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**RMSST Student - Family Handbook**

**2021-2022**

**RMSST Student-Family Handbook**

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RMSST Mission Statement

**The mission of the Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology,** a specialized research-focused learning community, is to foster and produce students who think ethically, critically, and independently while excelling in competitive academic environments and demonstrating high standards and expectations distinguished by:

* + Rigorous, accelerated curriculum with real-world and global experiences
  + Student-driven scientific research
  + Opportunities to evaluate and apply technology in a variety of settings
  + Instruction in professionalism, digital citizenship, and academic integrity
  + Personalized academic support and advisement
  + Collaboration with STEM-focused institutions and industries, including the College of Engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology
  + Extracurricular academic, leadership, service, and international opportunities
  + Dedicated family and community involvement
  + Access to all programs and opportunities available at Rockdale County High School

*RCPS is in pursuit of world-class learning and at RMSST we are preparing our students to be global STEM leaders of accelerated change!*

**RCPS VISION**  
The vision of RCPS is to be a world-class learning community where all students graduate college or career ready in a progressive and interconnected society.   
  
**RCPS MISSION**  
The mission of RCPS is to ensure student success for all through a world-class education with advanced opportunities and personalized support.

RCPS Calendar

**Calendar

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A/B Period Schedule

**Chart, calendar

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\*Note: The final exam schedule is not finalized and A/B days will be adjusted during final exams.

# 2021-2022 Bell Schedule

1st Block 8:05am – 9:35am

*9:35-9:41am Transition*

2nd Block 9:41am – 11:11am

*11:11-11:17am Transition*

3rd Block 11:17am – 1:29pm

1st lunch 11:11am – 11:36am

2nd lunch 11:39am – 12:04pm

3rd lunch 12:07pm – 12:32pm

4th lunch 12:35pm – 1:00pm

5th lunch 1:03pm – 1:29pm (Magnet)

*1:29-1:35 Transition*

4th Block 1:35pm – 3:05pm

**Wellness Wednesday Schedule (every Wednesday during 3A):**

Wellness Lesson 12:40pm – 1:03pm

Lunch 1:03pm– 1:29pm

**Friday FLEX Period Schedule (1 to 2 Fridays per month):**

FLEX Period 12:15pm – 1:03pm

FLEX= **F**uture **L**eadership **E**nrichment & e**X**tracurricular Period

Lunch 1:03pm– 1:29pm

\*Students will report directly to homeroom during the first two days of school

\*Monday and Wednesday = A day \*Tuesday and Thursday = B day

\*Friday = Rotating A/B day

**RCA Bus Release Times**

* 9:35am (Release at end of 1st period) [Bus leaves at 9:45am]
* 12:40pm (Students who have 5th lunch @RCHS are released

to eat lunch @RCA) [Bus leaves at 12:45pm]

* 1:10pm (Release during 3rd period) [Bus leaves at 1:20pm]

# Homeroom List 2021-2022

Students will start the day in homeroom on the first two days of school only. Homeroom may be used occasionally throughout the year for grade-specific events or activities.

**9th Grade Homerooms:** *Organized alphabetically*

**Teacher Name Room # Students with last name**

* Robinson Room 817 Akin- Duren
* Clark Room 823 Edwards – Knusten
* Powell Room 811 Ladipo – Morgan
* Garner Room 803 Nguyen– Sledge
* Wisnewski Room 827 Small- Wright

**10th Grade Homerooms**: *Organized alphabetically*

**Teacher Name Room # Students with last name**

* Ullo Room 828 Andries – Chandler
* Matthews Room 804 Christie – Hoyte
* Kinsey Room 812 James – Patel
* Kennen Room 816 Powell- Wells

**11th Grade Homerooms** : *Organized alphabetically*

**Teacher Name Room # Students with last name**

* Darvishian Room 802 Ayala Bernardin - Fowler-Soopal
* D. Williams Room 824 Gomez- Kiswi
* Huebsch Room 818 Lanes- Parker
* Hornbeck Room 829 Ponder- Wood

**12th Grade**: *Organized alphabetically*

**Teacher Name Room # Students with last name**

* Sommer Room 830 Aguilar- Cornelius
* Bolen Room 826 Daley-Harris
* Jones Room 814 Hollingsworth- Oniha
* Seagraves Room 815 Page- Ziglar

# Magnet Parent-Student Workshops

August 12 12th Grade: College Applications 6:00-7:30pm

September 2 9th grade: Transition to High School 6:00-7:30pm

September 23 10th Grade: Advanced Academic Support 6:00-7:30pm

October 14 11th Grade: Support Strategies & College Prep 6:00-7:30pm

November 9 Eligible Student Night- DMS & EMS 6:00-7:30pm

November 10 Eligible Student Night- CMS & MMS 6:00-7:30pm

January 6 11th Grade: Advisement 6:00-7:30pm

January 13 9th & 10th Grades: Advisement 6:00-7:30pm

March 3 Rising 9th Grade Meeting: Advisement 6:00-7:30pm

March 31 11th Grade: 12th grade & College prep! 6:00-7:30pm

We request that all parents and students attend grade-level meetings on the specified dates above. These meetings will include a rotation of topics that will be designed to keep you informed and involved in magnet activities, decision-making, college planning, advisement, and course registration.

Parents are encouraged to check the RMSST website and follow RMSST @RockdaleMagnet on Twitter for announcements, upcoming events, and more!

