



RICHMOND COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

Programming and Competition Guide



Mission Statement

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

Vision Statement

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

Belief Statements

Every person can learn and has the right to a quality education.

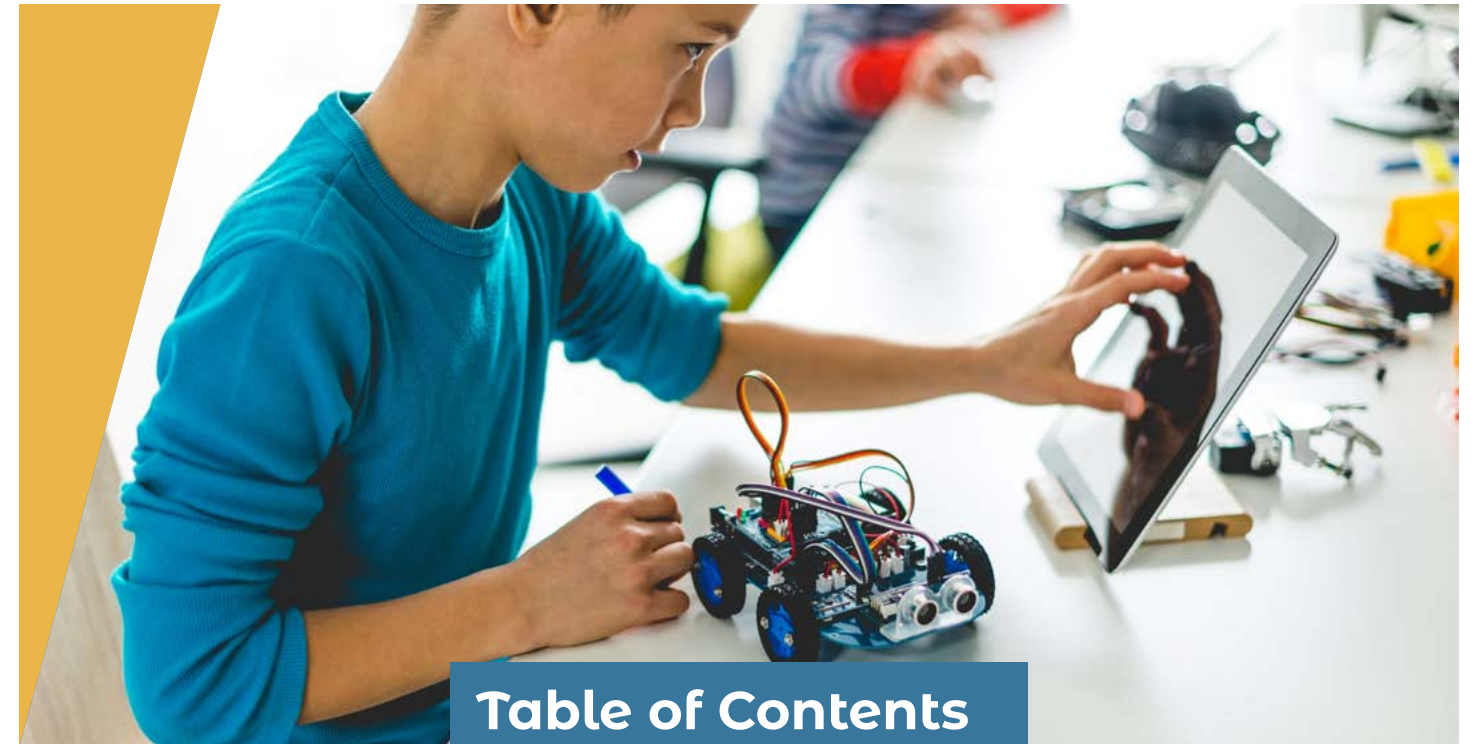
Students thrive in a positive climate and culture where they are respected and all ideas are accepted.

Effective communication is key to understanding among people.

Excellence in education is a collaborative effort and shared responsibility of the individual, home, school, and community.

Disclaimer: "This policy is not intended to limit the discretionary authority of, or to create any liability for, or create a cause of action against, the Board of Education or its officers, employees, volunteers or other designated individuals for any act or omission to act related to this policy. Georgia's constitution provides that school district employees are immune from liability when they are performing discretionary functions and they act without malice or intent to cause injury. Nothing herein is intended to create a ministerial duty for any Board of Education officer, employee, volunteer, or other designated individual."

