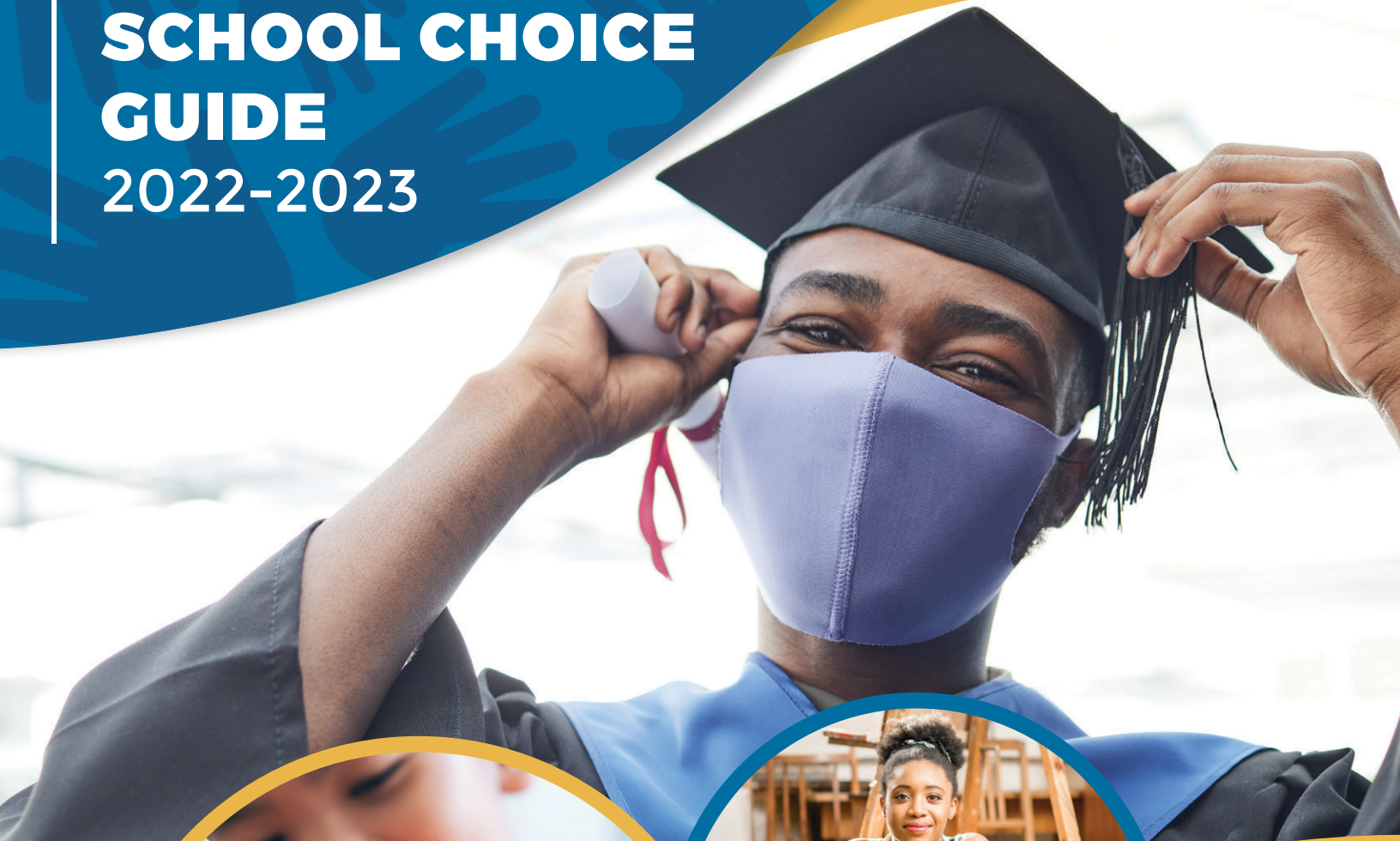


RICHMOND COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

# SCHOOL CHOICE GUIDE 2022-2023



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**SCAN TO GO TO  
RCBOE.ORG/CHOICE TO  
START YOUR APPLICATION**

## A LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear RCSS Families,

Thank you for choosing the Richmond County School System to educate your child! We are committed to building a world-class school system through education, collaboration, and innovation to ensure every child graduates college or career ready. To achieve this, we seek to provide students with choices to meet their interests and academic strengths.

