

RCPS 2011-2012 Parent Handbook



2011 - 2012 School Principal Directory

Elementary Schools

Barksdale Elementary School

596 Oglesby Bridge Road
Conyers, Georgia 30094
770-483-9514
Jana O'Kelley, Principal

C.J. Hicks Elementary School

1300 Pine Log Road
Conyers, Georgia 30012
770-483-4410
Sherrod D. Willaford, Principal

Flat Shoals Elementary School

1455 Flat Shoals Road
Conyers, Georgia 30013
770-483-5136
Dr. Tammy Hightower, Principal

Hightower Trail Elem. School

2510 Highway 138, NE
Conyers, Georgia 30013
770-388-0751
Laura Jenkins Bates, Principal

Honey Creek Elem. School

700 Honey Creek Road
Conyers, Georgia 30094
770-483-5706
Shirley Chesser, Principal

J.H. House Elementary School

2930 Highway 20 North
Conyers, Georgia 30012
770-483-9504
Tamara Smith, Principal

Lorraine Elementary School

3343 East Fairview Road, SW
Stockbridge, Georgia 30281
770-483-0657
Dr. David Ray, Principal

Peek's Chapel Elem. School

2800 Avalon Parkway
Conyers, Georgia 30013
770-761-1842
Tiwon Toney, Principal

Pine Street Elementary School

960 Pine Street
Conyers, Georgia 30012
770-483-8713
Kimberly Vier, Principal

Shoal Creek Elem. School

1300 McWilliams Road
Conyers, Georgia 30094
770-929-1430
Blake Craft, Principal

Sims Elementary School

1821 Walker Road
Conyers, Georgia 30094
770-922-0666
Charisse Gay, Principal

Middle Schools

Conyers Middle School

400 Sigman Road
Conyers, Georgia 30012
770-483-3371
Maryland Nesmith, Principal

Edwards Middle School

2633 Stanton Road
Conyers, Georgia 30094
770-483-3255
Fred Middleton, Principal

Gen. Ray Davis Middle School

3375 East Fairview Road, SW
Stockbridge, Georgia 30281
770-388-5675
Michael Mauriello, Principal

Memorial Middle School

3205 Underwood Road
Conyers, Georgia 30013
770-922-0139
Andrea McMahan, Principal

High Schools

Heritage High School

2400 Granade Road
Conyers, Georgia 30094
770-483-5428
Greg Fowler, Principal

Rockdale County High School

1174 Bulldog Circle
Conyers, Georgia 30012
770-483-8754
Georgi Brown, Principal

Salem High School

3551 Underwood Road
Conyers, Georgia 30013
770-929-0176
Tonya Bloodworth, Principal

Non-Traditional Schools

Alpha Academy

1045 North Street
Conyers, Georgia 30012
770-922-8636
Gregory Brown, Principal

Rockdale Career Academy

1064 Culpepper Drive
Conyers, Georgia 30094
770-388-5677
Miki Edwards, CEO

Open Campus

1115 West Avenue
Conyers, Georgia 30012
770-388-5727
Frank Daniels, Principal

Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology

c/o Rockdale County High School
1174 Bulldog Circle
Conyers, Georgia 30012
770-483-8737
Mary Ann Suddeth, Director

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Strategic Plan

In the fall of 2006, the Board contracted with The Cambridge Group to guide the system in the development of a comprehensive strategic plan. School-based and central office administrators, government and civic leaders, and parent/student stakeholders were invited to serve on the Strategic Planning Team. The Team pulled together subcommittees which included the involvement of even more community stakeholders to devise a strategic plan which the Board adopted to guide the system's work for the past five years. This year, internal facilitators are using the same process to develop a renewed plan for the next five years. The following reflects the renewed mission, beliefs, objectives and strategies.

Mission Statement

A declaration of the unique identity to which the organization aspires; its specific purpose; and the means by which it will achieve its purpose.

The mission of the Rockdale County School System, the boundless learning community where students aspire to their dreams and success is expected of all, is to ensure that each student performs at his/her highest academic level and is a successful, participatory member of our global society, through a system distinguished by:

- fearless advocates for students;
- community alliance for students' success;
- empowering students to shape their own future;
- infinite learning opportunities for all;
- customized measures of individual student success.

Beliefs

An expression of fundamental values: ethical code, overriding convictions, inviolable principles.

WE BELIEVE THAT family is the most important factor in the development of the individual
WE BELIEVE THAT a safe and orderly environment is essential to teaching and learning
WE BELIEVE THAT education is the most important asset in maximizing the opportunities of an individual and community
WE BELIEVE THAT every person deserves a voice and is worthy of respect
WE BELIEVE THAT all human beings have the capacity to learn
WE BELIEVE THAT every person deserves the opportunity to succeed
WE BELIEVE THAT each person is responsible for his or her own actions
WE BELIEVE THAT faith gives meaning and purpose to life
WE BELIEVE THAT students are at the core of all educational decision-making
WE BELIEVE THAT diversity strengthens our community

Objectives

An uncompromising commitment to achieve specific, measurable, observable, or demonstrable results that exceed its present capability.

- All students will pass local, state, and national assessments at levels which exceed established standards.
- All students identify their dreams and be limitless in their individual pursuits.
- 100% of our students graduate and succeed in their endeavors in higher education, the workforce, and/or the global community.
- 100% of our students are responsible citizens, serve the community, and demonstrate highest ethical standards.

Strategies

Bold resolutions that dedicate the organization's resources and energies toward the continuous creation of systems to achieve the extraordinary as expressed in the mission and objectives.

- I. We will provide multiple resources to support learning opportunities, advocacy and student empowerment to ensure continued success.
- II. We will embrace individuality and uniqueness to foster cultural competency for our system.
- III. We will continuously foster a culture in which individuals feel safe, accepted, respected and empowered.
- IV. We will maximize student, teacher and staff capacities to ensure success.
- V. We will engage students, parents, community members and other stakeholders to build an alliance for student success.

A Message from the Superintendent



**Superintendent
Samuel T. King, Ed.D.**

This Handbook for Parents is designed to assure that parents have information about their child's school procedures and rules. While this handbook cannot contain all information for each of our schools and programs, it does give a review of the important rules that apply to all schools. This is just one of several ways we try to keep parents informed about their child's school.

I urge you to review this publication now so you will be aware of what is expected of your child at school. By keeping this booklet, you will also be able to review the rules and guidelines throughout the school year as the need arises.

Please allow me this opportunity to encourage you to be involved on a regular basis in your child's school experience. Your child's best interests are served if the school and the home work together. On behalf of the schools, I pledge to work cooperatively with you to help your child have a successful and rewarding educational experience in your schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samuel T. King". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Samuel T. King, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Rockdale County Board of Education

The Rockdale County Board of Education is composed of seven members elected at-large for four-year terms. The Board is the official governing body of the school system.



**Wales Barksdale
Chair**



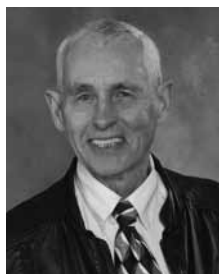
**Jean Yontz
Vice Chair**



Darlene E. Hotchkiss



Jim McBrayer



Donald E. McKinney



Brad Smith



Katrina Young

Alpha Academy

An alternative and complement to the traditional elementary/middle/high school program is the Alpha Academy. At Alpha Academy, students benefit from small class sizes that provide flexibility and the opportunity for individual growth. The primary goal of Alpha Academy is to help students become successful in school so they can return to their home school. Student assignment to Alpha Academy may be made by a placement committee or as the result of a disciplinary tribunal.

Athletic Recruitment Regulations

Recruitment of high school student athletes to attend public or private institutions of post-secondary education is limited to the student athlete's immediate family and coaches of public or private post-secondary schools. Accepting money or any other thing of value totaling more than \$250 annually from anyone other than a member of the immediate family or coach of the institution may jeopardize the future eligibility of the student athlete to participate in intercollegiate athletics.

Attendance Policy

Regular student attendance is a high priority in the Rockdale County Public Schools. Regular attendance at school is vitally important to each student since attendance affects a student's academic progress and the development of attitudes for his/her adult life. For the purposes of this policy, students in grades kindergarten through twelve are affected and the parents and students are the responsible parties. According to the laws of Georgia, compulsory school attendance is required of all students ages six through sixteen.

Absences and tardies will be considered excused for the following reasons only:

1. Personal illness or when attendance would endanger their health or the health of others.
2. Illness or death in the immediate family.
3. Celebrating a religious holiday.
4. Absences mandated by other governmental agencies such as court order or pre-induction physical for the armed services.
5. Conditions that render attendance impossible or hazardous to health or safety.
6. Registering to vote or voting for a period not to exceed one (1) day.
7. Absences for a student whose parent is in military service in the armed forces of the United States or the National Guard, and such parent has been called to duty for, or is on leave from, overseas deployment to a combat zone or combat supporting post. Such student shall be granted excused absences up to a maximum of five (5) school days per school year to visit with his or her parent prior to such parent's deployment or during such parent's leave.

Students shall be counted present when they are serving as a Page in the Georgia General Assembly.

Rockdale County Board of Education Policy JB, Student Attendance, can be viewed in its entirety by accessing the Board Policies link on the school system's website at www.rockdale.k12.ga.us.

For additional information and requirements, please refer to the Attendance Protocol found on our website at www.rockdale.k12.ga.us.

Bus Transportation

Rockdale County Public Schools operates one of the safest and most efficient fleets in Georgia. Our school bus drivers are properly qualified and well trained. Although many changes have taken place in pupil transportation, the one basic principle that has not and cannot change is the concern for the safety of the transported student.

The following Bus Conduct Regulations have been developed to keep your children safe while riding on the buses by reducing the opportunity for danger or injury to students to the greatest extent possible.

Bus Conduct Regulations

1. The bus driver is in complete charge of the bus.
2. Drivers have authority to assign students specific seats on the bus.
3. Students may disembark buses only at school and at their regular stops. Any exception will require authorization of parent(s) or legal guardian(s), school administrator, and the transportation department.
4. No eating or drinking is allowed on the bus.
5. Radios, glass items, animals, skateboards, baseball bats, hockey sticks, or any other item of safety concern shall not be transported. Bagged athletic equipment may be transported but must be under the control of the bus driver.
6. For minor offenses, bus drivers will follow the established four-step minor offense process.
7. Problems of a serious nature must be reported promptly by the driver, in writing, to the principal of the school which the student attends.
8. The principal will take up the matter with the delinquent student and, if necessary, the parent(s) of the student.
9. If the problem cannot be resolved, the principal will notify the parent(s) that the student has forfeited the privilege to transportation by bus.
10. Forfeiture of the privilege to transportation by bus in no way changes the requirement for compulsory attendance. When the forfeiture of bus transportation privileges has occurred, it is the responsibility of the parent(s) to transport the student to and from the school.
11. The student's privilege to transportation by bus may be restored by the principal but only after a satisfactory agreement has been established with the Executive Director of Buildings/Grounds/Transportation.

Specific Rules for Students While on the School Bus

1. When boarding a bus, students should go directly to their seat and be seated.
2. All students must conduct themselves in an orderly manner at all times.
3. Students are not to move around while the bus is in motion.
4. Students will not extend any part of their body out of the bus windows at any time.
5. Loud talking, throwing of objects, or any other act to distract the attention of the driver will not be allowed.
6. Tobacco or tobacco products are prohibited on the bus.
7. Writing, cutting, scratching, or defacing the interior or exterior of the bus is prohibited. Students responsible will pay for damages.
8. Students are to keep the bus clean. Paper or trash should not be left on the floor. The bus driver is responsible for cleanliness and ventilation of the bus.
9. Students cannot bring anything on the bus that would keep another student from having a place to sit or that would block the aisle or door of the bus.
10. Drivers are interested in student welfare, comfort, and safety.

Rockdale County Public Schools authorizes the use of video cameras on school buses and on district property to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of all persons and to safeguard district facilities and equipment.

Check-In and Check-Out Procedures

Students leaving and coming into the class are distractions to the learning process. Therefore, we discourage students leaving school during the day, and we encourage parents to schedule appointments for students at times other than school hours.

Check-In Procedures

Elementary school students are expected to be in their classes at 7:35 a.m., middle school students at 8:45 a.m., and high school students at 8:05 a.m. Students who arrive at school after the tardy bell rings must have a parent check him/her in at the front office. In order for tardiness to be excused, students must have a written excuse signed by a parent stating the reason for being late. Only reasons listed for excused absences can be counted as excused tardies.

Check-Out Procedures

Students who will be checking out during the day must bring a note to the main office before school starts stating the reason for check-out and listing the name and phone number of a parent or guardian who can be contacted. Parents may also come into the main office to check students out. Students are not permitted to check out of school during lunch to go off campus for lunch.

Clubs and Organizations

Rockdale County Public Schools has approved the following list of clubs and organizations for the 2011-2012 school year. Please see pages 6 through 19 for a brief description of each. **Please contact your local school directly for more information regarding meeting times, costs associated with a club, sponsorship, and the names of the advisors.**

Please note: Clubs, organizations, and memberships may vary at each school. Please reference the list below for the most recent offerings at your school. This list is subject to change.

Parent/Guardian Responsibility

School Sponsored Clubs and Organizations

In accordance with Georgia Code 20-2-751.5, parents/guardians may decline permission for their students to participate in a club or organization. Parents/guardians are encouraged to contact their respective schools to review the complete list of clubs/organizations offered at that site. **Parents/legal guardians may withhold permission for students to join or participate in a club or organization. If you do not want your child to participate in any clubs or organizations, please complete the opt-out form, "Withhold Permission to Participate in Clubs and Organizations" and return it to your school by August 19, 2011.** This form is available on the school system's website (www.rockdale.k12.ga.us) under the forms link or from your school's office.

Elementary School Club Listing

Barksdale Elementary

4-H Club
Ambassador Club
Art Club
Chorus Club
Drama Club
Fire Patrol Club
Flag Patrol Club
Marathon in a Month Club
Math Team Club
Media Center/School Store Helper
Mileage Club
National Junior Honor Society
National Junior Beta Club
News Crew Club
Reading Bowl Team
Robotics Club
Rockdale Honor Chorus
Student Council

Flat Shoals Elementary

4-H Club
Book Club
Brother-to-Brother
Chorus Club
Dance Club
Gardening Club
Intramurals Club
National Junior Beta Club
News Crew Club
Peer Mediator Club
Rockdale Honor Chorus
Running Club
Safety Patrol Club
Sign Language Club
Sister-to-Sister Club
Student Council

C.J. Hicks Elementary

4-H Club
Art Club
Chorus Club
Girl Scouts
National Junior Beta Club
News Crew Club
"O" Ambassadors Club
Peer Mediator Club
Reading Bowl Club
Rockdale Honor Chorus
Safety Patrol Club
SMART Club
Student Council
Young Men about Change Club
Young Ladies of Distinction Club

Hightower Elementary

4-H Club
Ambassador Club
Annual Spring Musical
Art Club
Chorus Club
Digital Photography & Press Club
Duke T.I.P. Club
Flag Corp
Intramural Program
National Junior Beta Club
News Crew Club
Peer Mediator Club
Reading Bowl Club
Rockbots - LEGO Club
Rockdale Honor Chorus
Safety Patrol Club
School Store Helper
Student Council
Yearbook Club

Honey Creek Elementary

4-H Club
Art Club
Bee Buddies
BTV Crew
Camp Little Miss
Honey Creek Harmony
Marathon in a Month Club
Mileage Club
National Junior Beta Club
PE Central Challenge Club
Reading Bowl Club
Safety Patrol Club
Student Council
SWAT Team
WII Club

J. H. House Elementary

4-H Club
BizPal Club
Curtain Club
National Junior Beta Club
Reading Bowl Club
Rockdale Honor Chorus
Safety Patrol Club
Student Council
Weblog Club

Lorraine Elementary

4-H Club
Art Club
Big Thinkers Science Club
Chorus Club
Good News Club
Math Club
News Crew Club
Reading Bowl Club
Rockdale Honor Chorus
Running Club
Safety Patrol Club
Student Council

Peek's Chapel Elementary

4-H Club
Art Club
Chorus Club
Dance Club
Girls of Pride, Respect, Education,
Sincerity, and Success (GOPRESS)
Intramural Program
Literary Lunch Bunch
National Junior Beta Club
News Crew Club
Peer Mediator Club
Press Club
Pride of Peek's
Rockdale Honor Chorus
Safety Patrol Club
Student Council

Pine Street Elementary

4-H Club
Chorus Club
Mediators and Ambassadors Program
MAPs
News Crew Club
Rockdale Honor Chorus
Safety Patrol Club
Student Council
Tech Club

Shoal Creek Elementary

4-H Club
Art Club
Board Games Club
Book Club
Chorus Club
Dance Club
Drama Club
National Junior Beta Club
News Crew Club
Reading Bowl Club
Rockdale Honor Chorus
Safety Patrol Club
Show Tunes Club
Student Council
Volleyball Club
Yearbook Club

Sims Elementary

4-H Club
Art Club
Boys to Men Mentoring Club
Chorus Club
Creative Expressions Club
Explore Club
Math Team Club
News Crew Club
Peer Mediator Club
Peer Tutors Club
Reading Bowl
Safety Patrol Club
Science Club
SMT (Sims Medical Team) Club
Spanish Club
Strong Girls, Strong Women
Student Council
SWAT Club
TEAM Sims
Track Club

Elementary School Club Descriptions

4-H Club enriches the curriculum in the areas of language arts and science. The 4-H curriculum is aligned with the language arts and science GPS standards. Membership is open to all 5th grade students. Club activities include learning to give an oral presentation, exploring different science topics, and contributing to the community through community service projects.

Ambassador Club makes new students feel welcome at school. Membership is open to one boy and one girl per classroom. Club activities include students serving as greeters during special school functions, providing tours to prospective new families, meeting and greeting new students assigned to their classrooms throughout the year, and giving tours and orientation sessions to new students to familiarize them with building and classroom rules and procedures.

Annual Spring Musical gives students an opportunity to perform a musical drama and to learn about drama. Membership is open to 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. Club activities include learning and memorizing songs and lines, blocking, staging, choreography, set design, costume/make-up, and any other activity needed to perform and rehearse.

Art Club engages students in creative self-expression through art. Membership is open to 4th and 5th grade students. Club activities include keeping a sketchbook, creating set designs for plays, painting, sculpture, and fiber arts.

Bee Buddies, one student selected from each class by the teacher, represent the class and school in welcoming new students and visitors to the school. These students are instructed to orient new students in their class to the routine, the building, the cafeteria, and the media center procedures.

Big Thinkers Science Club is a weekly hands-on educational program that gets 4th and 5th graders engaged and thinking about Science. There are six themed classes for six weeks.

BizPal Club improves writing skills and awareness of current events. Membership is open to 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. Club activities include a "kick off" party at General Mills, meetings to type letters about current events to each student's BizPal, a mid-year gathering, and an end-of-the-year gathering.

Board Games Club exposes students to the rules and procedures for a variety of board games. Membership is open to all students in the 1st through 5th grades. Club activities include learning game procedures, how to score points in a game, and how to compete against others with sportsmanship.

Book Club builds self-esteem through creative writing. Membership is open to all students in the 3rd through 5th grade. Club activities include learning a variety of genre, using the writing process to create a book, designing the pages and layout of the book, publishing the book, and building self-esteem through reading the self-created story.

Boys To Men Mentoring Program empowers elementary school boys in grades 3-5 through positive relationships while promoting excellence in mind (self-esteem & self worth), body (image & nutrition), and spirit (our purpose in life).

Brother-to-Brother Club seeks to foster a positive self-image as we guide our young gentlemen through adolescence. Membership is open to interested 4th grade boys. Club activities include community service, fund raising, school beautification projects, and etiquette lessons.

BTV Crew provides students with opportunities to direct, produce, and anchor a school news program. The crew of BTV utilizes the news show to promote school spirit, celebrate individual and group accomplishments, and inform students of school events. Membership is open to all 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students whose applications are accepted based on previous good attendance, responsibility, teacher recommendations, and availability of slots to be filled.

Camp Little Miss will be open to first and second grade girls. Activities will involve community service projects, building positive peer relationships, and developing positive self-esteem.

Chorus Club recognizes students interested in singing. Membership is open to 4th and 5th graders. Club activities include performances within the school as well as performances outside the school at various community functions.

Creative Expressions Club (Drama, Dance, Music, & Art) provides students an opportunity to perform a musical drama and learn about drama. Membership is open to 3-5th grade students. Club activities include learning and memorizing songs and lines, blocking, staging, choreography, set design, costume/make-up, and other activity needed to perform and rehearse.

Curtain Club provides students with an opportunity to be a part of a working musical team. Membership is open to 4th and 5th graders. Club activities include instruction in singing, speaking, acting, set building (elementary level), and other aspects of musical theater that are developmentally appropriate. The experience culminates in May with a presentation of a musical or music revue.

Dance Club promotes self-confidence through creative design. Membership is open to all students in the 1st through 5th grades. Club activities include learning songs and dances from given shows, learning to use stage props, and building self-esteem through solo performances.

Digital Photography & Press Club expands students' technical and artistic abilities. Membership is open to students who complete an application and meet the school's Extracurricular Academic Guidelines. Club activities include taking photos at school events and activities and participating in special projects to be submitted to the County/State Media Festival.

