

Rockdale County Public Schools 2026-2027 Academic Competition & Showcase Opportunities

Content/ Grade	Event	Registration / Notification Deadline	District Event
Fine Arts Band 6 – 12	RCPS Band Exhibition	Middle and High School bands showcase their talents. No registration is required.	September 22, 2026 Location: HHS Time: 6:30 pm
Fine Arts Chorus 6 – 12	RCPS Choral Expo	Middle and High School choruses showcase their talents. No registration is required.	October 1, 2026 Location: CMS Time: 7:00 pm
Fine Arts Theatre 9 - 12	One Act	<p>Georgia High School Association GHSA.net - This is a GHSA event One Act - RCPS High School Theatre departments participate.</p> <p>Regions: HHS – Region 4-6A RCHS – Region 4-7A SHS – Region 5-4A</p> <p>State Championships: November 14, 2026 – 6A – Carrollton High School November 21, 2026 – 5A -- Baldwin High School November 21, 2026 – 7A – Monroe County FAC</p> <p>District Contact: Paige Hutchinson</p>	<p>Region 4–7A RCHS – October 28, 2026</p> <p>Region 5-4A SHS – October 31, 2026</p> <p>Region 4-6A HHS – October 24, 2026</p>
Fine Arts Chorus 6-12	GMEA District IV Honor Chorus	<p>District IV (GMEA) Honor Chorus for Middle and High Schools – students selected by directors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration Deadline: Friday, October 9, 2026 • Payment Deadline: Friday, October 16, 2026 • District Honor Chorus: November 13–14, 2026 • Cost: \$30 per student • Middle School Clinician: Ms. Suzanne Grant • High School Clinician: Dr. William Powell <p>District Contact: Terrance Green</p>	<p>Friday, November 13, 2026 Sectionals Rehearsals at Location TBD</p> <p>Saturday, November 14, 2026 Performance at TBD</p>
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Fine Arts Visual Art 7-12	Scholastic Art Awards through SCAD	How to Enter Scholastic Art and Writing Awards - Students may self-enter or schools may enter student work. Students in Grades 7 – 12 are eligible \$10 per entry, \$30 per portfolio, fee waiver form available District Contact: Virnilisa Printup	Deadline for entry – TBA Usually around December 15
ELA 3–8	District Spelling Bee	Register with National Scripps Spelling Bee Aug 18.-Nov 30. 2026 - Enrollment (\$199) All schools will purchase their subscription TBD - Deadline submit School Winners District Contact: Shenita Russell	January 15, 2027 Location: TBD GAE Regional Bee TBD
Science 6-12	Rockdale Regional Science and Engineering Fair	Open to All Secondary Schools December 11, 2026- Deadline for all School-based Science Fairs January 8, 2027: Deadline to submit Regional Fair Entries and ISEF forms Science Fair Support: District Contact: Scott Bolen	Friday, January 22, 2027 Fair Judging 1:30-4:30pm Friday, January 22, 2027 Awards Ceremony 6:30– 7:30pm
Social Studies 3-5	RCPS Social Studies Fair	January 4, 2026: Deadline to submit Entries and Registration Forms District Contact: Virnilisa Printup TBD: Deadline to submit Entries and Registration Forms for East Metro Region Fair; will be shared with district fair winners Rockdale Contact: Virnilisa Printup	January 23, 2027 District Social Studies Fair, RCPS Central Office March 6, 2027 East Metro Regional Social Studies Fair, Dekalb County Schools Administrative and Instructional Complex
Reading 6-8	Georgia Book Award Project Showcase	District Contact: Brenna Moore (Middle)	January 30, 2027 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Location: RCA
Content/ Grade	Event	Registration / Notification Deadline	District Event
Reading 4–5	Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl	October – December: Must register with the state October 30, 2026: Deadline to submit Intent to Participate	January 30, 2027

