



**Learning today,
Leading tomorrow.**

2017 Richmond County School System
Annual Report

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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Over the last several years, the Richmond County School System has remained committed to programs that increase literacy and mathematics proficiency; all with the goal of increasing graduation rates and ensuring students are prepared for life, not just college or career. This past year, our Georgia Milestones scores increased, graduation rates increased, SAT/ACT scores increased, and our College and Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI) increased by over 6.5 points.

As the Superintendent, I want to sincerely thank the Board of Education, the classroom teachers, the students, the parents, the support staff, the administration, our community partners, and all stakeholders who have demonstrated a commitment to the success of all children in Richmond County. Significant increases in academic achievement require engagement and commitment from families and the community, all working together in partnership with our educators. Please join us today in helping to make our vision a reality for every child in Richmond County.

Warm Regards,



Angela D. Pringle, *Superintendent*





ABOUT US

The Richmond County School System boasts having the oldest public school, Academy of Richmond County, in the south and the fifth oldest public high school in America. Several Richmond County schools are on the National Register of Historic places. Although steeped in history, Richmond County strives to move education forward and to provide students with opportunities to succeed. Approximately thirty years ago, Richmond County began a magnet school initiative to include a fine arts middle and high school that has consistently ranked in the top one-hundred schools in the nation, a health science, engineering and technology high school as well as a K-8 magnet emphasizing arts and academic achievement. Since then, we have added a technical career magnet school and school-within-a-school programs which include International Baccalaureate opportunities for K-12, Advanced Placement studies, Arts Infusion and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) initiatives. Offering these programs to our families allows our system to further customize the learning experience for every student and provides more choice in their child's educational setting.

MISSION

Building a world-class school system through education, collaboration, and innovation.

VISION

The Richmond County School System will create a world-class, globally competitive school system where all students will graduate and are college/career ready.

OUR STRATEGY

The Richmond County School System's Theory of Action can be found in the Strategy Map. Each of the gold boxes on the Strategy Map represents a Goal Area and the blue boxes represent Performance Objectives. By starting from the bottom and reading each of the Goal Areas upwards, you will be able to articulate our Theory of Action.

When the students are supported by the community, there is more opportunity for High Academic Achievement and Success. The Richmond County School System wants all students to read on grade level by 3rd grade and to perform on grade level in math by 4th grade. The main goal of the school system is to graduate all of our students so that they can be ready for college and/or the workforce. When Community Engagement increases, students are afforded more opportunities for internships, mentoring, and volunteering. Partnerships between the schools and businesses and the religious community grow and students thrive. Communication internally and externally with parents, community members, and stakeholders is key to gathering information and to making the community aware of progress and needs. Once the community is aware of needs and its role to help, Community Engagement will increase. A High Performing Culture and Workforce includes recruiting, hiring, and retaining effective staff, participating in effective professional learning, and planning for the future. When the workforce is operating at a high performance level, there will be increased Communication. The Operational Effectiveness goal is the foundation for the strategy map. All operational pieces including policies and procedures, good customer service, securing and maintaining a safe and orderly environment, and having an efficient budgeting process must be in place before we can have a High Performing Culture and Workforce.





HIGH ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT & SUCCESS

Meet our Outstanding Students

Four Lake Forest Hills Elementary students ranked 'First in Math' throughout the Richmond County School System! Stuti Patil is the top ranked student in the 'First in Math' program, she is also the top ranked third grade student in the state of Georgia and ranks seventh in the state for all grades. Kennedy Grayson is the top ranked second grade student throughout the RCSS and Simms Schweser is the top ranked first grade student. Derek Topolski is the top ranked kindergarten student for RCSS. "We are so very proud of these students," said Ms. Kaye Walden, the Lake Forest Hills Elementary Instructional Coach and Mrs. Darlene Berry, third grade teacher.

Every day in Richmond County, students work hard to achieve their academic best. This is just one example of the great things happening in our system.

