

2023-2024

Welcome Guide





COME WORK WITH US!

Explore the Wonderful
Career Opportunities
RCSS Has to Offer

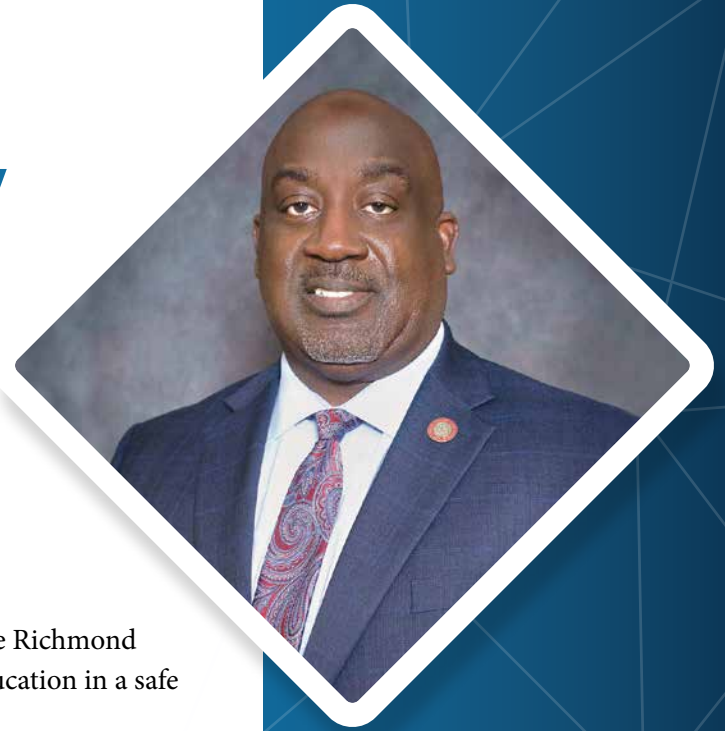


SCAN OR VISIT rcboe.info/Work4RCSS



Letter from Superintendent

Dr. Kenneth Bradshaw



Dear Richmond County School System Families,

I would like to welcome you to the 2023-24 academic year. The Richmond County School System is committed to providing a quality education in a safe learning environment for our more than 30,000 students.

This Welcome Guide is a resource to families to quickly access the full spectrum of services and programs available in the school system, from bus routes and nutrition information to student support services and specialized programs. A feature of this guide is videos from our staff explaining some of the services and resources we offer to all students. So, utilize the weblinks for more information.

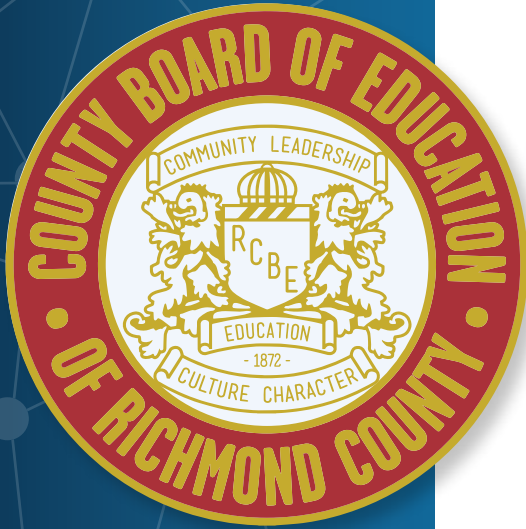
The success of our school system is reliant on our principals, teachers and staff for their work to develop lifelong learners and high achievers that graduate and are college or career ready. As an integral part of the community and a vital part of the economic sustainability of the Augusta region, we remain humbled and laser-focused on the responsibility of educating every child, every day.

