

RICHMOND COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

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**Bell  
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REGISTER FOR  
**RCSS BUS  
TRANSPORTATION**



# RICHMOND COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM SCHOOLS

For more information about our schools, visit [rcboe.org/schools](http://rcboe.org/schools)

## **Elementary Schools (Pre-K-5)**

**A. Dorothy Hains Elementary School**  
1820 Windsor Spring Road  
Augusta, GA 30906 • (706) 796-4918

**Barton Chapel Elementary School**  
2329 Barton Chapel Road  
Augusta, GA 30906 • (706) 796-4955

**Bayvale Elementary School**  
3309 Milledgeville Road  
Augusta, GA 30909 • (706) 737-7255

**Belair Elementary School**  
3925 Harper Franklin Avenue  
Augusta, GA 30909 • (706) 821-2766

**Blythe Elementary School**  
290 Church Street  
Blythe, GA 30805 • (706) 592-4090

**Copeland Elementary School**  
1440 Jackson Road  
Augusta, GA 30909 • (706) 737-7228

**Deer Chase Elementary School**  
1780 Deer Chase Lane  
Hephzibah, GA 30815 • (706) 772-6240

**Diamond Lakes Elementary School**  
4153 Windsor Spring Road  
Hephzibah, GA 30815 • (706) 771-2881

**Glenn Hills Elementary School**  
2838 Glenn Hills Drive  
Augusta, GA 30906 • (706) 796-4942

**Goshen Elementary School**  
4040 Old Waynesboro Road  
Augusta, GA 30906 • (706) 796-4646

**Gracewood Elementary School**  
2032 Tobacco Road  
Augusta, GA 30906 • (706) 796-4969

**Hephzibah Elementary School**  
2542 Highway 88  
Hephzibah, GA 30815 • (706) 592-4561

**Jamestown Elementary School**  
3637 Heirs Boulevard  
Hephzibah, GA 30815 • (706) 796-4760

**Jenkins-White Elementary School**  
800 15th Avenue  
Augusta, GA 30901 • (706) 737-7266

**Lake Forest Hills Elementary School**  
3140 Lake Forest Drive  
Augusta, GA 30909 • (706) 737-7317

**Lamar-Milledge Elementary School**  
510 Eve Street  
Augusta, GA 30904 • (706) 737-7262

**McBean Elementary School**  
1165 Hephzibah McBean Road  
Hephzibah, GA 30815 • (706) 592-3723

**Meadowbrook Elementary School**  
3630 Goldfinch Drive  
Augusta, GA 30906 • (706) 796-4915

**Monte Sano Elementary School**  
2164 Richmond Avenue  
Augusta, GA 30904 • (706) 481-1813

**Richmond Hill Elementary School**  
2160 Mura Drive  
Augusta, GA 30906 • (706) 796-4940

**Sue Reynolds Elementary School**  
3840 Wrightsboro Road  
Augusta, GA 30909 • (706) 855-2540

**T. Harry Garrett Elementary School**  
1100 Eisenhower Drive  
Augusta, GA 30904 • (706) 737-7222

**Tobacco Road Elementary School**  
2397 Tobacco Road  
Augusta, GA 30906 • (706) 796-4658

**W.S. Hornsby Elementary School**  
310 Kentucky Avenue  
Augusta, GA 30901 • (706) 823-6928

**Warren Road Elementary School**  
311 Warren Road,  
Augusta, GA 30907 • (706) 868-4022

**Wheless Road Elementary School**  
2530 Wheless Road  
Augusta, GA 30906 • (706) 796-4985

**Wilkinson Gardens Elementary School**  
1925 Kratha Drive  
Augusta, GA 30906 • (706) 737-7219

## **Middle Schools (6-8)**

**Belair Middle School**  
150 Potential Way  
Augusta, GA 30906 • (706) 796-4952

**Glenn Hills Middle School**  
2941 Glenn Hills Drive  
Augusta, GA 30906 • (706) 796-4705

**Hephzibah Middle School**  
2427 Mims Road  
Hephzibah, GA 30815 • (706) 592-4534

**John M. Tutt Middle School**  
495 Boy Scout Road  
Augusta, GA 30909 • (706) 737-7288

**Murphey Middle School**  
1921 Eagles Way  
Augusta, GA 30904 • (706) 737-7350

**Pine Hill Middle School**  
2147 McElmurray Road  
Hephzibah, GA 30815 • (706) 592-3730

**Richmond Hill Middle School**  
3420 Julia Avenue  
Augusta, GA 30906 • (706) 796-4944

**W.S. Hornsby Middle School**  
320 Kentucky Avenue  
Augusta, GA 30901 • (706) 823-6960

## **K-8 Schools**

**Freedom Park K-8 School**  
345 42nd Street Building 43400  
Ft. Gordon, GA 30905 • (706) 796-8428

## **Magnet Schools**

**A.R. Johnson Health Science  
& Engineering Magnet School**  
1324 Laney-Walker Boulevard  
Augusta, GA 30901 • (706) 823-6933

**C. T. Walker Traditional Magnet School**  
1301 Wrightsboro Road  
Augusta, GA 30901 • (706) 823-6950

**John S. Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School**  
615 12th Street  
Augusta, GA 30901 • (706) 823-6924

**Richmond County Technical Career Magnet  
School (RCTCM)**  
3200B Augusta Tech Drive  
Augusta, GA 30906 • (706) 823-5580

## **High Schools (9-12)**

**The Academy of Richmond County**  
910 Russell Street  
Augusta, GA 30904 • (706) 737-7152

**Cross Creek Comprehensive High School**  
3855 Old Waynesboro Road  
Augusta, GA 30906 • (706) 772-8140

**George P. Butler  
Comprehensive High School**  
2011 Lumpkin Road  
Augusta, GA 30906 • (706) 796-4959

**Glenn Hills Comprehensive High School**  
2840 Glenn Hills Drive  
Augusta, GA 30906 • (706) 796-4924

**Hephzibah Comprehensive High School**  
4558 Brothersville Road  
Hephzibah, GA 30815 • (706) 592-2089

**Lucy C. Laney Comprehensive High School**  
1339 Laney Walker Boulevard  
Augusta, GA 30901 • (706) 823-6900

**T.W. Josey Comprehensive High School**  
1701 Fifteenth Street  
Augusta, GA 30901 • (706) 737-7360

**Westside Comprehensive High School**  
1002 Patriot's Way  
Augusta, GA 30907 • (706) 868-4030

## **Special Schools**

**Alternative School at Morgan Road**  
3635 Hiers Boulevard  
Hephzibah, GA 30815 • (706) 796-4992

**Cyber Academy of Excellence**  
3200B Augusta Tech Drive  
Augusta, GA 30906 • (706) 823-5580

**Marion E. Barnes Career Center**  
1701 15th Street  
Augusta, GA 30901 • (706) 737-7360 (ext. 2997)

**Performance Learning Center (PLC)**  
1740 Walton Way  
Augusta, GA 30904 • (706) 796-4965

**Reaching Potential Through  
Manufacturing (RPM)**  
2920 Mike Padgett Highway  
Augusta, GA 30906 • (706) 823-5690


**Sand Hills Center (GNETS)**  
1740 Walton Way  
Augusta, GA 30904 • (706) 796-7791

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**Richmond County School System (RCSS)**   
864 Broad Street  
Augusta, GA 30901

**RCSS Central Office:**   
(706) 826-1000

**District website**   
[rcboe.org](http://rcboe.org)

**Safety Tip Line:**   
(706) 828-1077

**Transportation Department:**   
(706) 796-4777

## follow us on our social media handles

  
@richmondcountyschools

  
@richmondcountyschools

  
@RCSSMedia

  
@Richmond County School System





## Letter from Interim Superintendent of Schools **Dr. Malinda Cobb**

**Dear Richmond County School System Families,**

Welcome to the 2025–2026 school year!