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For further information, please contact Yvette Foster, (706) 864-1000.
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Please note: Schools are not limited to these competitions. Some of these competitions may be exempt depending on the funding source or system partner (i.e. Science Competitions).



English Language Arts

Scripps Spelling Bee

The purpose of the Scripps Spelling Bee is to help students improve their spelling, increase their vocabulary, learn concepts and develop correct English usage that will help them all their lives.

Richmond County students, in grades 4-8, participate in their school bee during the first semester. The district spelling bee is held in the second semester.

Each school selects a spelling bee coordinator. The winner from each school bee advances to the district competition.

PROCESS AND GUIDELINES:

1. Each school will have a Spelling Bee plan.
2. The process typically begins with a classroom spelling bee.
3. Winners from the classroom spelling bee will participate in the school level spelling bee.
4. Classroom and school spelling bees are typically completed between October and early December.
5. School winners advance to the District Spelling Bee. Names are submitted to the District Coordinator by the beginning of December. A practice spelling test list is provided to the school winners to help prepare for the district bee.
6. The district winner will proceed to the Scripps regional competition which is held during second semester.

DISTRIBUTION OF AWARDS:

Awards are presented to the winner and runner up of the school and district spelling bees.

For additional details, contact the Richmond County School System ELA Coordinator at 706-826-1000.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Bee Study Resources](#) [Spelling Bee History](#)

Young Georgia Authors K-12 Writing Competition

The purpose of the Young Georgia Authors (YGA) writing competition is to encourage students to develop enthusiasm for and expertise in their writing, to provide a context to celebrate their writing successes, and to recognize student achievement in arts and academics.

Writings shall be entered into the state-level competition by winning the tiered levels: (a) local school, (b) district, (c) RESA District, and (d) state. School systems may submit ONE winning entry per grade level (K-12) to the RESA-level competition. RESA-level winners will advance to the state-level competition.

WRITING TYPES

Unlike many writing competitions, YGA does not provide a prompt to which students must respond or provide any boundaries to their genre choice or creativity beyond a 1,900-word maximum length.

Entries may include: Short Stories, Poetry, Essays/Literary Criticism/Analysis, Journalism, Academic/Research Reports, Personal Narratives or Any Other Original Student Writing.

EVALUATION GUIDELINES

Entries are scored on: Expression of Ideas, Language Use, and Unique Perspective and Voice

SELECTION PROCEDURES

1. The writing contest begins with a school-wide competition. Grade-level winners should be sent to the District Coordinator in February.
2. The District Coordinator and the Writing Committee will submit ONE winning entry per grade from the system contest to the RESA ELA Specialist or designee. Individual entries sent by teachers, students, or schools will not be judged.

GENERAL RULES

Entries must meet the following guidelines:

1. The entry must include a completed entry form, including signatures of the student, the parent/guardian, and the designated system level administrator. Incomplete entry forms will be eliminated from the competition.
2. The submitted entry, in part or entirety, must not be published online or in print prior to or during the current academic year.
3. The original student work must be submitted.
 - a. Each entry must be the student's original work (this includes all edits, revisions, and publication) and must be typed or handwritten on 8.5x11 inch paper. Print on one side of the paper only.
 - b. The maximum length of the original student work is 1900 words. If your submission nears the 1900 word maximum, please include a word count. Dictated stories must follow the approved state testing accommodation guidelines for dictation. Do not bind, make a cover for, decorate, laminate, or otherwise alter the original paper on which the entry is written.
 - c. Use paper clips or binder clips. Do not use staples.
 - d. The submitted entry must have the name of the student and student's school removed.
 - e. Record the student's initials, grade, and RESA district number at top and center of each page of the original and copy.

School leadership establishes the process for determining grade level winners at the school level. The ELA Coordinator should ensure that one entry per grade level is submitted to the District Coordinator in February. All entries should have the Entry Form attached with a paperclip. Students and parents should sign the Entry Form.

For more details concerning the competition, visit the link below or contact the Richmond County School System's ELA Coordinator at 706-826-1000.

Official Rules Booklet http://galangartssup.weebly.com/uploads/1/1/2/4/112495123/young_georgia_authors_competition_fy23_final.docx.pdf

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Overview and Previous Winners](#) [Official Rules Booklet](#)



Instructional Technology & Media

Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl

The Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl is a competition designed by a former Georgia Media Specialist that encourages students to read the 20 books nominated each year for the Georgia Peach Book Award.

