Welcome Guide

2023-2024
COMING TOGETHER

Explore the Wonderful Career Opportunities RCSS Has to Offer

SCAN OR VISIT rcboe.info/Work4RCSS
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,

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
Walter H. Eubanks, District 3
Wayne Frazier, Ed.D., District 4
Patsy Scott, District 5
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. rcbue.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 Wheeless 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).
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.
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.
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

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
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
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.
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

Scan the QR Code for more information on immunizations and medications from Ame Holmes, Coordinator of Health Services

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

Richmond County School System 11
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.
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.
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
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](http://rcboe.info/StopFinderRCSS)

School bus stop locations, pick-up and drop-off times, and route numbers are available at [rcboe.info/RideTheBus](http://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](http://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](http://rcboe.org/SchoolClimate)
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
**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
- Murphey 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](http://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

A complete listing of our schools is available at [rcboe.org/schools](http://rcboe.org/schools)

District website  
[RCBOE.ORG](http://RCBOE.ORG)

**Follow us on our social media handles**

- @richmondcountyschools
- @rcss_ga
- @RCSSMedia
- @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)

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.