Rockdale Magnet School for Science & Technology

Director: Ms. Sherrie Waddell

Safety • Communication • High Expectations • Family Partnership

ROCKDALE MAGNET SCHOOL
for SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY
MIDDLE GRADES CAMPUS

OUR MISSION

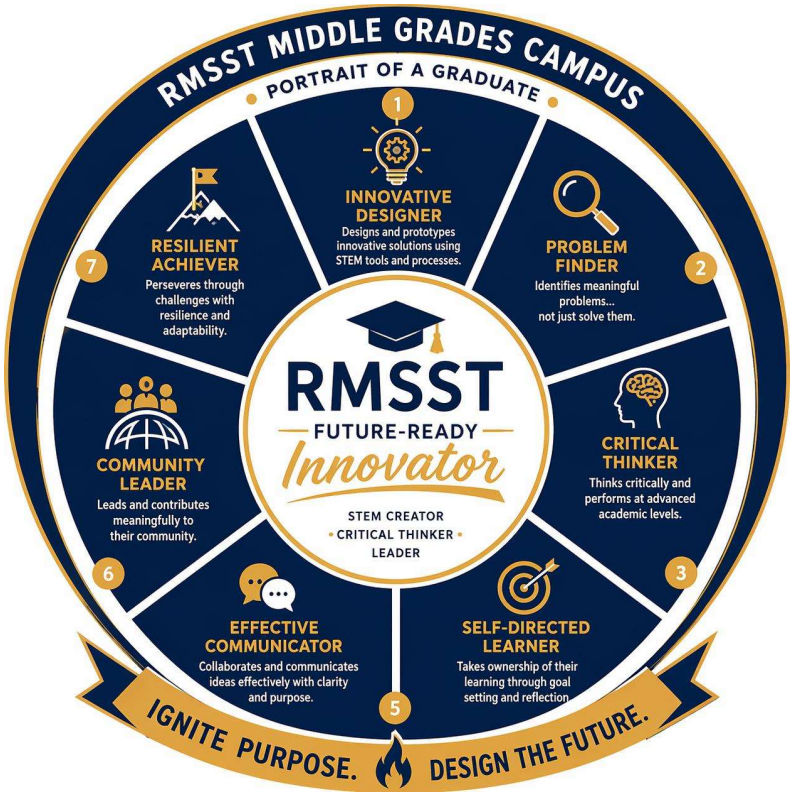
RMSST Middle Grades Campus develops students into **global STEM leaders** of accelerated change by engaging students in **joyful learning** grounded in **STEM research**, real-world problem solving, advanced academics, **leadership**, and **community service.**

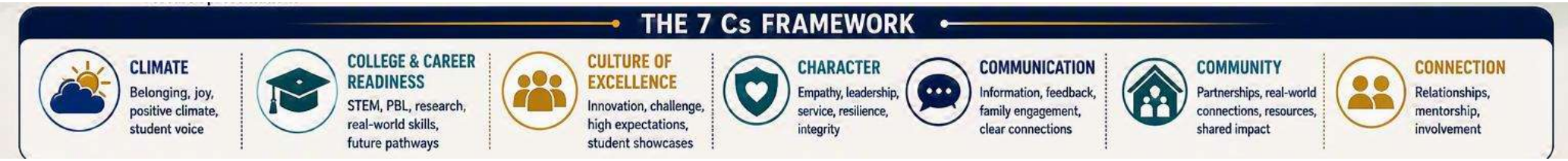
Ignite Purpose. Design the Future.

How?

What sets our school model apart?

- Full-time STEM model
- 4-8 Grade Band
- Selective admissions
- Real-world learning daily
- Early advanced coursework
- Rigor + belonging + purpose
- Aligned to STEM workforce + community needs
- 7 C's Framework





What Have we Accomplished so far?

- Multiple Processes Created, Refined, Streamlined (Transportation, PTO, Safety & Security, etc)
- Classroom Furniture donation (5th grade) from Nu-Idea School Supply, Inc
- Grant Funding
  - Multiple teachers received $1000 grants from Rockdale Foundation
  - $1000 Grant from Robins Financial Credit Union (Hix- 4th grade)
  - $25,000 Grant for Innovation STEM Lab from DC Blox
  - $1000 Grant from Grind Capital
- Campus Beautification Projects
- Student Town Halls, Meet the Counselor, Director, & Nurse
- In person and virtual events
- Research procedures, hands on learning, PBL projects have started
- Clubs and Additional Tutorials will start in September (Leadership & Service, Academic, Enrichment)
- Competitions, Challenges, and Showcases

Arrival: 7:20 – 7:35

Instruction begins at **7:35**; students arriving after this time are **tardy**

Late arrivals (after 7:35):
7:35–8:20: Parent check-in at side cafeteria door

After 8:20: Check-in at front office

Written excuse required within **3 days** for excused tardies/absences

Attendance matters: consistent attendance = higher achievement

Attendance Works

Help Your Child Do Well in School:
Build the Habit of Good Attendance



Did you know?