We hope your family will review this guide that outlines our school choice options, dedicated magnet schools, and specialized programs and courses open to all students in Richmond County. To further explore these choices, consider attending open house sessions hosted by the schools. Additional information about open house sessions and school choice is available on our website at [rcboe.org/choice](http://rcboe.org/choice).

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

Sincerely,

*Kenneth Bradshaw, Ed.D  
Superintendent of Schools,  
Richmond County School System*







## WHAT IS SCHOOL CHOICE?

Families of the Richmond County School System are offered a variety of school choice options. These options are designed to meet the interests and academic needs of all our students.

Many of our schools offer specialized courses and programs open to all students in Richmond County. From International Baccalaureate Programmes to Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, skilled trades, robotics, and visual and performing arts, we have options for diverse interests.

In addition to the specialized courses and programs, we provide opportunities to attend our award winning magnet schools: Davidson Fine Arts, a fine arts magnet school; A.R. Johnson, a health science and engineering magnet school; Richmond County Technical Career Magnet School, offering Cybersecurity, Culinary Arts, Networking, Energy, Audio/Video Technology and Film, Business, and Robotics; and C.T. Walker, a traditional magnet school with a focus on respect, patriotism, responsibility, and communication.

In addition to our magnet schools and specialized programs which require a competitive application, we offer school choice in a variety of formats to meet each family's needs.

During the school year, families may request a zone exemption from one attendance zone to another for extreme hardships. The hardships include medical, financial, and bullying. Proof of the hardship must be presented on the application. The school must have space available to be considered for the request.

The school district sets the space available criteria as follows: any school that is above 90% of their enrollment capacity is not eligible for consideration for students who are out of zone. In addition, any newly opened school is not eligible for school choice for a period of four years.



## HOUSE BILL 251

Under a 2009 state law (OCGA 20-2-2131), parents may request a transfer to another public school within their local school district to specified schools and grades designated as having available space. In the Richmond County School System, any school with an enrollment below 90% capacity will be considered a participating school.

If a parent chooses to transfer a child to another school, GA law requires the parent assume all costs and responsibilities related to the transportation of the child to and from school, as long as the child remains at the school. If a parent does not enroll their child/children in the school they are approved to attend by the first week of school, the House Bill 251 becomes obsolete.

In addition, any change of school placement which is not the result of a bona fide change of residency may impact a student's eligibility to participate in Georgia High School Association sanctioned varsity activities and events for one calendar year. The parent or legal guardian is responsible for investigating and determining such impact on eligibility. Therefore, parents and guardians must make individual decisions about the consequences of accepting permissive transfers.

## HOUSE BILL 224 FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

Effective July 1, 2017, Georgia House Bill 224 allows military families to attend any public school located within the school system where the military base, or off-base military housing in which the student resides, is located, provided space is available for additional enrollment.

Each year, the school system will identify schools with available capacity and accept applications for military families to attend these schools. The list of schools with less than 90% capacity, and the application, can be found on the school system's website at [www.rcboe.org/choice](http://www.rcboe.org/choice).

Upon arrival, military families should enroll in their zoned school and complete the application to request a transfer.

1. Enroll the student in their Richmond County zone public school.
2. Visit our website [www.rcboe.org/choice](http://www.rcboe.org/choice) and complete the online application to request a HB 224 transfer. **The application to request a transfer must be completed within 30 days of enrollment.** Paper copies of the application can be picked up at the central office, 864 Broad Street, Augusta, GA 30901.
3. In the event the number of transfer requests exceeds the available capacity in a particular school, requests will be approved based on the order in which they are received.
4. Parents will be notified of approval or denial in writing via the US Postal Service.
5. Once a request is approved, the parent assumes all costs and responsibilities related to transportation of their child to and from school so long as the child remains at the assigned school.





## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Can I submit a paper application instead of applying online?

All applications must be completed online. Assistance will be available every Monday through Friday, 8am-5pm during the months of November and December by calling (706) 826-1136 or emailing [haddebr@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us](mailto:haddebr@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us).