Again, thank you for choosing the Richmond County School System and for partnering with us to meet the educational needs of your family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Bradshaw', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Kenneth Bradshaw, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



Richmond County Board of Education

Charlie Walker, Jr., *President, District 7*

Shawnda Griffin, *Vice-President, District 1*

Charlie Hannah, *District 2*

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Edward Lowery, *District 6*

Jimmy Atkins, *District 8*

Venus Cain, *District 9 (at-large)*

Helen Minchew, *District 10 (at-large)*

Board Meeting Calendar 2023-2024

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.
rcboe.org/BOE

Back to School

Open House Dates

Elementary and K-8 - **August 1, Noon – 6 p.m.**

Middle and High - **August 2, Noon – 6 p.m.**

First Day of School

First Day of School - Elementary - **August 3**

First Day of School - K-8, Middle, High,
Magnet Schools, and eSchool - **August 7**

Registration Information

Early Registration - **July 12 – 26**

Registration - **July 31**

Registration during Open House - **August 1 & 2**

Bell Schedules

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

Elementary, K8 – A. Dorothy Hains, * **A. B. Merry**, Bayvale, Copeland, Deer Chase, * **Diamond Lakes**, Freedom Park K8, Garrett, Glenn Hills Elementary, Lake Forest Hills, Lamar-Milledge, Monte Sano, and Wheelless Road

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

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

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

High – Academy of Richmond County

Third Tier Schools - 9:15 a.m. – 4:05 p.m.

K-8, Middle – Belair K-8, Glenn Hills, Hephzibah, Langford, Murphey, Pine Hill, Richmond Hill K-8, Spirit Creek, Tutt, and W.S. Hornsby

Magnet – **8:30 a.m. – 3:25 p.m.**

** Moved from Second Tier Bell to First Tier Bell*

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



Add our
Academic Calendar
to Your Mobile Device!



Scan the QR code
& click the dots or the
subscribe button.

Select the calendar version
for your device (Outlook,
Google, Apple,
Yahoo, or Other).



▶ Scan the QR Code and learn more about our athletics programs from **Scott McClintock, Director of Athletics**



Athletics

The Richmond County School System is a member of the Georgia High School Association (GHSA). Students in middle and high schools are eligible to participate in sports at their zoned school. Our athletic programs develop the ideals and fundamentals of good sportsmanship, high moral character, model behavior and leadership skills. Tryout information and schedules are available at each school.

Tickets for athletic events can be purchased by the link below at gofan.co/app/school/GA3256

Attendance Matters

We recognize that good attendance is essential to academic success. This school year, we invite families to help their child(ren) build a habit of regular attendance. Regular attendance is vital for students to gain the academic and social skills they need to thrive. This year RCSS would like to emphasize the importance attendance has on both daily assignments for students and state testing. Students who do not attend school on a regular basis struggle academically with daily assignments which impacts grades and graduation requirements. Daily academic struggles impact state standardized testing which allows our students, schools and the RCSS to prove academic effectiveness and achievement. Follow us on our social media platforms for more details about the incentives for regular school attendance.

Augusta University Literacy Center

The Augusta University Literacy Center provides support to improve reading skills for students that may need additional support to read on grade level. All students and adults connected to the Richmond County School System and living in Richmond County are eligible to receive support from the Literacy Center at no cost!

Please check with your zoned school for information or call the Literacy Center at **706-729-2245**.



Westside High School Boys Basketball Team claimed Back-to-Back Class AA Championship



▶ Scan the QR Code and learn more about the importance of attendance from Dr. **Aronica Gloster**, *Director of Student Services*



The Basics

The Basics program is designed for parents with children ages birth to birth to 5-years-old to support vibrant learning and brain development among infants and toddlers. By signing up for the program, parents will receive guiding literature on how to help their child reach their full potential. Each summer, the Basics hosts a Fun Day event for new and existing families.

Learn more by visiting our website at TheBasicsRichmondCounty.org

Bullying Prevention

The Richmond County School System is committed to providing safe learning environments for its students. We provide a variety of resources to students experiencing bullying and their families on our website. In addition to resources and information on bullying prevention on our website, the Sprigeo Tip Line is an anonymous tip line available as a resource for students and families to report bullying or other safety concerns.