- Too many absences in preschool and elementary school can cause children to struggle socially and academically.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Missing 10% of school (2 days each month) can make it harder to learn to read and do basic math.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school — and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool and through elementary school so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day, is important.

What you can do

- Set a **regular** bedtime and morning **routine.**
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks **the night before**.
- **Keep** your child **healthy** and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Develop **backup plans** for getting to school if something comes up.
- **Monitor** your child's **absences**.
- Try to schedule **nonurgent medical appointments** and extended trips when school isn't in session.
- **If** your child seems **anxious** about going to school, **talk to teachers**, school counselors and other parents for advice on how to make your child feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- **If** you are **concerned** that your child may have a contagious illness, **call** your school nurse or health-care provider **for advice**. Ask the teacher for ideas to support missed learning time.

Transportation

Car Riders

Students must exit vehicles on the right side only.

Car rider tags are required for all students; two tags will be issued per student.

Afternoon pickup: 2:40 – 3:00 p.m.





Bus Riders

For your child's safety, must be in writing to the child's teacher and to our bookkeeper, Mrs. Vickie Root. Please submit requests no later than 1:30pm so the school has time to verify and confirm the change.

Students are expected to follow all RCPS bus rules. These rules help ensure a safe and smooth ride for everyone.

Breakfast & Lunch

Students have access to a full meal as well as healthy options.

This means your child can expect:

- A complete breakfast each morning
- A hot lunch option
- A daily salad bar with fresh fruits and vegetables
- Additional à-la-carte items available for purchase
- Middle schoolers have daily pizza options and regular and spicy chicken tenders.



All food allergies must be documented in the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. This ensures cafeteria staff can safely support your child's dietary needs.

Students cannot heat food at school, please be sure they have food packed that is ready for consumption as is.

Personal Device Lockable Pouches
Distraction Free Education Act

Georgia's Distraction-Free Education Act (HB 340), signed into law last year, requires all public schools in in the state to enact a policy and procedure for the use of personal electronic devices at school and school sponsored events by students in kindergarten through eighth grade (K-8).

After researching potential solutions, Rockdale County Public Schools (RCPS) will continue to implement the use of Yondr pouches to secure personal devices in **Pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade** for this school year.

All families must have a Yondr Pouch agreement on file. If your child does not have a fun, please indicate "No Phone" on the document



Violations and Non-Compliance

Offense	Description	Consequence
1st Offense	Phone is not secured in the pouch or is accessed during the day	Phone is confiscated, warning communicated, returned at end of day. Parent contact made.
2nd Offense	Repeated unauthorized access to phone	Phone Confiscated: The student's phone will be held until a parent conference is held or the parent comes to retrieve it. Lunch detention will be assigned as a consequence.
3rd Offense	Ongoing disregard for procedure/ intentionally damaged pouch	Phone Confiscation (1 Week): Parents may choose to keep the student's phone at home, or the phone will be held in the front office for five school days (turned in each morning). A parent conference will be scheduled, and a behavior contract will be developed. The student will also be assigned Out-of-School Suspension (OSS).
Non-Compliance with Staff Directive	Refusal to place phone in pouch or follow staff instruction	Immediate referral to administration. Possible ISS/ OSS or other disciplinary action for defiance. Parent conference required.

Safety – Our Open Gate System & Clear Book Bag Policy

- Our campus is kept secure with locked exterior and classroom doors during the school day.
- All staff wear visible RCPS ID badges, and visitors must check in at the front office for a visitor pass.
- RCPS uses OpenGate weapons detection and a clear bookbag policy to strengthen campus safety, deter prohibited items, and support a secure learning environment for students, staff, and visitors as part of the district's layered safety approach.
- Access the link below for more details on our clear bookbag policy:

https://tinyurl.com/nadyedb8





Dress Code

RMSST 4-8 MIDDLE SCHOOL DRESSCODE

SHIRTS/TOPS

Student Choice
with exceptions below:

No halter tops, tank tops, T-shirts with suggestive, vulgar or obscene pictures or words, see-through blouses, etc.