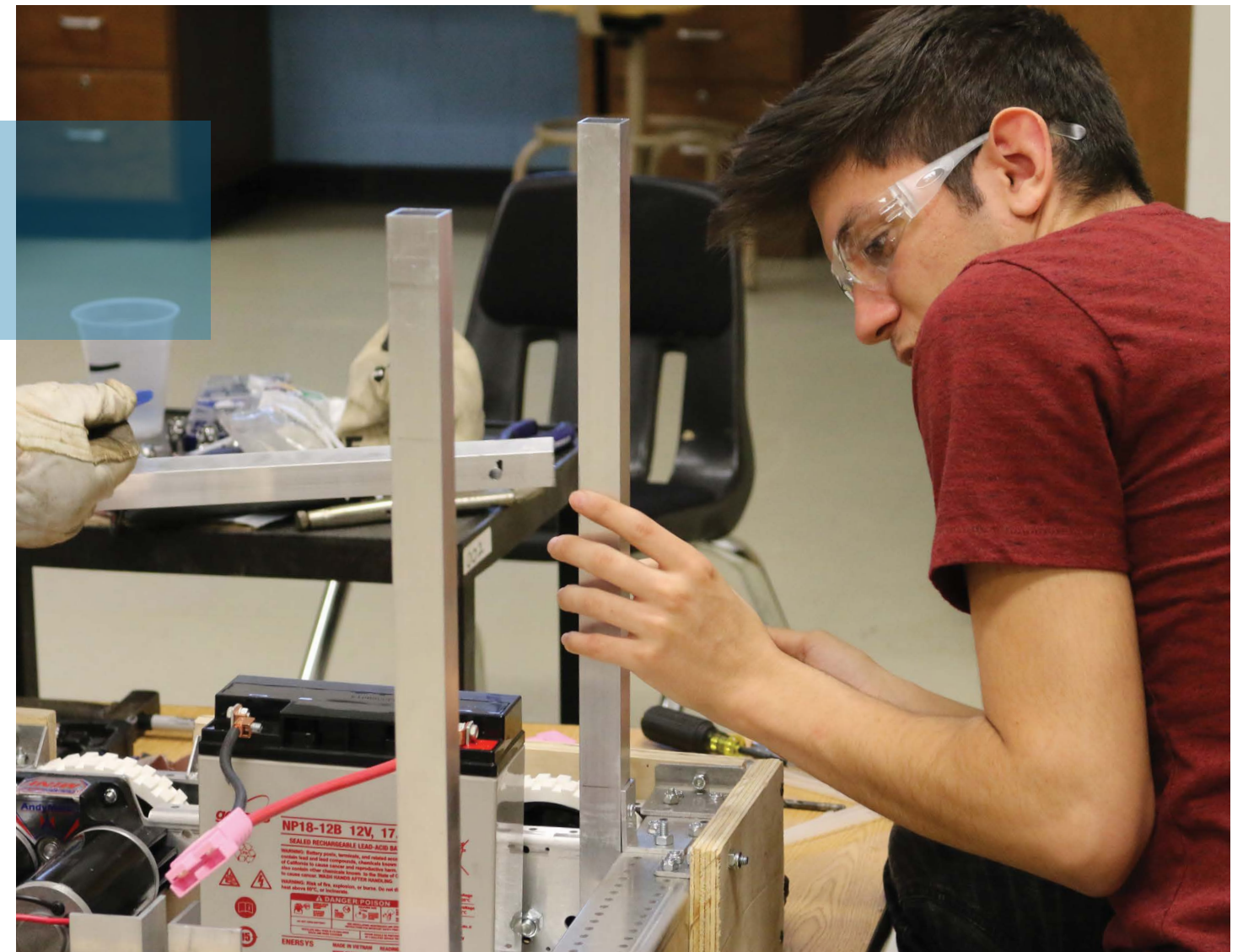


Cybersecurity, a growing Augusta field, is another STEM focus area for the school system. With programs across the system, students are learning critical skills such as implementing/troubleshooting access control, data integrity monitoring, security event monitoring, anti-malware protection, and security path deployments. At the Richmond County Technical Career Magnet School, students can apply to join the Cyber Academy of Excellence. Through a partnership with Augusta Technical College, students have the opportunity to earn college credit through Dual Enrollment to work towards an Associate Degree in Cybersecurity, a certificate in Cisco Certified Network Associate (CSNA) Security, or an A+ and Microsoft Client Certificate. By delivering a technically focused, security-related curriculum, students will be prepared to work in Augusta's fastest growing industry sector, ensuring we keep our best students right here at home.

