

Overview of Programs

The Academy for Pre-Medical Sciences offers students an opportunity to explore various careers in the medical field while acquiring the skills and knowledge necessary to successfully transition into high school medical programs or related fields of study. This introduction to medical sciences at the middle school level allows students to prepare academically for coursework necessary to becoming a health care professional. The early exposure will also aid students in deciding whether to pursue this course of study at the high school level.

Curriculum

Students in the Edwards Middle School Academy for Pre-Medical Sciences will need a strong academic foundation in math and science as the program requires advanced level coursework in these areas. At each grade level students will receive instruction in the foundational areas of Teamwork, Leadership, Healthcare Communications, Safety Practices, and Infection Control.

Features of the curriculum specific to each grade level are as follows:

- Sixth Grade students will explore the fields of employability, work-safety practices and infection control, chain of infection, PPE, patient transfer, applied anatomy with clinical lab diagnostics, blood borne pathogens, Phlebotomy, venipuncture, body systems (respiratory, cardiac, and skeletal), support services careers in various hospital departments, and the CTSO.
- Seventh Grade students will explore the fields of employability, work-safety practices and infection control, bacteria and viruses, HIPAA, electronic versus paper records, medical office management, biotechnology research with fingerprints, DNA, and the CTSO.
- Eighth Grade students will explore the fields of employability, safety and infection control procedures and protocols for school, home, and work, immunization schedules, bacteria and viruses, body mechanics, therapeutic careers in nursing, dentistry, physical therapy, respiratory therapy, medical terminology, body systems, patient evaluations, and the CTSO.

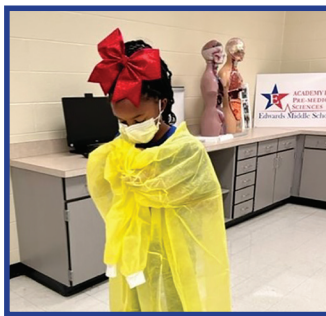
Students in the program will also benefit from demonstrations, lectures, and visits from health care professionals.

Purpose and Goals

The purpose of the program is to provide students exposure to various careers in the medical field. As students explore various occupations they will receive the training, knowledge, and skills needed to successfully transition into a high school medical program. Integrated into the curriculum is an emphasis on decision making, problem solving, teamwork, communication, and work ethic. Employers look for these soft skills when searching for the best employee to fill a position. Through the implementation of the Georgia BEST program curriculum, students are being taught these skills with the intentions of producing students who are well prepared for future success in any chosen profession. Students completing the Pre-Medical Sciences program at Edwards Middle School will enter high school with knowledge and skills required for various occupations in the medical field, well-developed academic focus, and essential intangible qualities desired by employers.



Pictured above: 6th Grade student Genesis Camacho Herrera after performing a mock appendectomy and displaying the correct sequential order for doffing her PPE.



Pictured above: 6th Grade student Miyah Brock displays how to correctly remove another form of PPE (gown) after use.

Application, Eligibility, and Lottery

RCPS will use an electronic application process for **2024-2025** School Choice programs. Students may apply for **one** School Choice program only for the **2024-2025** school year.

The application window is November 10 to December 15, 2023, to apply for the 2024-2025 school year. The online application will be available on the district website at: **rockdaleschools.org**

Only completed applications will be accepted.

Eligibility Criteria

- Students must meet standards in ELA, Reading, Math, Science, and Social Studies on the Milestones assessment. If Milestones results are not available, other assessment data may be considered.
- Students must meet the student registration requirement for Rockdale County Public Schools.
- Students and parents must agree to the Choice contract.

Lottery

In the event there are more eligible applicants than space available, students will be selected via a random lottery drawing. If needed, a lottery will be held in January.

Academy for Pre-Medical Sciences at Edwards Middle School

A Unique, Real-World Opportunity

Our Pre-Medical Science students are provided the opportunity to meet various health care providers who come to our facility to impart their knowledge and expertise of their content areas. They also provide students with information on their educational pathway and even entrepreneurship. They engage students in activities that would provide them with real world experiences relating to their field of study.

Students can also take field trips to tour medical facilities. During these tours, students are able to gain information about the various facilities and the services they provide to the community. They also participate in hands-on activities which are important for promoting higher order thinking skills while improving cognitive understanding of the subject material and developing social skills. Hands-on projects engage students who are tactile and kinesthetic learners because it activates multiple areas of the brain and they are more likely to retain more information.