Drama Club gives students an opportunity to perform a musical drama and to learn about drama. Membership is open to 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. Club activities include learning and memorizing songs and lines, blocking, staging, choreography, set design, costume/make-up, and any other activity needed to perform and rehearse.

Duke T.I.P. The Duke University Talent Identification Program (Duke TIP) identifies gifted children and provides resources to nurture the development of these exceptionally bright youngsters. Duke TIP provides students with the opportunity to learn more about their abilities. Qualifying fourth and fifth grade students may participate in Duke TIP's 4th/5th Grade Talent Search program and may take advantage of its optional above-level testing.

EXPLORE Club guides students on how to research, record, and present information in a professional manner. Students will also work on problem solving skills and thinking critically that will increase rigor of the research process as well as acquire the ability to assess individual understanding of a topic.

Fire Patrol Club gives students ownership in the implementation of school safety procedures and rewards students' good citizenship and loyalty to Barksdale and the school community. Membership is selected by the principal from a pool of students who have a school record of following the conduct and citizenship rules in the Barksdale Promise Book. Club activities include a training exercise held in August to teach the team the Fire Drill procedures for evacuation of the school building. A follow-up conference is held between the principal and the team after every fire drill.

Flag Corp rewards students with good citizenship and loyalty to Hightower. Students have the opportunity to participate in school civic activities. Membership is open to students who have shown good attendance and behavior.

Flag Patrol Club rewards students with good citizenship and loyalty to Barksdale. Being on Flag Patrol gives students the opportunity to participate in school civic responsibility. Membership is comprised of a selection of students who have shown good attendance and behavior by following the rules in the Barksdale Promise Book. Club activities include a training exercise held in August to teach the Flag Patrol Team the procedures for raising and lowering the flag daily. A follow-up conference is held at the end of each quarter so job procedures can be reviewed.

Gardening Club promotes school/courtyard beautification. Club activities include planting, pruning, maintaining sanitary school grounds, and helping with courtyard projects.

Girls of Pride, Respect, Education, Sincerity, and Success (G.O.P.R.E.S.S.) is a mentoring program for 4th and 5th grade girls. Club activities include group discussions, community outreach, and social gatherings.

Girls Scouts meet twice a month at C.J. Hicks. The troop is Brownie level. Girls in the troop work on badges out of the Brownie Handbook by completing various activities at troop meetings as well as activities on the weekends.

Good News Club is sponsored by Child Evangelism Fellowship Inc. of Georgia. It is open to students in grades 3 through 5 regardless of religious background. Students learn respect for authority, moral values, character qualities, and biblical principles.

Honey Creek Harmony recognizes those students who enjoy singing, dancing, and performing. Membership is open to all 4th and 5th graders. Honey Creek Harmony is involved in musical productions within the school as well as performances at various community events. Meetings are scheduled to prepare for performances.

Intramurals Club/Intramural Program improves students' fitness levels by participating in physical education activities after school. Membership and meeting times vary by school. Club activities may include running, volleyball, team handball, physical education games, and chess club.

Literary Lunch Bunch motivates struggling or reluctant readers to have rewarding experiences with literature. The goal is to provide students with positive reading experiences that will increase the students' confidence in reading and, therefore, boost student achievement in reading. Membership is open to 3rd through 5th graders.

Mediators and Ambassadors Program (MAPs) provides a student leadership opportunity for 4th and 5th grade students. Students are trained and serve as student mediators, mentors for younger students, school tour guides, and student helpers. Potential members in the 4th grade are referred by their teachers. Potential 5th grade members may refer themselves or be referred by a teacher. These students will complete an application process, which includes an essay and interview.

Marathon in a Month Club promotes cardiovascular fitness. Students run Monday through Friday through the month of October. Volunteers keep distance records for each member. The goal is to run a total of 26.2 miles (distance of a marathon). Membership is open to all students in grades 2 - 5.

Math Team Club exposes students to advanced concepts of mathematics, deepening their understanding of mathematics, enhancing problem-solving skills, and competing in math competition.

Media Center/School Store Helper Club teaches library and retail skills to students and enables them to practice those skills by helping in the Media Center and/or school store. Membership is open to 5th grade students recommended by their teachers. Teachers are requested to recommend students who are dependable, responsible, well-behaved, have acceptable grades and can arrive in the Media Center by 7:10 a.m. An additional requirement of good math skills is set for store helpers. Each helper is assigned one morning each week to work in either the Media Center or school store between 7:15 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. Club activities include checking books in and out, assisting students in finding materials, selling store items, making change at the store, and generally helping in the Media Center and store.

Mileage Club promotes physical fitness and expands/develops students' running ability. Membership is open to students in grades 1 through 5 and kindergartners with parent participation.

National Junior Beta Club was established for the purpose of recognizing outstanding academic achievement and promotes ideals of leadership and service. Membership is open to rising fifth graders who maintain a level of Honor Roll, Honor Roll with Distinction, or Principal's List, receive all satisfactory behavior markings, and are recommended by their teacher.

National Junior Honor Society Club was established for the purpose of recognizing students for demonstrating outstanding academic achievement, personal responsibility, and leadership qualities at BES. Membership is open to fourth and fifth grade students who achieve and maintain Rockdale County Public School's criteria for Principal's List for an entire school year and meet the recommendation specifications of the Faculty Council. Activities may include service projects for the school and/ or community each year.

News Crew Club hosts and produces a daily news show, which promotes school spirit, celebrates individual and group accomplishments, and informs the students about school activities/events. Club activities include producing a daily news show, which includes serving as a news anchor, host, or weather reporter; preparing scripts; and operating a computer or video and sound equipment.

“O” Ambassadors Club is sponsored by Oprah’s Angel Network and Free the Children. Students will engage in activities to help them learn about children and families living in developing countries. Students will discover that they can make a difference in their own lives and someone else’s.

PE Central Challenge Club encourages students to compete the six physical challenges from the PE Central Club. These challenges include jumping rope, volleying balls, throwing and catching, hula hooping, a balance shuffle, and paddle strike activities.

Peer Mediator Club trains students in the skills of conflict resolution so they can help other students solve problems. Membership is open to one boy and one girl per homeroom in grades 3 through 5. Interested students must complete an application form to participate as a Peer Mediator. Club activities include attending the training session on conflict resolution, friendship, empathy, problem solving, communication skills, and peer mediation.

Peer Tutors Club provides tutoring for younger students. Membership is open to one or two students per 2nd through 5th grade homerooms. Club activities include tutoring a K - 1st grade student two times per week for a fifteen-minute session.

Press Club expands students’ technical and artistic abilities. Membership is open to 4th and 5th grade students. Club activities include taking photos as school events and activities for the yearbook, and participating in special projects.

Pride of Peek’s is a mentoring program for 4th and 5th grade boys. Club activities include group discussions, community outreach, and social gatherings.

Reading Bowl Club members will read at least four of the Georgia Book Award Nominees. Members will review and discuss the books in preparation to compete for spots on the Reading Bowl Team. Ten members will be selected to compete in the Rockdale County Reading Bowl.

Robotics/Rockbots – LEGO Club helps students learn engineering, computer programming, teamwork, problem solving, time management, presentation skills, and public speaking. Membership is open to 4th and 5th grade students. Club activities include presentation research as well as an audio visual presentation. Students assemble and program an original robot to complete missions using problem solving techniques. The students develop team work, gain proficiency at public speaking, discuss the research topic, and develop robot programming abilities.

Rockdale Honor Chorus extends performance opportunities. Membership is open to 5th grade students who are chosen through auditions. Club activities include performing at plays and assemblies, nursing homes, and Partner-In-Education sites.

Running Club promotes healthy living and a fit lifestyle through a morning running program. Membership is open to students in grades 3 through 5. Students who participate will run on the school track and monitor their progress in both distance and time.

Safety Patrol Club develops leadership skills for our students. Membership is open to 4th and 5th graders. Club activities include monitoring hallway and cafeteria conduct and outside car safety under strict adult supervision.

School Store Helper teaches retail skills to students and enables them to practice those skills by helping in the school store. Membership is open to 4th and 5th grade Student Council members. The HTE School Store is open mornings before school begins.

Science Club promotes greater interest in the wonders of science. Membership is open to all grades. Club activities include studying and discussing different aspects of earth, physical, and life science and sharing the information with the school. Club activities also include working with local businesses in helping to place and maintain bird houses on campus, and helping to plant and maintain different types of trees.

Show Tunes Club exposes students to award-winning Broadway shows. Membership is open to all students in the 1st through 5th grade. Club activities include learning songs and dances from given shows, learning to use stage props, and building self-esteem through solo performances.

Sign Language Club provides students an opportunity to learn a means of communicating with peers and others who are hearing impaired while promoting peer relations and positive character. The club will meet to learn sign language as well as have opportunities to showcase their skills at various functions in the school and community.

Sister-to-Sister Club seeks to foster a positive self-image as we guide our young ladies through adolescence. Membership is open to interested 4th grade girls. Club activities include community service, fund raising, school beautification projects, and etiquette lessons.

SMT (Sims Medical Team) Club provides first aid treatment. Membership is open to two students per homeroom. Club activities include assisting students in the class with minor first aid treatment.

SMART (Science and Math Achievers Reaching Their Highest Potential) is math and science in action! The SMART Experience (SME) explores the application of math and science to real-world problems from explorations in fields like robotics and environmental studies, through hands-on experiments and Georgia Performance Standard aligned activities. Students will broaden their view of what math and science can do and practice important academic skills like problem solving, teamwork, research, and writing. The SME prepares students to participate in the regional state wide First Lego League Robotics Invitational and the county-wide Math 24 Tournament.

Spanish Club promotes understanding of Hispanic cultures, languages(s), and history. It also aims to promote teamwork, courtesy, social skills, and thinking skills and making connections with the Spanish class activities. Membership is open to all grade levels. Club activities may include various group and individual games, sports-related activities, and team-building projects.

Strong Girls, Strong Women is to provide an arena to build self-worth, motivate completion of set goals, and fosters encouragement to become strong, self-sufficient, motivated young ladies. This program is for girls in grades 3-5.

Student Council teaches students about the democratic method for making decisions that involve the entire school. Students who serve on Student Council make decisions about school projects and listen to the ideas of their classmates, while remaining fair and respectful to all students. Membership is open to one representative and one alternate per homeroom as well as four 5th grade officer positions. Students must be elected to these positions by their classmates. Club activities include contributing ideas to school-wide spirit days and various service projects.

SWAT Club/SWAT Team assists classrooms with technology. Membership is open to two students per homeroom. Club activities include assisting classrooms with technology use and scheduling special individual technology assistance.

TEAM SIMS will participate in various team activities to help build character, cooperation, competitiveness and teamwork through physical education/sports activity.

Tech Club is for 4th and 5th grade students who have a desire to spend more time expressing their creativity through technology activities. Students complete a PowerPoint presentation as a try-out for the club. Activities include those involving digital photography, multimedia presentations, and video production. Meetings are held Tuesdays after school.

Track Club promotes physical fitness. Membership is open to all students. Club activities include running or walking the track before school.

Volleyball Club promotes physical fitness in a safe and fun environment. Membership is open to all students in grades 3 through 5. Club activities include learning how to serve a volleyball, how to score points in a game, how to set up a team and rotate positions, and how to compete against others with good sportsmanship.

Weblog Club enhances student writing in an authentic setting. Membership is open to 5th graders. Club activities include posting, publishing and commenting to their own school blog.

Wii Club stands for "We're Into Improvement." Students who want to work on developing improvement in academics or behavior are invited to establish a contract and develop their own goals and data collection to be reviewed on a weekly basis. Students that achieve their goals are invited to a Wii Sports or Brain Academy Challenge.

Yearbook Club creates a unique pictorial history of our school and the world through the eyes of the students. Membership is open to 5th grade students. Club activities include taking and collecting photos of school events, researching current world news and events, creating the graphic layout of yearbook pages, naming the book, dedicating the book, working with the printer to meet copy deadlines, inspecting the received books, advertising, and selling the books.

Young Men about Change Club is a mentoring program for boys. Membership is open to all 4th and 5th grade boys. Club activities include field trips, life skills and decision-making skills training, mentoring discussions, and journal writing.

Young Ladies of Distinction Club is a mentoring program for girls. Membership is open to all 4th and 5th grade girls. Club activities include field trips, community service projects, and discussions regarding conflict resolution, personal hygiene, academic achievement, and etiquette.

Middle School Club Listing

Conyers Middle

4-H Club

Chess Club

Dance Team

Drama Club

Intramurals

Junior Thespian

Math Team Club

Robotics Club

Remote Operated Underwater
Vehicles (ROVs)

School Newsletter

STEP Team Club

Student Council

Technology Student Association
(TSA)

Edwards Middle

4-H Club

Academic Bowl Club

Creative Writing & Journaling Club

E-News

Family, Career, and Community
Leaders of America (FCCLA)

Intramurals

National Beta Society (Beta Club)

National Junior Honor Society

Peer Mediation Club

Ritz Players Club

Robotics Club

Rockdale Youth Leadership Club

S.A.D.D. Club

Scrabble Club

Sisters Involved in Leadership
& Knowledge (S.I.L.K.) Club

Student Council

Teens for Christ Club

Yearbook Club

General Ray Davis Middle

4-H Club

Academic Bowl Club

Eagle Eye News Morning Club

Family, Career, and Community
Leaders of America (FCCLA)

Intramurals

Literary Magazine Club

Math Team Club

National Junior Honor Society

Play Production Company

Robotics Club

Rockdale Youth Leadership Club

Student Council

Visual Arts Club

Yearbook Club

Memorial Middle

4-H Club

Chamber Choir

Comic Book Club

Computer Club

Cross Country Club

Drama Club

Ensembles (Men's and Women's)

Intelligent Males Achieving,
Growing and Excelling (IMAGE)

Intramurals

Junior Thespian Society

Ladies of Distinction

Math Team Club

National Junior Honor Society

News Club

Reading Bowl Club

Robotics Club

Science Olympiad

Spanish Club

Student Council

Yearbook Club

Middle School Club Descriptions

4-H Club strives to develop students to become productive citizens. Membership is open to 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. Club activities include teaching an educational lesson, discussing community service contracts, arranging for service learning, and preparing for competitive 4-H activities outside of class.

Academic Bowl Club prepares students for the academic bowl in high school, enhances academic excellence among middle school students, and promotes teamwork among middle students. Membership is open to 7th and 8th grade students. Students must try out for ten spots on the team. Only ten students are allowed to go to the PAGE Regional Quizbowl Tournament. Club activities include the PAGE Regional Tournament and Brookwood JV Invitational Tournament.

Chamber Choir is by audition only and students must be a member of the Men's or Women's Ensemble. Students selected for this group work to achieve the highest level of choral performance. The group performs in community events and competitions.

Cheerleading Team Club promotes school spirit and performs competitively. Membership is open to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade girls; tryouts required. Club activities include cheering at football games, basketball games, and GHSA approved competitions.

Chess Club gives students the opportunity to learn the game of chess and experience competition with other students. Membership is open to all students. Club activities include chess games, chess tournaments throughout the year, individual instruction in the game itself, and understanding the larger concepts of chess.

Comic Book Club where students will learn the techniques of producing their own comic book. Fee \$30 per semester.

Computer Club primarily uses a computer program called Scratch to create interactive stories, animations, games, music, and art to share them on the Web. Students learn important mathematical and computational ideas while also learning to think creatively, reason systematically, and work collaboratively.

Creative Writing and Journaling Club promotes an interest in language arts. Membership is open to students in all grades. Club activities include learning and practicing writing skills, journaling, and displaying written work.

Cross Country Club where students will run trails at a minimum distance of three miles (with a goal of five to six mile runs). It is mandatory to bring water to every practice and recommended that the student buys a camelback (or something similar) to carry while running.

Dance Team teaches students teamwork and support of the arts and shows students how to work within a peer supported activity. Membership is open to all students with an 80 average in core classes. Club activities include learning new dances, planning fund raisers, preparing for competition, and homework help when needed.

Drama Club promotes arts in the community offering opportunities for students to develop their talents and gain confidence. It gives the students an opportunity to perform in a play or musical drama, and provides opportunities to learn about drama. Membership is open to all middle school students. Club activities include learning and memorizing songs and lines, blocking, staging, choreography, set design, costume/make-up, and any other activity needed to perform and rehearse.

E-News informs the school of events and news items pertaining to EMS and increases the language skills of students presenting as well as the listening skills of those hearing the news. Membership is open to any student with good standing in the classroom. Teacher recommendations are required.

Eagle Eye News Morning Club provides a morning news show for the school and allows students hands-on experience in video production. Membership is open to interested students. Club activities include production of a live news show: video editing and production. Technical skills: video, computer skills, camera operation, sound board, video mixer operation, teleprompting, and other various equipment. Language Arts: writing daily and feature scripts. Reading: reading with fluency and expression.

Ensembles (Men's and Women's) is for 7th and 8th grade students by audition only. These groups are comprised of a select group of students who are currently enrolled in a chorus class. Students in this group perform in community events and competitions.

Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Club helps students become strong leaders in families, careers, and communities through Family and Consumer Sciences education. Membership is open to students who have had or are currently taking an FACS class. Club activities include working on projects to help the family and community, participation in self awareness projects, monthly parent meetings, and various fund raising activities for the FACS classroom.

Intelligent Males Achieving, Growing and Excelling (IMAGE) is SILK's counterpart just for boys. (See SILK for details.)

Intramurals provide students an opportunity to participate in an extracurricular activity that is non-competitive while promoting school spirit and sportsmanship. Activities may vary at each school, but typically include bowling, chess, skiing, snowboarding, tennis, soccer, and basketball. Membership is open to 6th, 7th, and 8th graders; no tryouts.

Junior Thespan Society members must have 10 points from participating in theater during the year you are applying for membership. Members must also pay a start-up fee of \$20 and annual dues of \$10. Students go to a conference once a year, assist with various music and theatre performances throughout the year, and perform community service.

Ladies of Distinction is a club for girls grades 6-8 with an emphasis on service, mentoring and etiquette.

Literary Magazine Club creates a yearly arts and literature publication produced and created by the students. Membership is open to all serious language arts and visual arts students. Club activities include creative writing, editing, drawing and illustration, publication layout and design, and book binding.

Math Team Club exposes students to advanced concepts of mathematics (especially the algebraic and discrete mathematics), deepening their understanding of mathematics, enhancing problem-solving skills, and competing against other schools in math meets (tournaments). Membership is open to all grade levels and to all students who enjoy math and working with numbers. Club activities include math competitions (meets/tournaments) and practices.

National Beta Society (Beta Club/Junior Beta Club) promotes the ideals of character, service, and leadership among middle school students; rewards meritorious achievement; and encourages education after high school. Participating students must have all As or no more than two Bs as well as outstanding character references from their teachers. Club activities include various community service activities.

National Junior Honor Society recognizes and encourages academic achievement while also developing students' citizenship skills. Membership is open to 7th and 8th grade students with a 3.0 GPA or higher and exemplary conduct/citizenship. Club activities include community service activities.

News Club informs the school of events and news pertaining to the school to increase the language skills of students presenting and to increase the listening skills of those hearing the news. Membership is open to any student with good standing in the classroom. Teacher recommendations are required. Club activities include preparing, interviewing, gathering, and editing the news for the school.

Peer Mediation Club trains and equips students to provide conflict resolution services to their peers in order to promote positive and healthy ways to solve student conflicts. Membership is through teacher nominations based on academic performance, positive attitude, and a willingness to use and model appropriate resolution skills. Club activities include peer mediation training sessions, conflict resolution meetings with other students, participation in activities to promote non-violent resolution skills, and attending the State of Georgia Peer Helper Conference.

Play Production Company is an after-school, extracurricular activity for students in grades 6th, 7th and 8th through audition only. PPC offers the experience of producing a full length musical play complete with full sets, lighting, sound and costumes. All areas of stage production are covered from crew and technical theater to dance and acting. The PPC meets after school with a set rehearsal schedule that can involve weekend activities. The activity fee for joining PPC is \$50 per student to cover the cost of props, sets and costume rentals.

Reading Bowl Club members will read at least four of the Georgia Book Award Nominees. Members will review and discuss the books in preparation to compete for spots on the Reading Bowl Team. Ten members will be selected to compete in the Rockdale County Reading Bowl.

Ritz Players Club builds a spirit of goodwill and entertains the masses with all aspects of theater. Membership is open to all students. Members are expected to adhere to the policies of attendance and grades for Rockdale County Schools. Club activities include socials, drama games, theater maintenance parties, rehearsals for productions, and individual help with monologues.

Robotics Club enhances student interest in science using LEGO robotics. The students use LEGO bricks and other elements such as sensors, motors, and gears to create working robots. Teams gain hands-on experience in engineering and computer programming principles as they construct and program their unique robot inventions.

Rockdale Youth Leadership Club fosters and builds student leadership qualities and is a division of the Rockdale County Schools Youth Leadership program. Membership is open to students who are nominated to attend the school system's summer student leadership retreat. Club activities include various service projects throughout the year and attending the Georgia School Counselors Association meeting and conducting a workshop on student leadership.