Send an anonymous tip to Bullying Prevention at app.sprigeo.com/district/richmond-county-school-system for more details and the list of schools with capacity.



Laurie Grove
named 2023
East Georgia
Regional Library
Media Specialist
of the Year



▶ Scan the QR Code and learn more about how we use standardize tests from **Matthew Johann, Ed.S., Assistant Director of Student Services**



Canvas: Parent/Guardian Orientation

Canvas is the online Learning Management System that we use to support instruction. Teachers create lessons and resources to help students better understand what is being presented in class. An online orientation is provided to help parents learn about Canvas and provide instruction on how to become an observer on their child(ren)'s Canvas account.

View the Canvas Orientation for Students and Parents at rcboe.info/CanvasCourse

Teacher
Shikara Willis,
C.T. Walker
Magnet School,
named RCSS
Teacher of the
Year

Curriculum & Richmond Resources

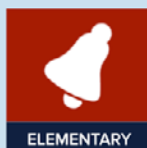
Richmond Resources is the curriculum resources site for all grades in the school system. Parents can view Curriculum Maps which outline the lessons that students will be taught during the school year. These guides also allow parents to interact with their students about the specific topics being taught. There are also additional resources listed for tutoring help, enrichment, and opportunities for growth.

Take a tour of our Curriculum and Richmond Resources at rcboe.info/Maps

Curriculum Resources



COMMUNITY
RESOURCES



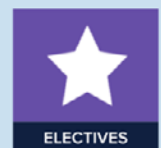
ELEMENTARY



MIDDLE SCHOOL



HIGH SCHOOL



ELECTIVES



▶ Scan the QR Code and learn more about our homework resources from [Laura West, M.L.I.S., Ed.S., Instructional Resource & Textbook Coordinator](#)



English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Resources

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.

To contact our ESOL coordinator or view the services we offer to our families, visit rcboe.org/ESOL

Extended Learning Opportunities

During winter, spring, and summer breaks, parents can engage with their children and continue learning through resources and activities. The website is filled with activities for students of all grade levels and covers our core and elective subject areas.

Visit rcboe.org/BreakResources for activities to support your child(ren)'s learning during a break.

FEV Tutor

All Richmond County students have access to FREE tutoring 24/7! FEV Tutor provides engaging one-on-one virtual tutoring services that is personalized for the student and the assignment they need additional support with. Students can access FEV with their school issued device through the Launchpad app, using the login information provided by their school.

We have a training video and additional information on our website at rcboe.org/FEVTutor



Song Ting Tang, a John S. Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School graduate, was named a National Merit Finalist



Graduation Schedule Class of 2024

All ceremonies will be held at the
**James Brown Arena, 601 7th St.
Augusta, GA 30901**

Wednesday, May 22

Hephzibah High School.....**3 p.m.**
G. P. Butler High School.....**6 p.m.**

Thursday, May 23

Cross Creek High School**8 a.m.**
Westside High School.....**11 a.m.**
Lucy C. Laney High School.....**2 p.m.**
Richmond County Technical Career
Magnet School.....**4:30 p.m.**
T. W. Josey High School**7 p.m.**

Friday, May 24

A. R. Johnson Health Science and
Engineering Magnet School....**8 a.m.**
Glenn Hills High School**11 a.m.**
John S. Davidson Fine Arts
Magnet School**2 p.m.**
Academy of Richmond
County**5 p.m.**

The graduation schedule will be posted at
rcboe.org/graduationschedule

Graduation

For students to be eligible for graduation, they must complete 23 academic credit hours. Commencement ceremonies will be held between

May 22-24, 2024, for all Richmond County high schools and magnet schools.

The complete list of graduation requirements is available at
rcboe.org/GradReqs

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act Services for Families in Transition

The Richmond County School System supports students who experience homelessness through the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth program. Our school system employs a homeless liaison and an outreach school social worker for people without housing to ensure that homeless children and youth have access to the educational and other services needed to meet the same academic achievement standards for all students.