No part of the midriff or torso shall be visible.

No sleepwear shall be worn unless permitted for special events.



BOTTOMS

Student Choice
with exceptions below:

Shorts/skirts no more than 3 inches above the knee.

Pants/shorts/skirts should not be form-fitting.

Leggings/jeggings must be worn with a shirt that extends to the knee area.
No hosiery in exchange for leggings.

No holes, rips, cuts or tears on jeans or other clothing articles. *(No longer allowed above or beneath the knee. Cloth coverings/patches does not meet compliance.)*

SHOES/SOCKS

Student Choice
with exceptions below:

Students may not wear flip flops, slides or bedroom slippers unless permitted for special events.

ACCESSORIES (Hair)

Student Choice
with exceptions below:

No Bandanas / Hats / Hoodies unless permitted for special events.



** SPECIAL NOTICE **

Clothing may not carry threatening, provocative or disruptive messages, symbols, advertisements for alcohol or tobacco products or messages that advocate the use of controlled substances.

Any clothing, hair color, jewelry, accessories, piercings, etc. determined by the principal or principal's designee to be of an extreme nature is prohibited.
(All rules/decisions determined by the Principal or principal's designee.)

P.E.

- **Shirts / t-shirts**
- **Shorts** (no sagging allowed, no jeans, no dresses, etc.)
- **Sweatpants**
- **Sweatshirts** for cold days (no heavy jackets)
- **Athletic Shoes** (running or sport) *(No slip-ons, heeled, Uggs, boots, slippers or flip-flops... Shoes with surround ankle material are strongly encouraged for adequate protection)*
- **Small bag** to keep clothes organized

** PE Uniforms are required for all students enrolled in PE **

The following actions will be taken when students do not meet dress code compliance beginning the 1st day of school:

1. ***1st Offense:*** *Student will report to main office with a pass and allowed to call home for parent assistance/change of clothing.* ***If not corrected, student will be given alternative clothing provided by CMS if available.*** *(If not available, student will be referred to CMS Admin for disciplinary action.)*
2. ***2nd Offense:*** *Same as 1st offense in addition to an Administrative Conference.*
3. ***3 OR more offenses:*** *Disciplinary action will be taken as outlined in the RCPS Parent Handbook.*

How we communicate with Families

- Parent Square, email, and phone are our main ways of keeping you informed.
- Look for the Take Home Folder each week—it includes forms, reminders, and additional information.
- Expect a weekly newsletter (The Spark) from the Director with updates for the upcoming week.
- Classroom questions? Contact your child's teacher.
- School operations or general concerns? Contact the Director.



Health, Medications, & Screenings

- All medications must be brought to school by a parent and checked in with the clinic using the required form.
- Students must stay home if they have a fever of 100°F or higher and may return once they are fever-free for 24 hours without medication.
- The school conducts routine hearing and vision screenings for students.
- Scoliosis screening is for 6th and 8th grade students while 7th grade has mandatory immunizations.
- We share the Sims' school nurse, Chasity Browning. She can be reached at cbrowning25@rockdale.k12.ga.us



Grading, Homework, & ILDs

- Grades follow the RCPS scale for 4th–8th grade.
- We want the workload to be manageable, but we know the beginning of the year may be an adjustment. Talk with your teachers and the counselor for advice if your scholar is experiencing adjustment issues.
- Independent Learning Days allow students to complete assignments online with teacher support. On Independent Learning days, clear and precise instructions will be provided.



Devices & Fees

- A **$10 technology fee** supports classroom technology.
- RCPS covers accidental damage to student devices.
- Theft is covered with a police report; lost items must be replaced by families.
- **Replacement costs:** Device $400, Charger $10, Case $10, Yondr Pouch $33.
- There are other program fees that are listed on the website



Website and Fees

www.rockdaleschools.org/rmsst4-8







Important Links

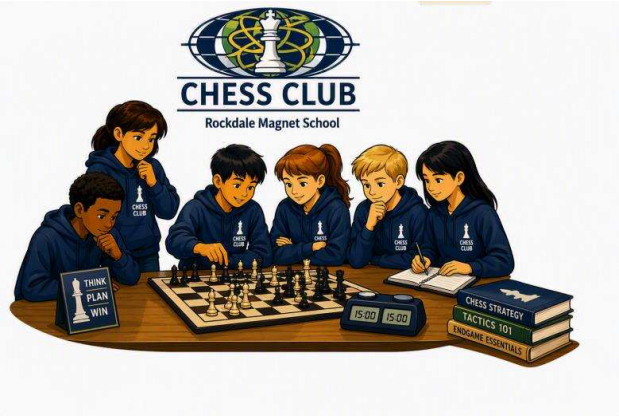
- Application RMSST 4-8
- FAQs
- Open House
- Calendar
- News
- Directory
- Message from the Director
- School Supplies List
- Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology Grades 9-12, By the Numbers
- RMSST Grades 9-12
- Fees