Whether you are returning or joining us for the first time, the Richmond County School System is excited to welcome you into a new year filled with opportunity, growth, and achievement.

This year marks an exciting new chapter for our school system—after a full year of collaboration with families, students, teachers, and community leaders, we are proud to introduce our 2025–2030 Strategic Map driven by our refreshed mission: Empowering Every Learner Every Day.

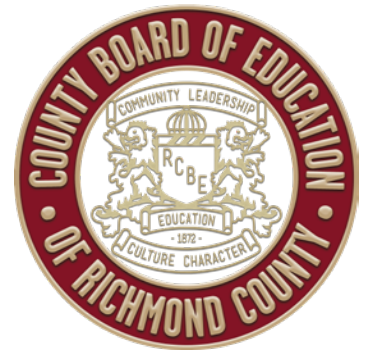
At the heart of this mission is the belief that everyone is a learner—our students, our staff, and our community. Learning doesn't stop at the classroom door, and it will take a strong partnership between families, schools, and the broader community to create supportive, engaging environments where students can achieve. Together, we will prepare every student to thrive, adapt, and lead in an ever-changing world.

This Welcome Guide is here to help you navigate the year ahead. Inside, you'll find stories of student and staff achievement, important information about academic calendars, student services, transportation, and ways to stay engaged in your child's education.

Thank you for choosing the Richmond County School System. We are honored to support your child's educational journey and look forward to a year of progress, connection, and success.

Wishing you a fantastic school year ahead,

Interim Superintendent of Schools



**Shawnda Stovall**  
President, District 1

**Edward Lowery**  
Vice President, District 6

**Charlie Hannah**  
District 2

**Walter H. Eubanks**  
District 3

**Shontae Boyd**  
District 4

**Monique Braswell**  
District 5

**Charlie Walker, Jr.**  
District 7

**Mary Jane Abbott**  
District 8

**Venus Cain**  
District 9 (at-large)  
Schools in Districts 1, 2, 4 & 5

**Samantha Valentine**  
District 10 (at-large)  
Schools in Districts 3, 6, 7 & 8

## **Board Meeting** Calendar 2025-2026

The Richmond County Board of Education (RCBOE) holds committee and regular meetings open to the public throughout the year.

Meeting agendas and a full schedule can be accessed on our website at [rcboe.org/BOE](https://rcboe.org/BOE)





# 2024-2025 RICHMOND COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Historic Improvements to Graduation Rate

The Class of 2024 marked a historic achievement with a 3.7% increase in the four-year graduation rate, reaching 81.7% — the highest on record for the district.

## College and Career Readiness Up Across All Schools

Our school system grew in every category of the College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI). CCRPI is Georgia's accountability system for K-12 schools that measures academic achievement and college and career readiness.

## District ACT Scores Rose by 3%

Our school system saw significant improvement in its 2024 ACT composite score, rising from 18.1 in 2023 to 19.5 at a 3% gain across high schools. More than 160 students took the test in the 2024 cohort and achieved the second-highest ACT composite score in the school system's history.

## Class of 2025 Graduates Earn More than \$41 Million in Scholarships

Class of 2025 spring graduates earned more than \$41.6 million in scholarships this year, highlighting their determination, talent, and hard work. Nearly 1,800 graduates crossed the Bell Auditorium stage during commencement exercises held from May 28–30, 2025.

## State Recognizes Academic Growth in RCSS Title I Schools

Eight schools were named Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) Progress Schools by the Georgia Department of Education for exceptional academic improvement:

- A. Dorothy Hains Elementary School
- Bayvale Elementary School
- Copeland Elementary School
- Glenn Hills Elementary School
- Jenkins White Elementary School
- Richmond Hill K-8 School  
(based on the 2023-2024 school year)
- Spirit Creek Middle School

## 10 Schools Named AP Honor Schools

Ten high schools were recognized as 2025 Advanced Placement (AP) Honor Schools by the Georgia Department of Education. The designation is based on performance in 2024 AP courses and exams and our schools earned distinction in multiple categories:

- **John S. Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School:** Recognized in six categories, including AP STEM Achievement, AP STEM, AP Challenge, AP Access & Support, AP School of Distinction, and more.
- **A.R. Johnson Health Science and Engineering Magnet School:** AP STEM and AP Challenge School.
- **Academy of Richmond County:** AP STEM and AP Expansion School.
- **Cross Creek and Westside Comprehensive High Schools:** AP STEM achievement.
- **Glenn Hills Comprehensive High School:** AP Challenge and AP Expansion School.
- **Lucy C. Laney Comprehensive High School:** AP Challenge School.
- **Richmond County Technical Career Magnet School (RCTCM) and George P. Butler and Hephzibah Comprehensive High Schools:** AP Expansion Schools.

## Richmond County School System School Calendar

Board Approved 3/18/25

| July '25 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su       | M  | Tu | W  | Th | F  | Sa |
|          |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  |
| 6        | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13       | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20       | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27       | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |

| August '25 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su         | M  | Tu | W  | Th | F  | Sa |
|            |    |    |    |    | 1  | 2  |
| 3          | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |
| 10         | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17         | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24         | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31         |    |    |    |    |    |    |

| September '25 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su            | M  | Tu | W  | Th | F  | Sa |
|               | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |
| 7             | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14            | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21            | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28            | 29 | 30 |    |    |    |    |

| October '25 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su          | M  | Tu | W  | Th | F  | Sa |
|             |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |
| 5           | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12          | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19          | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26          | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |

| November '25 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su           | M  | Tu | W  | Th | F  | Sa |
|              |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |
| 2            | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 9            | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16           | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23           | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30           |    |    |    |    |    |    |

| December '25 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su           | M  | Tu | W  | Th | F  | Sa |
|              | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |
| 7            | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14           | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21           | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28           | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |

|                |                                                    |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Jul 04         | Independence Day Holiday                           |
| July 28-Aug 01 | Preplanning Days                                   |
| Jul 31         | Elementary Open House (noon-6:00pm)                |
| Aug 01         | K-8, Magnet, Middle, High Open House (noon-6:00pm) |
| Aug 04 ★       | First Day of School - Elementary                   |
| Aug 05 ★       | First Day of School - K-8, Magnet, Middle and High |
| Sep 01         | Labor Day Holiday                                  |
| Sep 12         | Fall Semester Progress Report #1                   |
| Sep 15-Oct 10  | Fall Parent Conference Window                      |
| Oct 09         | PowerUp Asynchronous Learning Day                  |
| Oct 10         | Student Holiday/Professional Learning Day          |
| Oct 13-14      | Student/Teacher Fall Break                         |
| Oct 31         | Fall Semester Progress Report #2                   |
| Nov 11         | Veterans Day Holiday                               |
| Nov 24-28      | Thanksgiving Holiday                               |
| Dec 15-19      | Semester Exams                                     |
| Dec 19         | End of 1st Semester/Early Release (all grades)     |
| Dec 22-Jan 02  | Christmas/Winter Break                             |
| Jan 05         | Student Holiday/Professional Learning Day          |
| Jan 06         | Beginning of Second Semester                       |
| Jan 13         | Report Cards                                       |
| Jan 19         | Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday                    |
| Feb 12         | Spring Semester Progress Report #1                 |
| Feb 13         | Student Holiday/Professional Learning Day          |
| Feb 16         | Student/Teacher Holiday                            |
| Feb 17-Mar 16  | Spring Parent Conference Window                    |
| Mar 27         | Spring Semester Progress Report #2                 |
| Apr 03         | PowerUp Asynchronous Learning Day                  |
| Apr 06-13      | Spring Break                                       |
| May 18-22      | Semester Exams                                     |
| May 22         | Last Day of School/Early Release (all grades)      |
| May 25         | Memorial Day Holiday                               |
| May 26-27      | Post Planning Days                                 |
| May 27-29      | Graduation                                         |
| May 27         | Report Cards                                       |
| Jun 2-30       | Summer School (5 days a week)                      |
| Jun 19         | Juneteenth Holiday                                 |

|                       |                                    |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Teacher Planning Days | Early Release Days                 |
| Holidays              | PowerUp Asynchronous Learning Days |
| ★ First Day of School | ◇ Progress Reports                 |
| ○ Report Cards        |                                    |

### Weather-Related School Closings

For inclement weather, please tune to WJBF-TV, WAGT, WRDW-TV, or WGAC Radio for up-to-date information on school closings. Also, you can view the school system's website at [www.rcboe.org](http://www.rcboe.org). In the event of inclement weather or school closure, the school system will use PowerUp Asynchronous Learning Days and scheduled PowerUp Days will revert to in-person learning days.

The Richmond County School System will operate 5 days a week throughout the summer.



Scan for Updated  
School Time  
and Calendar  
information

| January '26 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su          | M  | Tu | W  | Th | F  | Sa |
|             |    |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  |
| 4           | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |
| 11          | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18          | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25          | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

| February '26 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su           | M  | Tu | W  | Th | F  | Sa |
| 1            | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| 8            | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15           | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22           | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |

| March '26 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su        | M  | Tu | W  | Th | F  | Sa |
| 1         | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| 8         | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15        | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22        | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29        | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |    |

| April '26 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su        | M  | Tu | W  | Th | F  | Sa |
|           |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |
| 5         | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12        | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19        | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26        | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |    |

| May '26 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su      | M  | Tu | W  | Th | F  | Sa |
|         |    |    |    |    | 1  | 2  |
| 3       | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |
| 10      | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17      | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24      | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31      |    |    |    |    |    |    |

| June '26 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su       | M  | Tu | W  | Th | F  | Sa |
|          | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |
| 7        | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14       | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21       | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28       | 29 | 30 |    |    |    |    |

# RICHMOND COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

# BELL SCHEDULES

## First Tier Schools ..... 7:25 a.m.-2:15 p.m.

**Elementary, K8** – Bayvale, Copeland, Deer Chase, Diamond Lakes, Freedom Park K-8, Garrett, Glenn Hills Elementary, Hains, Lake Forest Hills, Lamar-Milledge, Monte Sano, and Wheelless Road

**High** – G. P. Butler, Cross Creek, Glenn Hills High, Hephzibah High, T.W. Josey, and Westside

## Second Tier Schools ..... 8:20 a.m.-3:10 p.m.

**Elementary** – Barton Chapel, Belair Elementary, Blythe, Jenkins-White, Goshen, Gracewood, Hephzibah Elementary, Jamestown, McBean, Meadowbrook, Richmond Hill Elementary, Sue Reynolds, Tobacco Road, Warren Road, W.S. Hornsby Elementary, and Wilkinson Gardens

**High** – Academy of Richmond County and Lucy C. Laney

## Third Tier Schools ..... 9:15 a.m.-4:20 p.m.

**Middle** – Belair Middle, Glenn Hills Middle, Hephzibah Middle, Langford, Murphey, Pine Hill, Richmond Hill Middle, Tutt, and W.S. Hornsby Middle

(The previous dismissal time of 4:05 PM will shift to 4:20 PM)

**NEW!**

Updated  
**Middle School**  
Bell Schedule  
**New Hours:**  
9:15 AM-4:20 PM



## Magnet Schools ..... 8:30 a.m.-3:25 p.m.

A.R. Johnson Health Science & Engineering Magnet School, C. T. Walker Traditional Magnet School, John S. Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School, Richmond County Technical Career Magnet School

## Special Schools & Programs

Cyber Academy, PLC ..... 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.  
Marion Barnes ..... 7:25 a.m.-2:15 p.m.  
GNETS ..... 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.  
RPM ..... 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.  
Alternative School  
at Morgan Road ..... 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

School supply lists will be posted on your child(ren)'s school website.

For up-to-date bell times see [rcboe.org/schools](http://rcboe.org/schools)



Add our Academic Calendar to Your Mobile Device! Scan the QR code or visit [rcboe.info/rcsscalendar](http://rcboe.info/rcsscalendar).

Click "subscribe" and select the calendar version for your device (Outlook, Google, Apple, Yahoo, or Other).





# CONNECT WITH US



**The Infinite Campus Parent Portal** is your one-stop shop for staying informed about your child's education. View real-time updates on grades, attendance, assignments, and school announcements. We also send important messages through email, voicemail, and text.

Visit our **Parent Portal** Support Page at **[rcboe.org/parentportal](https://rcboe.org/parentportal)** or contact your child's school for login assistance.



**Let's Talk** is our two-way communication tool to connect with us. Whether you have a question, concern, or suggestion, **Let's Talk** makes it easy to reach the right person and get a response.

Visit **[rcboe.org/letstalk](https://rcboe.org/letstalk)** to start a conversation.



**Peachjar** is our digital flyer system. Instead of sending paper flyers home in backpacks, we can deliver district and community flyers straight to your email.

Visit your school's website and click on the **Peachjar** button to access it today.



**Sprigeo** is our secure, anonymous reporting system that empowers students, parents, and community members to speak up about bullying, threats, mental health concerns, or other safety issues. Reports are routed to school and district staff, ensuring the right people are notified quickly.

Submit a report online at **[rcboe.info/safetytip](https://rcboe.info/safetytip)** or by downloading the Sprigeo app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.