HIGH ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT & SUCCESS

Focusing on Cybersecurity and Robotics

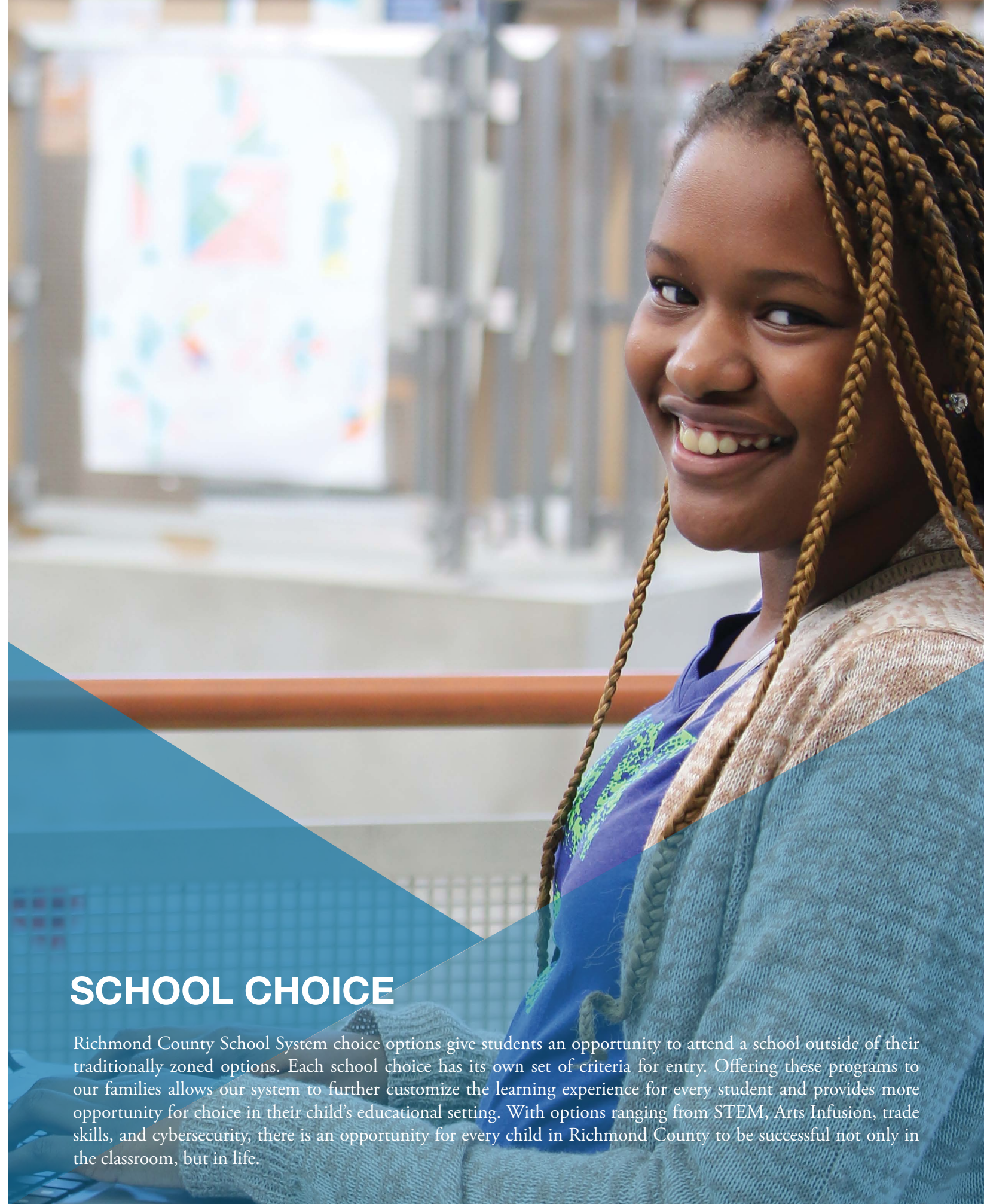
As the Augusta workforce becomes more focused on STEM skills and technical fields, the Richmond County School System has adapted to ensure students are college and career ready. One example of this is the work taking place at Spirit Creek Middle School. They have narrowed their STEM focus to the fields of robotics and computer programming. By focusing on robotics and computer programming, students will develop concrete skills and a knowledge base that will make them more competitive in a global and digital world. Students participating learn to develop a computer programming mindset through a variety of high-level languages, focusing on object-oriented programming languages such as Java, C++, and Python. This knowledge base will be used in later middle school years to control and manipulate competition robots for academic and extracurricular endeavors.





