

Rockmart Middle School



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Principal's Message

I am extremely excited to serve the Students, Parents, and Staff of Rockmart Middle School. As an educator, I feel that it is my responsibility to help students prepare for the transition to High School and equip them with all the tools necessary to become responsible, contributing members of society. I feel that all students have strengths that we must help them discover. We should strive to use these strengths to guide students through the education process.

I am sure that you are all aware that Middle School can be a trying time for students. These are some of the most difficult years for students as they transition from children to young women and men. It is my hope that I can help students and parents through these transitional years.

Parents and guardians are a valuable asset and are always welcome at Rockmart Middle School. We appreciate your partnership as we all work together toward a common goal. We have great things planned for the students of RMS and we look forward to the time we will spend with these fantastic young ladies and gentlemen.

Sincerely,

Chris Loveless
Principal

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ATHLETIC OPPORTUNITIES & EXTRACURRICULAR

Academic Team - Evan Brown

Band - James Stack

Baseball - Geoffrey Sharpe

Basketball (Boys) - Dante Jones

Basketball (Girls) - Michelle Rismiller

Cheerleading (Basketball) - Colette James

Cheerleading (Competitive) - Haley Rogers

Cross Country - Hannah Belew

Football - Josh Duff

Golf (Boys & Girls) - Courtney Hammock

Robotics - Geoffrey Sharpe

Softball - Michelle Rismiller

Soccer (Boys) - Josh Duff

Soccer (Girls) - Kris Maynard

Tennis - Jordan Hubbard

Track - Ryan During

Volleyball - Megan Mealer

Wrestling - Chuck Thaxton

Many of our sports are played within the Bartow/Gordon County Middle School Athletic Association. RMS will use association guidelines for eligibility for all sports/extra-curricular activities whether played in the association or not. This keeps eligibility requirements fair for all those involved.

ATTENDANCE

Upon returning to school after an absence, students should bring excuses to Mrs. Goodwin in the front office before homeroom. If planning to check out early, bring a note to the front office before homeroom. We ask that you avoid signing students out after 2:45.

Repeated Tardies will result in disciplinary action. Three unexcused tardies will equal 1 unexcused absence toward exam exemption criteria. Students are tardy at 8:20 am.

Perfect Attendance is being present at school ALL DAY EVERY DAY.

Regular attendance is essential to a student's success in school. Students who are absent from class are deprived of a variety of educational opportunities. Regular attendance and punctuality are two important life skills that students must learn in order to obtain and maintain meaningful employment. You can find a Student Attendance Policy Link on the PSD website at www.polk.k12.ga.us. [PSD Student Attendance Policy](#)

Attendance Incentives

Students with passing grades and no more than 6 excused absences (no unexcused) for the year will be exempt from completing final exams on two days during the last two weeks of school. These students will be assigned work from online classrooms they will need to complete in order to receive credit for these days. Students with perfect attendance will not be penalized for missing exam days if the online work submissions are completed.

Tardies

Students are tardy to school at 8:20 am. Parents will need to sign students in after 8:20am and a parent sign in will count as a parent note. Three unexcused tardies will equal 1 unexcused absence for exam exemption purposes.

Early Sign Outs

Each time a parent or guardian wishes to check a student out of school, the parent or guardian must provide a picture ID. Students may only be checked out of school by those listed on their sign out card provided at the beginning of the school year. This policy is strictly enforced for safety reasons. Students should not be checked out after 2:45pm each day. This causes problems up front with buses and parent parking. Please plan to pick your student up for appointments prior to 2:45 p.m.

BELL SCHEDULE

RMS Bell Schedule

6 th Grade		7 th Grade		8 th Grade	
HR	8:20 – 8:25	HR	8:20 – 8:25	HR	8:20 – 8:25
1 st	8:25 – 9:15	1 st	8:25 – 9:15	1 st	8:25 – 9:15
2 nd	9:15 – 10:05	2 nd	9:15 – 10:05	2 nd	9:15 – 10:05
3 rd	10:05 – 10:55	3 rd	10:05 – 10:55	3 rd	10:05 – 10:55
4 th	10:55 – 11:45	4 th	10:55 – 11:45	4 th	10:55 – 11:45
5 th	11:45 – 1:05	5 th	11:45 – 1:05	5 th	11:45 – 1:05
Lunch	11:45 – 12:10	Lunch	12:12 – 12:37	Lunch	12:40 – 1:05
Literacy 6 th	1:05 – 1:35	Literacy 6 th	1:05 – 1:35	Literacy 6 th	1:05 – 1:35
7 th	1:35 – 2:25	7 th	1:35 – 2:25	7 th	1:35 – 2:25
8 th	2:25 – 3:15	8 th	2:25 – 3:15	8 th	2:25 – 3:15
Announcements And Dismissal	3:15	Announcements And Dismissal	3:15	Announcements And Dismissal	3:15