# Key Magnet Events

**Save the Date\*!**

\* The weekly Magnet News email will include reminders and details on key dates

**Fall Semester**

Panda Express Spirit Night for Fund – Tuesday, August 17

12th grade College Readiness Retreat- Friday, August 27

11 Acts of Kindness Day @ RMSST- Friday, September 10

Magnet Fund Drive In Move Night – Friday, September 10

PSAT Test for 9th-11th Grade- Wednesday, October 13

Cape Day Celebration for Children’s Healthcare- Friday, October 15

Rockdale Mathematics Tournament- Saturday, October 16

National Chemistry Week- October 17-21

Red Ribbon Week- October 24-28

Monster Dash 5K and Fun Run/Walk – Friday, October 29

Magnet Fall Ball Dance- Saturday, November 13

RMSST School Science Fair- Friday, December 10

**Spring Semester**

Honor Roll Celebration- Friday, January 28

Regional Science Fair- Friday, February 4

Black History Month Flex Assembly- Friday, February 11

Heart Week- Feb 14-18

VIP (Very Important Parent) Day – Friday, March 4

Magnet Talent Show- Friday, March 18

Rock Your Socks Day @ RMSST – Monday, March 21

Pastries for Parents – Friday, March 25

Freshman Poster Session & 9th grade Awards- Thursday, April 14

National Student Leadership Week- April 17-22

Magnet Family Picnic & Kickball Tournament- Thursday, April 21

Sophomore & Junior Awards Night- Thursday, May 19th

Magnet Senior Awards Banquet – Friday, May 13

# General Policies and Procedures

**Campus Hours & Building Logistics**

1. The building officially opens at 7:30am and closes at 3:15pm. If you are in the building before or after these times, then you must be with a specific teacher or sponsor for a specific purpose.
   * All students staying after school for extracurricular activities, office hours, tutorial sessions, etc. must be picked up within 15 minutes of the ending time of the activity. All students will be asked to wait outside for their parents after 3:15pm or at the conclusion of after-school activities.
   * Getting extra help from teachers is important. If you are struggling academically, it is important to seek help before you get too far behind. Attending afterschool office hours and tutorial sessions is encouraged as well as asking questions during class.
2. For the first two days of school students should report directly to homeroom (after getting breakfast if they choose to do so). After the first two days, students should report directly to their first period teacher’s classroom until the common areas are able to be open. When public health conditions allow, the Learning Commons will be open and supervised at 7:30am-7:55am daily. We encourage students to use this quiet area to work on homework, use the computers, or get help with math. When public health conditions allow, the cafetorium will be open 7:30am-8:00am daily as a gathering place.
3. Breakfast & Lunch:
   * Students wishing to purchase meals must do so from the RCHS cafeteria. Please note that no food is served at Magnet.
   * Grab-n-Go Breakfast is served in the RCHS cafeteria and the RCHS front lobby until 8:00am. If you arrive on a late bus, visit the RCHS front office for a breakfast pass.
   * Each teacher is assigned a 25-minute lunch period. Your 3rd block teachers will inform you of your assigned lunch period.
   * All students are expected to report to the RCHS Cafetorium (any students) or Magnet Cafetorium (option for students in a Magnet 3rd block class who brought their lunch) for their assigned lunch period and remain there for the entire lunch period.
   * Students are not allowed to order lunch for delivery to school.
   * Students are not allowed to leave campus to purchase lunch and return.

**Code of Conduct and Behavior**

1. Students must sign and abide by the RCPS Student Code of Conduct. The RCHS Tardy Policy and Dress Code will be enforced. Students may be withdrawn from RMSST for disciplinary reasons.Violations of the following sections of the RCPS Student Code of Conduct may result in immediate long-term suspension from school and withdrawal from Magnet: Alcohol, Bullying, Drug, Sexual Misconduct, and Weapons.
2. Students must sign and abide by the Magnet Honor Code. Students may be withdrawn from RMSST as a result of Honor Code violations.
3. Students must sign and abide by the RCPS Technology Usage Agreement. Any student using the school computers for unauthorized purposes or using another student’s login may lose computer privileges.

**Dress Code**

1. The Rockdale County School System has a district-wide dress code. The complete text of this code can be found in the Rockdale County Code of Student Conduct and Discipline. The purpose of the dress code is to restrict styles of dress which create a disruption or interference with classroom activities. The RCHS Dress code include these provisions:

* Obscene pictures, symbols, or depictions of illegal drugs, tobacco products, or alcoholic beverages shall not appear on clothing.
* Students are not allowed to wear hats or headgear inside the building.
* Students are not allowed to wear slides to school.
* No short shorts/no mini-skirts (shorts or skirts must come to the top of the knee)
* Extremely baggy pants and oversized shirts are not allowed.
* Low-cut blouses, low-cut dresses, or low-cut shirts are not allowed.
* Any shirt or blouse that is sleeveless must have a collar.
* Any shirt or blouse that does not have a collar must have sleeves.
* No tank tops.
* Bare midriffs are not allowed.
* Spandex pants/skirts are not allowed.
* No immodest or extreme fashion is permitted.
* Pants, shorts must be worn at the waist.
* No ripped jeans unless something is worn underneath to prevent skin from showing.
* No jeans with large holes regardless if the skin is not showing.
* Any clothing considered inappropriate by the administrators will not be allowed and will result in consequences.

1. Students with dress code violations will be asked to call home for a change of clothing to be brought to the school on the first occasion. If someone is not available to do so, the student will have the opportunity to borrow an item from the professional dress closet or be sent to ISS for the remainder of the day. Repeat offenders will be dealt with individually by an administrator using the consequences outlined in the RCPS Parent Handbook which includes in-school and potential out-of-school suspension.