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		District Contact: Lisa Tolbert (Elementary)	8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Location: RCA
Technology 3-12	East Atlanta Technology Competition and RCPS Student Technology Showcase	<p>January 8, 2027: Registration Deadline Projects must be registered and submitted online at: East Atlanta Tech Competition Registration</p> <p>Click here for more information: https://www.rockdaleschools.org/techfair</p> <p>More information on the Competition can be found at www.gastc.org</p> <p>District Contact: Tiffany McLymore (Competition) Josh Dyer (Showcase)</p>	<p>January 30, 2027 7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Location: RCA</p> <p>Awards will be posted by April 1st to the Technology Competition Website</p>
Fine Arts Chorus 4-5	RCPS Elementary Honor Chorus	<p>Music teachers select up to 10 students from grades 4 and/or 5 to participate in RCPS Honor Chorus</p> <p>Friday, February 5, 2027 - Rehearsal with entire group Saturday, February 6, 2027 – Rehearsal followed by Performance</p> <p>RCPS Contact: Virnilisa Printup and Jenelle Freeman</p>	<p>February 5, 2027: Large group rehearsal</p> <p>February 6, 2027: Large group rehearsal Performance at 2:30 p.m.</p>
Fine Arts Band 6-12	GMEA District IV Honor Band	District IV (GMEA) Honor Band for Middle and High Schools- students selected by directors	<p>Friday, February 5, 2027 – Rehearsal @ Stephenson HS (DeKalb)</p> <p>Saturday, February 6, 2027 – Performance @ Stephenson HS (DeKalb)</p>
ELA K-12	Young Georgia Authors Writing Competition	<p>Monday, December 15, 2025: Deadline to submit School Level Winners Friday, January 30, 2026: Judging</p> <p>District Contacts: Shenita Russell (srussell@rockdale.k12.ga.us) Young GA Authors Competition FY25-26</p>	<p>February 13, 2027 Winners submitted to Metro RESA</p>
Content/ Grade	Event	Registration / Notification Deadline	District Event
Science 6-8	Model Water Tower Competition	<p>February 2027</p> <p>District Contact: Heather Toliver, htoliver25@rockdale.k12.ga.us</p>	February 2027

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Social Studies 6-12	National History Day	<p>Intent to Participate form completed by October 30, 2026 Each school will host its own fair before January 29, 2027</p> <p>Formal Registration by February 12, 2027 on South Metro NHD website.</p> <p>District Contact: Virnilisa Printup</p>	<p>There is no district NHD competition.</p> <p>February 27, 2027 South Metro Region, Rockdale Schools</p>
Science 3-5	Elementary Science Olympiad (ESO)	<p>Open to All Elementary Schools District Contact: Christy Hernandez</p>	March 6, 2027 Honey Creek Elementary 8:00-12:00
Fine Arts Visual Art K – 12	District Youth Art Month Exhibit at Nancy Guinn Library	<p>February 12, 2027: Artwork due to Dr. Kirby Meng from each school March 2 – 25, 2027: Artwork on exhibit at Nancy Guinn library Thursday, March 25, 2027: Reception at Nancy Guinn Library 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>District Contact: Dr. Kirby Meng</p>	<p>March 2 - March 25, 2027 Nancy Guinn Library</p> <p>Reception at Nancy Guinn Library, Thursday, March 25, 2027 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.</p>
Fine Arts Visual Art 3-12	Conyers Cherry Blossom Festival Student Art & Photography Show	<p>Theme: Conyers – Community – Cherry Blossoms</p> <p>February 1, 2027: Deadline to submit Entries and Registration Forms February 22 – March 1, 2027: Exhibit at Conyers City Hall</p> <p>District Contact: Dr. Kirby Meng</p>	<p>March 1, 2027 Conyers City Hall</p> <p>Awards ceremony and reception, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Awards at 5:30 p.m.</p>
Fine Arts 9 – 12	Literary Meet	<p>Georgia High School Association GHSA.net - This is a GHSA event RCPS High School students participate in Fine Arts and other areas</p> <p>March TBD 2027: Deadline for completion of region meets</p> <p>District Contact: Dr. Kirby Meng RCHS: P Hutchinson; SHS: J. Roper; HHS: T. Green</p>	<p>State Literary Meet HHS-6A, RCHS-7A Buford – March 20, 2027</p> <p>SHS-4A GA Military College – March 20, 2027</p>
Content/ Grade	Event	Registration / Notification Deadline	District Event
Math 3–5	Math 24 Competition	February 12, 2027: Deadline to submit School Level Winners and Alternates	March 13, 2027 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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		District Contact: Nancy Kelly	
ELAK-12	Thousand Voices Oratorical Showcase	March 20, 2026: Deadline to submit School Level Winner Entry Forms District Contact: Dr. Sha'Ronda McRae FY25-26 RCPS Thousand Voices Oratorical Showcase	TBD Location: CO Board Room 4:30- 5:30 (K-5 th) 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. (6 th -12 th)
Fine Arts Band 6-12	RCPS Honor Band/Orchestra	RCPS Honor Band/Orchestra for Middle and High Schools – students selected by directors. Friday March 26, 2027 – rehearsals at CMS; Saturday, March 27, 2027 – Rehearsals and Performances at CMS Location – CMS District Contact: Dr. Kirby Meng	March 26 – 27, 2027 at Conyers MS



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One Act Theatre Competition

Purpose: One of two events organized by the GHSA that produces Fine Arts State Champions. One Act is a theatre competition for public and private high schools. RCHS, SHS, and HHS all participate in the competition.