BUS ROUTE AND OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Students must ride the bus based on the address provided by parent / guardian. This is the only bus students will be allowed to ride. The transportation department CANNOT accommodate children who wish to ride the bus home with a friend or other family member. All requests for your child to ride a bus or a different bus must be made in writing by the parent or guardian to

Mrs. Margie Prather, Polk School District Transportation Department. The phone number for the Transportation Department is 770-684-8771.

CALENDAR

See PSD Web Site for an updated school calendar.

CANCELLATION OF SCHOOL

School will be cancelled due to dangerous weather conditions, equipment failure, or when mandated by a governmental agency. News on school closings will be broadcast on WGAA 1340 AM. Please do not call the radio station to ask if school is cancelled. Parents will also be notified by television and by an automated phone system using the phone number provided on the parent information sheet. Parents who sign up for Remind 101 will receive a text in case of school closing. Sign up for free reminders at the PSD web site.

CAR RIDERS

Students should not arrive to school prior to 7:30 A.M. Car riders will be dropped off at the 900 hall in the mornings. Please do not pass others in the car-rider line. No outside food or drinks can be brought in the building in the morning. (Other than lunch in a lunch box.) PLEASE DO NOT DROP STUDENTS OFF IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL OR IN THE TEACHER PARKING LOT. Students are to report to the gym or lunchroom. After 8:20 A.M., Students and those dropping them off must come into the front office and the student will be signed in as TARDY. Dismissal in the afternoons will begin at 3:15. Those picking up students should not arrive on campus prior to 2:45. All students will exit the 800 hall end doors. Car rider traffic should use the road between the RMS soccer field and parking lot. In the afternoon, there are three lanes for vehicles: Due to our commitment to safety, all drivers should adhere to the directives given by RMS faculty and staff.

CHEATING

Students caught cheating will receive a grade of "0" for the assignment and the teacher will notify a parent. Students may not be allowed to make up the assignment they were cheating on. A second occurrence of cheating will result in a grade of "0" and an office referral.

CLUBS

4 - H (Sponsor - Mrs. April Forsyth) - is co-sponsored by the school and county Extension Office. The club is service oriented and gives students a chance to learn public speaking skills as they work on specific skill projects.

Art Club- (Sponsor- Mrs. Destiny Segars-Brown) -is for any 6th, 7th, or 8th grader interested. Those interested must meet with Mrs. Brown to fill out an application. There are only 20 spots for this club per year. An important event in the Art Club is the Art Exhibition. It is where

students can submit their art to be seen by the community for a one-night event. The Art Club also does many fundraising initiatives throughout the year.

Beta Club - (Sponsor - Mrs. Lisa Johnson) - is composed of members from the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. This club promotes, recognizes and trains students in the areas of character, achievement, service and leadership. Service projects include a Thanksgiving canned food drive and visits to the nursing home. Students have the opportunity to compete at State Conventions in the area of academics and talent. At the end of each school year, members go on a trip to celebrate their achievements.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) - (Sponsor –Latoyia Waller) is for athletes and non-athletes who wish to express their faith with like-minded students. Activities include weekly meetings with guest speakers and testimonials and discussions to promote and support strong morals and values.

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) - (Sponsor - Ms. Janet Dover) - The mission of FBLA is to bring business and education together in a positive working relationship through innovative leadership and career development programs. Members participate in a variety of activities including job shadow programs, community service projects and American Enterprise projects.

Quest Club (Sponsor - Evan Brown)- Students grade 6th – 8th can come together to play popular role playing strategy based board games. There are no fees to join. In fact, the only requirement is that students must have a creative mind, friendly attitude, and a thirst for adventure.

COUNSELORS

The Rockmart Middle School has two Counselors.

Kelly McClendon - kmclendon@polk.k12.ga.us

Holly Gaston – hgaston@polk.k12.ga.us

DANCES

At various times throughout the year, dances will be held for the students of Rockmart Middle School. Students who do not attend RMS will not be allowed to attend dances. Students are to be dropped off and picked up in the front of the school. Students that are 20 minutes or later being picked up after the dismissal time will not be allowed to attend the next school dance.