## Read more stories that inspire

Get a closer look at the incredible work happening across our schools by visiting Our Stories **[rcboe.org/ourstories](https://rcboe.org/ourstories)**.



In our school system, communication is a two-way street—and we want to make it easy for you to stay informed, get involved, and share feedback. In this video, we'll walk you through the

many ways you can stay connected with your child(ren)'s school and our district. Scan QR code or visit

Scan QR code or visit **[rcboe.info/rcssengage](https://rcboe.info/rcssengage)** to watch video.





# BACK<sup>2</sup>SCHOOL

## Open House Dates

**July 31, Noon–6 p.m.**

Elementary Schools,

**August 1, Noon–6 p.m.**

K-8, Middle, High, Magnet Schools

## First Day of School

**August 4**

Elementary

## First Day of School

**August 5**

K-8, Middle, High, Magnet Schools

## Registration Information

### Early Online Registration:

**Open through July 25**

Assistance available over the phone from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

### On-Site Registration: **July 31**

8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at your child(ren)'s school

### Registration during Open House:

**July 31 & August 1**

# BACK<sup>2</sup>SCHOOL CHECKLIST

Make sure your family is ready for the first day of school with these important steps:

### ☐ **New to the District or Transferring Schools? Register Your Child(ren).**

Students who are new to the district or transferring schools within the district need to register.

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

### ☐ **Update Contact Information in Parent Portal**

Make sure all phone numbers and email addresses are up-to-date in the Infinite Campus Parent Portal so you can receive emails, texts, and phone calls with important updates.

Visit [rcboe.org/parentportal](http://rcboe.org/parentportal) for instructions on accessing the Parent Portal.

### ☐ **Add our academic calendar to your personal device.**

Scan the QR code or visit

[rcboe.info/rcsscalendar](http://rcboe.info/rcsscalendar). Click “subscribe” and select the calendar version for your device (Outlook, Google, Apple, Yahoo, or Other).

### ☐ **Attend Open House**

Meet your child's teachers, visit classrooms, and get important updates about the new school year. Check your school's website for Open House dates and times.

### ☐ **Update Immunizations**

Ensure your child's immunizations are current before the first day of school.

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

### ☐ **Check the School Supply List**

Visit your school's website for grade-level supply lists and other important back-to-school information.



For more back-to-school resources and updates, visit [rcboe.org/backtoschool](http://rcboe.org/backtoschool).



This plan is the result of months of collaboration by a strategic planning committee made up of teachers, school leaders, students, parents and district staff. Supported by the education organization Cognia, the committee examined the district's current position and charted a path forward based on data, feedback and shared priorities.

## The Richmond County School System has launched its 2025-2030 Strategic Map

Introducing a renewed mission, vision and belief statements that will guide the district's work over the next five years.

### Mission Statement:

Empowering Every Learner Every Day.

### Vision Statement:

To prepare every student to thrive, adapt, and lead in an ever-changing world.

### Belief Statements:

- Success is attainable for everyone.
- All students deserve a quality educational experience.
- Education is a shared responsibility.
- Transparency is a foundation of trust.
- Safety for all is a priority.



#### Student Achievement

##### Objective

Empower Every Learner to Take Ownership of their Learning.



#### Stakeholder Engagement & Communication

##### Objective

Engage with our Community using a Variety of Consistent Two-Way Communication Tools.



#### Talent Development

##### Objective

Foster Student and Staff Potential to Embrace Ongoing Growth and Development.



#### Safe & Secure Learning Environment

##### Objective

Provide a Safe and Secure Environment for All.



Learn more about our strategic direction.  
[rcboe.info/strategymap](https://rcboe.info/strategymap)





**NEW!**

RICHMOND COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM: REGISTER FOR

# BUS TRANSPORTATION



If your child(ren) needs school bus transportation for the 2025-2026 school year, registration is required, even if they've ridden the bus before.

To help us plan efficient, safe routes and ensure your child has a seat, all students must be registered each year through the **Infinite Campus Parent Portal**.



New Process Make Sure You are Registered!

## How to Register

Click or scan here to log in and register.

- ☐ Log in to your **Infinite Campus Parent Portal**
- ☐ Click "Online" Registration under "Shortcuts"

Choose:

- ☐ "Existing Families" if your child(ren) is already enrolled in RCSS
- ☐ "New Student Registration" if your child(ren) is new to RCSS
- ☐ Select the school year you're applying for.
- ☐ Complete the application and click "Submit"

**Visit our Parent Portal** page to learn how to activate or update your account.



## Need Help?

Visit [rcboe.org/busregistration](https://rcboe.org/busregistration)

Contact your child(ren)'s school for registration assistance



## Video Spotlight: LaQuandra Staley 2025 TEACHER of the Year

With two decades of teaching experience and a heart for student growth, LaQuandra Staley shines as this year's Richmond County Teacher of the Year.

A second-grade Gifted teacher at C.T. Walker Traditional Magnet School,

Staley is known for her dedication both inside and outside the classroom—as a cheerleading coach, instructional leader, and community volunteer. Her

passion for education is matched by her belief in every student's potential. "The reward of teaching,"

she says, "is witnessing the diversity of growth in your students and seeing evidence that the work you have committed to has made an impact."



Watch Staley reflect on her journey and share what it means to be Teacher of the Year



## Learning & ACHIEVEMENT

### Curriculum & Richmond Resources

**Richmond Resources** is the curriculum site for all grades in our school system. Parents and guardians can view Curriculum Maps outlining the lessons

students will be taught during the school year. These guides allow parents and guardians to engage with their child(ren) about the specific topics being taught.

Visit [rcboe.info/Maps](https://rcboe.info/Maps) to take a tour of curriculum and **Richmond Resources**.

"These are great times to connect with your child(ren)'s teachers"

### Set Your Child Up for Success: Parent Tips That Work

**1. Encourage regular attendance every day:** Regular attendance at school is directly tied to academic success. Studies show that students who do not attend school regularly struggle with daily assignments. That impacts grades, grade-level promotion, graduation requirements, and workforce readiness for the future.

**2. Attend Parent/Teacher Conferences:** Schools host parent/teacher conferences in the fall and spring semesters. These are great times to connect with your child(ren)'s teachers and chart their path to success. **Parent/Teacher** conference periods are listed on our academic calendar at [rcboe.org/calendar](https://rcboe.org/calendar).

### 3 Navigate Your Child(ren)'s Learning with Canvas:

Canvas is our online learning platform where teachers post lessons, assignments, and helpful resources to support classroom learning. We offer a free online orientation to guide families through the process. Visit [rcboe.info/canvascourse](https://rcboe.info/canvascourse) to take the orientation for students and parents.

### 4 Monitor Grades and Behavior in Infinite

**Campus:** The **Infinite Campus Parent Portal** isn't just for communication. You can view your child(ren)'s grades, attendance, and daily behavior through the Spotlight behavior management system. Visit [rcboe.org/spotlight](https://rcboe.org/spotlight) to learn more.

### 5 Prepare for PowerUp Asynchronous Learning

**Days:** Our academic calendar includes two **virtual learning** days where students will complete assignments on their school-issued devices.