Format: One Act is held in person by region. HHS is Region 4-6A, RCHS is in Region 4-7A, and SHS is in Region 5-4A

Requirement: Schools follow the rules found in the GHSA Constitution and Bylaws found here:

[Constitution21-22 \(ghsa.net\)](https://ghsa.net/constitution)

Criteria: The competition is judged by three qualified judges from a judging pool selected and trained by the state coordinator.

Regional Competitions must be completed by TBD.

The State Championship will be held TBD for those advancing to that level.

District Contacts: Paige Hutchinson – RCHS, Dr. Kirby Meng - RCPS

Rockdale County Public Schools 2026-2027 Academic Competition & Showcase Opportunities

Scholastic Art Awards

Purpose: “The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards were founded in 1923 and, for nearly a century, have inspired bold ideas in creative teens throughout the country.” This is by far the most prestigious art competition in the country and an opportunity for students to compete for awards and scholarships at top Art colleges and universities across the country.

Format: Enter online. Savannah College of Art and Design hosts the regional competition for Georgia. Students will be notified of winning work, and the physical work must be sent to SCAD Savannah for the Scholastic Art Awards Regional Exhibition.

Guidelines: Create an account online. Review plagiarism and copyright information. Pay entry fee or apply for a waiver. Click here for more information on how to enter. [How to Enter | Scholastic Art and Writing Awards](#)
Deadline for 2026 entries had not yet been posted but should be mid-December.

Requirement: Scholastic Art Awards are open to students in Grades 7 – 12. Students may submit on their own or Georgia teachers may submit student work.

Criteria: Entries are selected for awards without knowledge of the student’s gender, age, ethnicity, or hometown by some of the foremost leaders in the visual and literary arts. Jurors look for works that exemplify the Awards’ core values: originality, technical skill, and the emergence of a personal voice or vision.

ORIGINALITY

Work that breaks from convention, blurs the boundaries between genres, and challenges notions of how a particular concept or emotion can be expressed.

TECHNICAL SKILL

Work that uses techniques to advance an original perspective or a personal vision or voice, and shows skills being utilized to create something unique, powerful, and innovative.

EMERGENCE OF A PERSONAL VOICE OR VISION

Work with an authentic and unique point of view and style.

All Information from Scholastic Art Awards website: [The Awards | Scholastic Art and Writing Awards](#)

District Contact: Dr. Kirby Meng



Rockdale County Public Schools 2026-2027 Academic Competition & Showcase Opportunities

Rockdale County Public Schools District Spelling Bee

Participants: Students in Grades 3 – 8

District Competition: TBD

Submit School names by TBD

Purpose: To promote skills related to spelling and word study

Format: Register and pay* online at <http://spellingbee.com> from August 18th – November 30th , 2026.

In order for students to be eligible for competition beyond the county level, the school must pay a fee to the National Scripps Spelling Bee. This fee is set by Scripps.

The enrollment fee during regular enrollment period is \$199 per school.

Late Registration prices increases to \$225.

Schools may pay the enrollment fee by credit card or by check, with a \$7.50 check processing fee being added for check payments. Purchase orders are not accepted.

December 1, 2026 - January 8, 2027

School Spelling Bee

Schools hold individual bees to determine a school level winner. The school level winner competes in the county bee. The school runner up attends the bee and competes in the event the winner cannot.

TBD @ 9:30 a.m.

County Spelling Bee

The county level winner competes in the district bee. The competition will include rounds for both spelling and vocabulary.

TBD @ 10:00 a.m.

GAE District Bee

The Spelling Bee is sponsored by the Georgia Association of Educators (GAE). GAE rules govern the District Bee.

District Contact: Shenita Russell

Rockdale County Public Schools Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl

Participants:

Rockdale County Public Schools 2026-2027 Academic Competition & Showcase Opportunities

Elementary schools, Grades 4 and 5;

Middle Schools, Grades 6 – 8;

High Schools, Grade 9-12 (*tentative*)

District Competition: Saturday, January 30, 2027; 8:00a.m. – 1:00p.m.

Media Specialists should submit intent to participate to Lisa Tolbert (ES/MS) by October 30, 2026.

Purpose: Students read the current Georgia Book Award nominees and participate in local and regional competitions to:

- Increase their reading repertoire of award-winning literature
- Increase standardized test scores
- Increase reading comprehension
- Develop an appreciation for literature
- Enhance verbal communication skills
- Promote cooperation
- Build self-esteem
- Develop team spirit
- Improve academic achievement

Format: Each school team participates in rounds of competitions centered on questions derived from all books selected and read by teams. Points earned determine first, second and third place winners. First place winners advance to regional competition.