In 2003-04, the Georgia Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl (HRRB) Steering Committee was created and comprised of members from The Georgia Association of Educators (GAE) and the Georgia Library Media Association (GLMA).

With the help of this Steering Committee, the Georgia Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl (HRRB) is now open to students in grades 4-12 across the state. Elementary and middle school students read and are quizzed on the 10 Georgia Book Award Nominees, while high school students read and are quizzed on the 20 Georgia Peach Teen Book Award Nominees. The books change yearly. Here is the [HRRB Booklist](#).

Participation for the bowl starts the first semester, and the competition is held January – March of the second semester.

Schools select a team coach (staff) to help prepare for the competition. The coach recruits at least 5 volunteers to assist with the competition. The coach also recruits 5 students/team members for a team and up to five alternates. The selection process is based on student interest. Schools may also have practice rounds prior to the competition that assist in determining who will be on a team.

K-8 and 6-12 schools are allowed 2 teams, one for each school level.

COMPETITION FORMAT

1. Each school will participate in six rounds.
2. Each round will consist of 10 questions.
3. Alternates may be substituted between rounds.
4. Teams will receive 10 points for each answer.
5. There will be no penalties for wrong answers.

6. There will be five members on a team and up to five alternates.
7. A school may have only one team.

Awards are presented to teams that place 1st, 2nd, and 3rd from each school level for the district bowl. District 1st place winners proceed to the regional competition.

For more information about the competition contact RCSS HHRB Contact 706-826-1000.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Guidelines and Format](#)

[Registration and Forms](#)



Media Festival

The Richmond County Media & Arts Festival (M & AF) is a celebration of student-created original media, artwork, and performances. The M & AF is built on the framework of the [Georgia Student Media Festival \(GSMF\)](#), and winning entries in the Richmond County festival will be eligible to compete in the GSMF.

SUBMISSION TYPES

Students may submit one of the following [project types](#) to the festival:

- Live Action (Video)
- Animation
- Sequential Stills
- Electronic Picture Book
- Electronic Photographic Essay
- Interactive Stills
- Website
- Audio Podcast

In addition, students may also elect to enter one of the following categories. Note that these categories may not be eligible to proceed to the Georgia Student Media Festival:

- Digital Music Production
- Digital Art Production

TIMELINE & PROCESS

All submitted Media Festival projects must comply with copyright guidelines and laws and must be entirely the work of students (with some exceptions for K-5 students). Certain production types allow for students to work in groups. Student work created as part of a classroom assignment are often eligible for submission.

Each student or group must be sponsored by a teacher who works with the students to ensure that relevant paperwork is completed and that the guidelines for projects are followed. Each school's media specialist will collect documentation for projects and submit them for judging at the local level in February. Projects scoring high enough will be entered in the GSMF.

In addition to the new categories at the local level, the Richmond County School System is also hosting a live showcase of student media, projects, and performances drawn from local entries. The event will be held in March after entries are gathered and reviewed by each school's media specialist. More details about the event will be available through the media specialists.

Mathematics

Annual Richmond County School System Mathematics Competition (Elementary)

The contest requires students to demonstrate their mastery of fundamental principles through problem solving, with the purpose of inspiring student interest and confidence in mathematics.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The annual Richmond County School Mathematics Competition is limited to selected 4th and 5th grade students from all elementary schools in Richmond County. Each school selects a math coach (staff), who recruits/selects the student participants. The competition and awards ceremony are held February or March of each year.

Annual Richmond County School-System Mathematics Competition (Secondary)

GENERAL INFORMATION

The annual Richmond County Middle & High School Mathematics Competition is limited to selected 6th-12th grade students from all middle and high schools in Richmond County. Each school selects a math coach (staff), who recruits/selects the student participants. The competition and awards ceremony are in the second semester of the school year.

Only students, team coaches, and staff working the competition may attend during the competitive work. Parents are welcome to join for the awards celebration following the competition.

FOR BOTH CONTESTS

CALCULATOR USE

Calculators will be allowed on the multiple-choice test and the team problem solving event but NOT on the challenge part of the competition.

SCORING

Individual Scores will be calculated as the number of correct answers on the written test. Ties will be determined by randomly selected "Written Test" questions.

Team Scores will be calculated as the average of all individual scores plus the team competition scores.

For further support ask your math teacher for additional practice sites.