S.A.D.D. Club (Students Against Destructive Decisions) operates on the belief that positive peer pressure, role modeling and environmental strategies can prevent destructive decisions and set a healthier, safer course for the lives of young people. S.A.D.D. is a peer-to-peer education, prevention, and activism organization dedicated to preventing destructive decisions, particularly underage drinking, other drug use, risky and impaired driving, teen violence, and teen suicide.

School Newsletter staff will be comprised of at least one student writer from each grade level (6-8) and guest writers as needed.

Science Olympiad is a nationally recognized program for enhancing science education and students' interest in science. The program includes hands-on, real-life science activities. Students work in teams to compete in a variety of age-appropriate events.

Scrabble Club enhances and creates more interest in spelling and vocabulary. Students in grades 6 through 8 may join the club. Club activities include learning how to play Scrabble correctly, keeping score correctly, and challenging students' minds and vocabulary to the highest level possible. Students should be ready to be very competitive.

Sisters Involved in Leadership and Knowledge (S.I.L.K.) Club meets the needs of young women through scholastics, public service, and self-awareness. It is not necessarily designed for "at-risk" students. The club enhances such qualities that help develop successful students scholastically and socially. This club is open to students in grades 6 through 8.

Spanish Club promotes understanding of Hispanic cultures, languages(s), and history. It also aims to promote teamwork, courtesy, social skills, and thinking skills and making connections with the Spanish class activities. Membership is open to all grade levels. Club activities may include various group and individual games, sports-related activities, and team-building projects.

STEP Team Club provides students an opportunity to promote school spirit during girls' basketball games and other school functions and to practice leadership skills, teamwork, and creativity. Membership is open to 7th and 8th graders. A membership fee is required based on the cost of team uniforms and refreshments each year. Club activities include creating step drills for the team, performing at girls' basketball games and other school functions, wearing a team uniform, participating in community activities such as parades, and representing the school as requested by the school staff.

Student Council provides students an opportunity to contribute to school governance, to act as conduits of information, to expose students to the democratic process of electing representatives, and to promote leadership, respect, responsibility, courtesy, and belonging among the students. Membership is open to 6th, 7th, and 8th graders who are elected by their peers in school. Club activities include planning and conducting election campaigns; representing the student body at meetings conducted by the sponsors, administration, and other staff; participating in student focus groups to discuss school matters and provide feedback to the administration and/or staff; planning activities to promote good order, school pride, and a sense of belonging in the school; and planning, conducting, and/or participating in activities or projects that promote positive community relations.

Technology Student Association (TSA) prepares students for the challenges of a dynamic world by promoting technological literacy, leadership, and problem solving, resulting in personal growth and opportunities. Membership is open to students who are interested. Club activities include fund raising, gaming competitions, state and national competitions, and leadership activities.

Teens for Christ Club shares the love of Jesus with the students at EMS. Membership is open to all students. Club activities include praise and worship music, fellowship with peers, guest speakers, lessons planned by the members of club, skits and plays performed by the members of club, FCY visits (the high school group), and school-wide projects such as: Holiday Helpers, Biggest Heart Contest, We Care Beads, and cards to staff members.

Visual Arts Club promotes critical thinking and technical skills in order to bring about a cultural and aesthetic awareness in each student. This will be accomplished through experiences in studio production, art history, art criticism, and evaluation. Membership is open to students interested in the visual arts, who have at least an "S" average in conduct, and who are serious art students. Due to equipment quantities, membership is limited to 20 students. Club activities include becoming familiar with basic painting and drawing terminology; creating drawings and paintings; becoming familiar with basic ceramic and sculpture terminology; creating works of art in the field of ceramics and sculpture; and identifying specific artists, styles, and periods.

Yearbook Club allows students the opportunity to learn writing and photo editing skills and to contribute to the development of the school yearbook. Club activities include taking photos for the yearbook, designing page layouts, writing, assisting with the yearbook development, and using computer skills.

High School Club Listing

Alpha Academy

S.A.D.D. Club

Heritage High

Academic Math Team
Academic Team
Anchor Club
Arab League
Art Club
Beta Club
Drama Club
Drill Team
Family, Career and Community
Leaders of America (FCCLA)
Fellowship of Christian
Athletes Club
Fellowship of Christian
Youth (FCY)
French Club
Future Business Leaders of
America (FBLA)
Georgia Career Student Assoc.
German Club
Interact Club
Junior Class Officers Club
Key Club
Marine Corps Junior Reserve
Training Corps (MCJROTC)
Mountain Biking Club
National Honor Society
Online Literary Magazine and
Online School Newspaper
Photography Club
Rockdale Youth Leadership Club
Rosetta Society
S.A.D.D. Club
Science Club
Spanish Club
Student Council
Ultimate Frisbee Club
Young Democrats

Open Campus

Ambassador's Club
Student Senate

Rockdale Career Academy

ACE Mentor Program
DECA
Family, Career and Community
Leaders of America (FCCLA)
Future Educators Association (FEA)
Health Occupations Students
Association (HOSA)
Mock Trial Club
National FFA Organization
S.A.D.D. Club
SkillsUSA
Technology Student Assoc. (TSA)

Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology

Magnet Debate and Speech Team
Magnet Engineering and
Robotics Team
Magnet Environmental Action Team
Magnet Envirothon Team
Magnet Math Team
Magnet Science Olympiad Team

Rockdale County High

Anime Club
Beta Club
Book Club
Drama Club
Future Business Leaders of
America (FBLA)
G.I.F.T.S. (Girls In Focus To Succeed)
Guitar Club
Interact Club
International Club
Junior Class Officers Club
Key Club
Men of Distinction
Model United Nations
Mu Alpha Theta National High
School Mathematics
Honor Society
National Art Honor Society
National Honor Society
Peer Tutoring Club
Rockdale Youth Leadership Club
S.A.D.D. Club
Sign Language Club
Skills USA Club
STEP Team Club
Student Council
Technology Student Assoc. (TSA)
Y-Club

Salem High

Academic Quiz Bowl Team
Anchor Club
Beta Club
Chess Club
Dance Team Club
Drama Club
English Honor Society
Family, Career and Community
Leaders of America (FCCLA)
Fellowship of Christian Athletes
and Students Club
Flag Corp Club
French Honor Society
Gardening Club
Interact Club
International Club
Jefferson Society
Junior Class Officers Club
Junior Classical League
Key Club
Men of Action Club
Mock Trial Club
National Honor Society
Peer Tutoring Club
Rare Entity
Rockdale Youth Leadership Club
S.A.D.D. Club
Salem High School Thespians
— Troupe #5120 Club
Science Honor Society Club
Senior Girl Scout Club
Skills USA Club
Spanish Club
Spanish Honor Society
STAND
STEP Team
Student Congress Club
Student Council
Technology Student Assoc. (TSA)
Women of Action
Y-Club

High School Club Descriptions

ACE Mentor Program is a mentoring program through a unique partnership among industry professionals — architects, interior designers, landscape architects, mechanical, structural, electrical, environmental and civil engineers, construction managers and others — who work together to attract and engage young people to enter their professions.

Academic Math Team, for all students, participates in local and state competitions.

Academic Quiz Bowl Team promotes participation in academic competitions. Membership is open to interested students. Club activities include competition in regional academic bowls, after school practice, and creating study devices.

Academic Team participates in academic tournaments including the televised Hi-Q. Membership is open to all students.

Ambassador's Club is responsible for visiting the high schools and handing out information about the Open Campus. Ambassadors also show new students and parents around the school. Students apply to be in this club and are selected by the school administration.

Anchor Club, a branch of Pilots Club International, offers young people an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others by promoting community service. Activities include raising money and collecting items to donate to local charities. The students also attend meetings and assist with the local Pilot Chapter. The Anchor Club is open to all students.

Anime Club allows students to experience the Japanese culture through animation. Membership is open to interested students. Club activities include weekly Anime viewing, conventions, and possibly a culture festival.

Arab League participants meet with other high schools in the metro area in a mock meeting of the Arab League. Each high school represents a country in the Arab World.

Art Club provides opportunities for personal enrichment by trips to museums, art exhibits, etc. It is open to students who have passed an audition.

Beta Club promotes the ideals of character, service, and leadership among secondary school students to award meritorious achievement and encourages and assists students in continuing their education after high school. Membership is by invitation and is open to 10th through 12th grade students who maintain a 3.5 weighted GPA.

Book Club encourages students to explore reading for pleasure. Membership is open to interested students. Club activities include reading appropriate books selected by club members, conducting informal book discussions, reviewing new books for the Media Center, promoting reading throughout the school, and promoting literacy related celebrations and activities during the school year.

Chess Club provides students the opportunity to learn and/or improve their skills in the game of chess. They will experience competition with other students and possibly other schools. Club activities include chess games and tournaments throughout the year.

Dance Team Club is a competitive dance team that competes against other dance teams within the state. Membership is open to auditions of students at Salem High School. Club activities include marching band and dance team competitions along with participating in marching band.

DECA supports the development of marketing and management skills in career areas such as hospitality, finance, sales and service, business administration and entrepreneurship. Programs and activities are tailored to the specific career interests of students. DECA provides recognition and leadership activities directly related to attainment of specific occupational and leadership skills. Activities include special projects, leadership training, and competitive events.

Drama Club promotes arts in the community offering opportunities for students to develop their talents and gain confidence, and serves as a gateway to the International Thespian Society. Membership is open to all students. Club activities include producing community plays and attending professional, community, and other educational theater performances.

Drill Team - Fierce Squad is a group of young women with a passion and desire for drill coordination and dance. They perform at basketball games, pep rallies and other school, competitive and outside events. The squad promotes friendships, leadership and confidence. They represent the definition of dance well by using a mixture of jazz, hip hop and other forms of dance.

English Honor Society honors students who have excelled in their language arts courses. Membership is open to juniors and seniors who have taken at least one AP or joint-enrollment English class and are selected through a written application process. Club activities include attending plays and cultural events, discussing literature at special meals, tutoring students in English, and planning Read Across America week.

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) is for students who have taken a family and consumer science class in middle or high school. Family, Career and Community Leaders of America is a dynamic and effective national student organization that helps young men and women become leaders and address important personal, family, work, and societal issues through family and consumer sciences education.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes (and Students) Club fosters a Christian environment where athletes and students can learn about God and compete in athletic competition. Membership is open to all students. Club activities include bowling, flag football, Christmas stocking stuffer party, goodie bags to other teams, and motivational speakers.

Fellowship of Christian Youth (FCY) meets daily before school for a time of fellowship, praise, worship, Bible study, and a celebration of faith. The club is open to all students.

Flag Corp Club competes against other band Flag Corps within the state of Georgia. Membership is open to auditions of students at Salem High School. Club activities include marching band and winter guard competitions.

French Club is for students who have completed or are currently enrolled in a French class. This club serves to enhance the French program through enjoyable activities such as dining in a French restaurant, singing French songs, and viewing French films.

French Honor Society honors students who have excelled in their study of the French language. Membership is open to students in at least their third year of study who have maintained a 90% average in their French classes for the last three semesters, and also maintained an 85% in all their other classes for the last three semesters. The honor society does not meet, with the possible exception of a short induction ceremony.

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) brings business and education together in a positive working relationship through innovative leadership and career development programs. We bring our mission to life through the application of our motto: Service, Education, and Progress. FBLA is an important partner in the success of school-to-work programs, business education curriculums, and student leadership development. Membership is open to all interested students. Club activities include career development and leadership activities, conferences, competitions, and community service.

Future Educators Association® (FEA), sponsored by PDK International, is a professional organization that supports high school students who are interested in education-related careers. FEA helps students to explore teaching as a career option, provides them with a realistic understanding of teaching, and encourages students from diverse backgrounds to think seriously about the teaching profession.

Gardening Club promotes campus beautification and horticultural studies. Membership is open to all students. Club activities include senior courtyard projects, trash patterns, tree identification, front entry flower beds, school entrance flower beds, paved roads and parking lot drainage issues, and local gardening events.

Georgia Career Student Association is for students in the 9th and 10th grades. The club strives to develop leadership skills through participation in educational, vocational, technical, civic, recreational and social activities, takes field trips, and competes in regional and statewide competitions. The club meets weekly.

German Club is for students who have completed or are currently enrolled in a German class. The group fosters language skills and cultural appreciation through films, field trips, etc.

G.I.F.T.S. (Girls In Focus To Succeed) is open to all positive females at RCHS. The focus of the club is to develop leadership, conduct community service projects, discuss peer-related issues, and conduct various activities and programs at RCHS. The goal is to create sisterhood among club members and encourage positive relations leading to the overall success of individual members.

Guitar Club introduces aspiring guitarists to the guitar, offers advanced instruction for those who already play the guitar, and provides a safe outlet for creative students. Membership is open to interested students. Club activities include a performance day (where students perform songs for other members of the club), practice meetings (where students meet and practice their instruments), and the recording of students' original songs.

Health Occupations Students Association (HOSA) is open to students studying health occupations.. HOSA's purpose is to allow students interested in Healthcare as a profession to have experiences and competitions in activities learned in the class room. Activities will include community service, Health Fair, and compete in Fall Conference.

Interact Club involves students in community service projects to better serve our area. Membership is open to interested students. The club meets monthly. Club activities include community service projects.

International Club fosters appreciation and awareness of other cultures. Membership is open to interested students. Club activities include service projects, social events, and international pen pals.

Jefferson Society honors students of high achievement in social studies. Membership is open to seniors with a specified GPA overall and in the social studies. Club activities include discussions, participation in the election process, and other social studies related activities.

Junior Class Officers Club manages the events commonly associated with students in the 11th grade. Membership is open to juniors who have completed the campaign process and thus have been elected to a position by their peers. Club activities include attending all student council meetings, helping with planning Homecoming, and planning and hosting the Prom.

Junior Classical League promotes the study of Classical Languages and provides an opportunity to socialize with Latin students in other levels. Membership is open to all Latin students. Club activities include meetings at which topics from the ancient world are discussed and ancient Roman games are played, a Greek reading group, and preparing for the National Latin Exam. Students are also eligible to be delegates to the Georgia Junior Classical League Convention and the National Junior Classical League Convention.

Key Club is an international, student-led organization providing its members with opportunities to perform SERVICE, build CHARACTER, and develop LEADERSHIP. Key Club is a chapter of Kiwanis.

Magnet Debate and Speech Team is a competitive team which encourages and expands student public speaking abilities, promotes logical thinking skills and encourages students to think on their feet.

Magnet Engineering and Robotics Team increases students' interest and awareness of engineering and technology-based careers. Various competitions will excite high school students about careers in engineering and related technical fields and help them understand the critical role engineers play in the world around us. Robotics competitions will be a primary focus, and students are asked to attend practice on Wednesday afternoons.

Magnet Environmental Action Team formed as a service/ environmental stewardship club. Activities include a school-wide recycling program, Earth Day Celebration, Arbor Day Celebration, Clean Air Campaign Program, Alliance for Climate Education (ACE) Assembly and grant writing.

Magnet Envirothon Team participates in the Envirothon Competitions in the spring. Practice sessions are informal and provide an opportunity for students to prepare for the competitions. Students with an interest in environmental science, wildlife, and 4H are encouraged to participate.

Magnet Math Team participates in contests and tournaments throughout the fall and spring semesters. The contests are held in-house where the Math Team Sponsor (or designee) proctors the students and then mails in the results. The tournaments take place off-campus at various high schools and universities. Students in grades 9-12 are invited to participate on the Math Team. Students enrolled in Magnet Accelerated Math I and II join the Junior Varsity Team; all other students are eligible for the Varsity Team. There is no special selection process. Students are simply required to attend one practice per week. Practices are held in the mornings and after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Magnet Science Olympiad Team participates in competitions. Students in grades 9-12 are encouraged to participate. Practices take place after school during the week and occasionally on Saturday mornings. Tournaments are held on Saturdays, once in the fall, and one to three times in the spring.

Marine Corps Junior Reserve Training Corps (MCJROTC) offers a full range of courses - introductory through advanced - in leadership and the application of leadership techniques. It provides instruction in the development of good habits and attitudes, problem-solving techniques, the essential characteristics for successful civic and group leadership, and planning to meet the challenges of adult life. Students may participate in competition in Marksmanship, National Drill team competition, Parades, Ceremonies, Color Guards, and many civic activities.

Men of Action Club develops and cultivates the academic, social, spiritual, and ethical principles of young men that they may be equipped to fulfill their purpose in life. Membership is open to all males on a volunteer basis. Club activities include a variety of workshops, roundtable discussions, athletic activities, field trips to post-secondary institutions, etc.

Men of Distinction (MOD) is a community service organization that seeks to develop and cultivate the academic, social, and ethical principles of young men to equip them to fulfill their purpose in life. MOD is open to all high school males at RCHS.

Mock Trial Club teaches students about the court system and allows them to participate in competitions against other high school teams. Membership is open to all students. Club activities include tryouts, practices with attorney coaches and a Rockdale County Judge, visiting the Rockdale County Courthouse, and learning the procedures and rules of the court. Students are assigned roles and then write opening and closing statements and/or questions for questioning and cross examination. The concluding activity is the State Bar Association's Mock Trial Competition.

Model United Nations is a competitive academic club where participants learn about the procedures and decorum of the United Nations (UN). Club activities include weekly meetings to prepare for competition where participants will play the role of a nation, draft and debate resolutions, simulate various UN councils. Students come away with a better understanding of how the international system works.

Mountain Biking Club offers mountain bike enthusiasts a place to come together and ride. The club has group rides at least once a month. They ride trails at Conyers International Horse Park, Yellow River Park near Stone Mountain, and Fort Yargo State Park in Winder. In addition to riding, the club wants to spread their passion for cycling through community awareness projects.

Mu Alpha Theta National High School Mathematics Honor Society promotes scholarship in and enjoyment and understanding of mathematics among high school students. Membership is open to interested students. Club activities include The Rockdale Mathematics Competition, in which RCHS students help to coordinate 600 students from various schools around the state as they vie to become the top mathematics students; and Pi-Day Poster Contest, in which RCHS students make posters on March 14 about the history or mathematics of pi.

National Art Honor Society gives students with artistic talent the opportunity to create artwork for themselves, the school, and the community, and teaches appreciation of art through visits to local areas of interest. Membership is open to interested students with 3.0 or higher GPA. Club activities include creating personal artwork, designing artwork for groups in the school - Prom and Homecoming decorations, band backdrops, etc., going on field trips to local museums and historical places of interest, and creating artwork in the community - window painting in Olde Town Conyers.

National FFA Organization is the student leadership organization for agriculture students. Members are engaged in community service, leadership development, agricultural and professional competitions and award programs based on their occupational experiences and classroom/lab instruction. FFA represents relevancy in agricultural science through over 300 career choices in the food, fiber, and natural resources industry.

National Honor Society recognizes students who have demonstrated excellence in scholarship, leadership, and service, and who exhibit high moral character. Membership is open to selection as prescribed by the national guidelines. Selection is made in the spring and induction occurs in the fall.

Online Literary Magazine and Online School Newspaper. The online literary magazine publishes student artwork, poetry, short stories, and essays online. The online newspaper begins in 2007-2008. It will be staffed completely by students. It will also be available on the HHS website.

Peer Tutoring Club assists students through academic tutoring. Membership is open to interested students. Club activities include service to the school through academic tutoring.

Photography Club meets once a month in order to learn about using different techniques, subjects and equipment. Guest speakers are often invited and students are encouraged to use the time between meetings to practice using their new techniques and subject ideas. Future plans include obtaining dark room equipment in order to develop black and white film.

Rare Entity provides service through educational and uplifting performances in celebration of many rich and artistic cultures. Students write, direct, and perform their own shows as they educate and entertain.

Rockdale Youth Leadership Club fosters and builds student leadership qualities and is a division of the Rockdale County Schools Youth Leadership program. Membership is restricted to students who are nominated to attend the school system's summer student leadership retreat. Club activities include various service projects throughout the year and attending the Georgia School Counselors Association meeting and conducting a workshop on student leadership.

Rosetta Society provides opportunities to explore students' curiosity about the human experience through weekend excursions to regional points of interest, guest speakers, and summer travel abroad. Membership is open to all interested students.

S.A.D.D. Club (Students Against Destructive Decisions) operates on the belief that positive peer pressure, role modeling and environmental strategies can prevent destructive decisions and set a healthier, safer course for the lives of young people. S.A.D.D. is a peer-to-peer education, prevention, and activism organization dedicated to preventing destructive decisions, particularly underage drinking, other drug use, risky and impaired driving, teen violence, and teen suicide.

Salem High School Thespians — Troupe #5120 Club honors high school theatre students who have committed over 250 hours of work to the Salem High School Theatre Department by inducting them into membership in the International Thespian Society — Troupe #5120. Membership is open to students who serve the theatre department through onstage and offstage work in at least 250 hours and who meet appropriate ethical and work ethic standards, as prescribed by the official troupe sponsor(s). Club activities include various service projects throughout the year, attending the Georgia Thespian Conference, and attending the International Thespian Conference.

Science Club focuses on environmental issues like school-wide recycling and alternative fuels. Science club students have also put together scientific demonstrations to perform for other students. Various environmental, biological and physical science topics are explored through hands-on activities and discussion.