Guidelines: Details available at <http://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/helen-ruffin-reading-bowl/>. Teams will be organized via collaboration between school media specialists and classroom teachers at each elementary school.

District Contacts: Elementary/Middle- Lisa Tolbert- ltolbert@rockdale.k12.ga.us ,

GMEA District 4 Honor Chorus

Purpose: The District Honor Chorus' purpose is to give high performing chorus students an opportunity to perform in an honor ensemble of students from throughout GMEA District 4.



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Format: Middle and High School Chorus students are selected by their directors to participate in this event. Each ensemble will be conducted by a Guest Clinician. This 2-day clinic will meet on a Friday in January for a half day of rehearsals, then a half-day of rehearsals and performances on the following Saturday.

- **Registration Deadline:** Friday, October 9, 2026
- **Payment Deadline:** Friday, October 16, 2026
- **District Honor Chorus:** November 13–14, 2026
- **Cost: \$30 per student**
- **Middle School Clinician:** Ms. Suzanne Grant
- **High School Clinician:** Dr. William Powell

Location for this year's event is yet to be determined.

Guidelines: Students are invited to be a part of these ensembles based on teacher recommendations. Teachers must be members of GMEA.

Criteria: Rockdale County Students will be bused to and from the rehearsal on Friday. Parents will transport their student(s) on Saturday to and from the event.

District Contact: Terrance Green - Heritage High School

Rockdale County Public Schools Technology and Media Showcase East Atlanta Region Technology Competition

Participants: All schools, Grade 3 - 12 Students

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Regional Competition and District Showcase: January 30, 2027, 7:30AM – 12:30PM

Register Projects by January 9, 2026, to state registration site: Not Live Yet

More Information can be found at: <https://www.rockdaleschools.org/techfair>

Purpose: To share with our stakeholders how the Media and Instructional Technology Programs support Academic Rigor for all students at each RCPS school; both competitive and non-competitive options are available.

Format: Varies according to current rules and regulations posted by the state Media Festival program (<http://www.gsmf.us/>) or the state Technology Competition program websites (<https://www.gastc.org/>)

Guidelines: Same as above for entries. Schools will hold a local competition/fair to determine entries to be sent to the district competition. This culminating event will be held on Saturday, January 25th at RCA.

Requirements:

- Participation from each RCPS School
- Assistance with judging for all events from RCPS Personnel
- Assistance with finding Sponsors for the event to offset event and student recognition costs
- Assistance with promotion of the event via print and other media outlets

District Contact: Michael Rotjan – mrotjan@rockdale.k12.ga.ua

Tiffany McLymore- tmclymore@rockdale.k12.ga.us

Rockdale County Public Schools Social Studies Fair: Grades 3-5

Participants: All Elementary Schools; Individual schools will host their own Social Studies Fair.

District Competition: Submit names of school winners to Virnilisa Printup to compete at the District Fair.

Rockdale County Public Schools 2026-2027 Academic Competition & Showcase Opportunities

January 4, 2027: Deadline to submit Entries and Registration Forms

January 23, 2027: Rockdale County Public Schools District Competition

District Contact: Virnilisa Printup, vprintup@rockdale.k12.ga.us

Purpose: To involve students in developing a greater passion for the social sciences through researching topics and questions in various disciplines.

Format: Entries will consist of tasks/research-based (student conducted) products and may be an individual or group submission.

Guidelines:

1. Projects may be entered by individual students or by groups of up to three students
2. Projects are limited to a space of 30 inches front to back (depth), 48 inches in width (when opened), and 60 inches in height. (Additional support equipment may be placed under the table, but not at the sides.)
3. If a project includes audio or video recording, slides, computers, or a combination of these audiovisual media, the total listening/viewing time may not exceed ten minutes. Audio media should be presented in such a way that it is not distracting to its neighboring projects.
4. At the district fair, at least one student who worked on the project must be present to interpret the project. Students should be prepared to present a five-eight-minute oral overview of the project to the judges. After all projects have been scored, judging team leaders must use information gleaned from interviews to determine overall winners from among projects receiving the same number of points. When there is no student present on the day of the fair to answer the judges' questions, the project is at a disadvantage.
5. All projects must be accompanied by three completed source sheets and a bibliography (APA or MLA format are acceptable).
6. An abstract of the project should be included on an index card. Information on the abstract provides a succinct description of the project, including the title, statement of problem or question, methodology, and conclusion. Students should give this card to the judges at the beginning of the oral interview.
7. The visual presentation must include the following components on a backboard.
8. Project components should meet all criteria shown on the Judges' Scoring Sheet.
9. The construction of the project must be strong enough to remain intact when moved.
10. Students must furnish all equipment such as extension cords, bulbs, projectors, recorders, and monitors.