Dismissal & Early Checkout

- Dismissal runs from **2:40–3:00 pm**.
- Early check-out ends at **2:00 pm** to ensure a smooth dismissal process.
- Students must stay until **11:05 am** to be counted present for the day.



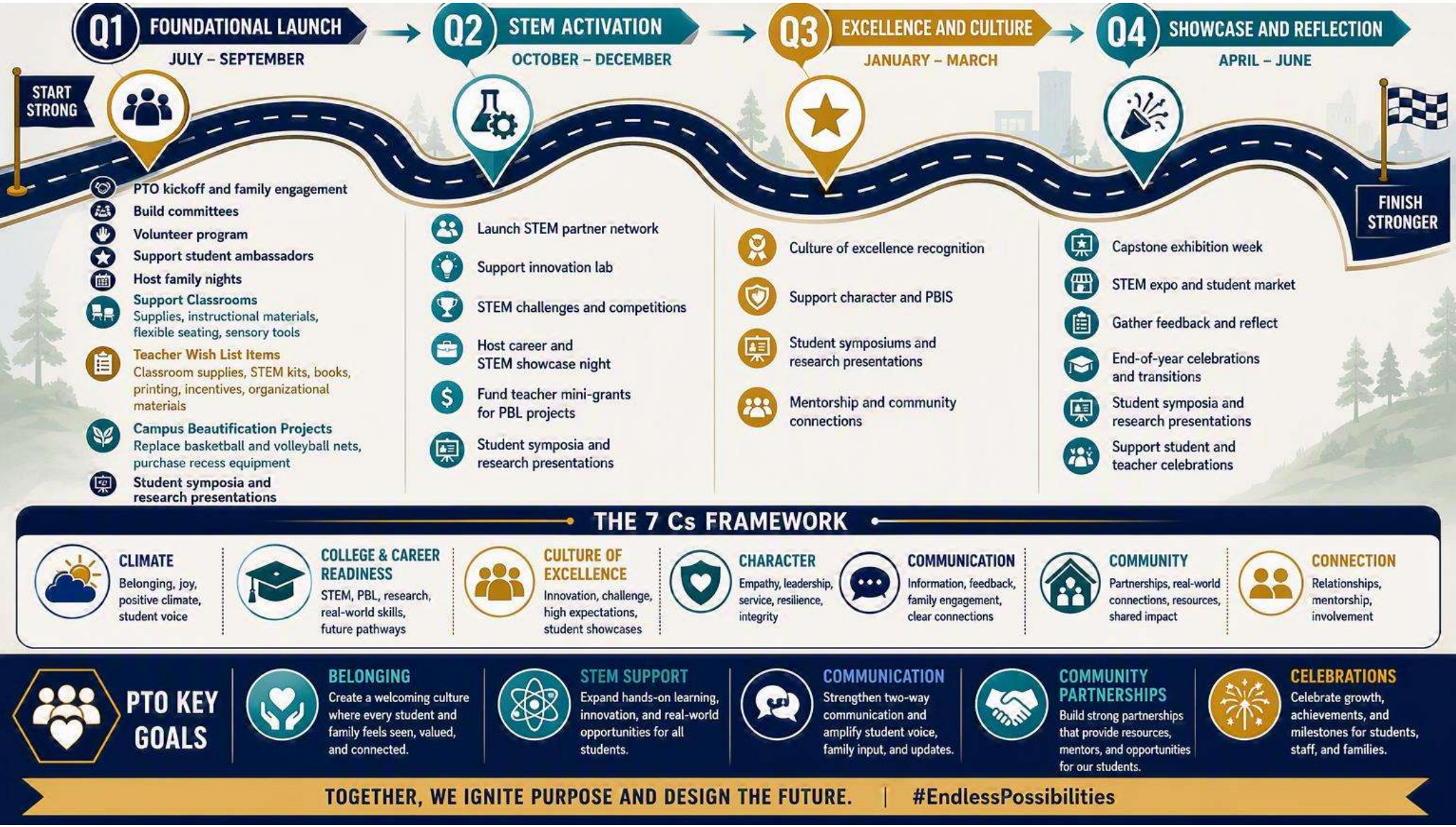
Clubs, PTO and Volunteering



- Students can join a variety of clubs, including Art, Math Club, Beta Club, Honors' Society, Debate, Ambassadors, Reading Bowl, News Crew, Chess, Yearbook, and more. We are preparing to roll out clubs in September. Stay tuned for more information.