### Can I apply if I don't live in Richmond County, Georgia?

Yes, one may apply, but a student must be a resident of Richmond County at the time of registration in order to enroll. Students who are unable to provide proof of residency will forfeit their acceptance.

### Can I make a correction to my application once it has been submitted?

Changes can be made to the application between November 1, 2021 through January 7, 2022. Parents can access the application using the account created during the application process.

### Do I need to submit teacher recommendations?

Teacher recommendation letters are no longer a part of the application process.

### Where/when will my child take the academic test?

During the application process, you will select a preferred testing date, time, and location. Your child will take the test at the location and will be considered for the program you selected, regardless of test location.

### What will my child need to bring to the academic test?

Students applying to grades 1-12 should bring their pencils and headphones. Students who do not bring headphones will not be able to accurately complete the assessment. Students applying to kindergarten do not need to bring any materials.

### Do I need to remain at the school while my student takes the test?

Parents will need to remain on campus in the waiting area. Since each student works at his or her own pace, testing times may vary between 45 minutes and 3 hours.

### If my child is gifted, do they still need to participate in the testing?

Yes, all applicants must participate in testing.

### Can my child be tested for kindergarten even if she is not yet old enough?

According to Georgia state law, students enrolling in kindergarten must reach the age of 5 by September 1.

### When will auditions for Davidson Fine Arts be held?

Auditions for qualified applicants will be held February 18, 2022.

### Can I change my mind about transportation?

Yes. If you change your mind, please let the school know during your March pre-registration meeting.

### If my child is accepted, can they start now?

This application process is for the 2022-2023 school year.

### Why do I have to indicate my child's gifted status?

This information is shared with the receiving school after the students has been accepted to ensure that gifted services are in place once the student arrives in the fall. This information is a voluntary portion of the application. Parents who do not wish to reveal this information on the application are not required. This information is not shared with the admissions team.

### Why do I have to provide my child's zoned school?

Once accepted into a magnet program, this information is used to alert the zoned school that the student will not be attending next year. This information helps us accurately staff our schools. A student's zoned school is not shared with the admissions team.

### If my child is currently enrolled in a Richmond County School System school, can I find their student identification number in Parent Portal?

Yes. If you have an active account in Parent Portal, your child's student identification number appears in the top left information box under the name of the school. The number typically begins with the digits 300.

### Can I apply for School Choice AND Magnet Schools?

Yes. Parents can apply to both and then select the desired school if accepted to both. Decisions for the 2022-2023 enrollment must be made in the spring.

### How can I prepare my child for the magnet grades 1-12 testing?

Students applying for grades 1-12 will take a computerized Reading and Math assessment that will generate a Lexile and Quantile score. Students considered for admissions must perform on-grade level or higher. For more information about both measures, please visit [www.lexile.com](http://www.lexile.com) or [www.quantiles.com](http://www.quantiles.com). To best prepare your students, review the Georgia reading and math educational standards for your child's grade level. Students should arrive 30 minutes prior to testing for check-in. Students applying to grades 1-12 should bring their own pencils and headphones for testing. Students will be allowed to use the restroom and stretch between the 2 tests.



## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR EARLY CONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE

### ***System Requirements for all Magnet Schools and Specialized Programs:***

- For a competitive application, students should have a final average of 80 in all core subjects (math, reading, science, social studies), and conduct (grades 1-6) from the previous school year.
- Applicants must participate in the system-wide reading and math assessment.
- Applicants must be residents of Richmond County to enroll in any Richmond County magnet school or specialized program.
- Kindergarten applicants must reach the age of 5 by September 1 of year enrolling.
- K-3 applicants must maintain a “B” average or a rating of 2 (for students with standards-based report cards), in language arts and math for the current school year; applicants in grades 4-11 must maintain an 80 average in core subjects. Students in grades 4-6 must also maintain a “B” average in conduct. At the end of the current school year, magnet school candidates must present cumulative current report cards.

### ***Students Currently Enrolled in the Richmond County School System:***

- Before you begin the application, you will need your child’s 9-digit student identification number. This number may be obtained from your child’s current school, Parent Portal, or your child’s report card. The number typically begins with the digits 300. This is NOT your child’s social security number. Providing this number will allow us to access your child’s grades and streamline the application process.