Support your child in using their devices responsibly by taking the PowerUp for Parents Course at [rcboe.info/powerupparents](https://rcboe.info/powerupparents).

## What You Need to Know About Standardized Testing

Testing helps us understand how well students are learning key academic skills. Here is some information about some of the tests our students take periodically throughout the school year.

| Assessment                | Grades           | Subject/Focus                        | Purpose                                                                                              |
|---------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| i-Ready Diagnostic        | K-5, 6-8         | Math, English Language Arts (ELA)    | Measures progress, identifies needs, personalizes instruction, and tracks growth.                    |
| NWEA MAP Growth           | 9-12             | ELA, Math                            | Assesses achievement and growth; identifies what students know and what they're ready to learn next. |
| DRC Beacon Assessment     | 3-12             | Varies (based on academic standards) | Measures students' mastery of the academic standards.                                                |
| Georgia Milestones (GMAS) | 3-8, High School | ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies   | End-of-grade and end-of-course tests measuring how well students have learned state standards.       |
| YouScience                | 6-12             | Career Exploration                   | Identifies students' aptitudes and interests to help match them with suitable career paths.          |

Download our 2025-2026 testing calendar at [rcboe.org/testing](https://rcboe.org/testing).

## Free Tutoring & Extended Learning Opportunities

Our school system offers a variety of free online tutoring options for students of all grade levels.

| Name          | Who Can Use It          | How to Access                                                                             | Need help?                                                                                |
|---------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Varsity Tutor | All grade levels (K-12) | Log in through Launchpad on your child's school-issued device                             | Visit <a href="https://rcboe.org/tutoring">rcboe.org/tutoring</a>                         |
| GaTutors      | 9-12th grade students   | Visit <a href="https://gavirtualllearning.org/gatutor">gavirtualllearning.org/gatutor</a> | Visit <a href="https://gavirtualllearning.org/gatutor">gavirtualllearning.org/gatutor</a> |



# 2024-2025 RICHMOND COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM TEACHERS OF THE YEAR



## Elementary and K-8 School Teachers of the Year



**Judith Bohannon**  
Goshen  
Elementary School



**Tia Burton**  
Freedom Park  
K-8 School



**Selema Clay**  
Deer Chase  
Elementary School



**Christina Cochran**  
Barton Chapel  
Elementary School



**Tavia Cochran**  
Diamond Lakes  
Elementary School



**Veronica Daniels**  
Wheeler Road  
Elementary School



**Kristina De La Rosa**  
W.S. Hornsby  
Elementary School



**Rhonda Dennis**  
Jenkins-White  
Elementary School



**Pamela Doss**  
Richmond Hill  
K-8 School



**Beverly Franqui**  
Blythe  
Elementary School



**Stephanie Garrett**  
Hephzibah  
Elementary School



**Volante Henderson**  
A. Dorothy Hains  
Elementary School



**Patrice Jean-Pierre**  
Belair  
K-8 School



**Tennille Jefferson**  
Wilkinson Gardens  
Elementary School



**Valencia Mays**  
Sue Reynolds  
Elementary School



**Latrice Miller**  
Bayvale  
Elementary School



**Carnesha Milton**  
Lake Forest Hills  
Elementary School



**Cenise Milton**  
A. Brian Merry  
Elementary School



**Kimberly Yvette Moore**  
Tobacco Road  
Elementary School



**Santhia Murdaugh-Gist**  
Copeland  
Elementary School



**Stephanie Nelson**  
Lamar-Milledge  
Elementary School



**Dr. Erica Peek**  
Warren Road  
Elementary School



**MeLissa Scott**  
Jamestown  
Elementary School



**Tamika Shepherd**  
Glenn Hills  
Elementary School



**Shelia Shuler**  
Meadowbrook  
Elementary School



**Kaitlyn Smith**  
McBean  
Elementary School



**Elizabeth Spencer**  
Gracewood  
Elementary School



**LaQuandra Staley**  
C.T. Walker  
Traditional Magnet School



**Marcee Traylor**  
Monte Sano  
Elementary School



**Kathryn Williams**  
Garrett  
Elementary School



## Middle School Teachers of the Year



**Vicky Doggett**  
Glenn Hills  
Middle School



**Esther Herbert**  
Pine Hill  
Middle School



**Dapheny Janice**  
Hephzibah  
Middle School



**Belinda Jenkins**  
Tutt  
Middle School



**Jeannette Nobles**  
Murphey  
Middle School



**Angel Sims**  
Langford  
Middle School



**Dr. Jacquelyne Telgren**  
W.S. Hornsby  
Middle School



**Nicole Wilkes**  
Spirit Creek  
Middle School



**Sandra Cassady**  
The Alternative School  
at Morgan Road



**Valarie Thomas**  
eSchool Program

## Special Program Teachers of the Year

## High School Teachers of the Year



**James Brewer**  
John S. Davidson Fine  
Arts Magnet School



**Victoria Cook**  
George P. Butler  
Comprehensive High School



**LuTongel Few**  
Glenn Hills Comprehensive  
High School



**Tracey Gamble**  
Lucy C. Laney Comprehensive  
High School



**Marsha Gibson**  
Westside Comprehensive  
High School



**Dr. Stephanie Graham**  
Hephzibah Comprehensive  
High School



**Justin Russell**  
A.R. Johnson Health Science &  
Engineering Magnet School



**Swathi Velishala**  
T.W. Josey Comprehensive  
High School



**Juanita Walden**  
Richmond County Technical  
Career Magnet School



**Katie West**  
The Academy of  
Richmond County  
High School



**Shamika Zinnerman**  
Cross Creek Comprehensive  
High School



**LaQuandra Staley**

C.T. Walker Traditional  
Magnet School

**Valarie Thomas**

eSchool

**Beverly Franqui**

Blythe  
Elementary School

**Juanita Walden**

Richmond County  
Technical Career  
Magnet School

**Selema Clay**

Deer Chase  
Elementary School



## RCSS Graduation Ceremonies For Class of 2026

**Graduation Dates**  
**Wednesday, May 27**  
**Thursday, May 28**  
**Friday, May 29**

We are excited to celebrate Commencement with all of our high schools and magnet schools in May. Your school will share specific graduation details with you throughout the school year.

Stay up-to-date on graduation ceremonies or acquire live stream information at [rcboe.org/graduation](https://rcboe.org/graduation) to watch it live.



## Keep Learning Going During School Breaks

The **Richmond County School System** offers ways for students to keep learning outside of regular school hours. Saturday school is available at some schools to help students stay on track.

Families can also find fun and educational activities to keep students learning during summer, winter, and spring breaks. Resources are available for all grade levels and cover both core and elective subjects.

To learn more about Saturday school, contact your child's school. For break-time learning activities, visit [rcboe.org/BreakResources](https://rcboe.org/BreakResources).

## Graduation Pathways: What Students and Families Need to Know

Our vision is for every student to graduate from our school system prepared to thrive, adapt, and lead in an

ever-changing world. To earn a traditional high school diploma, students must complete at least **23 credits**. These include

specific courses in **English, math, science, social studies, health and PE, and electives**.