- Families are encouraged to join PTO and volunteer throughout the year.
- Classroom visits require an appointment and are limited to 30 minutes to protect instructional time.



THE 7 Cs FRAMEWORK

CLIMATE
Belonging, joy, positive climate, student voice

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS
STEM, PBL, research, real-world skills, future pathways

CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE
Innovation, challenge, high expectations, student showcases

CHARACTER
Empathy, leadership, service, resilience, integrity

COMMUNICATION
Information, feedback, family engagement, clear connections

COMMUNITY
Partnerships, real-world connections, resources, shared impact

CONNECTION
Relationships, mentorship, involvement

PTO KEY GOALS

BELONGING
Create a welcoming culture where every student and family feels seen, valued, and connected.

STEM SUPPORT
Expand hands-on learning, innovation, and real-world opportunities for all students.

COMMUNICATION
Strengthen two-way communication and amplify student voice, family input, and updates.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS
Build strong partnerships that provide resources, mentors, and opportunities for our students.

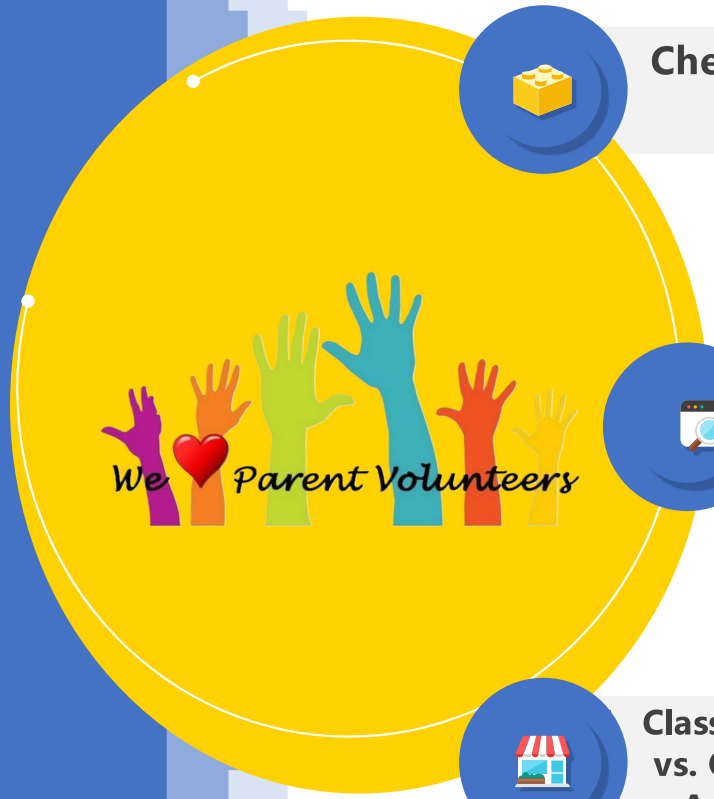
CELEBRATIONS
Celebrate growth, achievements, and milestones for students, staff, and families.

TOGETHER, WE IGNITE PURPOSE AND DESIGN THE FUTURE. | #EndlessPossibilities

Volunteering

Parenting	Communicating
Volunteering	Learning at Home
Decision Making	Collaborate with the Community

Dr. Joyce Epstein's Framework for Parent Engagement



Checking In

All volunteers will always be required to check in at the Welcome Center and scan their license. They will then need to retrieve a visitor's sticker and must be escorted to their area for volunteering.

Background Checks

Volunteers that will be working with children or chaperoning children will need a RCPS background check. See next slide for details.

Classroom vs. Other Areas

Parents/Guardians will only be permitted to volunteer in areas outside of the classroom to maintain the safety of all students with the exception of class parties, room parents, and chaperones.

Mentoring

The goal of mentoring is to assist the student in developing and achieving goals that will help him/her be successful in school.

All unsupervised volunteers must:

1. Successfully complete the RCPS Comprehensive Background Check process. Self-pay of $52 is required.
2. Successfully complete the annual requirement for compliance training modules.
3. Successfully complete the required mentor orientation (Community Mentors).