District Elementary Honor Chorus

Purpose: RCPS Elementary Honor Chorus is an opportunity for talented elementary students who love to sing, to join students from other RCPS schools to perform with a guest conductor.

Format: This event will be in person this year, The site is yet to be determined.

Guidelines: Elementary Music teachers select up to 10 4th and 5th grade students for participation in the District Elementary Honor Chorus.

RCPS Academic Competition and Showcase Opportunities



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Requirement: Music is selected by our guest clinician in coordination with music teachers. Students practice with elementary music teachers and then rehearse together before the performance.

Friday, February 5, 2027 – Students rehearse together at the performance site from 10:00 – noon.

Saturday, February 6, 2027 – Students rehearse and then perform together at the performance site. 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Performance at 2:30 p.m.

Criteria: Selections are made in December by elementary music teachers.

District Contact: Ms. Jennelle Freeman - JH House Elementary School

Young Georgia Authors' Writing Competition

Participants: K – 12 students (one entry per grade per school)

State Competition: TBD

School Level Competition: Friday, November 20, 2026 – deadline to submit school winners to ELA Curriculum Office

All district winning samples will be delivered to Metro RESA by February 12, 2027. Metro RESA will forward finalists to the state level.



Rockdale County Public Schools 2026-2027 Academic Competition & Showcase Opportunities

Official Rule Booklet and Application

Young Georgia Author's Writing Competition Checklist

Purpose: To provide students with an opportunity to write with an authentic purpose to a broad audience on a wide variety of self-selected topics

Format:

- School level writing contests determine entries to be submitted for district level competition.
- Each school determines the format of the site competition.
- Each school may submit only one entry per grade. Each school is encouraged to submit an entry for every grade level.
- Schools submit an original and a copy of the winning entry with a completed, signed application form.
- District competition will select a first-place entry from each grade to submit for state competition.

District Contact: Shenita Russell, srussell@rockdale.k12.ga.us

Model Water Tower Competition

The Model Water Tower Competition is designed to provide information to youth about water resource engineering, infrastructure, water treatment and water conservation in hopes that some will become future water professionals. The contest is for middle schools, and it allows students to learn about the water profession through a fun-filled, hands-on science project.

Grades 6-8

Hosted by Rockdale County Water Resources

Contact: Heather Toliver, htoliver25@rockdale.k12.ga.us

Date: February 2027



**Rockdale County Public Schools
2026-2027 Academic Competition & Showcase Opportunities**

National History Day

Participants: Grades 6-12

Theme: Innovation in History-Impact, Influence, Change

Each school will host its own fair. All school competitions should take place on or before January 29, 2027.

Formal Registration: January 28th – February 12th, 2027

Metro Region Competition: February 27th, 2027 @ Rockdale County Public Schools

National History Day is an academic competition focusing on history for students in grades 6-12. Students construct entries as an individual or in a group in one of five categories- Documentary, Exhibit, Paper, Performance or Website. Students then compete in a series of contests (School, Regional, and State) to proceed to the National Contest.



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The mission of National History Day is to provide students with opportunities to learn historical content and develop research, thinking and communication skills through the study of history and to provide educators with resources and training to enhance classroom teaching.

District Contact: Virnilisa Printup – vprintup@rockdale.k12.ga.us

Elementary Science Olympiad (ESO)

Participants: science students in grades 3 – 5

District Competition: Saturday, March 21, 2026 @ Honey Creek Elementary

February 13, 2026 - Submit team rosters to Angela Reaves (areaves@rockdale.k12.ga.us)

State Competition: District winners will advance to the state competition on May 3, 2025

Purpose: To provide a fun, competitive platform for students to collaborate and deepen their STEM knowledge.

Format:

- School-based teams practice for different events to compete at the district level competition.

Rockdale County Public Schools 2026-2027 Academic Competition & Showcase Opportunities

- Schools are encouraged to establish an ESO team as an academic extracurricular activity.
- March 21, 2026: District Elementary Science Olympiad Competition @ HTE
- TBD: District Winners compete at the state level ESO at Kennesaw State University

ESO Timeline:

- **TBD @ 3:00 pm:** Virtual Information Session
- **TBD-PLI Session:** Event Planning and Names of school/club sponsors due
- **TBD @ 3:00 pm:** Virtual Event Planning Meeting
- **February 13, 2026:** Team rosters due to areaves@rockdale.k12.ga.us
- **March 21, 2026:** ESO District Competition @ HCE
- **May 3, 2026:** ESO State Competition

Guidelines: Details available at [Georgia Science Teachers Association - Georgia Elementary Science Olympiad](#). Teams will be organized via collaboration between school-based ESO coaches at each elementary school.