**Tardies & Attendance**

1. Tardies:
2. Students must arrive in their assigned classroom no later than 8:05 am each morning.
   1. If a student is tardy to school but arrives before 8:20am, they will report directly to class. The student will be marked tardy by the teacher.
   2. If a student arrives after 8:20am, the student must check-in at the front office. The student will be marked tardy (excused or unexcused) by the office staff and will be given a pass to class.
3. Tardies will be marked as unexcused unless the student has a written excuse note from a parent stating that the student was ill, at a doctor’s appointment, etc.
4. Students are expected to arrive on time for each class. If a student who was already present for school arrives after the tardy bell, the teacher will record a tardy in Infinite Campus. See Check-in procedures for information on late arrivals to campus.
   1. If a student is more than 15 minutes late to class, the teacher will submit a discipline referral for skipping.
5. Tardy reports will be run daily, and consequences will be assigned for overall cumulative tardies as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Number of Times Tardy** | **Consequence** |
| 1st | Warning |
| 2nd -3rd | Warning and Parent Contact |
| 4th | Student and Parent Conference |
| 5th | Administrative Contract Issued. Parent, Counselor and Attendance Admin Conference |
| 6th | 45 Minute After School Detention  (3:15 PM – 4:00 PM) |
| 7th | 45 Minute After School Detention  (3:15 PM – 4:00 PM) |
| 8th | ISS and Parent Conference, with Counselor/Social Worker, and Administrator. |
| 9+ | Administrator determined including ISS/OSS. Privileges/Activities Revoked. |

**NOTE:** Students failing to fulfill the assigned consequence will receive additional consequences as determined by the administrator. Detentions are Thursdays 3:15 PM – 4:00 PM. Transportation is the responsibility of the parent whose child is assigned to detention.

1. Attendance: Students must be in their assigned class each period. If you must leave the classroom, a hall pass must be given by the teacher. If you are not in your assigned class and do not have teacher permission to be out of class, then you are considered skipping (RCPS Code of Conduct 10.2, 1-10 days suspension).
2. Check In:If a student arrives to school any time after 8:20 AM they are currently marked absent in their class and need to be checked into school. The student will sign the check-in/check-out log in the front office and turn in any documentation (doctor’s excuses, court papers, written notes, etc.) to the Attendance folder. The front office will give the student a “check-in pass” that will allow them admission to class. If written documentation is provided it will be an excused check-in, if not, it will be an unexcused check-in. This information and the time of arrival will be entered in Infinite Campus.
3. Check-Outs:  Students who will be checking out during the day must bring a note to the Magnet 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.  A copy of a guardian’s driver’s license or other government ID must be provided to the school when the note is verified for a student to check themselves out. Parents may also come into the magnet office to check students out. Students will only be called from class once a parent is in the Magnet office. Students are not permitted to check out of school during lunch to go off campus for lunch.  Checkouts will be counted as tardies; only reasons listed for excused absences can be counted as excused tardies.No check-outs are permitted after 2:45pm.
4. Students cannot leave campus during the school day without following the check-out protocol. Students may not leave campus for lunch. The only exception to the check-out protocol are students going to a class at Rockdale Career Academy or for their internship off campus. Teachers will share instructions for leaving campus with these students.
5. Students leaving and coming into the class are distractions to the learning process.  Therefore, we discourage students from leaving school during the day, and we encourage parents to schedule appointments for students at times other than school hours.
6. A student should bring an excused absence note to the magnet office within 3 school days of their return to school. Otherwise, it will automatically be recorded as an unexcused absence.
7. Students will be allowed two excused absences for college visits. Please notify your counselor and teachers in advance of your planned absence. The student must provide documentation of the visit from the school upon return. Any visits beyond two are considered unexcused absences per RCPS Board Policy JB; however, you are permitted and encouraged to complete all Magnet make-up work. Arrangements for RCHS make-up work must be made with the teacher directly. For Magnet senior exam exemptions, documented college and scholarship visits will not count in a student’s total absence number.

**School Safety**

1. Fire drills will be held twice during the first two weeks of school and once each month for the remainder of the school year.
2. Evacuation routes are posted in every classroom.
3. When an alarm sounds, every student is expected to follow the instructions given by the teacher and to proceed in a calm, orderly manner to your designated area.
4. If the school is placed on lockdown, all doors will be locked. Any students, faculty, or staff in the hallway should proceed to the nearest classroom or office for shelter. All persons will be required to stay in place until the lockdown has been lifted. Do not open the door for any reason.
5. All RCPS guidelines for mitigation of infectious disease will be followed. Families will be informed of any changes in expectations should they occur. For the start of school, the following mitigation strategies are in place:

* Masks are required
* Students are expected to maintain 3 feet of social distance
* Hand sanitizing stations are available and should be used frequently
* Frequent hand washing should happen during breaks and in classrooms as available
* Increased cleaning protocols are being followed by our custodial staff

**Absences and Make-up Work**

1. A student should bring an excused absence note to the magnet office within 3 school days of their return to school. Otherwise, it will automatically be recorded as an unexcused absence.
2. Work due during an unexcused absence will count as a zero unless a student completes the late work submission form and process as required for that class.
   * Students have a minimum of 5 school days from the original due date to complete the plan on a late work submission request and submit the late work.
   * All late work submission ends five school days prior to the first exam day.
   * Long-term assignments (those worked on over two weeks or longer) are due as assigned (see number 13 below for more information).
3. When student absences are excused, students will be allowed to make up their work during their absence.  Students who have an excused absence should initiate arrangements for completion of missed assignments with teachers on the first day they return.  The teacher will determine deadlines for completion of assignments at this time.  Students, not teachers, are responsible for obtaining missed assignments. Students are encouraged to ask for work in advance if there is a planned absence. This also applies to absences due to a school-related function.
4. Work assigned before an excused absence occurs must be turned in on the first day of your return to school (see below for long-term assignments). This also applies to absences due to a school-related function.
5. Long-term assignments (those worked on over two weeks or longer) are due as assigned and not eligible for a late work submission form; a student is responsible for this due date even if absent.  All long-term assignments will include progress checks during the work period for the project. If a student has not made progress at the check point, then teachers will notify parents.