Science Honor Society Club recognizes those students with a love of life and physical science, technology, and a strong concern for environmental issues. Membership is open to students who have achieved success in their science studies (including at least one year of an AP Science class), and who have a passion for scientific innovations. Club activities include science seminars (discussions), visits to industries, museums, and colleges/universities, and scientific demonstrations and experiments led by mentors.

Senior Girl Scout Club investigates scholarship opportunities, progressive leadership opportunities, national and international travel, and career monitoring. Membership is open to girls between the ages of 14-17. Club activities include service projects, arts and crafts, outdoor events, and learning the Girl Scout Promise and understanding the Law.

Sign Language Club teaches students Sign Language; promotes deaf awareness, tolerance, and character education; and teaches students and staff how to communicate with their deaf peers and deaf individuals in society. Membership is open to interested students. We also offer Sign Language Club to our special needs students who need an alternative means of communicating and a fun activity to feel a part of RCHS. Sign Club is sometimes offered at various times during the day or in special needs classrooms at school.

SkillsUSA Club prepares America's high performance workers in public career and technical programs. It provides quality education experiences for students in leadership, teamwork, citizenship, and character development. Membership is open to interested students in career tech. Club activities include competitions, workshops, conferences, and community service.

Spanish Club promotes conversational skills in Spanish and improves cultural understanding of Hispanic people. Membership is open to all current and past students of Spanish and other speakers of Spanish. Club activities include preparing and bringing food for club events, field trips to relevant cultural productions in varying forms of media, promoting the communicative abilities of Spanish students through contact with native speakers, and community service projects to aid members of the local Hispanic population.

Spanish Honor Society honors students who have excelled in their study of the Spanish language. Membership is open to students in at least their third year of study who have maintained a 90% average in their Spanish classes for the last three semesters, and also maintained an 85% in all their other classes for the last three semesters. The honor society does not meet with the possible exception of a short induction ceremony.

STAND – Students Take Action Now: Darfur is a group open to all students whose ultimate goal is to spread the awareness of the genocide and atrocities currently occurring in Darfur, Sudan.

STEP Team Club promotes competition and performance spirit through the creative avenue of step. Club activities include competing in step shows and competitions. The team also strives to promote leadership skills and build self-esteem. STEP is a series of rhythmic movements of precision, accuracy, and clarity.

Student Congress Club serves as a link between students and the administration to examine student concerns about school policy. Membership is open to 15 to 20 members from all grade levels. Club activities include meeting and discussing school policies with the principal.

Student Council develops democratic ideals, teaches respect for law and order, maintains the highest standards of cooperation and school spirit, and promotes general social life in the school. Membership is open to students in good standing who meet academic eligibility and are able to perform the duties of the elected office. Club activities include community service, campus service, homecoming, publicity, faculty relations, fund raising, and leadership training.

Student Senate serves as representation for the student body. A representative from the Senate is present at each school leadership meeting. Students are elected by their peers to serve on the school Senate.

Technology Student Association (TSA) prepares students for the challenges of a dynamic world by promoting technological literacy, leadership, and problem solving, resulting in personal growth and opportunities. Membership is open to students who are interested. Club activities include fund raising -- sign and banner sales, gaming competitions, graduation concession, state and national competitions (Tech Day in Perry, GA; State TSA competition in Perry, GA; National TSA competition), leadership activities (CORE Retreat, Fall Leadership Conference).

Ultimate Frisbee Club promotes playing Ultimate Frisbee. Ultimate is a sport similar to soccer with a Frisbee. A commitment to practice three days a week is needed. Competition is against other area high schools and games are usually once a week during the spring. Officially part of the state league with the tournament ending the season in April. Anyone is welcome to join, no experience necessary!

Women of Action develops and cultivates the academic, social, spiritual, and ethical principles of young women that they may be equipped to fulfill their purpose in life. Membership is open to females at Salem High School. Club activities include weekly devotionals, parent informational meeting, covenant of commitment seminar, etiquette seminar, exposure to colleges and post high school programs, nursing home visitations, community clean-ups, and financial seminars.

Y-Club promotes student leadership and service. Membership is open to students who are interested and apply. Club activities include meetings, service projects, and leadership training conference (summer).

Young Democrats promotes the platform and candidates of the Democratic Party; informs the Heritage High community about issues deemed important to the organization by its constituents; influences the political process on the local, state, and national levels; and engages in activities that positively benefit the Heritage High community.

Counseling Services

The mission of the Rockdale County Public Schools Counseling Program is to provide comprehensive developmental services supporting the academic, career, personal/social growth of all students so they will make positive contributions to society, apply learning to life, and excel based on personal ability.

Students are invited to meet with their counselors in a confidential setting regarding all academic and personal concerns. Students may make appointments with counselors during the school day by placing a note in the counselor's mailbox or scheduling with the counseling secretary. Appointments may also be held before and after school. School counselors work to make students more available to learning by addressing three main areas: academic achievement, career development, and personal/social development. Counselors also provide support during times of personal crisis.

Additional Counseling Services

School counselors assist students by facilitating programs such as the Mentoring Program, which pairs students with members of the community to offer students individual support; Peer Mediation, a program where students are trained to help other students resolve conflicts and disputes; and the Peer Helper Program. Peer Helpers are students who are trained to assist other students in solving problems and adjusting to school.

Counselors work with building level leadership teams to address the social and emotional needs of students at their schools by developing annual counseling and guidance plans. Counselor led Support Groups are offered to students to provide the opportunity to discuss issues such as anger management, grief, and divorce with their peers in a confidential group setting. School counselors may also be a resource for referrals to outside agencies or programs in which parents and students are interested in or wish more information. For more information, please visit www.rockdale.k12.ga.us, Office of Student Support Services.

Deliveries

We do not allow flowers or other gifts for students to be delivered to the school. To avoid interruption of instructional time, those items cannot be delivered to students.

Discipline Code of Conduct

The Rockdale County Board of Education (Board) has the authority and reserves the right to develop and implement a behavior code for all students. Such rules and regulations as are necessary shall be developed and promulgated by the administration of the district's schools. These rules and regulations shall apply to the student from his/her arrival on school property until his/her departure from school property.

The rules and regulations of the Discipline Code shall apply to students while on school owned property, including school buses, or property not owned by the school but used by the school with permission of the owner, while at school functions, or while under school supervision. The rules may also apply to students who are not on school property and who are not at a school function, activity, or event if a student engages in misconduct that could create a direct or potential danger or disruption to the general welfare and discipline of the school.

Reasonable efforts will be made to use a behavior support process to avoid student disciplinary problems. These efforts will include, but may not be limited to, school counseling, Student Support Team (SST), referral to community agencies, Student Assistance Program (SAP), mentoring, and nurturing programs.

Parents/Guardians and students are advised that a student's disciplinary history will be taken into account when disciplinary action is required.

Behavior Code

The Behavior Code for students enrolled in the Rockdale County Public Schools is based on that part of the philosophy of this Board that each student has a right to expect to be able to learn in an environment free from distractions and duress of any sort. Students are expected to demonstrate respect for self and others, demonstrate courtesy to others, behave in a responsible manner, attend classes regularly, be prepared for classes, take seriously the course of study, dress appropriately, cooperate with school officials, respect other's property, and avoid violation of the student Code of Conduct. The Code, as presented on the following pages, is divided into two major portions: Substantive Rules and Recommended Disposition. The former defines what is and is not acceptable behavior; the latter is designed to address appropriate consequences.

The philosophy of the Rockdale County School System is that all students have the right to learn. In order for students to be able to accomplish this goal, each student must be in a safe and secure school climate. The requirements for maintaining an atmosphere that provides students with maximum opportunity for learning are presented in the Code.

The purposes of disciplinary action in our schools are to demonstrate to students how they must have ownership of the problem, to help the student prevent the problem from reoccurring, and to keep parents informed of misbehavior. The administration of discipline will be as fair and consistent as possible. Discipline will be administered in a progressive manner, when appropriate. The level of discipline imposed will be based on the severity of the misbehavior. The welfare of and respect for the individual student, as well as that of other students in the school, are of utmost importance in deciding proper courses of action.

The following discipline procedures are outlined to ensure that all students are aware of the actions that violate school rules and the consequences of such actions. These rules apply to grades K-12. It should be pointed out that this list is not all-inclusive. A student committing an act of misconduct not listed will be subject to the discretionary authority of the administrator.

Parent involvement is necessary for correcting behavioral problems. Disciplinary actions may include any or all of the consequences addressed in this Code. Any student who receives fifteen (15) or more cumulative days of suspension for disciplinary reasons or who is guilty of violation of Rule 27 of this Discipline Code of Conduct may be recommended to the Student Disciplinary Hearing Committee for possible long-term suspension or expulsion. Once a student has appeared before a Student Disciplinary Hearing Committee, the principal is authorized to request another hearing at any future time during the student's educational career in the school system.

A student who is suspended from school may not be on any Rockdale County school property during the suspension period without the permission of school authorities. A violation of this directive could result in a charge of trespass.

This Discipline Code of Conduct applies to all students, K-12, enrolled in the Rockdale County Public Schools. The Discipline Code of Conduct shall not infringe on any right provided to students with Individualized Education Programs pursuant to the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, or the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, or any other federal and state policies and procedures. Copies of the Discipline Code shall be available in each school and in each classroom. The content of the Discipline Code of Conduct shall be explained to all students at the time of their enrollment in a manner deemed appropriate by the school administrator. Parents/Guardians and students are provided a form for signatures, acknowledging receipt and review of their individual copy of the Discipline Code of Conduct. A form for your use can be found at the back of this handbook.

As a school leader and a role model for other students, each student shall pledge the following:

- I shall conduct myself with propriety, dignity, morality, integrity, honesty, and consistency with the student code of conduct and all policies of the Rockdale County Board of Education;
- I shall not engage in any activity likely to bring reproach, disgrace, infamy, or public ridicule to myself, my school, or the school system; and,
- I shall adhere to this pledge at all times including when on campus, at school-related events, and off campus.

Part I ~ Substantive Rules

Rule 1	Disruption and Interference With School	Rule 15	Gambling on School Property or at a School Function
Rule 2	Damage, Destruction, or Theft of School Property	Rule 16	Misbehavior on Bus
Rule 3	Damage, Destruction, or Theft of Private Property	Rule 17	Criminal Law Violations
Rule 4	Assault and/or Battery on a School Employee	Rule 18	Sexual Misconduct or Inappropriate Display of Affection
Rule 5	Fighting and/or Battery to a Person Not Employed by the School	Rule 19	Rude and Disrespectful Behavior
Rule 6	Bullying/Teasing	Rule 20	Tobacco/Smoking-Related Offenses
Rule 7	Weapons and Dangerous Instruments	Rule 21	Cheating, Plagiarism, or Academic Dishonesty
Rule 8	Narcotics, Alcoholic Beverages, Stimulant Drugs, Controlled Substances or Medications	Rule 22	Altering Records, Misrepresenting Information, Forgery
Rule 9	Disregard of Directions or Commands	Rule 23	Misuse of Computer, Network, Internet, or Intranet
Rule 10	Unexcused Absences and Tardiness	Rule 24	Loitering, Trespassing, or Breaking and Entering
Rule 11	Dress and Grooming	Rule 25	Other Misbehavior
Rule 12	Parking and Traffic-Related Violations on Campus	Rule 26	Misbehavior While Off School Property
Rule 13	Refusal to Accept Disciplinary Action	Rule 27	Cumulative Offenses
Rule 14	Use of Profane, Vulgar, or Obscene Words, Gestures, Pornographic/Vulgar Materials or Other Actions Which Disrupt School System Operations		

Applicability of Rules – These rules shall apply to students while on school owned property, including school buses, or property not owned by the school but used by the school with permission of the owner, while at school functions, or while under school supervision. The rules may also apply to students who are not on school property, at a school function, activity, or event if a student engages in misconduct that could create a direct or potential danger or disruption to the general welfare and discipline of the school.

DISCIPLINE RULE

Rule 1: Disruption and Interference With School

DISCIPLINE RULE	RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION
1.1 A student shall not block any entrance, occupy any school building, prevent any class or function from taking place, prevent any student, guest, or employee from using any facilities, or block any normal pedestrian or vehicular traffic, or otherwise deprive others of free access to, or use of, any facility, program, or activity associated with the Rockdale County schools.	Suspension permissible 1-10 days.
1.2 A student shall not set fire to any school building or property; or 1.21 Cause false fire alarm; or 1.22 Discharge a fire extinguisher in the absence of fire.	Suspension permissible* Suspension permissible 1-10 days. Suspension permissible 1-10 days.
1.3 A student shall not intentionally make noise, engage in horseplay, or act in any other manner so as to interfere seriously with the teacher's ability to conduct his/her class.	Suspension permissible* 1-10 days.
1.4 A student shall not bring toys, games, radios, laser pointers, or other electronic devices to school. Electronic devices will be confiscated and may be redeemed by student's parent/guardian in the front office. The school system accepts no liability for confiscated electronic devices.	Suspension permissible* 1-10 days.
1.5 A student shall not, in any other manner, by the use of violence, force, noise, coercion, threat, intimidation, fear, passive resistance, false report to authorities (i.e. prank calls), or any other conduct, intentionally cause the disruption of any lawful mission, process, or function of the school, or engage in any such conduct for the purpose of causing the disruption or obstruction of any such lawful mission, process, or function.	Suspension permissible* 1-10 days; may refer to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction.
1.6 Unless allowed by an IEP or a 504 Plan, a student shall not use or otherwise operate a cell phone, pager, or similar electronic communication device during the school day on school property. Electronic devices will be confiscated and may be redeemed by student's parent/guardian in the front office. The school system accepts no liability for confiscated electronic devices.	Suspension permissible 1-10 days; loss of privilege of possession of device on school property, and confiscation of device.
1.8 A student shall not urge, encourage, or counsel other students to violate any portion of this Student Discipline Code of Conduct.	Suspension permissible 1-10 days.
1.9 A student shall not cause or participate in a disruption in the school cafeteria (such as throwing food, leaving trays on the table, causing spills of foods, or similar behavior).	Suspension permissible 1-10 days.
1.10 A student shall not inappropriately use an electronic device for purposes such as cheating, harassing, bullying (aka cyberbullying during the school day and/or that which causes a disruption with school), or photographing others or test material	Long-term suspension or expulsion permissible.
1.11 The taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or otherwise (commonly called texting, sexting, emailing, etc.) is strictly prohibited and it may constitute a CRIME under state and federal law. Any person taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing obscene, pornographic, lewd or otherwise illegal images or photographs will be subject to the disciplinary procedures of the school district; and reported to law enforcement which may result in arrest, criminal prosecution, and LIFETIME inclusion on sexual offender registries.	Same disposition as 1.10.

DISCIPLINE RULE

- 1.12 The receipt or possession of obscene, pornographic, or otherwise illegal images or photographs, are strictly prohibited and may constitute a CRIME under state and federal law. Any person receiving or possessing obscene, pornographic, lewd or otherwise illegal images or photographs will be subject to the disciplinary procedures of the school district; and reported to law enforcement which may result in arrest, criminal prosecution, and LIFETIME inclusion on sexual offender registries. This rule will not be enforced if the possessing or receiving student self reports the receipt or possession to a school official.
- 1.13 School officials have the authority to search confiscated electronic devices if there is reasonable suspicion that electronic devices were used to violate school policies or laws.

Rule 2: Damage, Destruction, or Theft of School Property

- 2.1 A student shall not cause damage to or destroy school property, or attempt to cause damage to or destroy school property, which includes library books, textbooks, reference materials, computer hardware or software, school buildings or facilities including furnishings and contents, school buses or other vehicles operated, leased, or owned by the school system, or any other materials or equipment owned by the school or school system.
- 2.2 A student shall not steal school property or attempt to steal school property which includes library books, textbooks, reference materials, computer hardware or software, school buildings or facilities including furnishings and contents, school buses or other vehicles operated, leased, or owned by the school system, or any other materials or equipment owned by the school or school system.
- 2.3 A student shall not possess, use, sell or attempt to sell, or transmit stolen school property.

Rule 3: Damage, Destruction, or Theft of Private Property

- 3.1 A student shall not cause or attempt to cause damage to private property either on the school grounds or during a school activity, function, or event off school grounds, or while under school supervision.
- 3.2 A student shall not steal or attempt to steal private property either on the school grounds or during a school activity, function, or event off school grounds, or while under school supervision.
- 3.3 A student shall not possess, use, or transmit stolen private property.

Rule 4: Assault and/or Battery on a School Employee

- 4.1 A student shall not threaten to cause physical injury or mental anguish to or make a terroristic threat toward a school employee or school resource officer on the school grounds or during a school activity, function, or event off school grounds, or while under school supervision.
- 4.2 A student shall not cause or attempt to cause physical injury or mental anguish to a school employee or school resource officer on the school grounds or during a school activity, function, or event

RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION

Same disposition as 1.10.

Same disposition as 1.10.

Suspension permissible* 1-10 days.
Substantial damage to property will result in a mandatory recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion; restitution for damages.

Same disposition as 2.1.

Same disposition as 2.1.

Suspension permissible* 1-10 days.
Substantial damage to property will result in a mandatory recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion; restitution for damages.

Same disposition as 3.1.

Same disposition as 3.1.

Automatic suspension - 10 days with mandatory recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion; may refer to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction. School official will develop behavior contract at the mandatory parent conference.

Same disposition as 4.1.

Note: A student who intentionally commits

DISCIPLINE RULE

off school grounds, or while under school supervision.

- 4.3 **Aggravated Battery:** (State Code) A student shall not maliciously cause or intend to cause bodily harm to school personnel by depriving him/her of a member of his/her body, by rendering a member of his/her body useless, or by seriously disfiguring his/her body or a member thereof.

Rule 5: Assault and/or Battery to a Person Not Employed by the School

- 5.1 **Fighting:** A student shall not fight or cause a fight on school grounds or during a school function.
Note: A student who does not start a fight but ends up in a fight may be charged with fighting if he or she could have avoided the fight.
- 5.2 A student shall not threaten to cause physical injury or mental anguish to or make a terroristic threat toward any student or guest or any individual not employed by the school but approved to be on the school grounds or during a school function.
- 5.3 **Battery:** A student shall not cause or attempt to cause physical injury or mental anguish to any student or guest or any individual not employed by the school but approved to be on the school grounds or during a school function.
- 5.4 **Aggravated Battery:** (State Code) A student shall not maliciously cause or intend to cause bodily harm to another person by depriving him/her of a member of his/her body, by rendering a member of his/her body useless, or by seriously disfiguring his/her body or a member thereof.

Rule 6: Bullying

A student shall not bully or attempt to bully another student. Bullying is defined as follows: An act which occurs on school property, on school vehicles, at designated school bus stops, or at school-related functions, or by use of data or software that is accessed through a computer, computer system, computer network, or other electronic technology of a school system, that is:

- 6.1 **Bullying:** Any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by apparent present ability to do so; any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm; or any intentional written, verbal, or physical act which a person would perceive as being intended to threaten, harass, or intimidate attention, that:
1. Causes another person substantial physical harm or visible bodily harm which means 'visible bodily harm' means bodily harm capable of being perceived by a person other than the victim and may include, but is not limited to, substantially blackened eyes, substantially swollen lips or other facial or body parts, or substantial bruises to body parts;

RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION

any act of physical violence resulting in substantial physical injury to a school employee shall be permanently expelled from all public school programs. The student may be allowed by the tribunal to attend alternative education programs. Students in grades K-5 may be allowed by the tribunal to re-enroll in the regular public school programs.

Automatic referral to the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction

Automatic/Immediate 10-day suspension.
Mandatory referral to Student Disciplinary Hearing;
mandatory referral to law enforcement.

Suspension permissible* 1-10 days.
Maximum penalties may be exceeded if injuries result; may refer to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction. School official will develop behavior contract at the mandatory parent conference.

Same disposition as 5.1.

Same disposition as 5.1.

Automatic/Immediate 10-day suspension.
Mandatory referral to Student Disciplinary Hearing;
mandatory referral to law enforcement.

Suspension permissible* 1-10 days.
Maximum penalties may be exceeded if injuries result; may refer to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction. School official will develop behavior contract at the mandatory parent conference. For third instance of bullying involving students in grades 6-12, assignment to Alpha Academy as a minimum, but more severe punishment, or long-term suspension, or expulsion may be applied.

DISCIPLINE RULE

2. Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education;
3. Is severe, persistent, or pervasive tht it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or
4. Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

Retaliation towards participants in an investigation related to reporting bullying is strictly prohibited.

Note: Bullying may be physical, verbal, emotional, or sexual in nature and may overlap with prohibited harassment under Rule 18.5.