District Contact: Angela Reaves areaves@rockdalek12.ga.us

District Youth Art Month Exhibit at Nancy Guinn Library

Purpose: The purpose of Youth Art Month is to advocate for art education in schools and provide an opportunity to display the artwork students have been doing.

Started in 1961 through The Art & Creative Materials Institute, Inc. (ACMI), Youth Art Month exists to:

1. Recognize art education as a viable factor in the total education curricular that develops citizens of a global society.
2. Recognize that art is a necessity for the full development of better quality of life for all.
3. Direct attention to the value of art education for divergent and critical thinking.
4. Expand art programs in schools and stimulate new art programs.
5. Encourage commitment to the arts by students, community organizations, and individuals everywhere.
6. Provide additional opportunities for individuals of all ages to participate in creative art learning.
7. Increase community, business, and governmental support for art education.
8. Increase community understanding and interest in art and art education through involvement in art exhibits, workshops, and other creative ventures.

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9. Reflect and demonstrate the goals of the National Art Education Association that work toward the improvement of art education at all levels. [Youth Art Month \(YAM\) • National Art Education Association \(arteducators.org\)](http://youthartmonth.org)

Format: In person exhibit of matted artwork submitted by RCPS art teachers. Each teacher may submit up to 15 pieces of artwork selected from their students.

February 12, 2027: All matted artwork to Dr. Kirby Meng from each school.

February 12, 2027: Forms for all artwork submitted electronically to Dr. Kirby Meng from each school.

March 1, 2027: Work hung at Nancy Guin Library

March 2– 25, 2027: Work on display at the library

March 25, 2027: Reception at Nancy Guin Library 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

March 25, 2027: all work must be taken down at the end of the reception

Guidelines: There is no theme for this exhibit. The work should be appropriate for display in a public location where the audience will include all ages.

Requirement: All artwork should be created by RCPS students in grades PreK – 12 during the 2026-2027 school year. Artwork should be original and adhere to standard rules regarding plagiarism and copyright. Most art should be 9 x 12 or 12 x 18 with no artwork larger than 18 x 24. Mats should be the lightweight mats supplied by Dr. Meng. The displays will not hold professionally matted pieces that include foam core. Work not received by February 12 will not be hung.

District Contact: Dr. Kirby Meng

Conyers Cherry Blossom Festival Student Art & Photography Show

Purpose: 2027 Theme: *Conyers/Rockdale Community*

Photographic images or other works of art should capture the theme and display student creativity, originality, and technical ability. The artwork should express something about the Conyers/Rockdale Community and may be created in any 2D media and may also extend to mixed media work. The show is coordinated by City of Conyers Cherry Blossom Festival, Conyers-Rockdale Council for the Arts, the City of Conyers, and Rockdale County Public Schools.

Format: Matted photos and mixed media artworks will be exhibited at Conyers City Hall.

Guidelines: Only new pieces of artwork may be submitted.

- Each entry must be the original work of one student only.
- Artwork can be up to 12" x 18" in size and should be matted.

RCPS Academic Competition and Showcase Opportunities

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- Framed artwork is not accepted.
- Submit artwork and student entry form to Dr. Kirby Meng by February 1, 2027.
 - The contest is open to RCPS students in grades 3 through 12.
 - All matted artwork must be submitted to Ms. Printup by February 1, 2027
 - Artist statements must be submitted to Ms. Printup electronically by February 1, 2021
 - Awards Ceremony March 1, 2027; 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. at Conyers City Hall. Awards at 5:30 p.m.

Requirement: Follow the guidelines for the exhibit using the theme

Accepted forms of artwork

Artwork can be created using any 2D media. But should not contain copyrighted material.

Copyright: Use of copyrighted material, including copyrighted cartoon characters or other such material, is not acceptable in any submission, with the following exception:

Artworks may include public places, well-known products, trademarks, or certain other copyrighted material if that copyrighted material is incidental to the subject matter of the piece and/or is a smaller element of a whole. The resulting work cannot try to establish an association between the student and the trademark/business/material or influence the purchase/non-purchase of the trademarked good.

Criteria: Judges will use a rubric to select 1st - 3rd place winners at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. There will also be an overall grand prize winner and a Conyers Choice winner.

District Contact: Dr. Kirby Meng

GHSA Literary Meet

Purpose: One of two events organized by the GHSA that produce Fine Arts State Champions. Literary Meet involves speaking, writing, and singing competitions for public and private high schools.

Format: Literary Meet is held in person by region. RCPS schools are in regions 4 and 6.