**Enrollment and Academic Expectations**

1. Students are committed to attending RMSST for four years unless the Magnet Director and RCPS Assistant Superintendent grant a transfer approval.
2. Students may only withdraw from RMSST at the beginning or end of a semester if approved by the Magnet Director and RCPS Assistant Superintendent. Students who are not zoned for RCHS but wish to remain at RCHS must complete a waiver application with the Office of Teaching and Learning on West Avenue. A committee meets regularly to review these applications.
3. Academic interventions are an important part of Magnet life. Magnet Teachers/Counselors /Administrators conduct meetings with students and parents. Students will be placed on academic support contact if one or more of their semester grades are less than 75%. A student may be removed from academic support contact if all grades are 80% or higher at midterm. Students on academic support contact are required to attend student led conferences with administration twice a semester to set goals and check-in on current progress.
4. Students will be withdrawn from RMSST if they fail one or more courses in a semester. This does include non-magnet classes. Students may appeal this policy if he/she has completed all support contact requirements or if there are substantial extenuating circumstances which have negatively impacted the student’s academic achievement. In this case, an Appeal Hearing is held and a final decision is determined by the Appeal Board. Students may not appeal if they have failed more than two classes and/or have not completed academic support contact requirements. An appeal request is allowed only once per student throughout the four years.
5. RMSST extracurricular clubs and teams may each have participation rules, and students are expected to maintain a 70% or higher in all classes throughout the semester to remain in good standing with their extracurricular organizations.

**Final Exams**

1. Final exams are given at the end of the semester and count as 20% of the overall grade for the semester. Students in Biology, Coordinate Algebra, US History, and American Literature are required to take the Georgia Milestone Assessment at the end of the course.
2. Students will not be permitted to take final exams early. Students will only be permitted to take late exams if the absences are excused and permission has been obtained from an administrator.
3. Final Exam Exemption:
   1. Students may exempt final exams only if all of the conditions below have been met for an individual course.

* Students must have an 85 or above
* Five or fewer unexcused tardies per course per semester
* Three unexcused absences
* Three or fewer major referrals as defined by SWIS per semester for all classes combined

1. Students earn eligibility to exempt each individual exam. An exemption in one course is not a guarantee of exemption in other courses.
2. Students may not exempt state mandated milestone end of course exams under any circumstances. Courses with mandated end of course exams are: Biology, Coordinate Algebra, US History, and American Literature

**Parent Involvement**

1. All parents are requested to attend grade level meetings as scheduled, Magnet Banquet, and extracurricular activities in which your student participates throughout the year. Your presence and support makes a difference in your child’s academic achievement.
2. We request that all families participate in social and fundraising events coordinated by the Rockdale Magnet Fund, Inc. The Fund membership dues are collected at Open House.

#### 

# Academic Honor Code

**Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology**

**Part I: Purpose of the Honor Code**

The members of the Rockdale Magnet School Community believe that the fundamental objective of the Institution is to provide the students with a high-quality education while developing in them a sense of ethics and social responsibility. We believe that trust is an integral part of the learning process and that self-discipline is necessary in this pursuit. We also believe that any instance of dishonesty hurts the entire community. It is with this in mind that we have set forth a Student Honor Code at the Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology.

**Part II: The Honor Pledge**

As a member of the Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology, I understand the objective of the institution is to provide high school students with a high-quality education which fosters academic integrity, scientific ethics, and social responsibility. I pledge and accept my responsibility as a member of the Rockdale Magnet School Community to rigorously uphold and to abide unconditionally by the Honor Code at all times. I promise that I will not participate in any form of academic misconduct. In addition, I understand it is my responsibility to hold others to these same standards and it is my duty to report honor code violations as defined in the code.

**Part III: Definitions**

Academic dishonesty is a critical offense at the Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology. Without regard to motive, conduct that is academically dishonest consists of:

1. Cheating – intentionally using, attempting to use, or possessing unauthorized materials, information, technology, or study aids in any academic exercise
2. Plagiarism – unintentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of someone else without properly acknowledging the source; unintentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to violate any provision of this Code
3. Fabrication and Falsification – includes but not limited to inventing experimental data or changing experimental data of any information or citation in an academic exercise
4. Recycling Fraud- The reuse of significant, identical, or nearly identical portions of one's own work without acknowledging that one is doing so or citing the original work is a form of “self-plagiarism”. This includes submitting an assignment for credit in multiple classes without informing the teachers.

**Part IV: Outline of Protocol for Misconduct**

A collection of evidence is used in academic misconduct cases at Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology. Each case must be proven by a preponderance of evidence, more commonly known as the “more likely than not” standard of proof.

1. In the event that a violation is observed or suspected, the teacher/student will make a written statement at the request of the Assistant Director.
2. The Assistant Director will speak with the accused student to gather information and notify parents.
3. The Assistant Director will lead the investigation and present evidence to the Honor Code Council.
4. If after investigating the Assistant Director determines the situation could be a violation then the Honor Code Council will schedule a hearing. The hearing will be held within five school days.
   1. If the student confesses and the Assistant Director agrees with the student assessment that the student violated honor code, then at the Assistant Director’s discretion a consequence may be issued for first violations without a full Honor Code Council. First time violations, even with an admission of violation, can go to the Honor Code Council if deemed necessary.
5. The Honor Code Council shall review the evidence, interpret the Honor Code, and administer consequences for Honor Code violations. The Honor Code Council will be composed of at least 3 of the following members:
   * Magnet administrator
   * Magnet teachers (other than current teachers of the accused student)
   * RCHS administrators
   * Magnet student representatives
   * Magnet alumni

**Part V: Consequences**

Penalties that may be imposed include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Zero on assignment/quizzes/test/project/lab
2. Re-do assignment/quizzes/test/project/lab
3. Academic Integrity Paper
4. Administrative Detention
5. Community Service Hours
6. In School Suspension (ISS)
7. Notation on permanent record
8. A second violation will automatically result in notification of academic dishonesty to colleges and universities during the application process.
9. A third violation will result in the student’s removal from the Rockdale Magnet School and transfer to zoned high school at the end of the semester.