Background checks are valid for twelve months and will need to be renewed seven days prior to the expiration date *(Example: If the expiration date is October 15th, renewal must be finalized by October 8th).*

How To Request a Background Check

1. Requests for a background check must be submitted to the Principal or Principal's designee **at least seven days in advance of the requested start date**.
2. Once submitted, Human Resources will follow-up with the Background Check Candidate via email with detailed instructions on how to register for and schedule fingerprinting. *Self-pay fee of $52 will be processed directly between Background Check Candidate and the vendor on-line.
3. Upon receipt of the fingerprinting results, the Background Check Candidate and building Principal will be notified.

Note: If additional information is needed, Human Resources will notify the Background Check Candidate and/or Principal.

Before entrance is permitted in school buildings, Human Resources must confirm clearance.

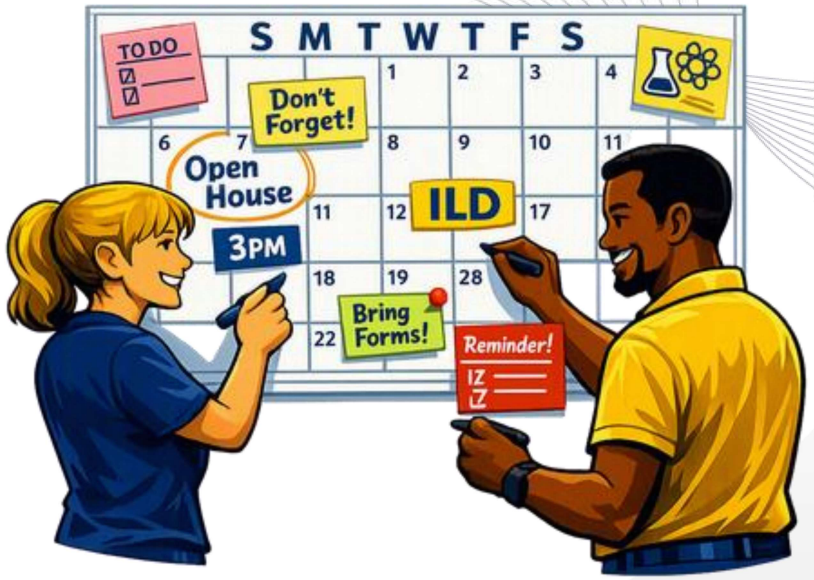
Rockdale County Public Schools

RCPS BACKGROUND CHECK

Background Check Guidelines

Mark your Calendars

- August 28- ILD
- September 7- Labor Day
- September 9- Grandparents Day (8:30-9:30)
- September 17- Focus Walk and Drippy Bear STEM Night
- September 29 & 30- Student Showcase (Elem- 9/29; MS- 9/30)
- Oct 5-9- Fall Break
- October 14- Picture Day (Tentative)
- December 10- Social Studies Fair (Elementary)
- December 10- Science Fair (Middle School)





Items cost between $1-$3.
Cash only



There is a $5 charge for this event per person- cash only please. There is no charge for Magnet 4-8 students.



There is a fee for this interactive event.

ROCKDALE MAGNET SCHOOL
for SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY
MIDDLE GRADES CAMPUS

ROCKDALE MAGNET MIDDLE GRADES PBIS *presents*

BE RESPECTFUL
BE RESPONSIBLE
BE SAFE
BE YOUR BEST!

COLOR WEEK!

MONDAY

WEAR
RED



We wear red to
SHOW RESPECT
and kindness to
everyone around us!

TUESDAY

WEAR
ORANGE



We wear orange to
SHOW CREATIVITY
and think of new
ideas every day!

WEDNESDAY

WEAR
GREEN



We wear green to
SHOW GROWTH
and keep learning
and improving!

THURSDAY

WEAR
BLUE



We wear blue to
SHOW TRUST
and build strong
relationships!

FRIDAY

WEAR
YELLOW/GOLD
+
SNACK CART!



We wear yellow/gold to
SHOW SCHOOL PRIDE
and finish the week
strong together!

LET'S PAINT OUR SCHOOL WITH POSITIVITY!

Be Respectful. Be Responsible. Be Safe. Be Your Best!



We're excited to partner with your family this year.

Scan the QR code for the full Parent Handbook.

Follow Parent Square for updates.

Don't forget, you can contact your child's teacher for classroom questions and the Director for school-wide concerns.

Parent Handbook

Download the Parent Square app today
→ → → →



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Questions