Guidelines: Regional competitions must be completed by TBD. The first-place winner in each category will go to the state finals TBD. The specific fine arts categories are oral presentation - solo or duo dramatic or humorous, boy's vocal quartet, boys' and girls' vocal solo, girl's vocal trio. One entry per school per contest.

Requirement: Schools follow the rules found in the GHSA Constitution and Bylaws found here:
[Constitution21-22 \(ghsa.net\)](https://ghsa.net/Constitution21-22)

Criteria: The competition is judged by qualified judges from a judging pool selected and trained by the state coordinator.

District Contact: HHS: Terrance Green; RCHS: Paige Hutchinson; SHS: Jeffery Roper



**Rockdale County Public Schools
2026-2027 Academic Competition & Showcase Opportunities**

Rockdale County Public Schools 14th Annual Math 24 Challenge

Participants: Math students in grades 3 – 5

District Competition: Saturday, March 13, 2027

February 12, 2027 - Submit building level winners (and alternates) to Nancy Kelly

Purpose:

To stimulate the mental practice of basic skills and increase math fluency. Through this interactive learning game, students try to find the right combination, using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division that will equal a pre-determined number located on a math card. This game format has proven extremely popular, motivating students to engage in mental practice. Participation sharpens concentration and helps to build strong mental-mathematics and problem-solving skills.

Format:

Rockdale County Public Schools 2026-2027 Academic Competition & Showcase Opportunities

- Math teachers of grades three through five can use Math 24 as warm-up activities and within learning centers.
- Schools are encouraged to establish Math 24 Clubs as an academic extracurricular activity.
- March 14, 2026: District Math 24 Challenge, Face-to-Face

Tournament Timeline:

- November 14, 2025: Names of school/club sponsors
- School Contact Meeting (all sponsors): Sponsors have two meeting options-
December 16th or December 18th, 2025 (2:45 p.m.-3:15 p.m. via Teams)
- February 13, 2026: Submit names of school-level winners, alternates, and district competition representatives
- March 5, 2026: Sponsor and competition volunteers meeting (2:45-3:45 p.m. via Teams)
- **District Competition: Saturday, March 13, 2027**

Agenda:

- Participant Registration/Check-in: 8:30-9:00 a.m.
- Introductions, Review Rules: 9:00-9:25 a.m.
- Round 1: 9:30-9:45 a.m.
- Round 2: 9:55-10:10 a.m.
- Announce Semi-Finalists: 10:30-10:45 a.m.
- Round 3: 10:50-11:00 a.m.
- Announce Finalists- Hand out medals: 11:05-11:10 a.m.
- Round 4 11:15-11:30 a.m.
- Announce Grand Champion 11:45 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

District Contact: Nancy Kelly ndavies@rockdalek12.ga.us

Rockdale County Public Schools 2026-2027 Academic Competition & Showcase Opportunities

Rockdale County Public Schools Thousand Voices Oratorical Showcase

Participants: Students, K-12

District Competition: TBD @ County Office Board Room 4:30- 5:30 (K-5th) 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. (6th-12th)

Submit school-level winners to ELA Curriculum Office: TBD

Purpose: In order to build skills in language arts, students need opportunities for authentic purposes in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The purpose of a district-wide oratorical showcase is to extend a forum to young people to relate both cultural heritage and personal experiences in the format of a speech to a broad audience.

Student Selection:

The district showcase will begin at each school site.

Each school may present:

- One participant/group from grades K – 2
- One participant/group from grades 3 – 5
- Each secondary school may present two participants/groups from grades 6-8 or 9-12.

Student Selection Guidelines:

- We strongly recommend that each school site include opportunities for competition within each classroom, as well as within each grade level.
- Students are permitted to participate in the showcase as a small group of up to 4 students in the same grade band.
- Each school may select TWO students/groups as indicated above for the district showcase.
- Each student selected for the district showcase will perform in the district showcase.

Format:

Several format options are available:

- Poetry recitation
- Famous Speech recitation
- Dramatic Monologue
- Public Speaking
-

Specific Guidelines for each format are provided on the following page.

All students must:

- Include an introduction (student's name, school name, and teacher name, and name and author of selection, if appropriate (Those students delivering self-created speeches may simply include this information in the beginning of their speech.)
- Include a copy of the oratorical presentation whether original or from a source.