*Adapted from the Honor Codes of Agnes Scott, Georgia College, Georgia Tech, Rice University, Southern Polytechnic State University, Thomas Jefferson High School, University of Georgia, and Young Harris College (2012)*

# Acceptable Conduct for School Functions

The Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology is committed to creating and maintaining an environment in which all persons who participate in off-campus school functions feel safe and comfortable. All participants are expected to conduct themselves professionally and exhibit exemplary behavior during school functions as they are representing our school, district, and community. Please review the following expectations:

1. All RCPS, RCHS, and RMSST rules apply during off-campus school functions.
2. Possession or consumption of any form of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal substance (by Georgia law) will not be tolerated. Any student found to have abused this rule will be sent home immediately at their parent’s expense and suspended from school with possible recommendation for expulsion.
3. When students are divided into specific groups, you are to stay with that group without exception! At no time are you to be out in public by yourself. Always use the “buddy system”.
4. You are responsible for keeping up with your own money and belongings. Do not leave your items lying around anywhere, including in your room.
5. All students are expected to attend all events, whether you are participating or not. Keep a copy of your itinerary and rules and regulations with you at all times. Please follow your itinerary closely, being early for all departures.
6. Chaperones reserve the right to enter and search any student’s room or belongings at any time without warning.
7. Always wear appropriate attire and display behavior that is representative of any RMSST student. Jeans, shorts, and/or flip flops should never be worn unless prior approval has been granted. Controversial clothing such as spaghetti straps, tank tops, frayed clothing, and clothing advertising alcohol, drugs, profanity, and sexual pictures is unacceptable. Students will be asked to change if this problem occurs.
8. There shall be no public display of affection (PDA) at any time.
9. Cell phones and other devices should not be used during activities or after curfew.
10. Females and males should never be in the same hotel room, dorm room, etc. If this occurs, the student(s) will be dismissed from the event. All expenses for the student to return home will be the responsibility of the child’s family.
11. All students must remain in their assigned area (hotel room, dorm, host family’s home, etc.) after curfew. If students are found outside of their rooms after curfew, they will be excused from the event. All expenses for the student to return home will be the responsibility of the child’s family.

# Magnet Graduation Requirements

**All students must successfully complete, at a minimum, the following courses in order to receive a Magnet Diploma:**

* AP Environmental Science
* Magnet Biology
* Magnet Chemistry
* AP Physics C
* Four magnet mathematics units with a minimum of one unit of Magnet Calculus
* Three units of Magnet Research
* Four English/Language Arts credits to include 2 units of Magnet English
* One senior specialized elective credit: Microbiology, Organic Chemistry, AP Computer Science, Mathematics in Industry and Government, History of Mathematics, Oceanography, or Astronomy *(other courses may be added to this list at the discretion of the Magnet Director)*
* Four units of Social Studies- American Gov’t, World History, US History, and Economics
* Half unit of Health and half unit of Personal Fitness
* Two units of the same World Language
* One unit of senior capstone credit: Scientific Internship or Research IV
* One unit Magnet Technology Course

**Class Rank** is determined by each student’s weighted GPA.

**Honor Graduates** will be defined as Cum Laude (3.5-3.69), Magna Cum Laude (3.7-3.89), and Summa Cum Laude (3.9+). Weighted GPA is used to determine these honors.

**Magnet Valedictorian and Salutatorian**:

Valedictorian and Salutatorian will be decided based upon the RCPS Board Policy IHD-R.

1. Each school and Magnet program will have a Valedictorian and Salutatorian at graduation.
2. The Valedictorian and Salutatorian will be determined as follows:
   1. Be identified as a Board Scholar.
   2. Have been enrolled in the awarding high school for a minimum of two years, which is defined as four full, consecutive semesters.  Students must be enrolled prior to the 10th day of Fall semester for the semester to be included in the 4 semester requirement.
   3. Be identified based on the highest and second highest weighted GPA.
   4. Designees shall be determined at the end of first semester after grades have been posted.
   5. In the event of a tie (a matching GPA):
      1. For the first tie-breaker, the students will be identified based on the highest and second highest numeric average.
      2. For the second tie-breaker, the students will be identified based on the highest and second highest total SAT score.
3. The principal reserves the final decision as to whether there shall be speakers at graduation ceremonies and, if any, who they shall be.  This honor does not go automatically to the Valedictorian and/or Salutatorian.
4. Valedictorians and Salutatorians shall be recognized and shall have the opportunity to have an active part in graduation ceremonies.

**To remain in good standing, students must:**

* Follow all rules and regulations of RMSST & RCHS. Abide by the Magnet Honor Code.
* All grades must be 75% or above in all classes. If a student has a grade of 70-74%, then he/she will be placed on an academic support contract.
* If a student has a grade below 70% at the end of a semester in any class, then they will be withdrawn from RMSST. At this time, any student who is not zoned for RCHS will return to the school for which they are zoned.

**RCPS Grading Scale**

The RCPS grading scale has been revised to reflect the following:

* A= 90-100 (4 quality points)
* B= 80-89 (3 quality points)
* C= 70-79 (2 quality points)
* F= 69 and below

**How to Calculate Your GPA**

**Un-weighted GPA:**

* Assign a value to each grade on your transcript
  + A = 4
  + B = 3
  + C = 2
  + D = 1
  + F = 0
* Calculate the total of these points
* Divide this sum by the number of courses on the transcript

**Weighted GPA:**

* Assign a value to each grade associated with a course on your transcript that is NOT weighted
  + A = 4
  + B = 3
  + C = 2
  + D = 1
  + F = 0
* Assign a value to each grade associated with a magnet or AP course on your transcript
  + A = 5.2
  + B = 4.2
  + C = 3.2
  + D = 2.2
  + F = 0
* Calculate the total of these points
* Divide this sum by the number of courses on the transcript

**HOPE GPA:**

* Your HOPE GPA is calculated based on grades earned in the core subject areas only. Everything is on the un-weighted scale except for AP courses which count an A=4.5, B=3.5, etc.
* Not all courses on your transcript are used to calculate your HOPE GPA
* Set up an account at [www.gacollege411.org](http://www.gacollege411.org) to view your estimated HOPE GPA