### ***Students NOT Currently Enrolled in the Richmond County School System:***

- Before you begin the application, you will need a copy of the last year’s report card (unless you are applying to kindergarten). Students applying to 10th, 11th, or 12th grade will also be required to submit a current high school transcript.
- During the online application process, you will be prompted to upload your supporting documents.
- If you are unable to upload required documents, please mail them to the address below. All items must be postmarked by mid-January:

**Richmond County Board of Education  
Attn: Magnet/Choice Application  
864 Broad Street, Suite 419  
Augusta, GA 30901**



## TESTING AND TRANSPORTATION

### Testing

All students applying to magnet schools and specialized programs must participate in a reading and math readiness assessment. During the application process, parents will have the ability to select the preferred testing date and location. Students will take the test according to the grade for which they are applying.

Example: Students applying to kindergarten will test with kindergarten at C.T. Walker Traditional Magnet School.

<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Jan 27, 2022</b>	<b>Jan 30, 2022</b>
Kindergarten	Warren Road Elementary	C.T. Walker
1st-5th grade	Copeland Elementary Garrett Elementary	Hains Elementary Hephzibah Elementary
6th-12th grade	Academy of Richmond County Davidson Fine Arts Laney High Hephzibah Middle	A.R. Johnson Cross Creek High Langford Middle RCTCM Spirit Creek Middle

### Transportation

The following Magnet Schools and Specialized Programs offer transportation to and from school using a shuttle bus system:

- Academy of Richmond County
- A.R. Johnson Health Science and Engineering Magnet School
- C.T. Walker Traditional Magnet School
- John S. Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School
- Lucy C. Laney High School
- Richmond County Technical Career Magnet School

## DEDICATED MAGNET SCHOOLS

### **A.R. JOHNSON** HEALTH SCIENCE & ENGINEERING MAGNET SCHOOL

A.R. Johnson is a public magnet school serving students in grades 6-12. Armed with academic excellence, students have opportunities to explore and enhance their competencies in science, technology, engineering, and mathematical related professions. Students are admitted on selective criteria based upon prior school record, academic testing, and a significant interest in math and science.

### **C.T. WALKER** TRADITIONAL MAGNET SCHOOL

C.T. Walker Traditional Magnet School serves students in grades K-5. The school has a long and proud tradition of academic excellence spanning more than thirty years. C.T. Walker has been named a Georgia School of Excellence, a National Magnet School of Distinction, and a National Blue Ribbon School. C.T. Walker strives to instill the qualities of respect, patriotism, responsibility, and communication.

### **RICHMOND COUNTY** TECHNICAL CAREER MAGNET SCHOOL

RCTCM is a public magnet school serving students in grades 6-12. Students are admitted on selective criteria based upon prior school record, academic testing, and interest in Cybersecurity, Culinary Arts, Networking, Energy (Engineering), Audio/Video Technology & Film, Business, and Robotics. RCTCM is adjacent to Augusta Technical College, where almost 20% of our students participate in Dual Enrollment.

### **JOHN S. DAVIDSON** FINE ARTS MAGNET SCHOOL

Established in 1981, Davidson Fine Arts is a public magnet school serving students in grades 6-12. Students attending Davidson are expected to explore all fine arts areas, but they may specialize in one or more fields during their high school years. Courses are tracked from introductory/exploratory to advanced levels in each area.







The eSchool offers an engaging, virtual learning environment for self-directed learners in grades 6-12. The majority of work is asynchronous, meaning that students work independently through modules in each course. This allows flexibility in a student's daily school routine, such as when and where to complete assignments. Students will engage in a standards-based curriculum on his or her own with occasional "live" support from teachers.

Ideal candidates for eSchool have documented academic success, grades of C or higher; score at the developing learner level or higher on Georgia Milestones; and are progressing toward grade-level promotion and/or timely high school graduation. While students with disabilities are not restricted from participation in the eSchool program, all students are expected to work within the curriculum without modifications that would compromise the integrity of the course. As a choice option, the eSchool is not required to modify or change the instructional programs if the program's integrity may be compromised.

eSchool is a year-long commitment. If you are considering this option, feel free to contact the eSchool where the administrative and counseling staff will be happy to assist your family in determining if their program is the best option for your student.



### WHO IS BEST SUITED?

Sixth through twelfth grade students who are self-directed learners: motivated, persevering and independent.