Our Families in Transition website can be located at
rcboe.org/Transition

House Bill 251

RCSS Families may request a transfer to another public school within their local school district to specified schools and grades designated as having available space under a 2009 state law (OCGA 20-2-2131).

Each year, the school system identifies schools with available space and accepts applications from families. To request a zone exemption, families must apply between

November 1, 2023 – May 1, 2024.

Visit our House Bill 251 website **rcboe.org/HB251** for more details and the list of schools with capacity.



▶ Scan the QR Code for more information on immunizations and medications from [Ame Holmes](#), [Coordinator of Health Services](#)



Immunizations

To prevent the spread of vaccine-preventable diseases, all students must have an up-to-date GA Form 3231 Certificate of Immunization on file at school. New students must present this form to enroll. The immunization form can be acquired from the Georgia Department of Public Health along with any vaccinations that the your child(ren) may need for a reasonable price.

Learn more about health requirements for registration at rcboe.org/Immunizations

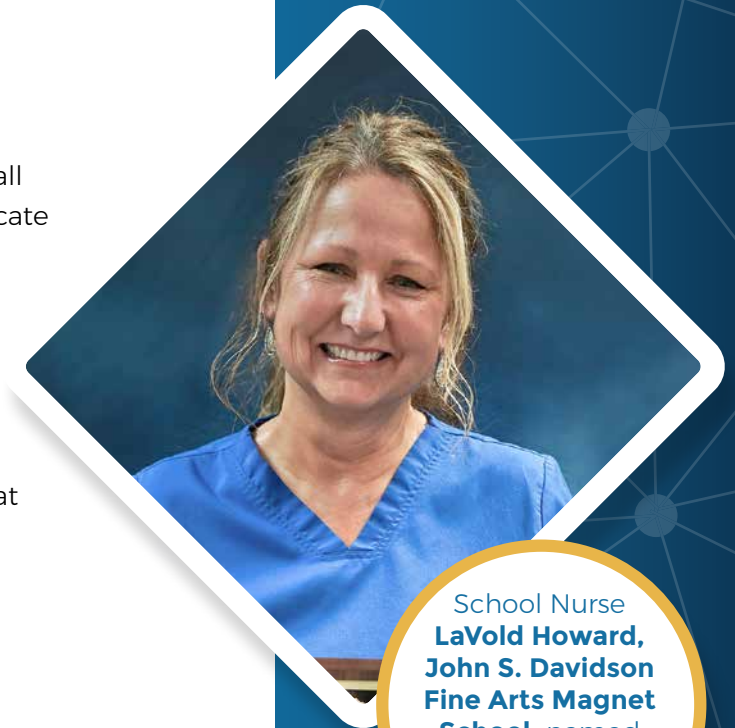
Kindergarten

Kindergarten is another great opportunity for students to attend a full day of school and develop the early social and academic skills to be successful in the first grade. Our kindergarten program is open to students who turn five years old on or before **September 1**. A child, who has lived in another state for at least two years before moving to Georgia and was legally enrolled in a public kindergarten or first grade in that state, may enroll in a Georgia public school kindergarten or first grade, provided the child will be five for kindergarten and six for first grade by **December 31**.

Parent Portal

The Infinite Campus Parent Portal allows you to register your child for school, update your contact information, and review your child's schedule, attendance, and report card. Parents and guardians can share one account or create individual ones. Once the account is established, it follows the student through graduation.

To access Parent Portal, you can click the IC icon on the right of our home page or visit rcboe.org/ParentPortal



School Nurse
LaVold Howard,
John S. Davidson
Fine Arts Magnet
School, named
2022-23 School
Nurse of the Year



▶ Scan the QR Code and learn more about our nutrition program from Cathy Johnson, Director of Nutrition Services



Pre-K Program

Our Pre-K program is a full-day program that provides students with the early social and academic skills that help them learn to play and communicate with their peers. Students that are four years old by **September 1, 2023**, are eligible for the 2023-2024 school year. Applications for the 2024-2025 Pre-K lottery will open on **March 1 and close on April 15**. Notification of a slot will be emailed to the address on the application.