DELIVERIES

Gift and Flower Policy – Gifts can be dropped off in the main office. However, students will not be called out of class to pick up the gift until the end of the school day. Balloons, large items, or glass items are not allowed on school buses so students may have to make other arrangements to get those items home.

DISCIPLINE

Rockmart Middle School will follow the PSD discipline policy and the GaDoe state Discipline Matrix. Discipline is handled on a case by case basis.

DISTRIBUTION OF LITERATURE

Students must have permission from the administration before posting signs, posters, announcements or advertisements in the school.

DRESS CODE

Teaching and learning is the main focus at Rockmart Middle School. It is very important that student dress not be disruptive, revealing, or discriminatory. Please refer to the Polk School District Dress Code Policy found at www.polk.k12.ga.us. The following is a list of common dress code issues we face at RMS. This list is not “all inclusive” and dress code issues will be handled at the discretion of RMS Administrators. Students should follow dress code at all times. Students in violation will first be given the opportunity to correct the violation and return to class. If this can’t be done, students will stay in ISS for the day.

- SHORTS should be finger-tip length when standing straight up and arms extended to the side.
- Pants should not have holes revealing skin or undergarments above finger-tip length when standing straight up and arms extended to the side.
- Pants are to be worn at the proper height above the hips.
- No compression shorts or compression pants should be worn as an outer garment.
- No Pajamas
- If wearing TIGHTS, shirt should be finger-tip length when standing straight up and arms extended to the side. Shorter shirts are too revealing.
- Straps on shirts should be 3 fingers wide at the narrowest point.
- Shirts must cover the entire stomach even when hands are raised.
- Shirts must not be low cut.
- Shirts must not be “back-less”.
- Shirts may not be cut low on the sides revealing skin or undergarment (even if the undergarment is a “sports bra”).
- NO bandanas, do-rags, etc.
- NO clothing with images of violence, guns, drugs, alcohol, or tobacco.
- NO hats worn inside the building (except for designated hat days).
- NO hoods worn inside the building.
- NO confederate flags, Malcolm X, swastikas, or other symbols which could be seen as discriminatory toward others.
- Proper undergarments should be worn and covered at all times.
- NO trench coats.
- NO blankets wrapped around students (this covers much like a trench coat would and trench coats are strictly prohibited).

ELECTRONICS/CELL PHONES

Unauthorized use of electronics and cell phones has become a hindrance to the education process. Teachers may choose to take up cell phones upon entry to the classroom and give them back as students depart.

Personal devices, while often useful, can be a distraction to the learning process. For this reason, RMS students will be expected to adhere to the following guidelines concerning these items. All phones, personal electronic devices, earbuds, and headphones should stay put away at all times unless specified by a classroom teacher. Simply stated, “put away”, means out of sight. Cell phones, personal devices, earbuds and headphones should not be seen during class or during class changes. There will be times when a teacher allows students to use personal devices.

Violations will be handled as follows:

- 1st Violation – Verbal Warning
- 2nd Violation – Teacher will take the item and return it to the student at the end of the school day.
- 3rd Violation – Teacher will send the item to the office. Office staff will lock the item in the vault and a parent / guardian will have to come in to retrieve the item.
- Further offenses will be seen as willful disobedience and may result in pink slips and discipline from administration.

RMS assumes NO responsibility for lost, stolen, or damaged personal devices. The only way to assure that personal items are not lost, stolen, or damaged is to leave them at home. If a student needs to contact a parent, they may use the school telephones. We ask that parents refrain from texting or messaging students during the school day as this too is disruptive to the learning environment. We greatly appreciate parent/guardian’s assistance and support concerning this matter.

Refusal to sign or acknowledge a cell phone agreement form does not excuse students from adhering to our policies.

***Students caught posting on social media during the school day will be subject to disciplinary action.

FEES AND FINES

It is the responsibility of the student to pay any fees/fines assessed by the school.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are a part the RMS curriculum in many classrooms. The students will receive a field trip form from the sponsor of the trip. The student must return the completed Polk School District permission form before he/she may take part in the field trip. Class absences are excused, but the student is responsible for making up any missed work. A student will not be denied the opportunity to participate in a field trip due to his/her ability to pay; however, the trip may be cancelled if the donations for the trip do not cover expenses. Field trip money will not be refunded due to student misbehavior or due to student absence on the day of the trip as this money has already been paid to the venue hosting the trip. Students who receive more than 1 office referral resulting in ISS will be ineligible for field trips during that semester. Students who receive any office referrals resulting OSS will be ineligible for field trips during that semester. These behavior requirements start over each semester.