Format Guidelines:

1. Poetry: (Presentation must be from memory – no note cards)

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- K – 2 – Maximum of 1 minute
- 3 – 5 – Minimum of 1 minute; Maximum of 3 minutes
- 6 – 12: Minimum of 2 minutes; Maximum of 6 minutes

2. Famous Speeches (Presentation must be from memory – no note cards)

- K – 5 – Minimum 1 minute; Maximum 5 minutes
- 6 – 12 – Minimum 2 minutes; Maximum 7 minutes

3. Dramatic Presentations / Monologue (Presentation must be from memory – no note cards)

- K – 5: Minimum 1 minute; Maximum 5 minutes
- 6 – 12: Minimum 2 minutes; Maximum 7 minutes

4. Self-Created Public Speech: (May use note cards; however, speech must not be read.)

- K – 2: Minimum 1 minute; Maximum 4 minutes
- 3 – 5: Minimum 2 minutes; Maximum 5 minutes
- 6 – 12: Minimum 3 minutes; Maximum 7 minutes
- Speech purpose may be:
 - To persuade
 - To inform
 - To entertain

Performance Criteria:

1. Adherence to time limits
2. Originality
3. Connection with audience
4. Memorization or effective use of note cards (note cards for self-created speeches only)
5. Uses body language effectively (posture, movement, gesturing)
6. Uses verbal language effectively (word choice, grammar)
7. Effective eye contact
8. Uses voice effectively (pitch, tone, volume, rate, pronunciation/enunciation)
9. Topic is appropriate for all audiences

District Contact: Dr. Sha'Ronda McRae smcrae@rockdale.k12.ga.us

Oratorical Showcase: A Thousand Voices Entry Form

Due to ELA Curriculum Office by TBD

School _____

Grade _____

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Student Information

Student's Name
(Please type or print legibly): _____

Age _____

Home Address Street/P. O. Box _____

City Zip Code _____

Phone number: Home (____) _____ Cell (____) _____

Parent's Full Name (Print): _____

Format Information

____ Poetry ____ Famous Speech ____ Dramatic Monologue ____ Self-Created Public Speech

Please provide the name and author of your selection:

*****You must attach a copy of the oratorical presentation whether it is original or from another source.***

Your signature below indicates that this speech is your original work.

Signatures

Student's Signature _____

Parent's Signature -**Parental permission is required to allow participants to receive recognition in district publications / websites.

Teacher's Signature _____

School Principals' Signature _____

District Honor Band

Purpose: The purpose of the RCPS District Honor Band is to give high performing band students an opportunity to perform in an honor ensemble of Rockdale County students.



Rockdale County Public Schools 2026-2027 Academic Competition & Showcase Opportunities

Format: MS Band 6-8; HS Concert Band; HS Symphonic Band. Each ensemble will be conducted by a Guest Clinician--an acclaimed MS, HS, or Collegiate Director. This 2-day clinic meets on a Friday for afternoon rehearsals, then a half-day of rehearsals and performances on Saturday.

This event will be held at Conyers Middle School this year on Friday, March 26, 2027, and Saturday, March 27, 2027, with performances beginning at 3:00 p.m.

Guidelines: Students are invited to be a part of these ensembles based on teacher recommendation.

Criteria: Rockdale County Students will be bused to the rehearsal at Conyers MS on Friday. Parents will pick up their child on Friday night. Parents will transport their child to and from the event on Saturday.

District Contact: Mr. Jaylen Gilstrap – Conyers MS

Rockdale County Public Schools 2026-2027 Academic Competition & Showcase Opportunities

Congressional Art Competition

Purpose: Each year this national competition calls upon high school students of all backgrounds and skill sets to submit their art for the chance to display their winning pieces in their congressional district and in the U.S. Capitol. The winning work of art will hang in the tunnel from the Congressional Offices to the Capitol for one year. Scholarships and other prizes are also up for grabs.

Format: Guidelines have not been updated for the 2027 competition. All schools are in the 13th Congressional District, currently vacant (formerly Rep. David Scott's district). Most students are probably also in this district but could possibly be in District 4 or 10. Use the link below to determine which district you are in using your home address.

Guidelines: There may be a theme for this art competition. Only two-dimensional art is eligible for this competition. Work should not exceed 18" x 24" including mat and frame. Each student is allowed to have no more than two entries.

Eligible artwork includes the following:

Paintings: oil, acrylics, watercolor, etc.

- Drawings: pastels, colored pencil, pencil, charcoal, ink, markers
- Collages: must be two-dimensional
- Prints: lithographs, silkscreen, block prints
- Mixed Media: use of more than two mediums such as pencil, ink, etc.
- Computer-Generated Art
- Photography

Requirement: This competition is open to 9 – 12 grade students living in or attending school in Congressional District 4, 10, or 13. Please use this link to confirm your congressional representative. Find your representative here: <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>.

Competition dates are TBD at this time.

For more information and the 2027 due date, release form, etc., please go to your congressional representative's site:

District Contact: Dr. Kirby Meng