MAGNET SCHOOLS & PROGRAMS

Public schools offering specialized instruction and programs are called “Dedicated Magnet Schools.” Magnet schools draw students from across the system, rather than the traditional school zones defined by the school board. Magnet programs offered within comprehensive schools are called “Specialized Programs.” These programs operate as a “school within a school,” or “whole school.” In addition to serving their traditionally zoned students, specialized programs also draw students from across the system. Students wishing to attend any of the magnet programs must complete an application and meet certain criteria.

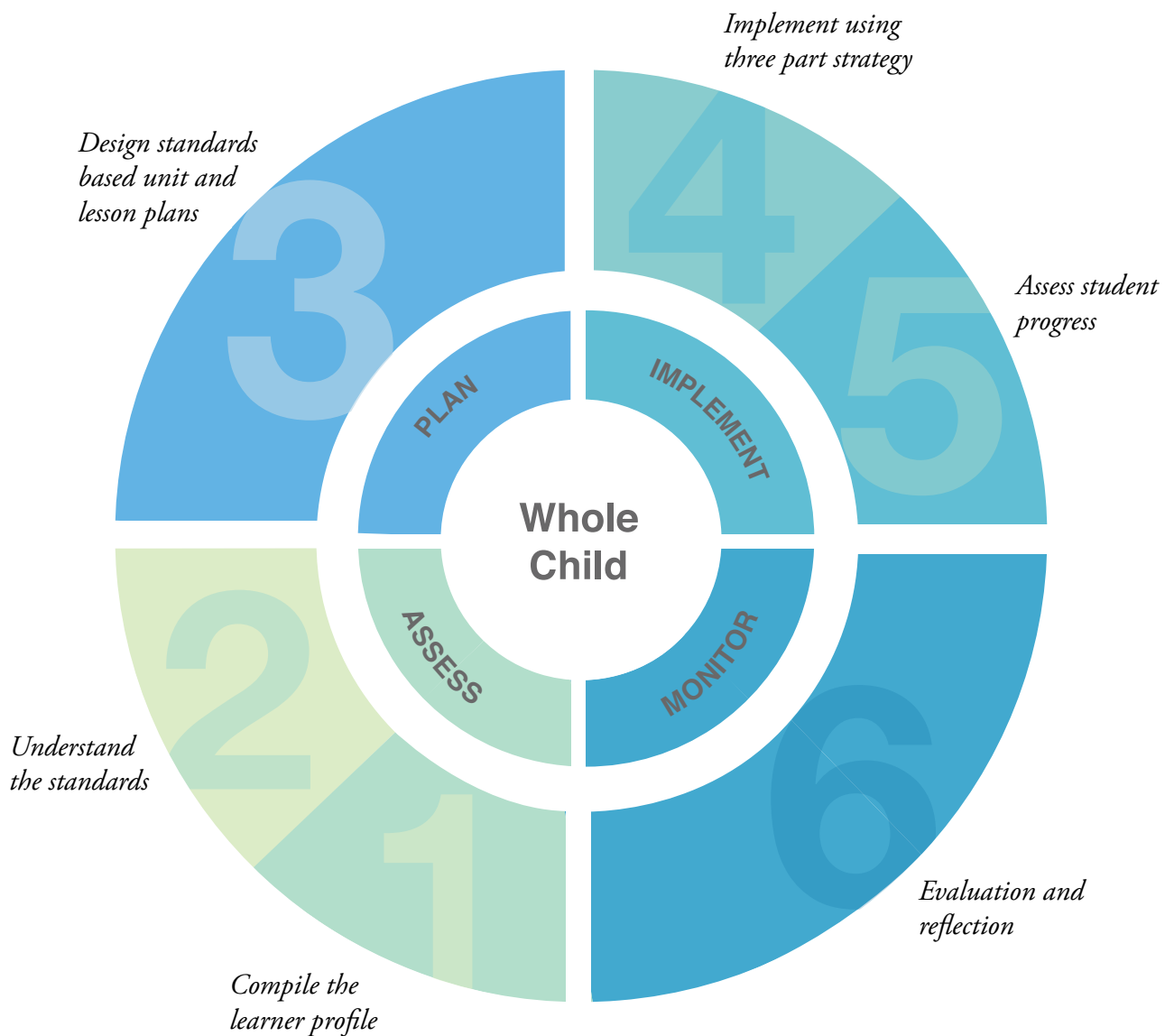


SCHOOL CHOICE

Richmond County School System choice options give students an opportunity to attend a school outside of their traditionally zoned options. Each school choice has its own set of criteria for entry. Offering these programs to our families allows our system to further customize the learning experience for every student and provides more opportunity for choice in their child’s educational setting. With options ranging from STEM, Arts Infusion, trade skills, and cybersecurity, there is an opportunity for every child in Richmond County to be successful not only in the classroom, but in life.