Visit the Pre-K website for more information about our program at rcboe.org/PreKLotteryRegistration

PINES Library Access for Youth (Play Card)

RCSS student ID numbers also act as library card numbers for The Augusta-Richmond County Public Library System offering students access to their digital library. Students can access books, online resources, and other fun resources that help develop a lifelong love of reading.

Learn more about the PINES Play Card on our website at rcboe.org/LibraryCard

Nutrition

Our belief in Richmond County School System is that a hungry child is unable to perform their best academically. To help all children succeed, breakfast and lunch options are served daily in all schools. Breakfast and Lunch Menus are posted monthly on the district website along with nutrition information. Students can pay with cash or parents/guardians can purchase meals through their MySchoolBucks account. However, some schools may participate in the free lunch program which means meals are served at no cost to families.

Visit rcboe.org/Menus for the weekly breakfast and lunch menus.

18 students commit to teach during Future Educators Signing Day

Testing Calendars

Standardized Testing Dates

iReady: The iReady diagnostic is administered in grades K-8 in English Language Arts and Mathematics three times during the school year to gather detailed information on what skills students are likely to have mastered and skills that need growth.

Fall: **August 28 – September 15;**

Winter: **January 8-26; Spring: April 22 – May 10**

NWEA Map: The NWEA Map diagnostic is administered in grades 9-12. It is a computer adaptive test designed to measure student growth and achievement levels in English Language Arts and Mathematics. The diagnostic measures what students know and what they are ready to learn next.

Fall: **August 28 – September 15;**

Winter: **January 8-26; Spring: May 3 – May 10**

Content Mastery Assessments (CMAs): The Content Mastery Assessments are administered three times during the school year for students in grades 3-12. These assessments are to provide an overview of student mastery of standards being taught in the classroom.

CMA #1 September 25 – October 6; CMA #2 December 4-15;

CMA #3 February 26 – March 15

Georgia Milestones:

Winter: **December 11 – January 5**

Spring: **April 23-30**





PowerUp Asynchronous Learning Days

There are four dedicated PowerUp Asynchronous Learning Days in the 2023-2024 school year. On these days, students are provided with 1:1 technology to explore digital learning. Schools will send instructions prior to these learning days about assignments and activities for students to complete.

PowerUp Technology

This is the second academic year that all students in our school system will have access to a technology device such as Chromebooks and iPads. Technology is changing how students engage with instructors and resources to support instruction. Additionally, teachers are able to personalize assignments to address the needs of the student. Parents should complete the PowerUp for Parents Course to support their child(ren) in the responsible use of their device. The cost for optional insurance is \$29 and can be paid at SchoolDeviceCoverage.com

If insurance is not purchased, parents will be responsible for the full cost of repairs and/or damage the device may incur.



Programming & Competitions

Richmond County School System provides a variety of opportunities for students to compete in academic competitions. Students can compete in spelling bees, writing competitions, science fairs and academic decathlons. Please consult our Programming and Competition Guide for a current list of opportunities and details of each.

Access the programming and competitions guide below at rcboe.org/CompetitionGuide

7 Richmond County School System Schools named 2023 AP Honor Schools by Georgia Department of Education

Registration

The Richmond County School System uses an online platform to meet families' registration needs.

Visit rcboe.org/Registration for the instructions and documentation required to register a student, to transfer to another RCSS school or to withdraw a student from RCSS.

Richmond County Success Center

We offer a full scale of services to help support the basic needs of students through the Richmond County Success Center. The one-stop shop includes Richmond County Success Center food drives, a clothing boutique, referrals to community support agencies and more throughout the school year.

A complete list of services available through the Success Center at rcboe.org/SuccessCenter

School Choice

Families of the Richmond County School System are offered a variety of school choice options designed to meet the interests and academic needs of all our students. From International Baccalaureate Programmes to skilled trades, cybersecurity, robotics, and visual and performing arts, we have options to support your child's diverse interests.