Some students may choose a different option called the **"Accelerated Career Pathway."** This program allows students to earn their high school diploma

by completing 9 high school credits and finishing either:

- ◀ **An associate degree,**
- ◀ **A technical college diploma,**
- or —
- ◀ **Two technical certificates in a career pathway that leads to an industry certification.**

Contact your school counselor to help chart your path to graduation.

Visit [rcboe.org/GradReqs](https://rcboe.org/GradReqs) for more information on grade-level promotion and graduation requirements.





## Programs & EXTRACURRICULARS

**"Beginning this school year, a new ticket pricing structure will be in place for athletic events"**

### Programs & Competitions

Students have the chance to join many different academic competitions throughout the school year like the academic decathlon, **Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl**, **math competition**, and more. Some events may lead to regional, state, or national competitions.

Visit [rcboe.org/competitionguide](https://rcboe.org/competitionguide) to learn more about programs available to students.

### Athletics

Our sports programs teach students about sportsmanship, strong morals, good behavior, and leadership. Each school provides details about tryouts and schedules for interested students.

Reach out to your school for more information about athletics. Visit [rcboe.org/athletics](https://rcboe.org/athletics) for weekly schedules.



### New Ticket Prices

Beginning this school year, a new ticket pricing structure will be in place for athletic events. We look forward to cheering on our teams together!

| Sport Category                      | Ticket Price |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| High School Football                | \$10.00      |
| High School Basketball              | \$10.00      |
| All Other High School Sports        | \$7.00       |
| Middle School Football & Basketball | \$7.00       |
| All Other Middle School Sports      | \$6.00       |

Visit [rcboe.info/gofan](https://rcboe.info/gofan) to purchase tickets.



## Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education (CTAE)

**CTAE** helps students build real-world skills and earn industry-recognized credentials before graduation. These career pathways combine academic courses with hands-on learning in fields like construction, cybersecurity, health science, and more. **With more than 30 CTAE** pathways available across our schools, students in middle and high school can explore careers they're passionate about while preparing for college or the workforce.

Visit [rcboe.org/ctae](https://rcboe.org/ctae) to see a full list of course offerings and contact your school counselor to learn which **CTAE** pathways are offered in your child(ren)'s school.

## Work-Based Learning (WBL) & Youth Apprenticeship

All of our high schools offer programs that combine classroom learning with productive, structured work experiences to help high school students pursue their career goals.

Contact your school counselor or reach out to the CTAE department at **(706) 826-1115** to learn more about program offerings and requirements.

## Career and Technical Student Organizations

Career Technical Student Organizations (**CTSOs**) connect classroom learning to real-world skills through leadership activities and competitions. Each **CTSO** is tied to a specific career pathway and supports what students are learning in class. Teachers often include **CTSO** projects in lessons to help students apply their knowledge in meaningful ways.

Contact your school guidance counselor or **CTAE** pathway teacher to learn more about how you can get involved.

## School Choice

Many of our schools offer programs like the International **Baccalaureate (IB)** Program and trades, cybersecurity, robotics, and art classes. Reach out to your school to learn more. There are also several magnet schools with different themes in our school system. Families can apply for **School Choice** at two different times of the year.

### Important Dates:

**November 1, 2025 - January 9, 2026:**  
**Fall/winter School Choice**  
application window.

**April 1 - May 1, 2026:**  
**Spring School Choice**  
application window.

Visit [rcboe.org/choice](https://rcboe.org/choice) to learn more and keep an eye out for our annual **School Choice** publication in the fall for a full list of programs and offerings.

## School Choice House Bill 251 Exemptions

Parents and guardians can ask to move to a different school in our school system if there is capacity at that school under **Georgia House Bill 251 (HB251)**. Families can apply for a School Choice HB251 exemption during two application windows in the year.

### Important Dates:

**November 1, 2025 - May 1, 2026:**  
Window to request a School Choice HB251 exemption.

**July 1 - August 5, 2026:** Additional application window for zone exemption at schools with capacity.

Visit [rcboe.org/hb251](https://rcboe.org/hb251) to learn more about transferring schools through **House Bill 251**.





# Family Resources & **SUPPORT**

## The RCSS Student Success Center

The Success Center is a “one-stop shop” where students and families can receive support to meet basic needs and overcome barriers to success. The center offers services focused on physical, emotional, and social well-being.

### Location:

**Tubman Education Center,**  
1740 Walton Way  
Augusta, GA

**Hours:** Monday–Friday,  
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

To learn more visit  
[rcboe.org/successcenter](http://rcboe.org/successcenter).

### Available Services:

- **Social Service Referrals**  
Connections to local agencies for assistance with housing, healthcare, mental health, and more.
- **Clothing Boutique –**  
Clothing, hygiene items, and laundry access by appointment.
- **Food Market –**  
Distributions will be held on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Families can also receive food any other time on an as needed basis.
- **Wraparound Support –**  
Staff can connect families with partner agencies for shelter, utility aid, transportation, and medical care.

## Bullying Prevention & Support



Scan QR Code  
to learn More

Every student deserves to feel safe, respected, and valued at school. If a student experiences or witnesses **bullying**, we encourage families to report it to a teacher, school administrator, or use our online reporting tool. The form sends reports quickly and directly to school leaders so they can respond promptly and provide support.

To report a **bullying** concern, please visit [rcboe.info/safetytip](http://rcboe.info/safetytip).

## Special Education Services

Our **Special Education** team works with families, students, teachers, and community members to support the development of our exceptional students academically, socially, and emotionally.

If you have any questions regarding your child’s **Individualized Education Plan** (IEP), please contact your child(ren)’s school or the **Special Education** office at **(706) 826-1132**.



# NURSE

OF THE YEAR

After six years as a school nurse and a lifelong career of service,

## Jerette Hurst

still finds joy in the small things—a smile from a student, a heartfelt thank-you, or helping a student feel safe and well. This year, Hurst's quiet impact was recognized when she was named the **2024-2025 Nurse of the Year**.

"I was actually shocked and amazed to hear that I was being acknowledged for my work," said Hurst on receiving the news. "Going about my day-to-day activities and knowing someone appreciates it—it gave me a sense of pride."

Hurst's path to school nursing started in the U.S. Army, where she served as a nurse before retiring in 2018. Wanting to continue giving back, she joined RCSS and now serves both W.S. Hornsby Elementary and Middle Schools. Each day, she manages everything from daily medications and chronic conditions to emotional crises and scraped knees.

One of her most memorable moments this year involved recognizing the symptoms of asthma in a student with no prior diagnosis. Her quick action and follow-up led to the student receiving treatment and returning to learning. "She came back to school about two days later, and thanked me for helping her feel better," said Hurst. "Just a simple thank you from her and knowing that I made her feel better reaffirmed my commitment to the students."

Hurst believes deeply in the link between health and learning. "Healthier students are happier students, and they learn better too," she said. "The role of the school nurse is to ensure that all students have the same opportunity academically."