RCK12 INSTRUCTIONAL FRAMEWORK & EXPECTATIONS

The RCK12 Curriculum (Rigorous Curriculum and Knowledge through grade 12) is a comprehensive curriculum that provides a consistent instructional framework to prepare students for success in college and/or the 21st century workplace.



Classroom Syllabus

Must include:

Course description, Instructional Philosophy, Major Course Goals, Major Projects & Instructional Activities, Course Assessment Plan, Classroom Expectations, Supplies & Materials Needed, Homework Policy & Grading Scale, Extra Help, and Time and Place to be reached by a parent.

Classroom Environment

- * Work to establish an environment for learning.
- * Have Essential Questions and/or Learning Targets related to state standards or key concepts posted and refer to them throughout the lesson.
- * Make sure classroom motivation and management plans are developed, communicated, and implemented.
- * Take attendance daily.
- * Plan for smooth transition between academic tasks.
- * Have frequent parent contacts and conferences.
- * Have frequent teacher/student conversations.

Teacher's Daily Instruction

- * Establish and communicate high expectations to students.
- * Align all instructional activities to the state standards.
- * Follow the RCK12 Curriculum Pacing Guide which serves as a guide to what students will be learning in the classroom at any point throughout the year.
- * Use evidence of learning through the Learning Cycle by incorporating the 3-part lesson.
- * Use Essential Questions and/or Learning Targets to help students understand the purpose and focus of the lesson.
- * Promote student learning by using research based instructional strategies that engage students in active learning.
- * Move around the room, guiding cooperative learning groups.
- * Use a variety of diagnostic, formative, and summative assessment strategies.
- * Analyze and use data to measure students' progress and inform instruction.
- * Integrate technology.



Augusta Regional Airport offered high school students the opportunity to shadow multiple aviation departments throughout the summer; providing students that are interested in the aviation industry the opportunity to shadow professionals within each field and gain knowledge and experience through the use of observation and hands-on opportunities. Two students, Donquarius Rhodes from the Academy of Richmond County and JaQuan Hall from Lucy C. Laney High School, spent four weeks of their summer shadowing professionals in aviation fields such as, Airfield Maintenance, Aircraft Maintenance, Avionics, Line Service, Airport Operations, and Airport Engineering.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Partners in Education

The Richmond County School System strives to develop and execute a strategy for broader community awareness and engagement through traditional and innovative mediums. When the communication is effective, the community engagement will increase as the community is made aware of progress and needs. This year, the Richmond County School System highlights its partnerships with the Augusta Regional Airport and Augusta Aviation at Daniel Field. This partnership with our Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education Department (CTAE) provided summer internship experiences and multiple events promoting the future of aviation.





Although Augusta University (AU) partners with the Richmond County School System in many areas, one of the most spectacular is their Education Day event! Each year, AU hosts fifth graders from RCSS elementary schools to attend a college basketball game at Christenberry Fieldhouse to cheer on the Augusta University Jaguars Basketball team. This opportunity exposes students to Augusta University and allows them to interact with the players, many of whom are from the Augusta area. In this way, athletics opens the eyes of students to the possibilities of college and the opportunity to play a sport in front of a loud, hometown crowd.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Athletics in Our Community

Emani Mayo and Nicolette Mayo, Hephzibah High School, were both named the Most Positive Co-Multi-Sport Athlete in East Georgia. The two outstanding students were recognized as regional award winners in this year's Positive Athlete Georgia Program. The Positive Athlete Georgia Program recognizes athletes who are making a positive contribution to their communities with the belief that a positive attitude is essential to their success. "Hard work pays off, reach for the stars," said Emani and Nicolette Mayo simultaneously, their positive attitude shining through as they discuss their achievements as students and athletes. "They embody the perfect student athlete; they are respected by the student body, faculty, and community in the classroom and on the track and field," says Angela Beard Anderson, Head Varsity Basketball, Softball, Track & Field Coach for Hephzibah High.





This is something I feel I can give a unique approach to as a teenager living in the age of social media.