HOURS OF OPERATION

The school day is 8:20-3:15. *Students are tardy at 8:20 a.m.!

IMMUNIZATION

Georgia law requires children entering school in the state to present a "Certificate of Immunization" to the principal. Immunization is required for diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, smallpox, meningitis, measles, and polio. Students who do not have the proper certificate on file will not be allowed to attend school.

*In accordance with Georgia Department of Education, O.C.G.A. §20-2-771, a student shall be exempt from immunization requirements whose parent/guardian objects in writing to such immunization on religious grounds by submitting a notarized **Affidavit of Religious Objection to Immunization (DPH Form 2208)**, or whose physician certifies that the student's physical condition contraindicates immunization. Students that are exempt from immunization may be excluded from school during an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease.*

INTERNET USE

Rockmart Middle School has internet access in all classrooms. Students who have returned their Acknowledgement of Student Handbook and Code of Conduct form are allowed to use the Internet with direct supervision of a teacher or staff member. Misuse or abuse of the Internet may result in a child losing the privilege to use the internet. The Internet Use Policy can also be found on the PSD website at polk.k12.ga.us.

LOCKERS

Lockers may be rented for \$5.00 only after a student has returned all required paperwork. The student is simply renting the locker from RMS. The locker is still the property of RMS and is subject to search at any time as deemed necessary by RMS Administration.

LOST AND FOUND

The lost and found is located on the 900 hallway just outside the gym entrance. All unclaimed items will be donated to a charitable organization at the end of each 9 weeks.

LUNCH POLICY

Everything you need to know about school lunches can be found at Polk School District Food Services. No outside food or drinks can be delivered for lunch.

MEDICATIONS

Parents should bring all student medications (prescription or over-the-counter) to the office and complete a medical permission form. Students should never deliver medication to the school. All medications will be secured by the school nurse. Unless otherwise noted in medication policy children should not carry medicine around in their pockets or book bags. This is a violation of the discipline code and is a mandatory offense which could result in suspension from school.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Facebook - ROCKMART MIDDLE SCHOOL FACEBOOK is updated regularly with information on upcoming events and activities. Photos and videos of classes and events are also posted.

Rockmart Middle School Website will be maintained by staff and updated regularly to reflect current events and information as needed.

Powerschool Parent Login: Parents may check students grades daily to maintain current information. Powerschool Parent Login information can be obtained in the front office.

Teacher websites will be maintained by individual teachers.

Teacher Emails can be found on our website in the staff directory.

One Call System - receive automated phone calls about upcoming events

REMIND 101 - receive text messages from your child's teacher about upcoming assignments

Parents are welcome to visit your child's classroom. Stop by the office to get permission and someone will escort you down to the classroom.

Volunteer - Parents are welcome to volunteer to assist in classrooms, media center, office, and/or Fun Days. Parents wanting to volunteer will need to complete the PSD process including a criminal background check and possible submission of finger prints.

RENAISSANCE AWARDS

RMS recognizes students that demonstrate excellence in academics, behavior and attendance at the end of the year.

Categories of Recognition:

All A's Honor Roll

All A's and B's Honor Roll

Perfect Attendance – Perfect mean perfect. All day every day. No tardies or early sign outs.

Students are also recognized for Student of the Month, Top Jacket, and a variety of other categories each year.

SUPPLIES

Students are encouraged to purchase and wear protective face masks. Students are encouraged to bring paper, pens and a notebook to school every day. Individual classroom teachers may also request additional supplies. Donations of Tissue, Hand Sanitizer, Liquid Soap and Band Aids are appreciated in homeroom.

If you are unable to provide your child with needed supplies, please let the Counselor or Parent Involvement Coordinator know so your child will have needed materials.

TOBACCO / E-CIGARETTE / VAPE

No tobacco / E-Cigarette / Vape materials are allowed at Rockmart Middle School. This school is a tobacco / E-Cigarette / Vape free environment. Georgia Smoke Free Act.

Per PSD Policy Vaping Use or Possession will be handled as follows:

1st offense – 5 days OSS

2nd offense – 10 days OSS

3rd offense – Alternative school referral

ROCKMART MIDDLE SCHOOL
2020-2021

I acknowledge that I have read and understand all guidelines presented in the Rockmart Middle School student handbook. I also acknowledge that, while this handbook is a guide, students are subject to all rules, policies, and procedures as outlined by Polk School District. A complete listing of Polk School District Board Policies can be found at www.polk.k12.ga.us . Failure to sign and return this form WILL NOT exclude students, parents, or guardians from following any and all guidelines described in this document.

Students Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____