***Class Rank is determined by your weighted GPA***

# Who Do I Contact When a Problem Arises?

* The first point of contact for any issues that are related to grades or teacher-student conflicts should be the classroom teacher. If the issue is not resolved, contact the Assistant Director, Dr. Corey Williams. If he/she cannot solve the problem or answer your questions, then the situation will be referred to Mrs. Amanda Baskett.
* Contact your student’s counselor if you have questions or concerns related to social and emotional learning, college and career preparation, scheduling, and/or advisement.
  + Ms. Tracy Ivery- students with last name A through K
  + Ms. Jennifer Harris- students with last name L through Z
* Contact the Assistant Director with any issues that are related to classroom discipline. If the Assistant Director cannot solve the problem or answer your questions, then he will refer the situation to the Director, Mrs. Amanda Baskett, and/or a RCHS administrator.
* Contact the Assistant Director with any issues that are related to the magnet curriculum. If the Assistant Director cannot answer your questions, then he will refer the situation to the Director, Mrs. Amanda Baskett, and/or a RCHS School administrator.
* Contact Mrs. Stephanie Bradford, Magnet Admissions Secretary, with any issues that are related to various magnet events such as the Magnet College Trips, Magnet Selection Process, Family Picnic, Awards Banquet, and Summer Adventure.
* Contact Mr. Scott Bolen with questions about science fairs, research, or internship class.
* Contact Mr. Andrae Sparkman, Magnet Tech Support, if you have any problems with or questions about your Dell laptops. His office is located in room 808.
* Contact Mr. Tommy Schie, Digital Learning Specialist, if you have any problems accessing Infinite Campus, itsLearning, or the school website.
* Contact Mr. Terrance Hollingsworth, President of Magnet Fund, Inc or Ms. Amber Waltower with any questions related to the Rockdale Magnet Fund, Inc.

We ask that you contact these individuals first before contacting central office staff, school board members, or Rockdale County High School administrators so that we are made aware of the problems and are given a chance to solve them.

# Contact Information

Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology

Phone: (770) 483-8737

Fax: (770) 483-7379

Address: 930 Rowland Road Conyers, GA 30012

Website: <http://www.magnet.rockdaleschools.org/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/rockdalemagnet> @RockdaleMagnet

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RockdaleMagnet>

***Administration and Staff:***

Amanda Baskett, Director

[abaskett@rockdale.k12.ga.us](mailto:abaskett@rockdale.k12.ga.us)

Corey Williams, Assistant Director

[cwilliams1@rockdale.k12.ga.us](mailto:cwilliams1@rockdale.k12.ga.us)

Jennifer Harris, Magnet Counselor

[jharris1@rockdale.k12.ga.us](mailto:jharris1@rockdale.k12.ga.us)

Tracy Ivery, Magnet Counselor

[tivery@rockdale.k12.ga.us](mailto:Tcobb1@rockdale.k12.ga.us)

Andrae Sparkman, Technology Intel

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Beth Dire, Bookkeeper

[bdire@rockdale.k12.ga.us](mailto:bdire@rockdale.k12.ga.us)

Stephanie Bradford, Admissions Secretary

[sbradford@rockdale.k12.ga.us](mailto:sbradford@rockdale.k12.ga.us)

Ashley Jackson, Registrar/Secretary

[ajackson@rockdale.k12.ga.us](mailto:ajackson@rockdale.k12.ga.us)

Amber Waltower, Receptionist

[awaltower@rockdale.k12.ga.us](mailto:awaltower@rockdale.k12.ga.us)

***Faculty:***

Mr. Scott Bolen

[sbolen@rockdale.k12.ga.us](mailto:sbolen@rockdale.k12.ga.us)

Dr. Lynette Clark

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Dr. Chuck Garner

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Mrs. Tiffany Jones

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Ms. Diana Kennen

[dkennen@rockdale.k12.ga.us](mailto:dkennen@rockdale.k12.ga.us)

Mrs. Jennifer Kinsey

[jkinsey@rockdale.k12.ga.us](mailto:jkinsey@rockdale.k12.ga.us)

Mr. Tommy Schie

[tschie@rockdale.k12.ga.us](mailto:tschie@rockdale.k12.ga.us)

Ms. Julie Matthews

[jmatthews@rockdale.k12.ga.us](mailto:jmatthews@rockdale.k12.ga.us)

Mrs. Susan Powell

[spowell@rockdale.k12.ga.us](mailto:spowell@rockdale.k12.ga.us)

Mr. David Hornbeck

[dhornbeck@rockdale.k12.ga.us](mailto:dhornbeck@rockdale.k12.ga.us)

Mr. Scott Robinson

[srobinson@rockdale.k12.ga.us](mailto:srobinson@rockdale.k12.ga.us)

Mr. Darian Darvishian

[ddarvishian@rockdale.k12.ga.us](mailto:asimmons2@rockdale.k12.ga.us)

Mrs. Shelley Seagraves

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Mr. Michael Sommer

msommer@rockdale.k12.ga.us

Mrs. Cherie Ullo

[cullo@rockdale.k12.ga.us](mailto:cullo@rockdale.k12.ga.us)

Mrs. Dametria Williams

[dwilliams@rockdale.k12.ga.us](mailto:dwilliams@rockdale.k12.ga.us)

Mrs. Kimberly Wisnewski

[kwisnewski@rockdale.k12.ga.us](mailto:kwisnewski@rockdale.k12.ga.us)

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# Magnet Extracurricular Opportunities

1. Colleges and universities want to see that you have been *actively involved* in extra-curricular activities. This means that you should choose a few activities and stick with them for several years. Show that you are an involved member!
2. It is also important to hold leadership positions (officer, chairperson, etc.) within these organizations.
3. The clubs and teams at Magnet are organized into four broad categories: Academic, Enrichment, Service and Advocacy, and Leadership.
4. Students are encouraged to work toward becoming a Bulldog Scholar by their senior year through two or more years of dedicated involvement in both a Magnet and RCHS extracurricular activity.
5. Students in the Rockdale County Schools must meet certain requirements in order to participate in extra-curricular activities. These requirements are determined by the Rockdale Board of Education, the Georgia Department of Education and the Georgia High School Association. A student must meet the requirements of ALL these agencies to be eligible for participation in ANY extra-curricular activity that includes interscholastic competition.