Students with reading, writing, and mathematical skills at, above or near grade level.

Those who possess effective time management skills, basic computer skills, and can self-advocate.

## INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

The IB program is a rigorous program of study focusing on critical thinking and international mindedness. The program seeks to develop the whole child - intellectually, personally, socially, and emotionally - through teaching of cultural understanding, language development, and volunteerism.

Designed to reinforce a positive attitude, the program teaches students to ask challenging questions, reflect critically, develop research skills, and learn how to learn.

The continuum of education spans from Kindergarten to Grade 12. IB schools maintain high standards by actively training and supporting teachers in the IB curriculum. IB schools are also evaluated and authorized by the International Baccalaureate Organization in order to receive IB World School designation.



### WHO IS BEST SUITED?

Intellectually curious and critical thinkers	Effective communicators	Caring, balanced and open-minded students	Those willing to take risks, while maintaining principles	Students who are reflective and learn from experience
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### OUR IB SCHOOLS

- Academy of Richmond County
- Copeland Elementary School \*
- Hephzibah Elementary School
- Hephzibah Middle School
- Hephzibah High School
- Lake Forest Hills Elementary School
- Langford Middle School

*\*IB Candidate School*



# INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE



## PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAMME (PYP)

For grades K-5, PYP introduces specific vocabulary and concepts; this includes inquiry-based learning, PYP attitudes/character traits, and the learning profile. School staff members develop units of inquiry connecting subject areas so students can view their studies holistically. The PYP emphasizes academic development, international understanding, and service to society. The curriculum framework includes 5 essential elements: concepts, actions, skills, knowledge, and attitudes.

## DIPLOMA PROGRAMME (DP)

For grades 11-12, DP is a two-year curriculum and among the most academically rigorous programs offered in high school. The program emphasizes intellectual and international understanding, as well as responsible citizenship and community service. Students are encouraged to sit for international exams with the opportunity to earn the IB Diploma are also required to complete Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS) hours, the Theory of Knowledge Course, and an Extended Essay.

## MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME (MYP)

For grades 6-10, MYP emphasizes the learning profile and focuses on an intensive study of core subjects, while integrating concept based learning through global contexts and key concepts. Students study a variety of disciplines and how they relate. MYP students complete community activities and service hours; a personal project is the culminating assessment for the program.

## CAREER-RELATED PROGRAMME (CRP)

The IB Career-Related Programme is rigorous 11th and 12th grade curriculum preparing students to enter college or the workforce. In addition to completing their chosen career pathway, such as engineering or cybersecurity, students take a selection of rigorous IB courses and engage in service learning, language acquisition, and reflection and investigation into ethical issues in their fields of study. Students who successfully complete the programme requirements earn the IB Career-Related Certificate and may also earn college credit.

# SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ARTS, AND MATHEMATICS



## STEM

STEM education is an approach to teaching and learning that integrates the content and skills of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Along with content knowledge, a strong STEM program establishes student behaviors, which include engagement in inquiry, logical reasoning, collaboration, and investigation. The goal of STEM education is to prepare students for post-secondary study in the 21st century workforce.

## STE(A)M

STE(A)M fuses arts and creativity with STEM to engage the whole child and foster high achievement in all areas by blending the arts, and sciences. Both STEM and STEAM employ the artistic process and scientific method of relying on exploration of ideas and possibilities.

Both require high student engagement in exploring creative and critical thinking. STEAM complements 21st century skills, particularly the “4 Cs”: creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and communication.

## WHO IS BEST SUITED?

Intellectually curious and critical thinkers

Those interested in design (including sound, spatial, process, and object)

Students who respond to problem solving with fluency, flexibility, and originality



## STEM & STEAM SCHOOLS

- Goshen Elementary School
- A. Dorothy Hains Elementary School
- Spirit Creek Middle School
- A.R. Johnson Health Science & Engineering Magnet School



## CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION



The Career and Technical Education Program at **Richmond County Technical Career Magnet School** provides students opportunities to experience leadership, academia, and social interactions along with global humanitarian opportunities.

Students will experience academic rigor and advanced opportunities starting in 6th grade, making it possible for students to earn a high school diploma as well as certifications, diplomas, and credit towards an associates degree.