For more information, contact the K-12 Mathematics Curriculum Coordinator at (706) 826-1000

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Math Counts - Past Competitions | MATHCOUNTS](#)
[NAEP Website - Sample Booklets - Experience an Assessment](#)



Safety, Health and Physical Education

ELKS Hoop Shoot Elementary & Middle School Basketball Competition

The ELKS Hoop Shoot is a Free Throw Program for Youth Ages 8-13.

Richmond County Schools hold local school and district Hoop Shoot contests in January. Winners from the district contest move on to the regional ELKS (Lodge) Hoop Shoot. The school's physical education teacher submits the name of participating students to the Richmond County School System's district coordinator.

ELIGIBILITY

1. A school may only enter one contestant in each age/gender group in the ELKS Lodge Hoop Shoot contest.
2. Contestants must be at least 8 and no older than 13 as of April 1 in order to participate.
3. Regarding eligibility, the Director of the ELKS Lodge is responsible only for ensuring that the contestant competes in the correct age-group. Contestants who shoot in the wrong age group will be disqualified.
4. As the Hoop Shoot tournament progresses, contestants may not switch divisions and may not skip levels of the competition. In order to be eligible to advance to the next level of competition, a contestant must have participated in and won the previous level.
5. Contestants will compete in one of six divisions:

Boys, ages 8-9	Girls, ages 8-9
Boys, ages 10-11	Girls, ages 10-11
Boys, ages 12-13	Girls, ages 12-13

Age is determined by the student's age as of April 1 of the current year.

For more information, please contact your school's physical education teacher.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Video Overview](#)



Science

Augusta Utilities Model Water Tower Competition

The objective of the Georgia Model Water Tower Competition is to make students more aware of the engineering and construction challenges of providing a community with reliable drinking water while introducing them to possible career paths within the water profession.

The models are judged based on 3 categories including: hydraulic efficiency, structural efficiency, and design ingenuity/interview presentation. Every contestant will receive a Certificate of Participation and T-shirt. Grand Prizes will be awarded to the 3 Top Overall Models.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

The competition is voluntary and typically held in March of each school year. Interested students should confer with their science teacher for participation and registration information. While the individual must build the models, parents are encouraged to coach and mentor the student throughout the design and build phase of their water tower model. Students in grades 6-8 can participate. There is no cost to enter. To participate, arrive at the check-in with the following materials:

- Completed Model Water Tower.
- Completed Participant Release.
- Completed Materials List.

Model water towers may be of any design and constructed from any materials. A creative design is a water tower that will function even though it does not look like any other tower. Examples of innovative materials are an old broom stick from your garage as a support structure, an ice cream bucket as a tank, or any other atypical items that you might find lying around the house.

For more information, you may contact the Richmond County School District Science Coordinator at 706-826-1000.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Tips for Your Tower](#) [Individual Registration](#)

ECO-MEET

The Eco-Meet is an environmental science competition open to middle school students, grades 6-8, in the CSRA. Schools may enter 2 teams of up to 4 students each and each team needs an adult to act as a coach. Coaches can be as involved with preparing their team as they would like, but at minimum need to be there the day of the event.

The competition consists of six different testing stations hosted by different member organizations of the Environmental Science Education Cooperative (ESEC). Each station has a study packet and sample questions available for teams to utilize before the competition. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners of each testing station, along with the 1st place overall winners, will be awarded. Additionally, awards will be given to hang in your school for the first-place overall winners and the coach of the year.

Please note that school and student participation is optional. Interested students and parents that wish to act as a coach should contact their child's science teacher for further details.

For more information, please visit the [CSRA Eco Meet website](#) or contact the Richmond County School System Science Coordinator at 706-826-1000.



CSRA School and Regional Science and Engineering Fairs

Students participating in the school-based and Regional Science and Engineering Fairs develop their scientific investigation skills and knowledge by planning, constructing and exhibiting their own “hands-on” scientific project. Winners (4th through 12th grade) from school-based fairs compete with other schools in the region.

- Awards are given in all divisions
- Project requirements include a log book, research report, and presentation board
- Sponsored by the Savannah River Site and the University of South Carolina - Aiken

For more details and deadlines, contact your science teacher. You may also contact the Richmond County School System Science Coordinator at 706-826-1000.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Elementary and Middle School Registration](#) [High School Registration](#) [Rule and Forms for Projects](#)



Social Studies

National History Day Competition

National History Day is an inquiry-based competition that challenges students to learn more, think deeper, and better understand history’s greatest triumphs and setbacks through the lens of a given theme. Divided into Regional, State, and National competitions, National History Day gives students the opportunity to present their research and compete against their peers in a fun, friendly environment.