**ACADEMIC TEAMS & CLUBS**

**Magnet Book Club & Reading Bowl- Mrs. Wisnewski**

The Book Club meet’s monthly to discuss popular books of interest. Any student that enjoys reading for leisure should attend.

**Magnet Green Team – Dr. Clark**

The Magnet Green team allows students to apply environmental science knowledge. The team focuses on sustainability, gardening, and other projects to support protecting the environment.

**Magnet Incorporated – Mr. Robinson**

This is a group for inspiring entrepreneurs that meet to develop business ideas and innovate in their respective fields.

**Rockdale Magnet Math Team – Dr. Garner**

Students in grades 9-12 are invited to participate on the Math Team. Students enrolled in Math I and Math II can 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. The Math Team participates in contests and tournaments throughout the fall and spring semesters. The contests are done in-house; that is, 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. Each participant’s performance on each contest and tournament is ranked and converted to points. The sum of all points earned is the factor by which Math Team performance is judged. Math Team students have the potential to earn an athletic letter.

**Robotics, Engineering, & Computers Science (RECS) Team – Mrs. Williams**

This team will participate in robotics, engineering, and computer science competitions with opportunities to use the engineering design process to address real problems.

**Rockdale Magnet Science Team – Ms. Kennen**

The Magnet Science Team participates in numerous competitions such as Science Bowl, USA Biology Olympiad, Envirothon, and US National Chemistry Olympiad. Students are able to apply and build their science skills in fun, collaborative setting.

**Magnet Speech and Debate Team – Mrs. Ullo**

The Speech and Debate Team is a speech and debate oriented team. Members compete in everything from debates on government policy to writing speeches in short periods of time. We compete at many tournaments throughout the state each year. There is an event available for you if you like public speaking.

**Model United Nations – Mrs. Matthews**

RMSST Model United Nations allows students to experience a simulation of the United Nations General Assembly and its other multilateral bodies where students perform in an ambassador role while finding solutions to worldwide problems such as gender equality, climate action, global health and more. Students are able to learn about current events, improve writing skills, work as a team to develop leadership abilities, and attend public conferences with other schools.

**ENRICHMENT CLUBS & TEAMS**

**Magnet Association of Artists- Mr. Huebsch**

This club is an organization whose goal is to incorporate more artistic elements into all Magnet extracurricular activities and to enhance the artistic abilities of members.

**Magnet Camera Club- Mr. Robinson**

This club works to document Magnet events and develop the annual Memory Book. Students practice their photography and digital layout skills in a social environment.

**Magnet Foreign Film & Food Club – Mrs. Williams**

This organization meets for students to apply their language skills and learn more about cultures from around the work through food and film.

**Magnet The Gathering –Mrs. Kinsey**

Magnet the Gathering is a club for students who enjoy strategy gaming. Students and sponsors bring in various board and card games every week that help students with memory, logic, and forward thinking.

**Team Loadstone Youth eSports League** – Mr. Sommer and Mr. Darvishian

The eSports team build their skills and compete in Local and National Tournaments during Fall Semester and the Youth eSports League (YeL) during the Spring Semester each year.

**LEADERSHIP** *(leadership opportunities also exist within each club/team)*

**Magnet Ambassador Program – Mrs. Baskett**

The Ambassador Program was established in 2009 to provide an opportunity for students to serve as leaders in our school community. Students with excellent communication skills and the ability to interact with both students and adults are encouraged to get involved. Ambassadors are responsible for serving as tour guides during school visits, making presentations at elementary and middle schools across the district, and participating in outreach events. Applications are available in December.

**Magnet Peer Mentoring Program – Dr. Williams**

The Peer Mentoring Program was established in 2004 as a means of creating a support system for 9th grade students entering the Magnet School. Rising 10th, 11th and 12th grade students apply for the mentoring positions and are selected based on their grades and leadership characteristics. The mentors are responsible for planning and executing activities for Summer Adventure as well as scheduling other social events and meetings with their peer group. At the meetings, the mentors speak to the students about getting acclimated to high school and magnet school life. They check on their lockers, school supplies, organizational habits, time management skills, and social adjustment as well as their academic progress. Applications are typically available in December each year.

**Magnet Peer Tutors – Ms. Harris**

Applications to be a peer tutor are distributed in August each year to current 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students. One or more peer tutors will be selected for mathematics and AP Sciences and will work closely with the teacher to determine tutoring needs, activities, and so forth. Students who work well with others and have strong content knowledge and the ability to explain information clearly are encouraged to apply.

**Magnet Student Council – Mrs. Powell**

Student Council is a student organization that seeks to unify and recognize the efforts of RMSST’s leadership, academic, and service communities. Student council organizes Back to School Week, Heart Week, and National Student Leadership Week. They are responsible for planning whole school recognition Flex assemblies and also put on an annual Fall Ball.

**SERVICE & ADVOCACY CLUBS**

**Magnet Asian American and Pacific Islanders STEM Student Union-Ms. Ivery**

The Asian American and Pacific Islanders STEM Student Union meets to embrace culture and to support the empowerment of AAPI students in not only their daily life but future STEM careers.

**Magnet Black Student STEM Union- Dr. Williams**

The purpose of this organization is to help students strive for academic excellence, promote positive images of African Americans and help students become an integral part of a STEM community. Students plan Black History month activities and community service projects for the school.

**Magnet Gay-Straight Alliance – Mrs. Wisnewski**

Gay-Straight Alliance is a social networking organization that promotes diversity, inclusion, and acceptance throughout the school and community and provides a safe, non-judgmental space in support of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersexed, questioning, and straight youth who share a common vision.