### WHO IS BEST SUITED?

Students with a passion and intense drive to succeed with perseverance and determination.

Those with a strong sense of self.

Students who are adaptable to changing circumstances.

Those with enterprising skills and desire to be their own boss.

#### Cybersecurity

This program includes implementing/troubleshooting access control, data integrity monitoring, security event monitoring, anti-malware protection, and security deployments.

#### Culinary Arts

A career in culinary arts provides job opportunities to executive chefs to part-time food service workers.

#### Energy

Working in energy can include possibilities for work in utilities, gas and oil companies, government and research groups, energy education, or environmental regulation agencies.

#### Computer Networking

Networking is a broad pathway including occupations such as computer programmers, system analysts, and database administrators.

#### Electronics

This program includes biomedical engineering, informatics and engineering, software engineering, mechatronics and robotics, and electronics micro-engineering.

#### Audio/Video Technology and Film

This industry is comprised of two major employers: radio/television broadcasting companies and film production.

## TRADITIONAL MAGNET SCHOOL



### C.T. WALKER TRADITIONAL MAGNET SCHOOL

As the only dedicated elementary magnet school, **C.T. Walker Traditional Magnet School** is a K-5 school that serves a diverse population from every zip code in Richmond County.

The primary focus is communication and leadership as reflected in our motto: Character, Leadership, and Learning: Traditions for Tomorrow. Students develop leadership and communication skills through exposure to art, music, drama, media arts, STEM, and Spanish coursework. Academic courses are taught at an accelerated pace and students are provided with quarterly projects to enhance their communication skills. At the end of 5th grade, students have an exemplary academic foundation and exposure to the variety of career pathways found at the three dedicated 6-12 magnet schools.

**The Walker Way** challenges students to be Wise, Attentive, Leaders, who are Kind, Ethical, and Responsible. Annually, each grade level designs and implements a community service project to give back to our community. Through community partnerships, parental involvement, and a focus on embracing the whole child, C.T. Walker combines innovative instruction with wrap around services to create an environment that supports and encourages creativity, cultural exploration, and self-expression.

C.T. Walker has a long and proud academic tradition spanning 35 years in the Augusta community. Some of the school's most recent honors include: 2019 National Blue Ribbon School, 2019 Title I Distinguished School, 2020 National Magnet School of Distinction, and a 2020 #1 Niche Standout School.

### WHO IS BEST SUITED?

Students who think creatively and desire to explore pathways in the fine arts, STEM, and foreign language

Students who respond to high expectations for personal conduct and academics

Students who embrace diversity and multiculturalism



## VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS



The focus of the Visual and Performing Arts Program is to develop a student's talents and passion for the arts. Students receive specialized studies in dance, music, theatre, and visual arts. As an integral part of a strong academic program, the arts are approached through education, integration, and exposure.

At the elementary level, the arts are used as a catalyst for building a collaborative, creative, arts-infused culture and community. Students receive weekly classes in each of the four arts disciplines, as well as arts-integrated instruction in grade-based classrooms.

Students continuing to the middle and high school programs will receive seven consecutive years of rigorous, intensive instruction in the visual and performing arts to address the needs of individual students.

### WHO IS BEST SUITED?

Students committed to developing personal artistic abilities	Those who desire to participate in artistic exhibitions and performances	Students who work well independently and in groups	Those willing to receive constructive feedback for continued growth in the arts
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### SPECIAL FEATURES

- Students receive instruction in dance, music, theatre arts, and visual arts
- Performance opportunities available at all levels
- Collaboration with businesses and community organizations to provide resources and give insight to the skills students need to become successful adults

### VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS SCHOOLS

- Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School
- Garrett Elementary School
- Warren Road Elementary School
- Tutt Middle School

## ACADEMY FOR ADVANCED PLACEMENT STUDIES



The Advanced Placement (AP) Studies are designed to expose the most highly capable students to challenging, rigorous, and accelerated curriculum.

Successful candidates are challenged with opportunities in abstract thinking, problem-solving, and the use of higher-order thinking skills.

The academy employs a school-wide enrichment model and uses project-based, hands-on instructional techniques.

Students are highly engaged through differentiated instruction and are working at least one grade level ahead of other students in their age group and grade placement.

