



## Program Overview

Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology (RMSST) provides a dynamic and unique learning environment designed for high-achieving students with an interest and aptitude in Mathematics, Science, and Technology. RMSST is a school within a school, housed at Rockdale County High School. Students who are selected for enrollment are from all four RCPS middle schools as well as private schools and home school. Due to the specialized 9th – 12th grade curriculum at RMSST, students are only selected before their 9th grade year begins. RMSST delivers state-of-the-art technology and advanced classroom and laboratory experiences to full-time high school students. Through inquiry-driven research, students are exposed to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) in innovative and interesting ways which allow them to investigate a broad range of topics. All RMSST courses use college-level textbooks and extend the curriculum beyond Georgia's course standards. Due to small class size, students receive individualized attention from phenomenal teachers who are dedicated to helping them succeed. The focus of RMSST is not only to challenge each student with a rigorous curriculum, but also to maintain a culture where everyone can succeed.

## Components for Student Success

RMSST offers four key components for student success:

1. **AP Curriculum:** RMSST offers 20 advanced placement courses and students graduate with an average of 10 AP classes taken. Depending on the university, many RMSST students begin college with enough AP credits to start as a sophomore.
2. **Research-based Curriculum:** Students are involved in individual, in-depth research projects each year in student-selected areas of Math, Science, Engineering, or Technology. These investigations are carried out under the supervision of RMSST faculty and mentors from various universities, businesses, and government agencies. RMSST students present an oral defense of their research projects to school and community members at the Annual Student Showcase & Research Symposium and then submit them in science fairs and other competitive venues.
3. **Scientific-based Internships:** High-level internships offer invaluable hands-on training provided in a biological, engineering or technology related position which allows students to experience and explore a STEM career first-hand.
4. **Community Service and Leadership:** Our strong focus on community service and leadership allows students to build a portfolio of experiences which demonstrate their commitment to our school and community. While our Student Council, Peer Mentors and Peer Tutors support our students, our Community Service Class and RMSST Ambassadors work to help others outside of our school building.

## Eligibility and Application

RMSST is a public high school (grades 9 - 12) designed for students who are curious about the scientific world, love to solve problems, seek a challenging academic environment, and can work independently, as well as in a group setting. Eighth grade students must meet eligibility requirements to submit an application. Enrollment is based on a multi-criteria selection process.

### Eligibility Criteria

- Resident of Rockdale County (if moving into Rockdale County, residency must be established prior to enrollment if selected)
- Rockdale County Public School 8th grade students: 7th grade ITBS Subject Score of 60th National Percentile Rank or higher for Reading or Math, or 7th grade Math or English Language Arts Georgia Milestone EOG Subject Score of 550 or higher, or 8th grade student enrolled in Coordinate Algebra in their Middle School.
- Private, Home-school, or non-RCPS 8th grade students must be enrolled in Algebra 1 or Geometry

### Application Process

The application process begins in September when letters are mailed to all eligible 8th grade RCPS students. RMSST students, teachers, and administrators will share information about the school as they visit 8th grade classrooms at each middle school in October and November. In November, parents and students are invited to attend an 8th grade informational session to learn more about this opportunity. See the timeline on the RMSST website for more details about dates, times and locations.



# Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology

## Why RMSST?

### The Facts:

- The first magnet school in Rockdale County, founded in 2000
- Average college scholarship offers per graduate: Over \$139,000
- SAT and ACT scores well above the state and national averages
- College acceptances to top-tier research universities and Ivy League schools
- Small class size with teacher-student ratio of 1:20
- Opportunities for scientific research supported with university and industry mentors
- Classmates with similar interests and motivation to succeed
- High expectations which teach responsibility, time management organization, and study skills
- Teachers who go above and beyond to ensure student success
- Differentiated instruction to meet the individual needs of each student
- Varied instructional methods with an emphasis on technology
- Rigorous and relevant curriculum with college text-books to enhance preparation for college
- Elective courses in students' areas of interest, including the full RCHS course offering
- Well-rounded high school experience through RCHS sports and other extracurricular activities

## Beyond the Classroom

### RMSST Academic

#### Extracurricular Activities:

- Speech and Debate Team
- Engineering & Robotics Team
- Science Team
- Peer Tutoring/Teaching Assistants
- Varsity & Junior Varsity Math Team

#### RMSST Extracurricular Activities:

- Ambassador Program
- Magnet Association of Student Activities (Student Council)
- Men of Distinction
- Peer Mentoring Program
- Teens in the Drivers Seat
- Women on the Way to Success
- Book Club & Reading Bowl
- Magnet the Gathering
- Camera Club
- Entrepreneurship Club

#### RMSST Honor Societies:

- Beta Club
- Mu Alpha Theta
- National Honor Society

## Mission Statement

The mission of our 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



## A History of Distinction

Our motto at RMSST is “**Challenge, Opportunity, Distinction**”. For over 17 years, our specialized curriculum has provided, challenging courses in the STEM pathways. Scientific Research connects the classroom with real-world problems and solutions. Scientific Internships extend the classroom to real-world experiences. Specialized electives like Anatomy and Physiology, Microbiology, Astronomy, Forensic Science, Engineering Design, History of Math, History of English, and Oceanography extend our classroom **challenge** even further.

Our students have the **opportunity** to travel both nationally and internationally. Students have repeatedly placed at the Intel Science and Engineering Fair and traveled to present their research in France, Japan, Greece, Turkey, and China. The Rockdale Magnet Math Team has been overall State Champions three times (2004, 2005, and 2013). Other research conferences and competitions include Georgia Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (GJSHS), Intel Science Talen Search, NCSST Student Research Symposium, Environthon Competition, Young Georgia Authors Competition, Reading Bowls, Maker Fair, LEGO FIRST Robotics Competition, International Environmental Science Olympiad, and Super Science High School Student Fair.

RMSST students have the **distinction** of being recognized by college admissions counselors. We offer individualized advisement with college and career planning, including developing a 5-year plan for each student to match students' interests to colleges, completing the college application process, and applying for financial aid and scholarships. Our students have the unique distinction of benefiting from our partnership history with Georgia Institute of Technology and visiting many different college campuses including our out of state college tour. The RMSST curriculum prepares students to be successful at top-tier universities and sets our students apart during the college application process.