**LatinX- Ms. Ivery**

LatinX is a student led organization created to support the Latino community within Rockdale County. The club also serves to spread knowledge and awareness of Latino culture and traditions while also encouraging the Latino community to pursue STEM.

**Sophisticated Men of Excellence – Dr. Williams**

This club is designed for young men who would like to focus on serving our school and community while also building leadership and communication skills. The Sophisticated Men of Excellence members assist with a variety of projects and serve as positive role models.

**Women on the Way to Success – Mrs. Jones**

This club is designed for young women who would like to focus on serving our school and community while also building leadership and communication skills. WOWS members assist with a variety of projects and serve as positive female role models.

# Bulldog Scholars & RCHS Extracurriculars

Diagram

Description automatically generated

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Check the bulletin boards, RCHS website, and listen to the morning/afternoon announcements for information about RCHS club meetings and events.



# Rockdale Magnet Fund, Inc.

# The Official RMSST Academic Booster Club

**Meetings:**

August 10 6:00 pm-7:30pm

September 7: 6:00 pm-7:30pm

October 12: 6:00 pm-7:30pm

November 16: 6:00 pm-7:30pm

December 7: 6:00 pm-7:30pm

January 11: 6:00 pm-7:30pm

February 8: 6:00 pm-7:30pm

March 8: 6:00 pm-7:30pm

April 12: 6:00pm-7:30pm

April 21: Annual Business Meeting at Picnic

May 10: 6:00 pm-7:30pm

June 7: 6:00 pm-7:30pm

* If there are any changes to the schedule above, it will be shared in a Magnet News email. Meetings are generally held via Zoom from 6-7:30pm.

**Dues:**

All magnet families are requested to pay their annual dues of $200 to gain membership and benefits of fund-sponsored activities. (Among other things, annual dues support all Magnet extracurricular Clubs & Teams. Fund dues are also used to fund the Fall Ball, materials for research projects, field trips, travel to various competitions, etc.)

**Social & Celebration Events Sponsored by the Fund:**

Drive in Move Night

Magnet Fall Ball Dance

Honor Roll Celebration

Magnet Talent Show

Pastries for Parents

Award Nights & Senior Banquet

Family Picnic

Kickball Tournament

**Fundraising Events:** *Families are requested to participate in at least 3 fundraisers*

* Monster Dash 5K and Fun Run/Walk (October 29)
* Poinsettia Sale (November)
* Spring Fundraiser (March)
* Restaurant Spirit Nights
* Popcorn Sales (Fall & Spring options planned)

**Committees:** *Magnet families are asked to participate in at least one committee*

* Hospitality and Teacher Appreciation Committee (Chair: Savannah Worthy)
* Fundraising Committee (Chair: Tanisha Chandler)
* Parent Engagement Committee (Chair: Ebony Smith)
* Scholarship Committee (Co-Chairs: Tracy Ivery & Jennifer Harris)
* Finance Committee (Co-Chairs: Tessa Burkey and Natacha Simon-Christie)

**Officers:**

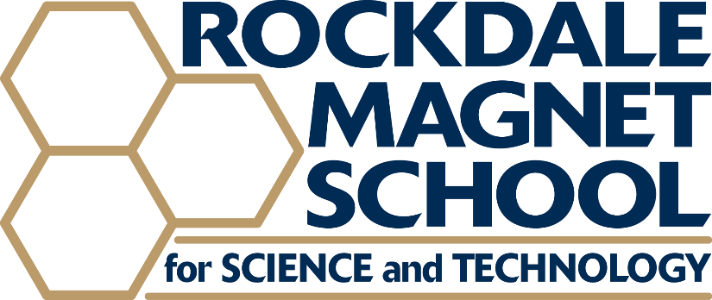
* President:  Terrance Hollingsworth
* Vice-President: Tiffany McLymore
* Secretary: Melissa Dace
* Accounts Receivable Treasurer: Tessa Burkey
* Accounts Payable Treasurer: Natacha Simon-Christie

**STUDENT NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

The Rockdale County Board of Education (“Board”) prohibits unlawful discrimination against students because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, or other protected group status or activity (e.g. opposition to prohibited discrimination or participation in the statutory complaint process) in its programs and activities or employment in its programs or activities. In keeping with this commitment, the Board will not tolerate harassment, discrimination, or other unlawful treatment of its students. It is the policy of the Board to comply fully with the requirements of Title VI, Title IX, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act and all accompanying regulations.

Please see Rockdale County Public Schools “Student Non-Discrimination Policy and Complaint Procedure” (JAA) section, or see Board policy at [www.rockdaleschools.org](http://www.rockdaleschools.org).

For any questions regarding Title IX, or to submit a formal complaint, please contact the school-based deputy Title IX Coordinator for students in person, or by mail, email, or phone: Dr. Corey Williams, Assistant Director, 930 Rowland Road, Conyers, Georgia 30012, Phone: (770) 483-8737, Email: [cwilliams1@rockdale.k12.ga.us](mailto:cwilliams1@rockdale.k12.ga.us).

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# Handbook Signature Page

**Please read the RMSST Student-Parent Handbook**

**(available at** [**www.magnet.rockdaleschools.org**](http://www.magnet.rockdaleschools.org)**).**

**Then sign and return this signature page to your science or**

**homeroom teacher by Wednesday, August 4.**

* I have read and understand the contents of the 2021-2022 Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology **Parent-Student Handbook** which is posted on our school website and agree to adhere to the policies and procedures as stated.
* I have read and understand the contents of the 2021-2022 Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology **Academic Honor Code** on pages 13-14 of the RMSST Parent-Student Handbook.
* I have read and agree to adhere to the guidelines set forth by the Rockdale Magnet School **Acceptable Conduct for School Functions** on page 15 of the RMSST Parent-Student Handbook.

**STUDENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_GRADE\_\_\_\_\_\_**

X\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature Date

X\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature Date