Therefore, parents and guardians must make individual decisions about the consequences of accepting permissive transfers.

Visit [rcboe.org/choice](http://rcboe.org/choice) to learn more.



Scan QR Code  
to Learn More.

## House Bill 224 For Military Families

Effective July 1, 2017, Georgia House Bill 224 allows military families to attend any public school located within the school system where the military base or off-base military housing in which the student resides is located, provided space is available for additional enrollment.

Each year, the school system identifies schools with available space and accepts applications for military families to attend these schools. The list of schools with available space and the application can be found on the school system website [rcboe.org/choice](http://rcboe.org/choice).



1. Enroll the student in their Richmond County zoned public school.
2. Visit our website [rcboe.org/choice](http://rcboe.org/choice) and complete the online application to request a HB 224 transfer. The application to request a transfer must be completed within 30 days of enrollment.
3. In the event the number of transfer requests exceeds the available capacity in a particular school, requests will be approved based on the order in which they are received.
4. Parents will be notified of approval or denial by the email address provided on the application.
5. Once a request is approved, the parent assumes all costs and responsibilities related to transportation of their child to and from school so long as the child remains at the assigned school.



# Frequently Asked Questions

## Can I apply for School Choice AND Magnet Schools?

Yes. Parents can apply to both and then select the desired school if accepted to both. Decisions for the **2025-2026** enrollment must be made in the spring.

## Can I apply if I don't live in Richmond County, Georgia?

Yes, one may apply, but a student must be a resident of Richmond County at the time of registration in order to enroll. Students who are unable to provide proof of residency will forfeit their acceptance.

## Can I make a correction to my application once it has been submitted?

Changes can be made to the application between **November 1, 2024** through **January 5, 2025**. Parents can access the application using the account created during the application process.

## Why do I have to provide my child's zoned school?

Once accepted into a magnet program, this information is used to alert the zoned school that the student will not be attending next year. This information helps us accurately staff our schools. A student's zoned school is not shared with the admissions team.

## If my child is currently enrolled in a Richmond County School System school, can I find their student identification number in Parent Portal?

Yes. If you have an active account in Parent Portal, your child's student identification number appears in the top left information box under the name of the school. The number typically begins with the digits 300.

## Do I need to submit teacher recommendations?

Teacher recommendation letters are no longer a part of the application process.

## Can I submit a paper application instead of applying online?

All applications must be completed online. Assistance will be available every **Monday through Friday, 8am-5pm** during the months of **November and December** by calling **(706) 826-1136** or emailing **haddebr@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us**.

## Where/when will my child take the academic test?

During the application process, you will select a preferred testing date, time, and location. Your child will take the test at the location and will be considered for the program you selected, regardless of test location.

## Can my child attend a magnet school and participate in sports and/or extracurricular activities at their zoned school?

Students who are enrolled in a magnet school may not participate in sports and/or extracurricular activities at their zoned school or any other school. Richmond County Board of Education policy states that to be eligible for participation in athletics, an individual must be enrolled full-time in the school that sponsors the competitive activity. Students may participate in sports and/or extra-curricular activities that are offered at the school they are attending.

## How can I prepare my child for the magnet grades 1-12 testing?

Students applying for grades 1-12 will take a computerized Reading and Math assessment that will generate a Lexile and Quantile score. Students considered for admissions must perform on-grade level or higher. For more information about both measures, please visit **lexile.com** or **quantiles.com**. To best prepare your students, review the Georgia reading and math educational standards for your child's grade level. Students should arrive 30 minutes prior to testing for check-in. Students applying to grades 1-12 should bring their own pencils and headphones for testing. Students will be allowed to use the restroom and stretch between the two tests.

## What will my child need to bring to the academic test?

Students applying to grades 1-12 should bring their pencils and headphones. Students who do not bring headphones will not be able to accurately complete the assessment. Students applying to kindergarten do not need to bring any materials.

## Do I need to remain at the school while my student takes the test?

Parents will need to remain on campus in the waiting area. Since each student works at his or her own pace, testing times may vary between 45 minutes and 3 hours.

## Can my child be tested for kindergarten even if she is not yet old enough?

According to Georgia state law, students enrolling in kindergarten must reach the age of 5 by **September 1**.

## What do they need for Kindergarten testing

This is a paper and pencil test, so they don't need headphones.

## If my child is gifted, do they still need to participate in the testing?

Yes, all applicants must participate in testing.

## Why do I have to indicate my child's gifted status?

This information is shared with the receiving school after the student has been accepted to ensure that gifted services are in place once the student arrives in the fall. This information is a voluntary portion of the application. Parents who do not wish to reveal this information on the application are not required. This information is not shared with the admissions team.

## Can I change my mind about transportation?

Yes. If you change your mind, please let the school know during your March pre-registration meeting.

## If my child is accepted, can they start now?

This application process is for the 2025-2026 school year.



# COME WORK WITH US!

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Career Opportunities  
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2025-2026

# School CHOICE Guide



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[rcboe.org/choice](http://rcboe.org/choice)

## Application Dates

### MAGNET SCHOOLS AND SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS FALL/WINTER APPLICATION PERIOD

**November 1, 2024:** Applications open for magnet schools and specialized programs at 8 a.m.

**November And December 2024:** Schools host open house events for interested families.

**January 6, 2025:** Deadline to apply during Fall and Winter Application Period

**January 29 & February 1, 2025:** Academic testing sessions held

**February 14, 2025:** Davidson Fine Arts auditions held

**March 3, 2025:** Decision letters e-mailed



**Start Your Application Today!**

### SPRING APPLICATION TIMELINE FOR MAGNET AND SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS

**April 1 - May 1, 2025:** Spring Application Period

**May 10, 2025:** Spring Academic testing sessions held

**May 27 or 28, 2025:** Davidson Fine Arts auditions

**June 6, 2025:** Decision letters e-mailed

### HOUSE BILL 251 APPLICATION PERIOD

**November 1, 2024 - May 1, 2025:** Decision letters e-mailed on or before May 15, 2025

NOTE: Only programs with available space will be listed as options during the spring application window. Military families with PCS Orders that arrive in Augusta between January 1, 2025 through September 1, 2025 should contact the Central Office at (706) 826-1136.