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| 6.2 | Teasing: No student shall intentionally tease or aggravate another person either verbally or physically so that the person is distracted from learning. | Suspension permissible 1-10 days. |
| 6.3 | A student shall not place a person in reasonable fear of substantial harm to his or her emotional or physical well-being or substantial damage to his or her property. | Same as 6.1. |
| 6.4 | A student shall not create a hostile threatening, humiliating, or abusive educational environment. | Same as 6.1. |
| 6.5 | A student shall not interfere with a student having a safe school environment that is necessary to facilitate educational performance, opportunities, or benefits. | Same as 6.1. |
| 6.6 | A student shall not perpetuate bullying by inciting, soliciting, or coercing an individual or group to demean, dehumanize, embarrass, or cause emotional, psychological, or physical harm to another person. | Same as 6.1. |
| 6.7 | A student shall not retaliate against another student for reporting bullying. | Same as 6.1. |

Rule 7: Weapons and Dangerous Instruments

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| 7.1 | A student shall not possess, handle, or transmit a knife with a blade less than 2 inches in length, an ice pick, or any other bladed instrument unless authorized by the teacher. (See 7.3 for knife with larger blade.) | Suspension permissible* 1-10 days; automatic referral to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction; may recommend long-term suspension to expulsion. All incidents shall be reported to the Superintendent or designee. |
| 7.2 | A student shall not possess, handle, or transmit any firearm. A firearm is considered to be any weapon (including a starter gun, shotgun, stun gun, taser or other hunting or sporting gun) which will or is designed to or may be readily converted to expel a projectile by action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or any destructive device, including, but not limited to, bombs, grenades, rockets, mines, or any other explosive material. Antique firearms are not included in this term when used for class work as authorized by the teacher. (O.C.G.A. 20-2-751) | Automatic referral to the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction; mandatory referral for a Student Disciplinary Hearing with mandatory recommendation for expulsion for one calendar year.

All incidents shall be reported to the Superintendent or designee. The Superintendent may modify the expulsion requirement for a student on a case-by-case basis. |
| 7.3 | A student shall not possess, handle, or transmit any object | Automatic referral to the law enforcement agency |

RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION

DISCIPLINE RULE

which could reasonably be considered a weapon, to include but not limited to such items as dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, any other knife having a blade of two or more inches, straight-edge razor, razor blade, spring stick, metal knucks, blackjack, any bat, club, or other bludgeon-type weapon, or any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nun chahka, nun chuck, nunchaku, shuriken, or fighting chain, or any disc, of whatever configuration, having a least two points or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or oriental dart, or any weapon of like kind, and any stun gun or taser as defined in subsection (a) of Code Section 16-11-106 of official Georgia law, explosives to include bullets of any type, fire crackers, caps, or cap pistols, smoke or odor bombs, BB or pellet guns, loaded canes or sword canes, or machetes. A student shall not possess, handle, or transmit tear gas, mace, pepper spray, or any other similar agent. This paragraph excludes any of these instruments used for classroom work as authorized by the teacher.

Rule 8: Narcotics, Alcoholic Beverages, Stimulant Drugs, Controlled Substances or Medications

8.1 A student shall not share nor be involved in transmission of his/her over-the-counter medication with anyone else.

Note: Transmit/Transmission is defined as: buying, selling, receiving and/or delivering, sharing (the act of "changing hands" a substance).

Note: A student using over-the-counter medication is required to complete a "Permission to Dispense Medication" form and leave the medication in the office or clinic. The student shall be supervised when taking this medication. Medication must be brought in the original container.

8.2 A student shall not possess or attempt to possess, buy or attempt to buy, use, or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, inhalant, anabolic steroid, or any drug requiring a prescription controlled by the Georgia Board of Pharmacy, or bath salts or synthetic drugs, or substance represented to be a drug.

8.3 A student shall not possess, consume, or be under the influence of any alcoholic beverage of any kind or any substance represented to be alcohol.

8.4 A student shall not sell, attempt to sell, transmit, or attempt to transmit drugs or substances represented or thought to be drugs by the buyer, on school property, or at a school function, or on any property used by the school with the permission of the owner or within 1000 feet of school property.

8.5 A student shall not sell, attempt to sell, transmit, or attempt to transmit alcohol or substances represented or thought to be alcohol by the buyer, on school property, or at a school function, or on any property used by the school with the permission of the owner, or within 1000 feet of school property.

8.6 A student shall not possess, use, sell, transmit, or solicit, or

RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION

having jurisdiction; mandatory referral for a Student Disciplinary Hearing with mandatory recommendation for expulsion for one calendar year.

All incidents shall be reported to the Superintendent or designee. The Superintendent may modify the expulsion requirement for a student on a case-by-case basis.

Suspension permissible 1-10 days.

Automatic referral to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction; automatic ten-day out-of-school suspension; mandatory referral for a Student Disciplinary Hearing; student participation in Alcohol/Drug Awareness Program such as Too Good for Drugs and Violence or Too Good for Drugs.

Same disposition as 8.2.
Note: All incidents shall be reported to the Superintendent or designee.

Automatic referral to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction and ten days out-of-school suspension with mandatory referral for a Student Disciplinary Hearing.

Same disposition as 8.4.

Up to ten days suspension and referral to law

DISCIPLINE RULE

attempt to possess, use, sell, transmit, or solicit any drug-related paraphernalia which includes, but is not limited to, pipes, water-pipes, clips, rolling papers, or any other items directly related to drug use.

Rule 9: Disregard of Directions or Commands

- 9.1 A student shall not fail to comply with reasonable directions or commands of teachers, paraprofessionals, substitute teachers, principals, administrators, school bus drivers, or other authorized personnel when on school grounds or during a school activity, function, or event off school grounds, or while under school supervision.
- 9.2 A student shall not attempt to evade school personnel or attempt to avoid a conference or search by school personnel.
- Note 1: General searches of school property (including personal items found in or on school property) may be conducted at any time when there is reasonable cause for school employees to believe that something which violates a law or school rule is located on school property.
- Note 2: A student's person may be searched by school employees when there is reasonable cause to believe that the student has on his/her person illegal items that may interfere with the school program. (Refer to Board of Education's policy #JCAB).
- 9.3 A student shall not refuse to identify himself/herself or give false identity upon request of teachers, paraprofessionals, substitute teachers, school food service personnel, principals, administrators, school bus drivers, or other authorized personnel.

Rule 10: Unexcused Absences and Tardiness

- 10.1 A student shall not be unlawfully absent or truant from school or fail to comply with compulsory attendance under Code Section 20-2-690.1 of official Georgia law.
- Note: Lawful absences are defined by Georgia law as:
1. Personal illness or when attendance would endanger their health or the health of others.
 2. Illness or death in the immediate family.
 3. Celebrating a religious holiday.
 4. Absences mandated by other governmental agencies such as court order or pre-induction physical for the armed services.
 5. Conditions that render attendance impossible or hazardous to health or safety.
 6. Registering to vote or voting for a period not to exceed one day.
 7. Absences for a student whose parent is in military service in the armed forces of the United States or the National Guard, and such parent has been called to duty for, or is on leave from, overseas deployment to a combat zone or combat supporting post. Such student shall be granted excused absences up to a maximum of five (5) school days per school

RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION

enforcement agency at discretion of principal.

Suspension permissible* 1-10 days.

Automatic 10 days suspension*.

Suspension permissible 1-10 days.

1-4 Unexcused Absences:
disciplinary actions determined by the local school i.e., parental notification from teacher, parental conference with school administrator, etc.

5 Unexcused Absences:
Referred to local Attendance Support Team. Parent conference required; contract signed.

10 Absences:
Principal may require a medical excuse for subsequent absences.

10 Unexcused Absences:
Referred to the school social worker. Possible referral to Juvenile Court or Department of Family and Children's Services.

Please refer to the RCPS Attendance Protocol for further information.

DISCIPLINE RULE

year to visit with his or her parent prior to such parent's deployment or during such parent's leave.

- 10.2 A student shall not skip any class.
- 10.3 A student shall not be chronically tardy to school or to class.
- 10.4 A student shall not leave campus without permission.

Rule 11: Dress and Grooming

The principal or other duly authorized school official shall determine whether any particular mode of dress or grooming results in a violation of the spirit or intent of the following rule. The spirit and intent of this rule is to maintain an atmosphere, at all times, conducive to learning by having all students dress in conformity with the accepted standards of the community, including but not limited to the following standards.

A student shall not dress or groom so as to distract unreasonably the attention of other students or otherwise cause disruption or interference with the operations of the school. Obscene pictures or symbols or the depiction of illegal drugs, alcoholic beverages, or contraband shall not appear on clothing, nor shall inflammatory, provocative, lewd, profane, or suggestive language or symbols appear on clothing. Clothing identifiable with any gang shall not be worn. Hats, rollers, visors, caps, do-rags, and bandannas are not allowed. Wallet chains are not allowed.

A student shall not dress in an immodest or extreme fashion. Examples of such extremes include, but are not limited to:

- Shoelessness
- Bare midriffs
- "Tank" tops/Halter tops
- "Short-shorts"/Mini-skirt
- Skirts & shorts above the knee
- Spaghetti straps
- Lack of cleanliness in person or dress (clothes must be clean and in good repair)
- See-through clothing
- Spandex pants/skirts
- Extremely baggy pants
- Bedroom slippers
- Pajamas

This is not to be an all-inclusive list.

Low-cut blouses, low-cut dresses, or low-cut shirts are not appropriate for school. Any shirt or blouse that is sleeveless must have a collar and any shirt or blouse that is collarless must have sleeves.

Under no circumstances can shirts be worn in such a way as to conceal oversized/extremely baggy pants. A student's waist must be visible at all times.

Leggings or Jeggings may not be worn without a skirt or shirt that reaches the knee.

Pants must be worn at waist level.

Rule 12: Parking and Traffic Violations on Campus

A student shall not abuse school parking regulations nor operate a motor vehicle in such a way as to cause damage to public or private property located on school grounds or in such a way as to endanger life or limb of persons utilizing school facilities, driveways, or parking areas.

RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION

Suspension permissible* 1-10 days.

Suspension permissible* 1-10 days.

Suspension permissible* 1-10 days.

1st offense - Student warning and parent contact.

2nd offense - Automatic two-day in-school suspension, mandatory parent contact, and mandatory Behavior Contract.

3rd offense - Automatic two-day out-of-school suspension, mandatory parent conference, and review of Behavior Contract.

4th offense - Automatic three-day out-of-school suspension, mandatory parent conference of possible alternative placement.

5th offense - Referral to Student Disciplinary Hearing for chronic behavior violation(s).

Driving privileges may be restricted.

Note: As determined by the principal, a student's vehicle may be removed from a Rockdale County school campus at the owner's expense for repeated campus vehicle violations.

DISCIPLINE RULE

Rule 13: Refusal to Accept Disciplinary Action

A student shall not refuse to accept assigned consequences and/or fail to serve assigned consequences.

Rule 14: Use of Profane, Vulgar, or Obscene Words, Gestures, Pornographic/Vulgar Photographs or Materials, or other Actions Which Disrupt School System Operations

14.1 A student shall not use profane, vulgar, or obscene words, gestures, or other actions that disrupt school system operations.

14.2 A student shall not curse or verbally abuse any person, including remarks intended to demean a person's race, religion, sex, creed, national origin, disability, or intellectual ability.

14.3 A student shall not possess, view, create, or distribute any illegal materials nor such items as pornography, any materials demeaning another person, or containing lewd, profane, vulgar, or obscene words, gestures or actions or gang-related materials or photographs.

14.4 **Gang-Related Activity** - Includes any of the following activities which can or may cause danger/disruption to the school environment and threaten the safety of students, faculty, or other employees of the school system. Behavior includes, but is not limited to:

- 14.41 - A student shall not display or create gang signs and symbols on personal and/or school property.
- 14.42 - A student shall not wear clothing that symbolizes gang affiliation (shirts, hats, bandanas, belts, jewelry, etc.).
- 14.43 - A student shall not display gang hand signs, tattoos/brands, or other actions/items which symbolize gang affiliation.
- 14.44 - A student shall not deface school buildings and structures with gang graffiti, symbols, or messages.
- 14.45 - A student shall not solicit/recruit membership or participation in gang activity.
- 14.46 - A student shall not perform or participate in any act of violence which includes, but is not limited to, intimidation and gang recruitment, which can adversely affect the educational process.

Rule 15: Gambling on School Property or at a School Function

A student shall not gamble or assist others to gamble on school property or at a school function.

Rule 16: Misbehavior on Bus

A student shall not violate any Rockdale County school system school bus rule. All rules and recommended dispositions in the Discipline Code of Conduct shall apply to students on school buses, at school bus stops, or in vehicles used by the school to transport students.

Rule 17: Criminal Law Violations

17.1 Violent Criminal Offenses: An enrolled student may not remain on any Rockdale County Public Schools campus if he/she has been found by official action to have committed an offense in violation of a school rule that involved one or more of the following violent criminal offenses:

RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION

Suspension permissible* 1-10 days

Long-term suspension or expulsion for second violation

Suspension permissible 1-10 days.

Suspension permissible 1-10 days.

Suspension permissible 1-10 days.

1st offense: Suspension permissible 1-10 days. Automatic referral to law enforcement. Mandatory parent conference. Mandatory behavior contract (specific to gang-related activity) before returning to school.

2nd offense: Mandatory ten-day home suspension. Automatic referral to law enforcement. Automatic Student Disciplinary Hearing.

Suspension permissible 1-10 days.

At the principal's discretion and in cooperation with the Transportation Department, suspension from bus and/or school is permissible. Principal may refer to a Student Disciplinary Hearing.

Automatic/Immediate 10-day suspension. Mandatory referral to Student Disciplinary Hearing. School may recommend threat assessment administered by School Social Worker in cases involving terroristic threats.

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- aggravated battery (O.C.G.A. 16-5-24)
- aggravated child molestation (O.C.G.A. 16-6-4)
- aggravated sexual battery (O.C.G.A. 16-6-22.2)
- aggravated sodomy (O.C.G.A. 16-6-2)
- armed robbery (O.C.G.A. 16-8-41)
- first degree arson (O.C.G.A. 16-7-60)
- kidnapping (O.C.G.A. 16-5-40)
- murder (O.C.G.A. 16-5-1)
- rape (O.C.G.A. 16-6-1)
- voluntary manslaughter (O.C.G.A. 16-5-2) or
- terroristic threat (O.C.G.A. 16-11-37).

RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION

17.2 A student may not remain on campus if the student has been charged with a criminal law violation if the student's presence endangers the safety of other students or causes disruption to school operations.

Suspension permissible 1-10 days; may refer to Student Disciplinary Hearing.

Rule 18: Sexual Misconduct or Inappropriate Display of Affection

18.1 A student shall not indecently expose himself or herself, or engage in any inappropriate heterosexual or homosexual act on school property, during school functions, or on any property used by the school with permission of the owner, or while under school supervision.

Suspension permissible* 1-10 days; must refer to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction; may refer to Student Disciplinary Hearing on a case-by-case basis.

18.2 A student shall not molest or rape another person on school property, during school functions, or on any property used by the school with permission of the owner, or while under school supervision.

Same disposition as 18.1.

18.3 A student shall not engage in any form of inappropriate bodily contact or display of affection.

Suspension permissible* 1-10 days.

18.4 A student shall not engage in inappropriate activities such as mooning (pulling one's own pants down) or ankling (pulling another student's pants down).

Suspension permissible* 1-10 days.

18.5 A student shall not engage in sexual harassment toward any person on school property, or at a school function, or on any property used by the school with permission of the owner. Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to, unwelcome:

Suspension permissible* 1-10 days; may refer to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction; may refer to a Student Disciplinary Hearing.

- A. verbal harassment of a sexual nature or abuse;
- B. pressure for sexual activity;
- C. sexually motivated or inappropriate patting, pinching, or physical contact; and,
- D. behavior, verbal or written words or symbols directed at an individual because of gender.

Rule 19: Rude and Disrespectful Behavior

A student shall not use profane, vulgar, obscene, or abusive language, talk back, "sass," or intentionally argue in a demanding or disruptive manner with any school employees or persons attending school-related functions or otherwise show disrespect for school employees or others attending school-related functions.

Suspension permissible* 1-10 days.

Rule 20: Tobacco/Smoking-Related Offenses

20.1 A student shall not possess tobacco paraphernalia, such as but not limited to lighters, pipes, cigarette papers.

Suspension permissible* 1-10 days.

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- 20.2 A student shall not possess tobacco products including cigarettes, tobacco, and snuff in any form on the school grounds or at any school-sponsored activity while under school supervision.
- 20.3 A student shall not use tobacco products, including cigarettes, in any form on the school grounds or at any school-sponsored activity while under school supervision.

Rule 21: Cheating, Plagiarism, or Academic Dishonesty

A student shall not cheat on tests, examinations, projects, homework, or reports by giving or receiving unauthorized assistance nor be involved in plagiarism or other acts of academic dishonesty.

RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION

Suspension permissible* 1-10 days.

Suspension permissible* 1-10 days.

0 grade and/or suspension permissible.

Rule 22: Altering Records, Misrepresenting Information, Forgery

- 22.1 A student shall not alter or misrepresent information on school records or forms, forge signatures or statements, or make false statements, written or oral.
- 22.2 A student shall not alter or attempt to alter grades in a teacher's grade book, records, or any permanent records.
- 22.3 A student shall not falsify, misrepresent, omit, or erroneously report information regarding instances of alleged inappropriate behavior by a teacher, administrator, or other school employee toward a student.

Suspension permissible* 1-10 days.

Suspension permissible* 1-10 days.

Suspension permissible* 1-10 days. May recommend long-term suspension.

Rule 23: Misuse of Computer, Network, Internet, or Intranet

- 23.1 No student shall use a computer, the computer network, the Internet, or any intranet by such activity as importing, exporting, viewing, distributing, printing, or creating inappropriate, illicit, or illegal materials including but not limited to pornography; any materials demeaning another person or containing lewd, profane, or vulgar words, pictures, gestures or actions; or any records, files, or materials to which the student should not have access.
- 23.2 No student shall use a computer, the computer network, the Internet, or any intranet to create disruption of school operations or the normal use of a computer, the computer network, the Internet, or any intranet.
- 23.3 A student shall not engage in computer theft, computer trespass, computer invasion of privacy, computer forgery, or computer password disclosure.

Suspension permissible* 1-10 days and prosecution under laws of Georgia.

Same disposition as 23.1.

Suspension permissible* and prosecution under O.C.G.A. 16-9-93.

Rule 24: Loitering, Trespassing, or Breaking and Entering

- 24.1 A student shall not enter the premises of a local school other than his/her home school, except for scheduled classes or school system-sponsored and/or approved activities, unless prior permission is received from an administrator of the school to be visited.

Suspension permissible* 1-10 days; may refer to law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction.

Note: Remaining on or returning to campus while on suspension will result in referral to police for trespassing.

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- 24.2 A student shall not enter any school building or school system facility on weekends or after school hours without authorization from school officials.
- 24.3 A student shall not loiter on any school campus or school system property.
- 24.4 A student shall not enter or read school records, including computer files, software, and other related materials, without authorization from school officials.

RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION

- Same disposition as 24.1.
- Same disposition as 24.1.
- Same disposition as 24.1.

Rule 25: Other Misbehavior

The administration of the school system and the local school reserve the right to punish behavior which is subversive to good order and discipline in the Rockdale County school system, even though such behavior is not specified in the preceding written discipline rules.

Same as for violation of rule(s) while on campus.

Rule 26: Misbehavior While Off School Property

If a student engages in misbehavior, while a student is not on school property or at a school function, activity, or event, which directly or potentially has an adverse effect on the good order, discipline, and welfare in the school, the school may take disciplinary action(s) against that student.

Suspension permissible 1-10 days; longterm suspension or expulsion

- 26.1 If a student engages in misbehavior which could result in the student being charged with a crime and which makes the student's continued presence at school a potential danger to persons or property at the school, the school may take disciplinary action against that student.

Rule 27: Cumulative Offenses

Multiple violations of the Student Discipline Code of Conduct committed simultaneously or accumulated during the school year may result in out-of-school suspension or a recommendation for a Student Disciplinary Hearing and recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion.

- 27.1 Students who exhaust a Behavior Contract developed with school administrators may be recommended for a Student Disciplinary Hearing.

*May Recommend Long-Term Suspension or Expulsion.

Parent/Guardian Responsibility - Informing Children of Criminal Penalty

In accordance with Georgia Code 20-2-751.5, parents/guardians are encouraged to inform their children on the consequences, including potential criminal penalties, of under-age sexual conduct and crimes for which a minor can be tried as an adult.

Student Reporting of Acts of Sexual Abuse or Sexual Misconduct

Any student (or parent or friend of a student) who has been the victim of an act of sexual abuse or sexual misconduct by a teacher, administrator or other school system employee is urged to make an oral report of the act to any teacher, counselor or administrator at his/her school.

Any teacher, counselor or administrator receiving a report of sexual abuse or sexual misconduct of a student by a teacher, administrator or other employee shall make an oral report of the incident immediately by telephone or otherwise to the school principal or principal's designee, and shall submit a written report of the incident to the school principal or principal's designee within 24 hours. If the principal is the person accused of the sexual abuse or sexual misconduct, the oral and written reports should be made to the superintendent or the superintendent's designee.

Any school principal or principal's designee receiving a report of sexual abuse as defined in O.C.G.A. 19-7-5 shall make an oral

report immediately, but in no case later than 24 hours from the time there is reasonable cause to believe a child has been abused. The report should be made by telephone and followed by a written report in writing, if requested, to a child welfare agency providing protective services, as designated by the Department of Human Resources, or, in the absence of such agency, to an appropriate police authority or district attorney.