Fall/Winter School Choice application window lasts from **November 1, 2023 - January 5, 2024.**

Spring School Choice application window is **April 1 - May 1, 2024.**

Learn more about School Choice at rcboe.org/Choice



7 seniors were named Class of 2023 REACH Scholars



▶ Scan the QR Code for detail for school bus routes and learn more from [Tracie Patterson, Director of Transportation](#)



School Bus Routes and Schedules

Beginning this year, Richmond County school buses can be identified by the route numbers located on the placards on each side of the bus. These route numbers can be tracked using the Stopfinder Bus Tracking app, available on the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. Instructions on downloading the Stopfinder app are listed on our website.

rcboe.info/StopFinderRCSS

School bus stop locations, pick-up and drop-off times, and route numbers are available at rcboe.info/RideTheBus

Schools will also have this information available during the Open House on August 1 and 2, 2023.

School Bus Safety

Twice a year, our Bus Safety team goes to all schools to demonstrate how to properly wait for a bus, step onto a bus, and how to exit a bus during an emergency.

Please review bus safety with your child(ren) at rcboe.org/bussafety

School Climate

Student Code of Conduct & Discipline

School climate develops and implements strategies to promote a positive school environment and addresses the social, emotional, and behavioral barriers to learning. Incidents that violate the school climate are addressed through rules established in the Code of Student Conduct and Discipline and tribunal hearings. We encourage you to review the Code of Student Conduct and Discipline with your child(ren).

The complete book containing more details is available at rcboe.org/SchoolClimate

7 students
named STARS by
the Professional
Association of
Georgia Educators



▶ Scan the QR Code for more information on school safety from Chief Mantrell Wilson, Director of School Safety and Security Student Services



School Fees

MySchoolBucks is able to quickly browse school items in our School Store, be notified when fees are due, and make payments from anywhere! Create your free MySchoolBucks account to pay for your student/students' school fees etc. online conveniently and securely and/or with the mobile app.

Get Started Today:

1. Go to myschoolbucks.com or download the mobile app
2. Create your free account and add your student/students' 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 may apply.)

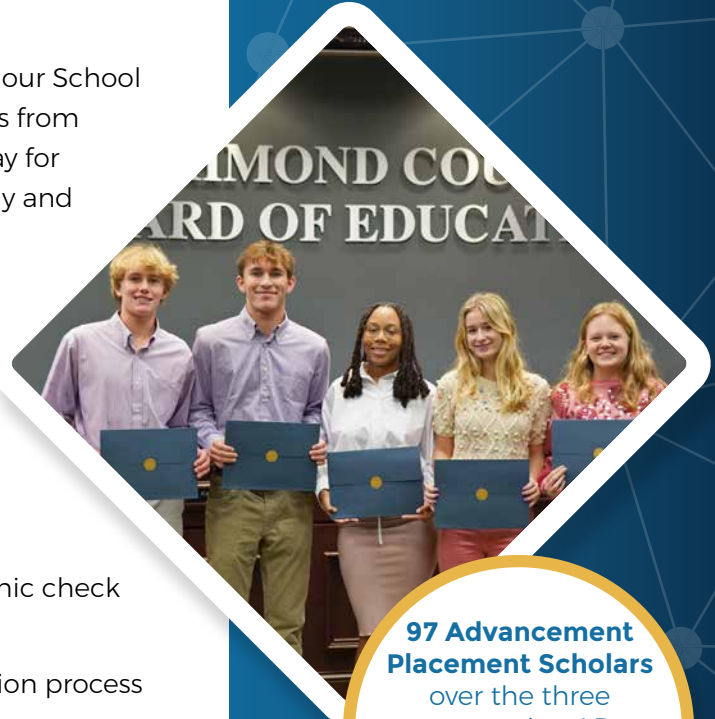
Please join us in building a more cohesive payment solution process for the Richmond County School System.