- Isabelle Tudor Schwartz
Student Advocate

COMMUNICATION

Student Advocacy

Isabelle Tudor Schwartz is on a mission. The tenth grader, currently at Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School, has actively been raising awareness throughout the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) on sex trafficking. “I was inspired when I read *Sold*, a true story account of a girl sold into sex trafficking at a young age by Patricia McCormick. Through my own research, I learned that this is a big problem in the U.S. and here in Augusta. This is something I feel I can give a unique approach to as a teenager living in the age of social media. Although I never experienced this personally, I still want to make a difference.”

A difference being felt throughout the Richmond County School System and the CSRA. Schwartz was asked to speak at Augusta University this past March for the Impacting Student Learning Conference; where she spoke on sex trafficking and its lack of awareness throughout the CSRA and presented key information on the topic to educate and inform the community. Schwartz primarily focuses on educating her peers and teenagers on the dangers of sex trafficking combined with social media. Recently, she was highlighted in an issue of the Summerville Living Magazine for her accomplishments throughout the Augusta community as a young advocate.

Stories like these, along with announcements and reminders, are featured regularly on the Richmond County School System’s online newsletter, *The Bulletin*.





Ms. Owens' presence is at war with mediocrity. She has a unique way of finding your abilities and ensuring that you are committed to your best self.

- Dr. Titania Singh
Principal of Freedom Park K-8

HIGH PERFORMING CULTURE & WORKFORCE

Teacher of the Year

A goal of the Richmond County School System is to attract, retain, and develop a highly qualified and highly effective workforce that will enable the Richmond County School System to fulfill its mission of building a world class school system through education, collaboration, and innovation.

When asked to describe Ms. Owens, Dr. Titania Singh, Principal of Freedom Park K-8 stated, "Ms. Owens' presence is at war with mediocrity. She is an exemplary role model." This 20-year veteran of the United States Army has not only been committed to serve our country, but also to impact the lives of many students. Ms. Owens works as a district mentor, county mentor, and a part of other district lead instructional teams. Her constant devotion and hard work has led her classroom to become an excellent example for the Pearson National School Model.

When asked to look over educational standards Ms. Owens first asks herself one thing, "How can I plan for my students to discover this?" With that one question in mind, she constantly strives to offer each of her students long lasting experiences and promote higher level thinking and learning from a global perspective. Ms. Owens was awarded the 2017 Teacher of the Year for Richmond County School System because of her admirable dedication inside and outside of the classroom.





These efforts were promoted during the 'Feed My School for a Week' campaign, a partnership between the Richmond County School System and the Georgia Department of Agriculture to educate students about the nutritional quality of locally grown food. Students spent time taste testing smoothies, interacting with farm animals, and exploring all the benefits of a healthy lifestyle as part of their experience.

Richmond County Nutrition Services Program keeps it fresh when it comes to the quality and variety of our food. Customer service, efficiency, and cost effectiveness are of the utmost importance, and they strive towards ongoing improvements. Throughout the past year, School Nutrition Services has upgraded menus with student-approved items, improved healthier eating options, improved menus and logistics for Summer Feeding Program, and completed renovations for high school cafeterias. These renovations have included changes to food packaging, branded chef coats and personalized name tags, digital menu displays, and a variety of booths and high top tables within the cafeterias. They hope that the students enjoy their dining experience while receiving the best quality nutrition to help them in their education endeavor.



OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Fueled for Focus on School Nutrition

Richmond County Nutrition Services Program believes it is important to make an impact in shaping students to live healthier and longer lives through proper diet and physical activity. They understand and recognize the role school nutrition plays in changing how students view nutrition and how it helps transform them physically and mentally. By turning cafeterias into “learning laboratories” and expanding school gardens, students will learn substantially with these hands-on activities. They are learning lifelong lessons regarding sustainability, living green, reducing carbon footprints, healthier menu options, recipe development, plant cycles and so much more.