Reports of acts of sexual misconduct against a student by a teacher, administrator or other employee not covered by O.C.G.A. 19-7-5 or 20-2-1184 shall be investigated immediately by school or system personnel. If the investigation of the allegation of sexual misconduct indicates a reasonable cause to believe that the report of sexual misconduct is valid, the school principal or principal's designee shall make an immediate written report to the superintendent and the Professional Standards Commission Ethics Division.

Teacher Authority/Responsibility

Teachers have the authority to remove from class a student who repeatedly or substantially interferes with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the students in the class or with the ability of the student's classmates to learn. Local school administrators shall establish at each school at least one Placement Review Committee. For each committee established, the faculty shall choose two teachers to serve as members and one teacher to serve as an alternate member, and the principal shall choose one member of the professional staff of the school to serve as a member. The teacher withholding consent to readmit the student may not serve on the committee. The Placement Review Committee shall have the authority to:

1. Return the student to the teacher's class upon determining that such placement is the best alternative or the only available alternative; or
2. Refer the student to the principal or the principal's designee for appropriate action.

Teachers who have knowledge that a student has exhibited behavior that repeatedly or substantially interferes with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the students in his or her class or with the ability of such student's classmates to learn, where such behavior is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, are required to file a report with the principal. Such report shall not exceed one page in length and shall include a description of the behavior.

Extracurricular Activities

Eligibility for Competitive Extracurricular Activities

Academic eligibility must be maintained for a student to participate in any interscholastic competitive event. This includes such activities as interscholastic athletics, cheerleading, literary events, and competitive band. Basic eligibility requirements include (for interscholastic athletics and cheerleading only):

1. Passing a minimum of five courses each semester.
2. Maintaining a 1.0 grade point average each semester.
3. Having a current physical for athletics and completing all required permission forms.

Students interested in participating in extracurricular activities, but who have concerns about eligibility should see the Athletic Director or their counselor for details about eligibility requirements.

*State law prohibits discrimination based on gender in athletic programs of local school systems (Equity in Sports Act, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-315). Students are hereby notified that the Rockdale County School System does not discriminate on the basis of gender in its athletic programs. The Sports Equity Coordinator for the school system is:

Assistant Superintendent for Support Services, 1121 West Avenue, Conyers, Georgia 30012 770-761-1456

Inquiries or complaints concerning sports equity in this school system may be submitted to the Sports Equity Coordinator.

Student Activities

Students are strongly encouraged to participate in another facet of school life outside the classroom. A wide variety of clubs, activities, and sports are available in order to assist in fully developing the emotional and physical character of the individual student. More information regarding student activities may be obtained from a counselor, a school administrator, or faculty member.

Georgia Student Health Survey

Middle and high school students participate in the Georgia Student Health Survey administered by the Georgia Department of Education. The survey is designed to collect information about a variety of topics including alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; school violence; school climate; and nutrition. The data collected will be used to identify critical areas of need for our Safe and Drug-Free Schools efforts as well as the school system's Safe Schools/Health Students initiative. The survey is completely anonymous and voluntary. Students have the right to opt out. If you would like your student to opt out of the survey, please visit the school system's webpage – www.rockdale.k12.ga.us – and complete the GSHS Opt-Out Parent Letter.

Gifted Education

Rockdale County has been serving students identified as gifted for more than twenty years. During those years the state legislature has expanded the definition of "giftedness" on several occasions. Under the most recent definition adopted by the

state, a gifted student is one who demonstrates a high degree of intellectual or creative ability, exhibits an exceptionally high degree of motivation, or excels in specific academic fields and who needs special instruction or services to achieve at levels commensurate with his or her abilities.

Gifted services are designed to:

- Provide academically challenging opportunities.
- Allow for independent work.
- Encourage the development of “new” ideas and products.
- Integrate multiple disciplines.
- Encourage complex, abstract critical thinking.
- Increase self-understanding and self-evaluation.

The Process of Identifying Gifted Students

Screening and Referral

Twice a year, the Gifted Support Team will screen referrals and determine whether a student needs to be given further evaluations for possible gifted services. A student may be referred for gifted services by a classroom teacher, parent, peer, administrator, or the student may refer himself or herself. Students may also be referred from scores on system-wide tests. The person conducting the referral completes screening forms used by the gifted program. These forms are available from the counselor’s office and should be completed by October 1 for the fall referral and March 1 for the spring referral to the gifted program. The chairperson of the Gifted Support Team or the counselor in the child’s school will provide information on the referral process.

Evaluation

After each screening, those who have met the referral criteria will be evaluated. The Gifted Support Team, with parental consent, will collect data in the areas of mental ability, achievement, creativity, and motivation. A student is eligible for gifted services under the following conditions:

- Scores either > 99%tile (K-2) or > 96%tile (3-12) on the composite or full scale score of a mental ability test and > 90%tile on the total battery, total math or total reading section of an achievement test, or
- Meets multiple criteria in any three of the four areas of mental ability (> 96%tile), achievement (> 90%tile), creativity (> 90%tile), motivation (> 90%tile), or
- Transfers from another gifted program in the state of Georgia with appropriate documentation. Tests used to establish eligibility must be current. Scores are valid for two years. Scores older than two years cannot be used to determine eligibility. Outside data may not be substituted for school generated data to determine eligibility. A qualifying test score on a nationally normed test is used to meet criteria in mental ability and achievement.

Placement

If eligible for gifted services, the student will be placed at the next appropriate grading period.

Students in grades K-5 participate in an interdisciplinary resource program one day a week at the Program Challenge Center. The day of attendance will be based on the student’s grade level and home school.

Students in grades 6-8 participate in academic courses with a gifted certified teacher. Modifications of the regular classroom activities also may occur through collaboration with the gifted education teacher.

In grades 9-12, students receive gifted services through gifted and/or honors courses taught by a gifted certified teacher. Advanced Placement, directed study, and joint enrollment classes also may qualify as gifted service delivery. Program options for gifted services in Rockdale County benefit students through:

- Smaller class sizes.
- Student-directed learning.
- More accelerated study materials when appropriate.
- Evaluation through a variety of methods including student product, performance and self evaluation, as well as tests, providing an environment that will encourage these students to be productive in accordance with their potential.
- Maximum emphasis on critical thinking.
- Exposure to opportunities beyond the classroom.

Grading System

Elementary School

RCPS elementary schools report progress to parents using a standards-based grading system. Each 9 weeks, progress on specific standards in language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies is reported using the following scale:

1 (Little or no progress toward meeting the standard)

2 (Progressing toward the standard)

3 (Meeting the standard)

4 (Exemplary performance on the standard).

Middle School

RCPS middle schools report progress to parents using a modified standards-based grading system. Each semester, progress is reported both for the overall course and for the specific areas of study related to that course. The following grading scale is used to report achievement in the overall course and the related domains:

90 – 100 = A 80 – 89 = B 75 – 79 = C 70 – 74 = D Below 70 = F

continued on next page

In addition to the achievement grade, teachers will report a score in 4 domains of learner behaviors according to the following scale:

- 1 (Rarely demonstrates the desired behavior)**
- 2 (Sometimes demonstrates the desired behavior)**
- 3 (Demonstrates the desired behavior most of the time)**
- 4 (Always demonstrates the desired behavior)**

High School

RCPS high schools report progress in an overall course achievement grade using the following grading scale:

90 – 100 = A 80 – 89 = B 75 – 79 = C 70 – 74 = D Below 70 = F

Graduation Requirements

The Board of Education defines as a major role of secondary schools the responsibility for providing the youth of Rockdale County with opportunities to acquire and to apply skills necessary for life. Such skills are defined as those which enable one to address effectively and efficiently the decisions and opportunities presented in a free, technological society.

Secondary school instructional delivery and support services shall reflect the high school graduation requirements and assist all students to develop their unique potential to function in a global society.

General Requirements

- A. To be eligible for graduation from a Rockdale County high school, a student must meet requirements in the following areas:
 1. Attendance.
 2. Carnegie units of credit.
 3. Core curriculum courses.
 4. Passing scores on the Georgia High School Graduation Tests referenced in Georgia Board of Education Rule 160-3-1-.07 (Testing Programs - Student Assessment).
 5. Students who are enrolled in courses that require the EOCT, as identified by the Georgia Board of Education, shall participate in the EOCT in order to earn credit for any of those courses.

By meeting the appropriate criteria, students may earn a High School Diploma. Student who complete the prescribed Carnegie unit requirements of the Rockdale County Magnet School for Science and Technology will earn a Magnet Diploma.

- B. Students who complete Carnegie units, core curriculum, and attendance requirements, but choose to end their formal schooling prior to passing the Georgia High School Graduation Test will be awarded the High School Performance Certificate. This certificate will list those competencies demonstrated satisfactorily by the student. Students who are in a special education program have the opportunity to receive a High School Diploma or the High School Performance Certificate by meeting the appropriate requirements. Also, special education students can obtain a Special Education Diploma by completing requirements specified on their Individual Education Plan (IEP).
- C. Students who enroll from another state must meet the graduation requirements for the graduating class they enter and the state assessment requirements as referenced in Rule 160-3-1-.07 Testing Programs - Student Assessment..
- D. Students who enrolled in the ninth grade during the 2008-2009 school year and withdraw must meet the graduation requirements for the graduating class in which they re-enroll, and they must pass the required state assessment.
- E. Students entering or returning to a Rockdale County high school from a non-accredited private school or home school must be enrolled by the end of the first six weeks of their senior year or must be enrolled for two consecutive semesters, which may include summer school, during their senior year in order to receive a diploma from a Rockdale County high school. Graduation is contingent upon meeting all Rockdale County graduation requirements. Notice of this requirement will be given to parents at the time of their decision to enroll their children in home school.
- F. A student who has no means of written communication because of a severe physical disability will not be required to take the writing portion of the state assessment.
- G. The Individual Education Plan (IEP) will specify whether core courses taken as part of an IEP shall receive core Carnegie unit credit.

Remedial unit credits must be included among the elective unit credits and may not count as meeting specific core curriculum course requirements. For purposes of this policy, developmental special education courses are not considered remedial.

Carnegie Units

Middle school students may obtain Carnegie unit credit in foreign language and math. To receive credit for these courses, a middle school student must earn a grade of 80 percent or above for **both** semesters. If a student does not receive an 80 percent or above during at least one semester, he or she is not eligible to earn a Carnegie unit credit for that course. Middle school students may

not earn 1/2 Carnegie unit credits. In addition, parents/students must sign form J005.00, Middle School Carnegie Unit Application, in order for Carnegie unit credit to be posted on a student's transcript. If a student earns at least an 80 percent average for both first and second semesters and the parents/student elects to decline Carnegie unit credit, the student will be recommended to continue in the next course in the sequence during the following year. Students who do not successfully complete a Carnegie unit course with a minimum 80 percent average for both first and second semesters will need to repeat the entire course in order to receive Carnegie unit credit.

Carnegie unit credit is granted only for courses that include concepts and skills based on the state-approved curriculum for grades 9-12. Carnegie unit credit will be awarded for successful completion of a course based on a minimum of 150 clock hours of instruction over the school year. One-half unit of credit will be granted for the successful completion of a semester course with a minimum of 75 clock hours of instruction. Credit for summer school shall be based on a minimum of 120 clock hours of instruction per unit.

Carnegie units of credit may be granted to students for out-of-school work as part of an approved Work-Based Learning (WBL) Program. The maximum number of units earned in this way is two per year. Any Work-Study Program for which such credit is granted must be part of the approved High School Program of Studies for Rockdale County and must meet guidelines of the Georgia Board of Education. Students who are high school juniors or seniors and meet the qualifications as specified in Policy IDCE and Policy IED may earn Carnegie unit credit for successful completion of college courses as part of an approved college dual enrollment program.

A course shall count only once for satisfying any Carnegie unit requirement for graduation. The same course cannot be used to satisfy a Carnegie unit requirement in more than one core area of study.

Carnegie units of credit for graduation shall be awarded to high school students participating in any dual enrollment program using the ratio delineated in Policy IED, Post-Secondary Options.

With the exception delineated in General Requirements, section D, a student shall meet the graduation requirements in effect at the time of enrollment in the ninth grade, regardless of the changes in requirements affecting subsequent classes.

End of Course Testing

Students enrolled in courses for which an EOCT exists, as prescribed by the Georgia Board of Education, must participate in the EOCT in order to obtain credit for those courses. The EOCT will count for 20% of the final grade for the semester for which the EOCT is given. Dual enrollment students in prescribed EOCT courses must also participate in the EOCT.

Georgia High School Graduation Writing Test

All Georgia students must pass this writing assessment which is administered for the first time in September of the 11th grade year. Students who do not pass the first time are given multiple opportunities to retake the exam.

Graduation Requirements

In September 2007, the State of Georgia introduced new graduation requirements to be effective for students entering the 9th grade during the 2008-2009 school year. The new Graduation Rule — passed unanimously by the State Board of Education — eliminated Georgia's "tiered" diploma in which there were different expectations for students. While the state sets the minimum requirements for graduation, local systems can add requirements above the state requirements — and Rockdale County has raised the bar for our students.

What's Different?

The state requires 23 units for graduation. Rockdale County Public Schools (RCPS) requires our students to have 24 units. (RCPS requires four units of social studies while the state requires three.) Our goal is to assure that our students have the knowledge and skills necessary to pursue the world of work, higher education, or both.

CTAE/Fine Arts/Modern Language/Latin

Students who wish to receive industry certification in certain areas under Career/Technical/Agricultural Education (CTAE) programs must follow specific pathways. To be eligible for certification, a student must earn three units in the same pathway. Any student planning to attend a University System of Georgia college or university must take a minimum of two years of the same modern language or two years of Latin to meet admission requirements. CTAE, Fine Arts, Modern Language, and Latin are grouped in the same graduation area in the State Board Rule and on the Graduation Requirements chart on the following page. Students who are planning to complete a Career Technical Agricultural Education Pathway Program (recommended for all students) and attend college, will need to devote two of their four elective credits to foreign language or Latin courses to meet college/university entry requirements.

RCPS Diploma Options

Regular diploma, Magnet diploma, Special Education diploma, High School Performance Certificate (complete all degree requirements except graduation test)

More Information

During the first few weeks of the 2011-2012 school year, 9th graders will meet with counselors to review their high school course choices. They will receive a student handbook to take home to record their progress during high school. Parents should review this handbook and discuss the program of study with their students.

RCPS Graduation Requirements for the Class of 2012 and Beyond

Subject Area	Rockdale County Public Schools
English	4 units, must include: 1 unit 9th Grade Lit./Comp. and 1 unit American Lit./Comp.
Mathematics	4 units, must include either of the following: 1 unit Math I or Accelerated Math I 1 unit Math II or Accelerated Math II 1 unit Math III or Accelerated Math III 1 unit Math IV or AP Statistics or AP Calculus
Science	4 units 1 unit Biology 1 unit Physical Science or Physics 1 unit Chemistry, Earth Systems, Environmental Science, or AP Science Course 1 unit any 4th Science
Social Studies	4 units, must include: 1 unit World Geography 1 unit U.S. History 1 unit World History 1/2 unit Economics 1/2 unit Government
CTAE [♦] and/or Fine Arts and/or Modern Language/Latin ^{♦♦}	3 units
Health/Safety	1/2 unit (or 2 units ROTC)
Physical Education	1/2 unit (Personal Fitness)
Electives	4 units
Total	24 units
1 Unit = 2 semesters of credit Promotion requirements to: Grade 10 = 5 units Grade 11 = 11 units* Grade 12 = 16 units	

- ♦ For CTAE pathway completion, students must complete three courses (units) in the same sequence or pathway AND pass the End of Pathway Exam.
- ♦♦ Students planning to attend a college or university must take a minimum of two years (2 units) of the same modern language or Latin to meet admission requirements.
- * Calculated for core courses (English, math, science, social studies, foreign language, fine arts) only. To be classified as an 11th grader (junior), students must earn 11 Carnegie units and pass all required courses in English, math, science, and social studies.

RCPS Honor Graduate Requirements

Honor graduates will be identified on the basis of the grade point average resulting from the procedure outlined in Board policy IHD-R. Honor graduate status will be conferred on all graduates who meet the following requirements:

Cum Laude (Honors): minimum 3.5 GPA through 3.69, unrounded
Magna Cum Laude (High Honors): minimum 3.7 cumulative GPA, unrounded
Summa Cum Laude (Highest Honors): overall GPA of at least 3.9, unrounded

RCPS Graduation “Magnet” Requirements

Subject Area	Magnet Diploma
English/ Language Arts*	4 units, must include: 1 unit 9th Grade Lit./Comp. and 1 unit American Lit./Comp.
Mathematics*	4 units, must include: 1 unit 9th grade Magnet math, 1 unit 10th grade Magnet math 1 unit 11th grade Magnet math, 1 unit 12th grade Magnet math
Science*	9-1/2 units, must include: 1 unit Physics, 1 unit Biology, 1 unit Chemistry 2 units AP Sciences, 3-1/2 units Research, 1 unit Environmental Science
Social Studies*	4 units, must include: 1 unit World Geography, 1 unit U.S. History 1 unit World History, 1/2 unit Economics 1/2 unit Government
Health/Safety	1/2 unit (or 2 units ROTC)
Physical Education	1/2 unit (Personal Fitness)
Fine Arts Computer Tech. Technology/Career ROTC	1 unit (Magnet Technology Course)
Foreign Language*	2 units (same language)
Senior Course Required	1 unit One senior specialized Magnet course
Electives	Suggestions: Majors: Biological Sciences, Engineering, or Informational Technology
1 Unit = 2 semesters of credit Promotion requirements to: Grade 10 = 5 units Grade 11 = 11 units* Grade 12 = 16 units	

* Calculated for core courses (English, math, science, social studies, foreign language, fine arts) only. To be classified as an 11th grader (junior), students must earn 11 Carnegie units and pass all required courses in English, math, science, and social studies.

RCPS Magnet Honor Graduate Requirements

Honor graduates will be identified on the basis of the grade point average resulting from the procedure outlined in Board policy IHD-R. Honor graduate status will be conferred on all graduates who meet the following requirements:

Cum Laude (Honors): minimum 3.5 GPA through 3.69, unrounded

Magna Cum Laude (High Honors): minimum 3.7 cumulative GPA, unrounded

Summa Cum Laude (Highest Honors): overall GPA of at least 3.9, unrounded

Hall Behavior

All students are expected to behave appropriately going to and from classes. Students are asked to always walk to the right and avoid using lockers during class changes if possible.

Hall Pass

Students who are released from class must have the hall pass page filled out in the School Agenda Book. This pass should include time, destination, and teacher's signature.

HOPE Grant and Scholarship

Helping outstanding Pupils Educationally (HOPE) is a program funded by the Georgia Lottery. Georgia residents enrolling in a technical certificate, diploma, or degree program at an eligible Georgia public or private college, university, or public technical college, may be eligible for HOPE funding. Recipients may be required to demonstrate academic achievement. New academic requirements for the scholarship are included in the HOPE legislation which will impact students graduating from high school on or after May 1, 2015. These changes and more information can be found at www.gacollege411.org or by calling 1-800-505-4732.

Internet Acceptable Use

All of the Rockdale County schools are networked, and are provided with technologies that allow students and staff members to share information and access data or information outside their school. Each school has been provided with technology necessary to allow students and teachers access to the Internet or the information superhighway. We believe the system-wide networks and access to the Internet greatly enhance and support research activities and provide additional educational opportunities for students and teachers.

Regulation IFBG-R describes the acceptable use procedures of the Rockdale County Public Schools' system-wide network and Internet connections available in all schools. All students, parents, teachers, and staff members shall sign a form IFBG-F1 (located at the back of this Parent Handbook) acknowledging that they have read and agree with the system's intranet and Internet network acceptable use procedures before they access the intranet or Internet in any fashion. Failure to do so will prohibit use of computers.

Regulation IFBG-R can be viewed on the reverse side of form IFBG-F1, provided at the back of this Handbook, or on the school system's website www.rockdale.k12.ga.us at the Board of Education Policies link.

JROTC

The Leadership Education Program, known as JROTC, is a consolidated program available to qualified students in all of our high schools. It is designed to help the cadets develop into responsible and productive citizens. The curriculum is designed to enhance and complement the cadet's academic efforts in all classes. The development of character, self-discipline, and academic performance is the primary focus of the program.

Learning Support Services

ESOL Program

The English to Speakers of Other Languages Program (ESOL) provides educational opportunities to students who have a primary language other than English. This program, beginning in kindergarten and continuing through twelfth grade, will provide each qualifying child the opportunity to develop English proficiency in order to be a successful student in RCPS.

Hospital/Homebound

Hospital/Homebound instruction is a teaching service provided for students who are expected to be absent from school for ten days or longer due to illness. These students must be enrolled in RCPS and will remain enrolled while receiving hospital/homebound instruction. This is not designed to serve students with communicable disease and/or uncomplicated cases of pregnancy.

Parent Liaisons

RCPS provides parent liaison services for families with children who are disabled and for families who are English language learners. The parent liaisons are based out of the Central Office and are available to assist families with school-related issues. To contact a parent liaison, please call the Rockdale County Public Schools main information line.