Georgia’s Northeast Regional event is hosted by the Augusta University Department of History, Anthropology, & Philosophy. The top three finishers in each category will be eligible to compete at the state competition later in the spring term. Participation in the regional competition at Augusta University is FREE for students and schools.

HOW DO MY STUDENTS PARTICIPATE?

National History Day starts with students developing questions about the past and then using reliable materials to answer their questions. The National History Day program is readily adapted to the new Georgia Standards of Excellence for Social Studies and its emphasis on inquiry-based education. NHD projects promote problem-based learning, while also leading to enduring understanding of the content material.

Students can participate in National History Day in a number of different ways including writing a paper, producing an exhibit, filming a documentary, giving a performance, or building a website to house information relating to their topic. Students can enter an individual or a group project. There are separate competitions for middle-school (grades 6-8) and high-school (grades 9-12) students.

The Richmond County School System Social Studies Coordinator can be contacted at 706-826-1000 for further details.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[How to Create a NHD Project](#)



Multi-Disciplinary Programs

Academic Decathlon

The United States Academic Decathlon® is a 10-event scholastic competition for teams of high school students. The teams study a specific theme and curriculum in preparation for the contest.

The curriculum is an interdisciplinary curriculum in which a selected theme is integrated across six different subject areas: art, economics, literature, music, science, and social science. Students also study mathematics and participate in essay-writing, speech, and interview events.

Each high school enters a team of 9 students: 3 Honor students (3.80 - 4.00 GPA), 3 Scholastic students (3.20 - 3.799 GPA), and 3 Varsity students (0.00 - 3.199 GPA).

Students are recruited to be a part of the team at the beginning of each school year and are assigned a team coach (staff) to help prepare for the competition. The coach recruits and selects the members of the team. The selection process is based on student interest.

VERIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Each high school will submit official transcripts to verify eligibility of team members to the manager of the competition the team is entering. The school certification of transcripts will be the final indication of a student's eligibility and GPA category. The competition manager shall check the GPA computation in accordance with the above guidelines and verify eligibility of each team member.

DISTRIBUTION OF AWARDS

Awards are presented to all students that participate in the Academic Decathlon. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams receive special recognition. The 1st place winning team will go on to compete at regionals.

Richmond County School System Coordinator can be contacted at 706-826-1000 for further details.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[United States Academic Decathlon®](#) [Eligibility Guidelines](#)

Governor's Honors Program

The Georgia Governor's Honors Program (GHP) is a residential summer program for gifted and talented high school students who will be rising juniors and seniors during the program. The program offers instruction that is significantly different from the typical high school classroom and is designed to provide students with academic, cultural, and social enrichment necessary to become the next generation of global critical thinkers, innovators, and leaders.

GHP is held in mid-summer (mid-June to mid-July) on a college or university campus. Students attend classes in the mornings and afternoons in specific areas of study, and they participate in a wide variety of social and instructional opportunities every evening. Meals and rooms are provided by the program with the only required and expected costs to the students being travel expenses to and from the interviews, a few basic supplies for classes and dorm rooms, and spending money as desired during the program.

NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS

Students shall be nominated to the state in only one subject area, by the subject area instructor, with the approval of the student and parent/guardian. Qualified students may be nominated in consultation with their private teachers in subject areas the school does not offer (dance, piano, strings etc.). Students nominated at the school level by more than one teacher should choose the area in which they prefer to be nominated.

Students shall participate in the GHP summer residential program one time only, i.e., students who attended the program the previous year as rising juniors may not be re-nominated for the current year's program.

An official transcript of each nominee's high school grades must be submitted electronically by the appropriate school official.

All students nominated by the local school system/private school must:

- Be a current sophomore or junior.
- Have his/her nomination originate with the subject area teacher (or home school parent) and approved by the student and parent/guardian.
- Have demonstrated high aptitude and high interest in the area of nomination.
- Commit to participation in the state level interviews as scheduled by the GHP office if selected as a state semi-finalist.
- Commit to participation in the program for the entire residential period if selected as a state finalist, including opening and closing days.

*** Inability to meet the attendance requirement will result in disqualification for consideration, and, if selected for participation, can result in dismissal from the program. Exceptions to the attendance requirement will be rare, will be limited to true emergencies, and will require approval by the GHP Program Manager.*

The Richmond County School System Coordinator can be contacted at 706-826-1000 for further details.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[GHP Homepage](#)