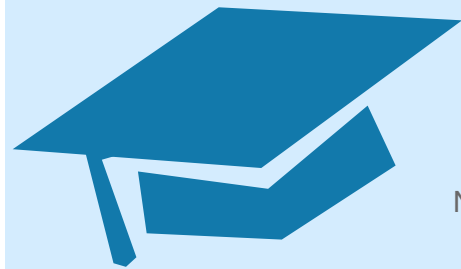
Richmond County School System QUICK FACTS

79%

Richmond County School System's 4-year Cohort Graduation Rate was the highest in 14 years

26.2%

Percent of increase in the graduation rate since 2004



1,700

Number of Graduates in 2017

300+

Number of students dual enrolled in a post-secondary institution during high school

ACHIEVEMENT



7

Number of colleges and universities in which students are dual enrolled



81%

Percent of graduates that completed a CTAE, advanced academic, IB Career Related Programme, fine arts, or world language pathway

WORKFORCE



4,200

Total number of employees as the third largest employer in Richmond County

97,000

Professional learning hours for certified and classified employees



1,925

Classroom Teachers

2,334

Total Certified Personnel

ENVIRONMENT

57

Schools serve the Richmond County School System

10

High Schools

3

Grades 6-12 Schools

10

Middle Schools

32

Elementary Schools

2

Grades K-8 Schools



14,500

Breakfasts served daily

24,600

Lunches served daily

55

Number of Title I Schools

ENGAGEMENT



14.42 million

Views to district and school websites

200,000+

Visits to the online newsletter, *The Bulletin*

4,500+

Followers across social media accounts including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and online newsletter subscribers



RECOGNITIONS & AWARDS

** The Richmond County Board of Education was recognized as a 2016 Georgia School Board Association Distinguished Board.*

** Mr. Marion Barnes, RCBOE District 1 trustee, was recognized by the Georgia School Board Association Board Service for 15 Years of Service.*

** Mrs. Helen Minchew, RCBOE District 10 trustee, was recognized by the Georgia School Board Association Board Service for 15 Years of Service.*

** Dr. Angela D. Pringle was recognized with the National Educational Leadership Award by Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG).*

** Dr. Angela Pringle received The University Council for Educational Administration Excellence in Educational Leadership Award.*

** The Richmond County School System and the Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education Department received the University of Georgia Public Service Award of Four for the Future.*

** The Richmond County School System received a 4th place ranking in the 'Large Student Population District' Category in the 2016-2017 Digital School Districts Survey by the Center for Digital Education, in partnership with the National School Boards Association.*

** Richmond County Board of Education Department of School Safety and Security received their State Certification as a Police Department.*

** The Richmond County School System Communications Department received three 'Best in Category' awards for the 2016 Annual Report and Newsletter Design from the Georgia School Public Relations Association (GSPRA). Ms. Eleanor Prater, Communications Specialist, received a 'Best in Category' award for Photography from the Georgia School Public Relations Association (GSPRA).*

** The Richmond County School System Nutrition Services Department received two Georgia USDA Best Practice Awards in 'Increasing Participation in School Lunch' and Use of Social Marketing for School Nutrition Programs.'*

** Mr. Kaden Jacobs, Director of Communications, was recognized by Georgia Trend Magazine as one of the state's best and brightest young professionals under 40.*

** Dr. Srinivasan Thiyagarajan, Math Teacher at Glenn Hills High School, was named to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Teacher Advisory Council.*

** Mr. Charlie Tudor, Principal at A.R. Johnson Health Science & Engineering Magnet School, was recognized by the Georgia Science Teachers' Association as the Science Administrator of the Year.*

** The Cross Creek Navy JROTC competed at the Navy National Rifle Championship finishing 15th overall in the nation.*

** Seven Richmond County students were awarded scholarships by Comcast*
Brittany Mills - A. R. Johnson Health Science & Engineering Magnet School
Elijah Brown - Westside High School
Maya Brown - John S. Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School
NaDeja Harris - Richmond County Technical Magnet School
Glojohnda Lashawntrice Perrin - Lucy C. Laney High School
Tiara Jones Akles - George Butler High School
Jason Weaver - Academy of Richmond County
Luis Campusano, Cross Creek High School, was drafted to the San Diego Padres.

** Mrs. Betty Walpert, Davidson Fine Arts, was named a 2017 Excellence in Education Award Honorable Mention by the Tony Awards and Carnegie Mellon University.*

** The 2016-2017 Lucy C. Laney Wildcats Varsity Girls Basketball Team won the AAA State Basketball Championship.*

** Ms. Kia Mills, A.R. Johnson Health Science & Engineering Magnet School, was named a 'Middle School Teacher of Promise' by the Georgia Science Teachers' Association.*

** Ms. Tamecka Crawford, Meadowbrook Elementary School, was awarded the 2016-2017 Georgia 'Manager of the Year' award and the Gold Scroll Award for her comprehensive involvement and investments as the School Nutrition Manager.*

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Produced by the Department of Communications



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