Student Services and Support Services

We are proud to provide support services for students inside and outside the classroom. The Richmond School System employs counselors, social workers, MTSS (Multi-tiered systems of support) facilitators, psychologists, mental health counselors and nurses to meet the needs of families.

Learn more about Support Services
rcboe.org/SupportServices

Learn more about Student Services at
rcboe.org/StudentServices



**97 Advancement
Placement Scholars**
over the three
categories: AP
Scholars, AP Scholars
with Honors, and
AP Scholars with
Distinction.

Our Schools

Elementary Schools (Pre-K - 5)

A. Brian Merry Elementary School
A. Dorothy Hains Elementary School
Barton Chapel Elementary School
Bayvale Elementary School
Blythe Elementary School
Copeland Elementary School
Deer Chase Elementary School
Diamond Lakes Elementary School
Glenn Hills Elementary School
Goshen Elementary School
Gracewood Elementary School
Hephzibah Elementary School
Jamestown Elementary School
Jenkins-White Elementary School
Lake Forest Hills Elementary School
Lamar-Milledge Elementary School
McBean Elementary School
Meadowbrook Elementary School
Monte Sano Elementary School
Sue Reynolds Elementary School
T. Harry Garrett Elementary School
Tobacco Road Elementary School
W.S. Hornsby Elementary School
Warren Road Elementary School
Wheless Road Elementary School
Wilkinson Gardens Elementary School

Middle Schools (6-8)

Glenn Hills Middle School
Hephzibah Middle School
John M. Tutt Middle School
Murphy Middle School

Middle Schools (cont.)

Pine Hill Middle School
Rupert W. Langford Middle School
Spirit Creek Middle School
W.S. Hornsby Middle School

K-8 Schools

Belair K-8 School
Freedom Park K-8 School
Richmond Hill K-8 School

Magnet Schools

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

High Schools (9-12)

The Academy of Richmond County
Cross Creek Comprehensive High School
George P. Butler Comprehensive High School
Glenn Hills Comprehensive High School
Hephzibah Comprehensive High School
Lucy C. Laney Comprehensive High School
T.W. Josey Comprehensive High School
Westside Comprehensive High School

Special Schools

Alternative School at Morgan Road
eSchool
Marion E. Barnes Career Center
Performance Learning Center
Reaching Potential Through Manufacturing
Sand Hills Center (GNETS)

For more information about our schools visit rcboe.org/Schools

Contact



Richmond County School System Central Office
706.826.1000



Safety Tip Line to anonymously report
706.828.1077



Transportation Department:
706.796.4777

www

A complete listing of our schools is available at
rcboe.org/schools



District website
RCBOE.ORG

Follow us on our social media handles



[@richmondcountyschools](https://www.facebook.com/richmondcountyschools)



[@richmondcountyschools](https://www.instagram.com/richmondcountyschools)



[@rcss_ga](https://twitter.com/rcss_ga)



[@RCSSMedia](https://www.youtube.com/RCSSMedia)



[@Richmond County School System](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Richmond-County-School-System)



Now Hiring Bus Drivers

Paid Time Off

CDL Training Included

No Experience Necessary

Hourly Rate Starts At \$14.06

MUST BE 21+ YEARS OLD
HAVE A VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE HAVE 2
PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES
(INCLUDING 1 FROM A FORMER SUPERVISOR)



SCAN TO VIEW
JOB DESCRIPTION

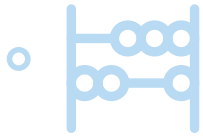


Transportation Office
2950 Mike Padgett Hwy. Augusta 30906
rcboe.info/Drive4RCSS

The Richmond County School System does not discriminate in employment or services on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, gender, disability, or religion. On-site hiring may only be offered to well qualified applicants.

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

Non-Profit Org
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AUGUSTA, GA
PERMIT 306



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rcboe.org



2023-2024

Welcome Guide