The Academy for Advanced Placement Studies enables students to pursue college-level studies while still in high school by offering an impressive selection of AP courses.

Our AP Academy schools are supported by a three-year grant from the National Math and Science Initiative; students who make qualifying scores on AP assessments, are eligible for cash incentives.

The Academy is designed for students who are interested in, and have a strong aptitude for, the humanities and sciences.

### AP SCHOOLS

- Lucy C. Laney High School
- Westside High School

### WHO IS BEST SUITED?

The highly engaged, abstract thinkers

Self-motivated students with a desire to excel

Intellectually curious and critical thinkers

Students willing to commit to college-level work





### **NAVY JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS AT CROSS CREEK HIGH SCHOOL**

The NJROTC Program is conducted at accredited secondary schools throughout the nation and is taught by retired Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard officers and enlisted personnel.

The NJROTC accredited curriculum emphasizes citizenship and leadership development, maritime heritage, the significance of sea power, and naval topics such as the fundamentals of naval operations, seamanship, navigation, and meteorology.

Classroom instruction is augmented throughout the year with extracurricular activities such as community service; academic, athletic, drill and orienteering competitions; field meets, flights, visits to naval facilities, marksmanship sports training, and physical fitness training.

Cross Creek High School is consistently ranked as one of the top NJROTC programs in Georgia and the nation; it is a citizenship development program designed to ensure the future success of the cadets enrolled. The unit has an outstanding reputation for athletics, academics, drill, and marksmanship and consistently competes at the national championships. Cross Creek has built a strong foundation and is known for high academic and discipline standards. The program has a high success rate of college admissions and workforce entry and has established its own scholarship program for its cadets.

### **WHO IS BEST SUITED?**

Students who  
show leadership or  
interest in developing  
leadership skills

Students interested in  
learning the interaction  
between world-  
cultures and its impact

Those with a desire  
to develop a better  
understanding of their  
own identity and how it  
relates to global citizenry

Those committed  
to participating in  
projects outside the  
regular course of study



## CYBER ACADEMY OF EXCELLENCE



The Cyber Academy of Excellence is open to students attending our traditional and magnet high schools who wish to pursue Cybersecurity Training as well as seek Industry Certification. The students are provided transportation to the Cyber Academy of Excellence at the Richmond County Technical Career Magnet School.

Cyber Academy of Excellence students have the opportunity to prepare for the CompTIA Security+ Certification while earning college credits and following the guidelines of the dual enrollment students.

There are 3 tracks of study available at Augusta Technical College:

1. Associate Degree in Cybersecurity (Associate Degree)
2. Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) Security (Technical Certificate of Credit)
3. A+ and Microsoft Client Certification (Technical Certificate of Credit)

The program delivers a technically-focused, security-related curriculum explicitly designed to address the fast-growing careers in cybersecurity and computer science. The interdisciplinary nature of the program allows potential students to develop deep technological skills and an understanding of the business, managerial, and administrative elements of networking and coding principles.

### WHO IS BEST SUITED?

Students who have completed the Cybersecurity or Networking pathway

Students with basic computer skills

### HOW TO APPLY:

See school guidance counselor or administrator for registration information

## MARION E. BARNES CAREER CENTER



The skilled trades center is a unique opportunity that provides hands-on experience for students of the Richmond County School System. Students are introduced to career fields related to manufacturing and skilled labor professions. This centralized location offers the following pathways for any RCSS student:

- Carpentry
- HVACR Electrical
- Masonry
- Plumbing
- Welding
- Cosmetology

Students are afforded the opportunity to experience work-based learning, internships, and participate in volunteer efforts with Habitat for Humanity. Success in any of these programs can lead to specified certifications, apprenticeship opportunities, post-secondary education, and possible employment immediately after graduation. Students wishing to participate are transported to the skilled trades center for specified courses.

### WHO IS BEST SUITED?

Motivated and hardworking  
high school students

Students who need a flexible  
school/work schedule

### HOW TO APPLY:

See school guidance  
counselor or administrator  
for referral



## REACHING POTENTIAL THROUGH MANUFACTURING



Reaching Potential through Manufacturing (RPM) is a partnership between Textron Specialized Vehicles Inc. and the Richmond County School System. Through this innovative program, students have the ability to make up lost ground toward a high school diploma while also earning an income and gaining valuable work experience in a manufacturing facility.