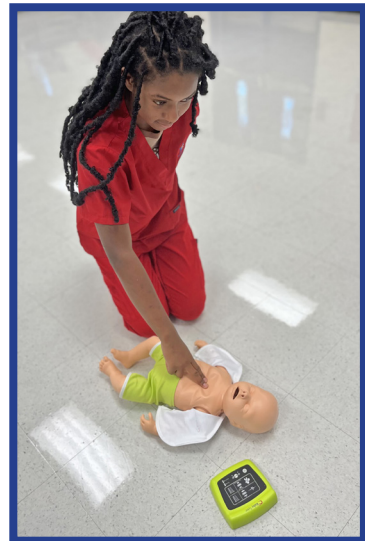
At the completion of the program's pathway, the 8th grade students would have the opportunity to achieve CPR certifications. CPR is

important because it is a lifesaving tool that saves victims from cardiac arrest, which is the leading cause of death in many parts of the world. Last year, out of 46 8th grade students from EMS seeking CPR certifications, 43 were successfully certified! The goal is to continuously increase our certification numbers each year. If everyone were trained in CPR, it could help to save hundreds of thousands of lives each year. With the ever-changing capacity of technology, progress is made to diagnose and treat diseases and illness in a timelier manner. We are exposing our students to as much trending technology as possible so that they can learn hands-on in the classroom. We have the new Taylor and Baby Tyler feedback manikins that provide realism to CPR and healthcare training sessions by demonstrating realistic chest rise with ventilation.

We continue to use our Z Space computers and laptops which allow students to have a 3-dimensional view of various body systems. The use of this equipment allows for engagement through exploration and experiential learning in a student-centered environment.

We truly want our students to remain anchored in healthcare so that they will have solid foundations to build upon in their future endeavors. We strive for excellence at EMS, and we are confident that the experiences we provide will equip our students with the knowledge, grit, and determination to continue to excel in any healthcare pathway they choose as they enter high school, college, and beyond.

Dr. Tarneisha S. Means, Ph.D. ~ PreMed Coordinator
Dr. Tosha Williams, Ed.D. ~ Principal



Pictured top: 7th Grade student Parker Ashworth is practicing CPR technique. Pictured above: 8th Grade students Asia Hardge and Kevin Cortez practice CPR techniques. Students are learning how to expose the chest in order to use correct hand placement and techniques for an adult and infant.

Extracurricular Activities

- Beta Club
- Chorus
- Football
- Dance Team
- Student Council
- Reading Bowl
- Drama
- Track
- SkillsUSA
- Young Ladies of Elite
- Math Team
- Basketball
- Wrestling
- FBLA
- Patriots' Press and Periodicals
- Band
- Softball
- Cheerleading



Pictured above: Students were engaged in hands-on learning about bacteria and how it is present on every surface, is transferred from place to place, and how it grows. Bacteria was collected from surfaces in common areas around the school and placed on a moistened piece of bread medium for growth. 6th grade students Valeria Morales, Maryam Aliyallah, and Emily Jones are involved in the collection process.

EMS Accolades

Scholarship

- 2020 - Georgia REACH Scholarship Recipient

Oratorical Contest

- 2019-2020 - 3rd Place 7th Grade, 3rd Place 6th Grade

National History Day Competition

- 2022-2023 3rd Place Finish

Football

- 2023-2024 Undeclared Boys and Girls teams

Basketball

- 2020-2021 - Boys/Girls Basketball - Undeclared
- 2019-2020 - New Rock Championship 2nd Place (Boys)

Wrestling

- 2019-2020 - Patriot Rumble 4th Place

Track & Field

- 2019-2020 - New Rock League 1st Place (Girls)
- 2018-2019 - New Rock League 1st Place (Girls)
- 2017-2018 - New Rock League 1st Place (Boys)

Cheerleading

- 2017-2018 - Rockdale Cheerletics 1st Place and Top Team

Chorus

2022-2023

- Five students participated in 2023 All-State Chorus
- The 6th/7th/8th Grade Advanced Mixed Chorus scored I (Superior) in singing, I (Superior) in sightreading, and I (Superior) for performance at the statewide Choral evaluations - LGPE.

Spelling Bee

- 2022-2023 Roshan Suriraj was the District Spelling Bee runner-up.
- 2021-2022 Mykel Perciwall was the District Spelling Bee runner-up.

Additional Academic Programs

- Spanish I
- French I
- Tutorial
- Accelerated Math
- Marketing
- Business Education
- Technology
- Carnegie Spanish
- Carnegie Algebra
- Carnegie Art
- Carnegie Physical Science
- Carnegie Health & PE