School Nurses

School nurses assist students by administering and documenting medication use and assisting students who are ill or have medical needs while at school.

Special Education

Special education programs are provided for students with disabilities who require a specially designed instructional program. Services are available for students in grades Pre-K-12. Resource programs, self-contained programs, and collaborative teaching with regular education teachers are available based on the needs of the students.

Entrance/Exit Procedures for Special Education

Entrance:

1. A student who is three years old may be enrolled in the Pre-School Program (READY) after meeting eligibility.
2. A student may receive services until the twenty-second (22) birthday, if the student continues to meet eligibility.

Exit:

1. Students may exit from special education if they do not meet eligibility or have reached the maximum age.
2. Aging out:
 - A. If a student turns twenty-two (22) by September 1st, the student will not be eligible to return to school for any part of the year.
 - B. If the student turns twenty-two (22) after September 1st, but before Christmas break, the student may attend the entire first semester.
 - C. If the student turns twenty-two (22) between January 1st and the end of the school year, the student may attend for the full school year.

Georgia Special Needs Scholarship (SB-10)

As the parent of a student who receives special education in Rockdale County Public Schools, you have the option to exercise public and private school choice. Under the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship, parents of students who receive special education may choose to transfer their child to another public or private school in Georgia. The Georgia Department of Education website <http://public.doe.k12.ga.us/sb10.aspx> provides information to assist parents with the process.

Locker Inspections

Each student will be assigned a locker with a built-in lock to store personal items and school textbooks. Students should not share their locker combination with others. All school lockers are the property of the school and are loaned to students. Lockers are subject to inspection by school officials at any time. Students shall have no reasonable expectation of privacy in lockers.

Students are advised to keep money, jewelry, and other valuables on their persons, and avoid bringing large sums of cash or expensive personal items to school. Students attending PE class are provided with an individual locker in the dressing rooms. Students should purchase a lock to use during their PE class. The school cannot replace missing or stolen money or other valuables.

Lost and Found

The school "lost and found" is located in the main office. Due to limited space, lost and found items cannot be kept for a long time. Unclaimed items are turned over to charitable organizations in the community.

Make-Up Work Following Absences

When a student is absent from school, the student has the responsibility to initiate all make-up work on the first day he/she returns to school. If a student will miss three or more days, the parent or guardian should contact the counselor's office to make arrangements for collecting assignments. Work will not be collected for fewer than three absences. Teachers must be given a full school day to gather assignments. All work should be made up within seven school days.

Make-Up Work With More Than 10 Days of Absences

Students will be allowed to make up work for up to 10 days of excused/pre-arranged absences in each class period for each semester. Make-up work will not be issued for unexcused absences. If students are absent more than 10 days in a semester, make-up work will not be given unless a parent/guardian-initiated conference is conducted with the teacher to make arrangements for make-up work.

Media Center Services

Most books are checked out for a two-week period. ID cards must be presented to check out materials from the Media Center. Late books are fined \$.10 per day and overnight books are fined \$.50 per day. Lost materials are charged according to the actual replacement cost for the item plus a processing charge. Students' use of the Media Center computers will be in an appropriate manner as directed by staff members at all times.

Medication/Illness at School

All medication brought into the school must be checked in through the school clinic or front office. Medications cannot be administered by school staff if they are not accompanied by a "Request for School Staff to Administer Medication" form found in the Parent Handbook, or a parent note that contains specific instructions on when to administer the medication, and a parent phone number where they can be reached during the day. All medications, prescription or nonprescription (OTC), must be sent in the original container. The school is not obligated to provide medication of any kind to students.

If a student becomes ill or is injured while at school, parents will be notified in order to obtain medical care. A parent will also be asked to pick up their student if they have a temperature of 100° F or more. To return to school, the student must be fever free for 24 hours.

Non-Discrimination Statement

The Rockdale County Board of Education desires that all students receive the benefit of an adequate education. With this view in mind the Board prohibits unlawful discrimination against students on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, religion, age, or disability in its programs and activities, or employment in its programs or activities. In keeping with this commitment, the Rockdale County Board of Education will not tolerate harassment, discrimination, or other unlawful treatment of its students. The Student Non-Discrimination Policy and Complaint Procedure is set forth in its entirety in Board Policy JCA. The designated person to handle inquiries regarding the school district's non-discrimination policies is:

Executive Director of Student Support Services
1127 West Avenue, Conyers, Georgia 30012 770-860-4231

Open Campus

The Open Campus alternative secondary program will provide a flexible educational opportunity to students who may be unlikely, for a variety of reasons, to reach their full potential in the traditional high school structure. The program is designed for students who wish to accelerate the manner in which they complete the remaining required units for graduation. This program provides an educational opportunity to students at least 16 years of age. Students must not currently be serving long-term suspension or expulsion. The general student population to be served will include but not be limited to:

- Students needing to makeup one or more courses for graduation;
- Potential dropout students who have the desire to join the work force before graduation;
- Actual dropout students seeking education while gainfully employed;
- Students with social, emotional, environmental, and/or self imposed issues;
- Traditional students with individual wants/needs;
- Students desiring accelerated completion of non-EOCT courses.

All students will be held to highest expectations for conduct and decision making while enrolled in the program. The school will operate on a mini-semester plan. The school year is divided into four - 36 day terms and a student is permitted to come and go as classes begin and end. Students attend classes 4 days a week, Monday – Thursday. Students are required to follow a strict Attendance Policy and may be withdrawn after five absences. A standard RCPS high school curriculum will be offered and delivered by a qualified faculty as well as computer supported instruction. All students will participate in an intensive advisor/advisee mentor program during their tenure at Open Campus. A student must complete the required number of units and pass the relevant GHSGT in order to graduate. Students participating in the graduation ceremony will be included in the procession at their home schools.

Applications for Open Campus are available through school counselors and graduation coaches.

Parent Advisory Council

One component of the Rockdale County Public Schools (RCPS) family engagement initiative is the district-level Parent Advisory Council (PAC). RCPS understands that parent involvement and cooperative partnerships enhance the education of children. The PAC provides a vehicle for formal parent representation. The RCPS PAC consists of two parent representatives from each school in Rockdale County. PAC Representatives serve two-year terms. Notifications and applications are made available to all parents when there is a vacancy or when the current term ends.

Parent Portal (formerly I-Parent)

There will be two parent portals during the 2011-2012 school year as we transition from the portal provided as part of our student information system program (I-Parent) to a new one as part of our Curriculum Management System. Both parent portals will provide the following student information: current daily schedule, attendance history, assignment grades, and the current average of each class recorded in the electronic grade book. Elementary and Middle School parents will need to setup a new account at their school. High School parents will use the portal from our student information system and those user accounts will stay the same. Please visit your school to set up a new account or receive assistance with the parent portals.

Post-Secondary Options

Advanced Placement (AP) Classes

Advanced Placement (AP) classes are year-long courses based upon college level curriculum. They are taught at the high school during the regular school day. A national exam is given at the end of the course and graded by readers employed by the College Board. Many post-secondary institutions either award post-secondary credit for a successfully completed exam or allow a student to exempt certain courses. Some post-secondary institutions do not honor AP credit. The exam is optional, and the student is responsible for fees if the Georgia General Assembly does not continue to fund payment. Individual colleges determine guidelines for the awarding of credit.

Articulated Credit

Articulation is a partnership agreement between DeKalb Technical College or Gwinnett Technical College and the school system that provides an opportunity for students to earn college credit for courses that they take in high school that are the same as technical college courses. As an example through an articulation agreement a student enrolled in Introduction to Drafting in high school could earn college credit for Introduction to Drafting at DeKalb Technical College. To be eligible to receive articulated credit the course must be considered an articulated course and students must meet all college admission requirements for the college with which the course has been aligned, earn a numeric grade of 85 or better in the articulated high school course, enroll at the technical college within 18 months of high school graduation, and pass the technical college exemption exam with a score of 70 percent or above.

Dual Enrollment

Dual Enrollment allows qualified high school juniors and seniors the option to begin working toward a college degree, while still pursuing a high school diploma. This program enables participants to fulfill high school graduation requirements by taking college courses that provide dual credit, simultaneously completing high school course requirements, too. Students who meet specific criteria may enroll in courses at participating colleges and take eligible courses at the college for high school Carnegie credit and college credit. There may be course fees associated with these classes.

For more information about Post-Secondary Options, please talk with your counselor. The list of eligible courses may be found at the Georgia Student Finance Commission website at <http://gacollege411.or/FinAid/ScholarshipsAndGrants/accel.asp>.

Release of Information

General - Directory Information

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks.

The Rockdale County Public Schools (RCPS) has designated the following information as directory information:

1. Student's name, address, and telephone number;
2. Student's date and place of birth;
3. Student's participation in official school clubs and sports;
4. Weight and height of student if he/she is a member of an athletic team;
5. Dates of attendance at the Rockdale County Public Schools;
6. Awards received during the time enrolled in the Rockdale County Public Schools; and
7. Photographs, videotape film, or other likeness or image of the student.

Unless you, as a parent/guardian or eligible student, request otherwise, this information may be disclosed to the public upon request. You have the right to refuse to allow all or any part of the above information to be designated as directory information and to be disclosed to the public upon request. If you wish to exercise this right, you must notify the principal of the school at which the student is enrolled in writing no later than August 19, 2011, or within 15 calendar days of enrollment, whichever is later. A Release of Directory Information Opt-Out form is available on our website (www.rockdale.k12.ga.us) under the forms link or from your school's office.

Military Recruitment

Federal law requires the Rockdale County Public Schools to provide the names, addresses, and phone numbers of students to military recruiters. Parents/guardians may ask in writing to remove all or part of the information required to be given to military recruiters about the student no later than August 19, 2011, or within 15 calendar days of enrollment, whichever is later. A Release of Information to Military Recruiters Opt-Out form is available on our website (www.rockdale.k12.ga.us) under the forms link or from your school's office.

Student Records:

Annual Notice About Your Rights Concerning Student Records

State and federal law gives parents (and students over 18 years of age) certain rights concerning the student's school records. These rights are listed below.

1. You have a right to look at your school records. To look at your records you should give the principal a written request listing the records that you want to see. The principal must allow you to see the records within 45 days from receiving your request.
2. You have a right to request changes in your school records if you believe the records are inaccurate, misleading, or that they violate your privacy rights. If you want to change your records you should tell the principal in writing what you want changed and why you think it ought to be changed. If the principal agrees with you, your records will be changed. If the principal disagrees with you, you may request a hearing.
3. You have the right to let other people see your school records; however, the law allows some people to see your records without your consent. For example, a school official or a parent, or student serving on an official school committee may see your records if they need information in the records to do their job.
4. The school district has the legal duty without prior consent to send your school records, including disciplinary records, to another school in which you seek to enroll.
5. Both parents have a right to see the school records of their child unless a court order specifically denies the right to access school records or terminates parental rights.
6. Copies of school records are available for a copying charge of 25 cents per page.
7. You have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education if you believe the school has violated any of your rights with respect to school records. If you have a complaint, send it in writing to:

Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202

Student Surveys, Data Collection, and Parental Rights

Federal law gives parents rights before minor students are required to take part in certain surveys and before the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or selling. These rights will be stated in policies developed and adopted with the involvement of parents by the Rockdale County Board of Education. Upon adoption, these policies will be posted on the school system's website at www.rockdale.k12.ga.us.

Report Cards

Reporting to Parents

Individual student progress shall be reported to parents or guardians by means of report cards generated at the end of each instructional period. Midway through the instructional period, parents or guardians shall be provided a progress report showing the progress of their child in each class in which the student is enrolled.

Elementary School		Middle School and High School		
Progress Reports	Report Cards	Deficiency Reports	Progress Reports	Report Cards
August 30, 2011	October 12, 2011	August 30, 2011	October 12, 2011	January 6, 2012
November 11, 2011	January 6, 2012	November 11, 2011	March 21, 2012	June 4, 2012 (Mailed)
February 3, 2012	March 21, 2012	February 3, 2012		
April 23, 2012	May 24, 2012	April 23, 2012		

Rockdale Career Academy (RCA)

Rockdale Career Academy is a comprehensive career technical high school. Courses offered at RCA are aligned with Georgia's Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education -- or CTAE -- which has historically provided students with the high quality education necessary to prepare for career opportunities in the Georgia economy. CTAE offers students a challenging curriculum and ensures that every student graduates from high school with the academic skills, hands-on experience in real work environments, and intensive career guidance required to succeed in college and/or employment.

Students specialize in a career pathway through high school and into post-secondary education or training. To obtain pathway completion, students must complete three courses (units) in the SAME pathway. Failure to complete three units in the same pathway, may adversely affect post-secondary choices for students planning to enter college or the work force. Please discuss the CTAE program areas and related pathways with your counselor.

Rockdale Virtual Campus

Rockdale Virtual Campus (RVC) offers a students the opportunity to complete a variety of courses in an on-line format via a home computer. The online experience also prepares students for the demands they will encounter in higher education, the workplace, and personal life-long learning. An online experience requires students to complete assignments, meet deadlines, learn appropriate online behavior, and effectively collaborate with others in an instructional setting while working independently. Students interested in learning more about RVC or taking a course through RVC should speak with their counselor.

Safety and Restraint General Parental Notification

If a student is physically restrained, an attempt shall be made to notify the parent on the day of, or within twenty-four hours after, physical restraint is used with the child as an emergency intervention to prevent immediate or imminent injury to the person or others, as permitted under state board rule 160-5-1.35. Such notification shall be made by phone, e-mail or other method which may include, but is not limited to, sending a note home with the child. The parent of such child, regardless of whether he or she received such notification, shall be sent a copy of the incident report no later than two business days after the emergency use of physical restraint.

School Closings

In the event of severe weather or other emergencies, schools may be closed or students may be dismissed early. Using the rapid telephone communication system, every family with a current phone number listed in our student information database will be called. Announcements will be made on most major Atlanta radio and television stations. Reports will be aired as early as possible in the morning. If no report is heard, schools will be in session. PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOLS. Telephone lines must be kept open for emergencies.

School Food Services/Meal Prices

The School Food and Nutrition program provides Rockdale County students with an opportunity to have low-cost, high-quality, nutritious meals each day. To provide these meals, system personnel have made a commitment to providing adequate equipment, space, and staff. This commitment is the first step to ensuring quality food preparation, increasing student involvement in the program, and increasing nutritional education resources.

Breakfast programs are offered to students at all Rockdale County schools. Salads with fresh fruit and vegetables are offered as alternatives to the regular lunch in all schools. Our school system participates in the National School Lunch program and offers free or reduced-price lunches and breakfasts to students who are eligible. Application forms for the program are available in each school from your school nutrition manager.

CafeteriaCash.com is a prepayment system that allows you to make deposits into your children's school meal accounts via the Internet. Payments may be made by going online to www.cafeteriacash.com

2011-2012 School Meal Prices

Breakfast:

	Student	Adult
Elementary	\$1.00	\$1.60
Middle/High	\$1.20	\$1.60

Lunch:

	Student	Adult
Elementary	\$1.75	\$3.00
Middle	\$2.00	\$3.00
High	\$2.00	\$3.00

School Hours of Operation

Elementary Schools	7:35 a.m. – 2:10 p.m.	earliest arrival - 7:05 a.m.	latest departure - 2:40 p.m.
Middle Schools	8:45 a.m. – 3:55 p.m.	earliest arrival - 8:15 a.m.	latest departure - 4:15 p.m.
All High Schools	8:05 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	earliest arrival - 7:30 a.m.	latest departure - 3:30 p.m.
Alpha Academy (Middle)	8:45 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.		
Alpha Academy (High)	8:05 a.m. – 2:35 p.m.		
Rockdale Career Academy	8:05 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.		
Open Campus	Monday - Thursday: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. - Friday: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.		

Maintaining a safe and orderly learning environment is a top priority for Rockdale County Public Schools. In keeping with this philosophy, it is essential that we ensure our campuses and facilities are adequately supervised during normal business hours as well as when students are scheduled for classes. We have established guidelines for earliest arrival and latest departure times. Students who are not under the direct supervision of a teacher and/or administrator will not be allowed to stay on campuses before the early arrival time and after the late departure time. Parents are asked to adhere to the following:

Students who remain on campuses outside these hours of operation will be asked to vacate the premises and an investigation of residency will begin. Rockdale County Public Schools will make every effort to provide parents and students with the necessary guidance in order to avoid these school safety issues.

Searches, Interrogations, and Surveillance

School authorities have the right and the responsibility to establish and enforce behavior codes to regulate student conduct on campus and at school activities. Likewise, school officials have the authority to conduct reasonable interrogations of students without prior parental approval to properly investigate student misconduct.

It is the desire of the Board of Education to maintain all its facilities in a safe condition and to assure the safety of all persons in its facilities and at all school activities. In an effort to assure such safety, the Board desires that no weapons, illegal drugs, alcohol, or contraband be brought onto school property. In keeping with this desire, the Board authorizes school authorities to conduct lawful searches of students and authorizes the use of surveillance cameras.

Student lockers, desks, and automobiles are subject to routine, unannounced examination for items forbidden by school rules or applicable laws, including, but not limited to, drugs, tobacco, alcohol or weapons. Such searches may be conducted by school officials or by use of trained canines provided by law enforcement agencies and under direction of a trained canine handler. Such searches and surveillance may also include all areas of the school buildings or properties accessible by students to include such areas as hallways, commons areas, locker rooms, cafeterias, gymnasiums, stadium areas, classrooms, parking lots, and other similar areas of school facilities, and school buses.

Student Complaints and Grievances

Students and/or parents who have a complaint or grievance should discuss the matter with the principal of the school that the student attends in an attempt to resolve the grievance. The principal will make every effort to resolve the grievance informally. At his/her discretion, the principal may confer with persons having knowledge of the incident that precipitated the grievance. If no satisfactory solution is reached, the grievant shall seek relief using the formal procedures summarized below. For details, please see the Administrative Regulation JCE-R Student Complaints and Grievances located in the Board of Education policies section on the RCPS website: www.rockdale.k12.ga.us.

Level I: File a written report with the principal within five working days of the occurrence of the incident which precipitated the grievance, or within five working days of the informal meeting with the principal. The report should specify: specific right or rights violated and/or the policy violated or ignored; extent or nature of the injury, loss, or inconvenience; results of the informal discussions; and specific relief sought. The principal will review the case and render a decision in writing within then working days of receipt of the grievance.

Level II: File an appeal to the Superintendent. Such appeal must be filed within five working days from receipt of the decision by the principal. The appeal shall include all the reports and comments from Level I and a letter of appeal. The Superintendent or his/her designee will initiate an investigation of the grievance. The Superintendent will render a decision within ten working days of receipt of the appeal. The case is closed if the grievant is satisfied with the decision or does not wish to take further steps.

Level III: File an appeal asking the Board of Education for a hearing on the matter. The appeal for a hearing must be filed within five working days of the receipt of the decision of the Superintendent. Receipt will be determined at time of signing receipt of the certified letter or three days after mailing, whichever occurs first. The request for a hearing shall state specifically the nature of the grievance, the relief sought, and the reasons why the Board should grant a hearing. The Superintendent may respond to the request. The Board shall determine, by majority vote of the Board present at the meeting when the request is considered, whether it will grant a hearing.

If the Board of Education decides not to grant a hearing, the decision of the Superintendent becomes final unless the Board directs otherwise. Should the Board decide to grant a hearing, the grievant will be notified, in writing, of the date and time for the hearing and the parameters for the hearing.

Suspension of Policy

The Superintendent shall have the right to suspend this grievance policy as it pertains to any individual grievant in the event the Superintendent believes the grievant is deliberately using the policy for purposes of harassment or to obstruct the normal functioning of the school system.

Timelines

The timelines specified in these procedures are intended to be followed to assure timely resolution to grievances. Should following these timelines be impossible due to unforeseeable circumstances, failure to strictly adhere to the timelines will not invalidate the grievance process. Inability by any party to meet the timelines should be noted when it occurs. If all other aspects of the procedures have been followed, reasonable departure from the established timelines will not be considered as substantial non-compliance with the terms of this policy or these procedures.

Student Support School Psychologists

School psychologists provide supportive intervention services to students, parents, and faculty including student evaluations, teacher and parent consultations, the implementation of behavioral strategies, and the delivery of crisis intervention and counseling services. Specifically, school psychologists provide assessment, consultation, behavioral support, counseling, crisis intervention, academic remediation, community outreach, and the development of interventions. School psychologists plan an integral role in the evaluation of special education students, but also routinely provide support services and intervention support to all students..

School Social Workers

School Social Workers are a critical link between the school, family, and the community. Some of the services they provide to students and their families include: encouraging regular school attendance, connecting families with community resources, individual and small group counseling, and providing support for parents and teachers. School social workers extend services to students in ways that build students' individual strengths as well as empower families to gain access to and effectively use formal and information community resources. School social workers provide assistance to those students who are experiencing difficulties in the school, home, or community. This may include emotional, health, and/or family problems, attendance, behavior problems, academic failure, underachievement and substance abuse.

Section 504

Under Section 504, an eligible student is a student who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity. Rockdale County School District must provide such accommodations as are necessary to ensure that an eligible student has equal access to school services, programs, and activities. Decisions regarding the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of students with disabilities are subject to procedural safeguards for parents or guardians including timely notice of the action, the right to examine relevant records, and to request an impartial hearing to challenge the district's decision prior to its implementation. For additional information or questions, contact the Director of Community and Student Support Services.