There are more than 100 students enrolled in this co-operative education program which combines an instructional day with a four-hour shift at a manufacturing facility. The facility produces components and sub-assemblies for products manufactured by Textron Specialized Vehicles, which manufactures vehicles under the E-Z Go®, Cushman®, Textron Off Road®, TUG™, and Douglas™ brands.

In addition to the manufacturing floor, the facility includes classroom and educational space to allow students to make progress toward their high school diplomas. Students have the choice between continuing to attend classes in their home schools or taking coursework at the RPM facility. RPM students also receive training in life skills and are provided tutoring resources as needed.

### WHO IS BEST SUITED?

Motivated and hardworking  
high school students

Students who need a flexible  
school/work schedule

### HOW TO APPLY:

See school guidance  
counselor or administrator  
for referral





## FREEDOM PARK K-8

Freedom Park K-8 School is conveniently located by Gate 5 on Fort Gordon and primarily serves students living on Fort Gordon. In addition, students of active duty military members living off base, Department of Defense civilians working on Fort Gordon, and children of retired military members living within the Richmond County School System boundaries are eligible to apply through the lottery application process. The number of available seats will be determined once all zoned students have been enrolled. If selected, students living outside of the attendance zone must provide their own transportation. Active duty families living off base will be given priority in the lottery process.

Students in grades 6-8 have an opportunity to study robotics and cyber-related education. These programs prepare students to develop real-world solutions for implementing and troubleshooting the monitoring and security of advanced systems. Students will have the skills to explore advanced studies in technology.

Students in all grades participate in Makerspace and collaborate with national and international partners to explore global solutions. Freedom Park K-8 is a Middle Years Programme (MYP) International Baccalaureate candidate school.

### WHO IS BEST SUITED?

Military families living off base

### HOW TO APPLY:

Contact the School Options Office for an application

## PERFORMANCE LEARNING CENTER

The Performance Learning Center (PLC) is a nontraditional, virtual high school in Richmond County. The school promotes high academic standards through the implementation of the curriculum set forth by the Georgia Department of Education and the expectations of the Richmond County School System. PLC provides a place where all students are challenged and expected to be responsible for their education; in this setting, teachers act as learning facilitators.

PLC offers a strong curriculum with more than 100 possible course selections in math, science, language arts, social studies, visual art, physical education, and Entrepreneurship Pathway in CTAE. The educational model at PLC utilizes *Edgenuity* as the primary source of curriculum courseware in which students work and earn credits while attending class in an online environment. While attending PLC, students will master the knowledge and skills that will prepare them for success in technical school, college, the military, or the workforce.

Any student who desires an alternative education center is able to enroll without a referral.

### WHO IS BEST SUITED?

Independent, motivated students

Students with strong computer skills

Students who wish to complete their coursework online rather than through a traditional approach

### HOW TO APPLY:

See school guidance counselor or administrator for a referral



**NOTES**

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## IMPORTANT DATES

### ***EARLY Application Timeline for the 2022-2023 School Year***

#### **NOVEMBER 1, 2021:**

Students may start applying at 8am

#### **NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2021:**

Individual school open houses (see websites for dates)

#### **JANUARY 7, 2022:**

Last day for magnet school and specialized programs application

#### **JANUARY 26 & 29, 2022:**

Academic testing

#### **FEBRUARY 18, 2022:**

Davidson Fine Arts auditions

#### **MARCH 4, 2022:**

Decision letters mailed

#### **MAY 1, 2022:**

Last day for House Bill 251 applications



[rcboe.org/choice](https://rcboe.org/choice)

### ***LATE Application Timeline for the 2022-2023 School Year***

#### **APRIL 1 - MAY 1, 2022:**

Late application window

#### **MAY 14, 2022:**

Late testing

#### **JUNE 3, 2022:**

Final decision letters mailed

**NOTE:** The late application process will be available to students who did not apply during the early application phase. Only programs with available space will be listed as options during the late application window. Military families with PCS Orders that arrive in Augusta between January 1, 2022 through September 1, 2022 should contact the Central Office at (706) 826-1136.



Richmond County Board of Education  
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For further information, please contact Brian Hadden, (706) 826-1136.  
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