Hurst credits her fellow school nurses for inspiring her growth, citing their diverse medical backgrounds and strong support system. Her advice for anyone considering school nursing: "Have a passion to make a positive impact on a person's life."



## English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Resources

**"We are committed to increasing English language proficiency levels in all English learners"**

Our **ESOL** team provides parents or legal guardians of English Language Learners with resources for families. We are committed to increasing English language proficiency levels in all English learners (**ELs**) in the school system.

Visit [rcboe.org/esol](https://rcboe.org/esol) to visit our **ESOL** coordinator and view the services we offer to our families.

## GreatSchools Newsletter

Find helpful resources for parents and guardians in The **GreatSchools** newsletter! Every edition includes education news and provides tips to help your child(ren) thrive in school and beyond. Pre-K thru eighth-grade families get weekly newsletters. Ninth-twelfth-grade students receive one monthly.

The **GreatSchools** newsletter is delivered straight to parent and guardian email inboxes. Visit [rcboe.org/parentportal](https://rcboe.org/parentportal) for instructions on updating your email address.



## Early **LEARNERS**

### The Basics: Early Learning Resources

The **Basics** program is designed for parents with children aged birth to 5 years old and supports vibrant learning and brain development among infants and toddlers. By signing up for the program, parents and guardians will receive guiding literature on how to help their children reach their full potential.

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

### Pre-K Program

Our **Pre-K program** includes a full day of instruction that helps our youngest students learn early social and academic skills. Children who will be four years old by September 1 are eligible for our **Pre-K program**. Applications for **Pre-K** slots are accepted each spring. Families who are placed in the program will be notified via email.

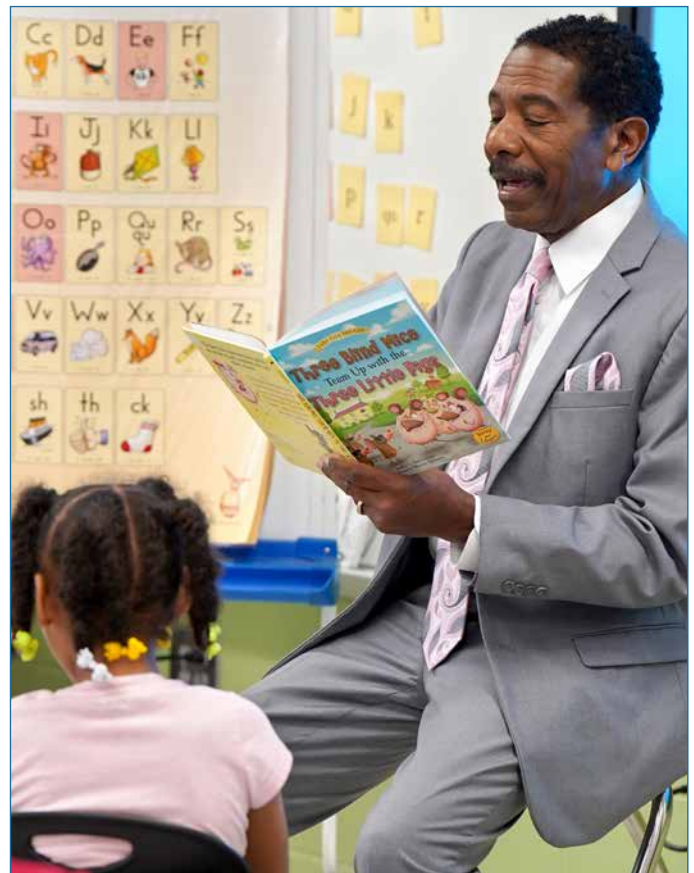
"We welcome parents, guardians, & community members to volunteer."

### Important Dates:

**March 1 – April 15:**

**Pre-K lottery** application window

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



## Engage With Us: **VOLUNTEER WITH THE RICHMOND COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM**

### Get Involved and Make a Difference

Our schools thrive when families and the community are involved.

We welcome parents, guardians, and community members to volunteer and help enrich the educational experiences for all students.

Reach out to your child(ren)'s school or visit our Parent & Family Engagement Volunteer page at [rcboe.org/volunteer](http://rcboe.org/volunteer) to learn more about how you can get involved.



Fueling a Love for Literacy:



# RAMONA NORA

LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST OF THE YEAR

When **Ramona Nora** steps into the media center at **W.S. Hornsby Middle School**, she's not just managing a library, she's expanding a world of possibilities for students.

A 20-year veteran of **RCSS**, **Nora** has spent the last six years at **Hornsby Middle**. She was first named the district's **Library Media Specialist of the Year** before earning the **2025 East Region** title from the **Georgia Library Media Association**.

"I was speechless," **Nora** said. "Knowing that there are **media specialists in Richmond County** who think enough of me and what I do to even vote for me, that's truly an honor."

After years as a classroom teacher, **Nora** transitioned to the media center to make a broader impact. "My principal encouraged me to expand my territory and try to reach more students," she said. "It felt like the media center was the perfect place for me because I love literacy. It's what I wanted to spend most of my time and focus on."

"I try to help my students develop a love for reading and learning by talking with them about books..."

Since then, **Nora** has made it her mission to spark curiosity and build confidence. This year, she helped launch a school-wide reading campaign with the **Hornsby Book Club**, complete with giveaways and prizes to encourage participation.

Her favorite part of the job, is helping students broaden their horizons.

"I try to help my students develop a love for reading and learning by talking with them about books, encouraging them to read something outside the box, and helping them build background knowledge so they can understand what they're reading," she said.

Under **Nora's** leadership, **Hornsby Middle** has won the district **Reading Bowl** competition four years in a row and placed second this year in the East Region after a dramatic triple tie-breaker finish.

As she prepares to represent **East Region 10** in the statewide competition this summer, **Nora** remains focused on what matters most: helping students discover a lifelong love of reading.





# Technology & **DIGITAL LEARNING**

Our educators integrate technology into daily learning through interactive white boards, computer and media labs, educational software, robotics and **STEM** kits. Students also have access to personal devices to complete classroom and home assignments. Students should contact their school for login assistance or technical support.

Visit [rcboe.org/powerup](https://rcboe.org/powerup) for more information about Power-Up technology.

## Device Insurance

Families can purchase optional insurance for their children's devices for \$32. Insurance covers two replacement devices during the 2025-2026 school year due to loss, stolen or damaged equipment. If insurance is not purchased, parents and guardians are responsible for the full cost of repairs, replacement, and/or damage that may happen to their children's devices.

Visit [schooldevicecoverage.com](https://schooldevicecoverage.com) to learn more about optional insurance.

## PowerUp Asynchronous Learning Days

Our academic calendar includes **PowerUp Asynchronous** Learning Days in the fall and spring semesters. These days count for attendance and allow students to work on projects and assignments at home, complete credit and grade recovery work, or study for upcoming tests. In the event of inclement weather, our **PowerUp** days will revert to in-person learning days.