Student Support Team (SST)

The student support team is a means to support the instructional needs of students. Individual schools hold student support team meetings to identify at risk students and target teaching strategies to help students achieve their academic potential in the regular classroom. Prior to accessing SST, Response to Intervention (RTI) meeting and consultation occur in order to provide students with support.

Summer School, Intercession, Credit Recovery

High school students who do not successfully complete coursework needed to move on to the next grade or fulfill graduation requirements will be given opportunities through summer school, intercession, or credit recovery to remediate this coursework for the needed credit. Students are encouraged to talk to their counselor about these opportunities and to discuss their eligibility to participate.

As of August 1, 2010, the NCAA Eligibility Center revised their guidelines and will no longer accept RCPS credit recovery courses for eligibility. Credit Recovery courses taken prior to August 1, 2010 will be reviewed under the NCAA's previous guidelines. Students who exempt modules or finish a course in an abbreviated time frame may meet high school graduation requirements; however, they would not meet NCAA eligibility requirements under the new guidelines. NCAA guidelines only apply to student athletes who may choose to become college athletes. For detailed information, please see your counselor or school principal.

Substance Abuse Prevention and Education

Where drugs are concerned, prevention is more effective than remediation. The school system considers "use" and "abuse" to be virtually synonymous when young people are the focus. The Director of Student Services coordinates a variety of drug/alcohol programs for our schools. Resources and school-based intervention programs are available for students who have drug- or alcohol-related offenses. School counselors may be contacted to obtain community resources.

Teenage and Adult Driver Responsibility Act (TAADRA)

This law significantly changes the way young motorists earn and maintain the privilege of driving by providing a controlled means for new drivers to gain experience and by reducing high-risk driving situations. Students are encouraged to become

familiar with this law. Information may be found at www.gahighwaysafety.org. There are several parts of the law that directly relate to school. Under TAADRA:

- No individual under the age of 18 can obtain a driver’s license or instruction permit unless he or she is attending a public school, a private school, or is enrolled in home schooling authorized by law; or has graduated from high school, received a certificate of high school completion; or has completed his or her secondary education and is enrolled in a post-secondary school.
- If a student under 18 drops out of school and has remained out of school for 10 days, or has more than 10 school days of unexcused absences in an academic year or the previous academic year, notice will be given by the school to the Department of Driver Services. The student’s driver’s license will then be suspended for one year or until his or her 18th birthday.
- A student’s driver’s license will be suspended for one year or until his or her 18th birthday if the student is suspended from school for any one of the following offenses:
 - Threatening, striking, or causing bodily harm to a teacher or other school personnel.
 - Possession or sale of drugs or alcohol on school grounds.
 - Possession or use of a weapon on school grounds.
 - Any sexual offense prohibited under Chapter 6 of Title 16.
 - Causing substantial physical or visible bodily harm to or seriously disfiguring another person, including another student.

Telephones/Cell Phones

Parents are asked not to call students during school hours unless an emergency exists. Students will not be called from class except in extreme emergencies. Non-emergency messages will be held until the end of the day and students will be called to the office to pick up messages. It is the responsibility of the student to listen carefully to afternoon announcements and pick up messages in the office. Students should use the school pay phones for outgoing personal calls. Students may NOT use the phone during class time or between classes as there is not enough time.

Rules for **cell phones** are covered in the Behavior Code (Rule 1.6), which can be found in this Handbook.

Testing Dates 2011-2012

Date	Test	Grades
Sept. 6, 2011 – Mar. 30, 2012	GAA	Sp. Ed
TBA	ACT - RCHS	11, 12
Sept. 12 - 16, 2011	GHS GT – retest	12
TBA	GKIDS Reporting Window I	K
Sept. 21 - 28, 2011	Benchmark Window #1	1 - 12
Sept. 26 - 27, 2011	GHSWT	11, 12
Oct. 17 - 21, 2011	ITBS	3, 7
Oct. 17 - 20, 2011	CogAT	2, 4
Oct. 12, 2011	ReadiStep	8
Oct. 12, 2011	PSAT	10, 11
TBA	ACT - HHS	11, 12
TBA	SAT I - SHS	11, 12
Nov. 7 - 11, 2011	GHS GT (Winter retest)	12
Nov. 15, 2011	EXPLORE	8
Nov. 16, 2011	PLAN	10
Dec. 1 - 9, 2011	EOCT (Winter)	9 - 12
Dec. 7 - 15, 2011	Benchmark Window #2	1 - 12
TBA	GKIDS Reporting Window II	K
Jan. 4 - 31, 2012	Work-Ready Assessment Window	12
Jan. 9 - Mar. 16, 2012	NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress)	4 LES only
Jan. 17 - Mar. 2, 2012	ACCESS	K - 12
Jan. 18 - 19, 2012	Writing Assessment	8
TBA	SAT I - RCHS	11, 12
TBA	ACT - HHS	11, 12
Feb. 28 - 29, 2012	GHSWT-retest	11, 12
Mar. 7 - 8, 2012	Writing Assessment	5
TBA	GKIDS Reporting Window III	K
Mar. 8 - 16, 2012	Benchmark Window #3	1 - 12
Mar. 19 - 30, 2012	Writing Evaluations	3

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Date	Test	Grades
Mar. 19 - 23, 2012	GHSGT (Main)	11, 12
TBA	GKIDS Final Update	K
Apr. 16 - 27, 2012	CRCT	3 - 8
TBA	GKIDS - DOE Deadline	K
Apr. 30 - May 10, 2012	EOCT (Spring)	8 - 12
TBA	SAT I - RCHS	11, 12
May 7 - 20, 2012	Adv. Placement Exams	10 - 12
TBA	SAT I - SHS	11, 12

Test Preparation Information

Ample test prep information is available to students on the Internet for free. Also there are test preparation materials available at each high school counseling office. The best preparation for any college admission test is by participating in rigorous coursework and by participating in the PLAN test in the 10th grade and the PSAT in the 10th and 11th grades. Using these tests as guides, students can get a wealth of test preparation help. Visit these websites for test preparation information: www.act.org (ACT), www.collegeboard.com (SAT), www.gacollege411.org.

Textbooks and Library Books

Textbooks and library books are furnished without cost for student use, but remain the property of the Rockdale County school system. Students and their parents are held accountable for textbooks and library books that are lost or damaged, and the school system must be reimbursed for such books. The continued use of textbooks and/or materials in the school media center may be suspended until payment has been made by the responsible persons.

Visitors

A close relation between home and school is an important part of each student's education. We invite parents to serve as volunteers, guest speakers, assistants for special projects, chaperones for school events, as well as to come to school to visit classes or have lunch with us. For security reasons, parents and other visitors to our school must check in at the office and receive a visitor's pass. We do not allow students to bring visitors from other schools without special permission of the principal.



Student/Parent Affirmation Form

Discipline Code of Conduct and Attendance

Please sign below to indicate that you have reviewed and read **the Discipline Code of Conduct** and the revised **Attendance Policy**. The completed form should be returned to your child's school. If you have any questions, please talk with your child's principal or his/her designee. Thank you for your cooperation in helping the system provide quality education for all of our children.

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE

DATE SIGNED

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE

DATE SIGNED

STUDENT'S NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

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**Middle and High School Extracurricular Participation
Code of Conduct Contract**

Print student name _____

Participation in school athletic and extracurricular activities is a privilege and not a property right. All students, parents, coaches, and sponsors understand that the top priority is academic achievement. The purpose of the Code of Conduct is to establish high expectations regarding behavior and minimum/consistent consequences when violations occur. However, coaches/sponsors may establish consequences that are more stringent than the stated code. Team/organization rules must be in writing and approved by the administration of each school.

CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

A VIOLATION **Students assigned to long-term suspension or expelled from school.**
CONSEQUENCES *Ineligible to attend or participate in any athletic or extracurricular activity during the period of suspension*

B VIOLATION **Arrest for felony (regardless of location or time of the alleged act, in or out of school).**
CONSEQUENCES *Immediately suspended from all participation pending investigation by school officials.*

For violations C, D, and E, a school administrator must have evidence and/or verification of the violation as defined in at least one of the following:

1. Self-admitted involvement by the student.
2. Witnessed student involvement by the sponsor, coach, or any staff member.
3. Parent admission of their student's involvement in tobacco, drugs, or alcohol.
4. Verification by official police report given to the school.
5. Evidence of violations through investigation by school officials.

If this offense occurs at school or on school property at any time; off the school grounds at a school-sponsored activity, function, or event; or en route to and from school, the student will be subject to the actions of the Rockdale County Public Schools Student Code of Conduct.

C VIOLATION **Alcohol/Drugs**
CONSEQUENCES *Coach/sponsor will meet with the student and parents.*
1st Offense – Suspension from any athletic/extracurricular activity for 20% of the total season and completion of C.L.U.E. program
2nd Offense – one (1) calendar year suspension from all athletic/extracurricular activities

D VIOLATION **Tobacco (any type) while representing the school, transitioning to/from**
CONSEQUENCES *1st Offense – minimum of one (1) game/activity suspension*
2nd Offense – suspension from any athletic/extracurricular activity for 20% of the total season
3rd Offense – dismissed from the team/activity but allowed to try out for subsequent athletic/extracurricular activities after that sport/activity has completed its season
4th Offense – one (1) calendar year suspension from all athletic/extracurricular activities

E VIOLATION **Violations of school rules that result in out-of-school suspension (in one school year).**
CONSEQUENCES *1st Offense – minimum of one (1) game/activity suspension*
2nd Offense – suspension from any athletic/extracurricular activity for 20% of the total season
3rd Offense – dismissed from team/activity but allowed to try out for subsequent athletic/extracurricular activities after that sport/activity has completed its season

- A student suspended will not participate in any extracurricular activity/games while suspended from school. (This includes Saturday activities/games if the suspension includes a Friday and a Monday.) At the coaches' discretion, the student may participate in practices.
- If less than 20% of a season remains, the suspension carries over to the next season of the same sport.
- All suspensions will be effective immediately following the offense.
- Violations of school rules that result in in-school suspension will be up to the discretion of the coaches and principal.

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Parents/Guardian: Please sign and return one copy to the school and retain one copy for your records.

GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

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***Intranet and Internet
Acceptable Use Agreement***

In consideration for having access to public networks, I hereby release the Rockdale County Public Schools and its officers, employees, and agents from any claims and damages arising from the use of the public networks.

I have read and agree to comply with the *Acceptable Use Procedures*, as stated in Policy Regulations IFBG-R. I also understand that any violation of the procedures is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked and disciplinary action taken.

USER NAME: _____ SCHOOL: _____
please print

USER ID #: _____ USER GRADE LEVEL: _____

USER SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

If you are under 18, a parent or guardian must also read and sign Section A of this agreement.

SECTION A | TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENT OR GUARDIAN

I have read the *Acceptable Use Procedures*, as stated in Policy Regulations IFBG-R. I understand that access is designed for educational purposes. The Rockdale County Public Schools has taken precautions to eliminate controversial material. However, I also recognize that it is impossible for the Rockdale County Public Schools to restrict access to all controversial materials and I will not hold the system responsible for materials acquired on the public network(s).

As the parent/guardian of the student named above, I hereby give permission to issue an account for my child and certify that the information on this form is correct.

NAME: _____
please print

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

SECTION B | TO BE COMPLETED BY SPONSORING TEACHER

I have read the *Acceptable Use Procedures*, as stated in Policy Regulations IFBG-R and agree to promote these procedures with the students. As the sponsoring teacher, I agree to instruct the student on acceptable use of the network(s) and proper network etiquette.

NAME: _____
please print

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Teacher | Submit completed form to your building's Technology Chairperson

Acceptable Use Procedures

These regulations describe the acceptable use procedures of the Rockdale County Public Schools' intranet and Internet connections available in all schools.

1. All use of the school system's intranet and Internet connections must be for educational purposes. Students and staff members should not use the connectivity for personal, commercial, or business use, or for political or religious reasons. Any illegal use of intranet and Internet connections is prohibited. This includes but in no means is limited to the use of electronic mail.

Examples of prohibited conduct include but are not limited to the following:

- A. Accessing, sending, creating, or posting materials or communications that are:
 - 1) Damaging to another person's reputation,
 - 2) Abusive,
 - 3) Obscene,
 - 4) Sexually oriented,
 - 5) Threatening or demeaning to another person's gender or race,
 - 6) Contrary to the school's policy on harassment,
 - 7) Harassing, or
 - 8) Illegal.
 - B. Using the network for financial gain or advertising.
 - C. Posting or plagiarizing work created by another person without their consent.
 - D. Posting anonymous or forging electronic mail messages.
 - E. Attempting to read, alter, delete, or copy the electronic mail messages of other system users.
 - F. Giving out personal information such as phone numbers, driver's license or social security numbers, bankcard or checking account information.
 - G. Sharing user name and password with others.
2. Data, information, or graphics downloaded from the Internet to a school system computer or anything uploaded from a school to another computer system on the intranet or Internet must follow current established materials selected policies, as listed in Policy IFA and Regulations IFA-R, Instructional Media and Equipment.
 3. Students and staff members must agree not to submit, publish, or display any defamatory, inaccurate, abusive, obscene, profane, sexually oriented, threatening, racially offensive, or illegal material. Transmission of material, information, or software in violation of any local, state, or federal law is prohibited.
 4. Netiquette
Students and staff members are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette (netiquette). These include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - A. Be polite. Do not get abusive in your messages to others.
 - B. Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities, or any other inappropriate language.
 - C. Do not reveal your personal address or phone numbers of students or colleagues.
 - D. Note that electronic mail (e-mail) is not guaranteed to be private. People who operate the system do have access to all mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities. Be careful about what you say about others. E-mail is easily forwarded.
 - E. Do not use the network in such a way as to disrupt the use of the network by other users.
 - F. All communications and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be private property.
 - G. Statements offered by you are your opinion and do not necessarily reflect those views held by the Rockdale County Public Schools.
 5. The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges.



Request for School Staff to Administer Medication

As the parent/guardian of _____
(PRINT student's Name)

I request that a school staff member give medication to my child. I agree that instructions for giving **non-prescription** medicine must be given by me, in writing, in order for school staff to give medicine. Any **prescription** medication that I request be given will be provided to the school in the original container as dispensed by the pharmacy (no baggies, foil, etc.), labeled with my child's name along with the following instructions:

Please use one form for each prescription/medication

Name of medication: _____

Time to be given: _____ Amount/Dose to be given: _____

Child's medication allergies: _____

Circle One: *Prescription* *Non-prescription*

If Prescription Medicine:

- a. Condition/Illness requiring medication: _____
- b. Physician's name: _____ Phone: _____
- c. Date prescribed: _____

I further agree that no school employee shall be held liable in any way for any side-effects or medical problems resulting from the school employee's giving my child medication as directed by the doctor's order(s) or as directed by me as the child's parent/guardian. I, also, will be responsible for informing the school of any changes to the medications requested above.

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

Parent/Guardian Name: (PLEASE PRINT)

Daytime Phone No. Cell Phone or Pager No.

To be completed only by School Nurse/Clinic Aid.

Date Rec'd: _____ Medicine: _____ # Doses: _____

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Student Photo and Work Release Form

TO: Parent/Guardian	FROM: Principal _____ School _____
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Within the Rockdale County public school system, we share newsworthy and notable events that happen in our schools and system with the community at large and other educational agencies to honor our schools' and our students' performance. To publicize school and/or student achievements, we like to publish student art, literary, and audio/video productions, which may or may not include your child's photograph. Various types of student work (e.g., creative writing, artwork, slide presentations, multimedia projects) and student photographs (groups or individuals) are used in the following media:

- ~ school-based website or RCPS website
- ~ local television or cable TV broadcasts
- ~ local radio broadcasts
- ~ school-based radio or TV broadcasts
- ~ local newspapers
- ~ local/national educational periodicals

When using a student's name, it is our general practice to use first names only (especially on website). In the event that two students have the same first name, the last initial will be included. There are some occasions (e.g., periodicals) when it is necessary to use both first and last names. We will NOT publish home addresses, telephone numbers, personal e-mail addresses, or materials protected by federal regulation.

Should any of your child's work be chosen for publication, your signature on this form acknowledges your permission for such work to be reproduced in any of the aforementioned media.

Please return this form to your child's teacher

YES _____ NO _____ My child's **work** and **image** (photograph) may be displayed either on the website of an individual school and/or the website for the Rockdale County Public Schools.

YES _____ NO _____ My child's **work** and **image** (photograph) may be displayed either on the school-based and local TV/radio broadcasts, school-based and local newspapers **for student accomplishments/recognitions, and/or periodicals.**

Exceptions: _____

I hereby give the above permissions and release the Rockdale County school system from any liability resulting from or connected with the publication of my child's work or photograph as outlined above.

Child's Name: _____ Teacher: _____

Parent Name: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

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Parent/Student/School Compact

The Parent-Student-School Compact is a written agreement that outlines and defines goals, expectations, and shares responsibilities of parents, students, and school staff in Rockdale County so that every student attains high academic standards and a quality education. The compact serves as a reminder and commitment that it is the duty of parent, student, and school collectively to assure that there will be support for the academic success of the student.

The School's Responsibility

- RCPS will solicit parent and community input through meetings, interviews, questionnaires, and surveys regarding the education of the students it serves.
- RCPS will provide an inviting, safe, and orderly learning environment and plan and deliver high quality instruction to students at all times.
- RCPS will offer flexible scheduling of parent meetings, parent training sessions, assemblies, and school functions to maximize parent participation.
- RCPS will establish parent resources and/or parent resource centers within each school that assist parents in acquiring information about parenting practices, workshops, volunteer opportunities, etc.
- RCPS principals will designate a parent coordinator at each school for the purpose of coordinating and disseminating information to parents, encouraging parent involvement, and advocating for parent interests.
- RCPS will provide translations of written notifications and interpreters at parent conferences, parent meetings, and training sessions.
- RCPS will notify parents of school events in a timely, efficient manner via websites, newsletters, flyers, and the Connect-Ed telephone message system.
- RCPS will convey instructional goals/initiatives to parents at school-wide meetings and conferences.
- RCPS will inform parents of the individual achievement levels of students.
- RCPS staff will communicate with parents the school's behavior management plan and administrators will contact parents concerning all major violations of the Rockdale County Public Schools Behavior Code.

The Parent's Responsibility

- As an involved parent, I will support my child by ensuring that he or she attends school daily and arrives at school on time and prepared to learn. I will make myself aware of the RCPS attendance policy and communicate with staff when my child is absent.
- I will seek information regarding my child's progress by conferring with teachers, principals, counselors, and other school personnel.
- I will attend parent conferences and visit my child's classrooms to discuss and participate in his or her education.
- When possible, I will participate in parent groups/activities to contribute to the decision-making process within the Rockdale County Public Schools.
- I will communicate positive information regarding teachers, principals, and other campus personnel when discussing school with my child.
- I will encourage high academic achievement for my child and provide a quiet place at home for him or her to study.
- I will read and support the RCPS Parent Handbook, Code of Conduct, and other policies related to my child's success. I will encourage my child to follow the rules and regulations of the school. Additionally, I will work with the teachers and staff to correct any misbehavior.
- I will communicate respectfully with school staff.

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The Student's Responsibility

- I will do my homework every day and ask for help when needed.
- I will read at least 30 minutes every day outside of school time.
- I will give my parents or the adult who is responsible for my welfare all notices and information received by me from my school every day.
- I will follow the RCPS Code of Conduct and communicate respectfully with school staff and peers at all times.
- I will attend school daily and arrive on time to class.
- I will respect the rights of others and accept and appreciate differences regarding my peers and school staff.

Student signature _____

Date _____

Parent signature _____

Date _____

Teacher signature _____

Date _____

2011-2012 School Calendar

July 22 - July 29, 2011
Professional Learning and Pre-Planning

August 1, 2011
First Day for Students

September 5, 2011
Labor Day Holiday
(holiday for staff and students)

September 8, 2011
Parent/Teacher Conference Day
(early release for students)

October 3-7, 2011
Fall Intercession
(schools closed for staff and students)

November 21-25, 2011
Thanksgiving Break
(schools closed for staff and students)

December 16, 2011
Last Day of First Semester

December 19-30, 2011
Semester Break
(schools closed for staff and students)

January 2, 2012
New Year's Day Holiday Observed
(schools closed for staff and students)

January 3, 2012
Teacher Workday
(holiday for students)

January 4, 2012
First Day of Second Semester

January 16, 2012
Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
(holiday for staff and students)

February 16, 2012
Parent/Teacher Conference Day
(early release for students)

February 20-24, 2012
Winter Intercession
(schools closed for staff and students)

April 2-6, 2012
Spring Intercession
(schools closed for staff and students)

May 24, 2012
Last Day of School for Students

May 25, 2012*
Post Planning

May 28, 2012
Memorial Day
(holiday for staff)

May 29-30, 2012
Post Planning

*Proposed High School Graduation dates
are May 25th and 26th.

Snow Make-up Days
If school is cancelled due to inclement
weather, make-up days may be used
during intercessions.

Rockdale County Public Schools
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