## 2025-2026 PowerUp Asynchronous Learning Days:

**October 9, 2025**

**April 3, 2026**



## Transportation & SCHOOL NUTRITION

### School Bus Routes & Schedules

Our school buses have route numbers on both sides of the bus. You can track these routes using the **StopFinder Bus Tracking app**.

Visit [rcboe.info/busroutes](https://rcboe.info/busroutes) for bus stop locations, route numbers and times.

You will also get this information during **Open House** at your child(ren)'s school.

Download the **StopFinder Bus Tracking app** on the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. Visit [rcboe.info/stopfinder](https://rcboe.info/stopfinder) for instructions on how to download the **StopFinder app**.

Fill out our form  
for **StopFinder**  
registration  
assistance.



"Track your  
child's  
bus route  
using the  
**StopFinder**  
Bus  
Tracking  
App."

### School Bus SAFETY

Two times a year, our **Bus Safety** team visits all schools. They show students the right way to wait for a bus, get on and off safely, and what to do in an emergency.

Visit [rcboe.org/bussafety](https://rcboe.org/bussafety) to review bus safety tips with your child(ren).

### School Nutrition & FEES

The **RCSS Nutrition Services** provides breakfast and lunch to all students in our school system at no cost. We also provide after-school snack programs, breakfast in the classroom, second-chance breakfast, and grab-and-go carts. Reach out to your school to learn more.

Join Nutrition Services at Open House to receive your child(ren)'s assigned lunch number.

Visit [rcboe.org/menus](https://rcboe.org/menus) for the weekly breakfast and lunch menus.

Visit [rcboe.org/dietician](https://rcboe.org/dietician) if your child(ren) has special dietary needs.

## School Fees

Parents and guardians can use **MySchoolBucks** to pay school fees online. You can also use **MySchoolBucks** to buy extra lunch entrees or snack items at school.

Create a **free account** to pay for your child(ren)'s school fees on the web or through the mobile app.

**1.** Visit **[myschoolbucks.com](https://myschoolbucks.com)** or download the "MSB Parent, USA" mobile app on the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

**2.** Create your free account and add your child(ren)'s name(s) using their **school name/student ID**.

**3.** Add school items or invoices to your cart.

**4.** Check out using your credit/debit card or electronic check (a program fee will apply).

## School Safety & CULTURE

### School Safety & Support: Meet Your RCSS Police Officers

The **School Safety Department** is committed to creating safe and welcoming schools where students can focus on learning and growth. Our dedicated school resource officers help maintain a positive, disruption-free environment for students, educators, and staff. Our officers receive specialized training to work with students.

If your child ever has a safety concern, please encourage them to talk to a trusted adult at school or call our **Safety Tip Line** at **(706) 828-1077**.

### School Climate & The Code Of Conduct

When student behavior disrupts our learning environments, those violations are addressed through the process outlined in the **Code of Student Conduct and Discipline**. Students receive a copy of the **Code of Conduct** every school year, and we encourage families to review the book with their child(ren).

Visit **[rcboe.org/codeofconduct](https://rcboe.org/codeofconduct)** to learn more about our Code of Conduct.



**RCSS POLICE**

### Officer Receives Do Good Heroes Award

School Resource Officer  
**LeBrane Wallace**  
received the monthly National Life Group Do Good Heroes Award. Wallace was nominated by Charles Garrett of ValuTeachers and the administration team at **Hephzibah Comprehensive High School**.

"I was surprised when I found out," said LeBrane. "I try to be someone that kids can come to without feeling pressured and to be a mentor and someone they can look up to. I am glad I get the opportunity to do that."

As a school resource officer at Hephzibah, Officer LeBrane is committed to building meaningful relationships with students, staff, families, and the broader school community while ensuring a safe and supportive learning environment. He will also receive a \$500 donation to a nonprofit organization of his choice.



# Be the Hero OF YOUR STORY!

## RCSS Literacy Initiative

We believe strong reading skills open doors to every subject and every future. Through our literacy initiative, we're helping all students become confident, lifelong readers with engaging lessons, fun challenges, and easy access to books.

- **Track reading with Beanstack:** Students log reading, earn badges, and join challenges throughout the school year to make reading fun.
- **Free Library Access through PINES Play Cards:** Every student has a virtual public library card for access to books and digital resources. Visit [rcboe.org/librarycard](http://rcboe.org/librarycard) to learn more.
- **Literacy Events:** From guest author visits to community read-along events, to the Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl, our schools host literacy events all school year long.

*\* Family Tip: Ask your child what they're reading and read together at home when you can!*

Get started with Beanstack.  
Visit [rcboe.info/beanstack](http://rcboe.info/beanstack) or scan QR code to watch video.



# Full STEAM Ahead

## RCSS STEAM Initiative

Our Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) initiative sparks creativity, problem-solving, and innovation. Students across all grades take part in hands-on projects, coding, robotics, and design challenges that prepare them for the future.

### WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR:

- ◀ **Schoolwide STEAM Days and showcases**
- ◀ **School and district-wide science fairs**
- ◀ **Coding, robotics, and engineering challenges**
- ◀ **Arts-integrated learning to inspire creative thinking**

See it in action by visiting [rcboe.info/steam](http://rcboe.info/steam) or scan QR code to watch our STEAM Showcase!





# Richmond County School System

## STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

### STUDENT DIVERSITY



|                         |       |
|-------------------------|-------|
| BLACK                   | 75.7% |
| WHITE                   | 11.0% |
| HISPANIC                | 7.3%  |
| 2 OR MORE RACES         | 4.7%  |
| ASIAN /PACIFIC ISLANDER | 1.1%  |
| NATIVE AMERICAN         | 0.2%  |



**Graduation Rate** Based on 2024

**81.7%**

**Students Receiving Special Education Services**

**4,460**



**Median Household Income**

**\$53,197**

**Students Experiencing Homelessness**

**330**



### STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS



**Elementary**

14,291



**Middle**

6,178



**High**

8,236

**Total Number of Students 28,705**

Magnet school students are counted in Elementary, Middle, & High

### STUDENTS BY GENDER



**MALE**  
51%



**FEMALE**  
49%

### SCHOOLS



|                        |    |
|------------------------|----|
| Elementary .....       | 27 |
| K-8 .....              | 1  |
| Middle.....            | 8  |
| High .....             | 8  |
| Magnet .....           | 4  |
| Special Programs ..... | 5  |

**TOTAL 53**



**COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION (CEP)**

**Breakfast & Lunch At No Cost For All RCSS Students**

Richmond County Board of Education  
864 Broad Street  
Augusta, GA 30901  
(706) 826-1000

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

RICHMOND COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

# BACK2SCHOOL

## Open House Dates

**July 31, Noon - 6 p.m.**

Elementary Schools

**August 1, Noon - 6 p.m.**

K-8, Middle, High, Magnet Schools

**First Day of School - August 4**

Elementary

**First Day of School - August 5**

K-8, Middle, High, Magnet Schools

## Registration Information

Early Registration - **Open through July 25**

On-Site Registration - **July 31**

Registration during Open House - **July 31 & August 1**



Visit [rcboe.org/registration](http://rcboe.org/registration) for more information

