

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 Pharmacy, Radiology, Rehabilitation Services, and Dentistry.
- Seventh Grade students will explore the fields of Respiratory Therapy, Medical Lab Technology, Biotechnology, and Emergency Services.
- Eighth Grade students will explore the fields of Nursing, Medicine, Health Informatics, and Healthcare Pathways.

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.



Application, Eligibility, and Lottery

RCPS will use an electronic application process for 2023-2024 School Choice programs. No paper applications will be accepted. Students may apply for **one** School Choice program only for the 2023-2024 school year.

The application window is November 11 through 5 p.m., December 9, 2022, to apply for the 2023-2024 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 World-Class Opportunity

The Pre-Medical Sciences program at G.L. Edwards Middle School provides students with an inside view of the high demand, high need, high expectation, high reward world of Healthcare. At EMS, "We Can't Hide Our Patriot P.R.I.D.E." Every student and staff member is committed to being Prepared, Respectful, Involved, Driven, and Exceptional. Students selected to be a part of this World-Class experience must be committed to continuous improvement as well as making a positive difference in their school and community.

In pursuit of World-Class, our Pre-Medical Sciences program provides opportunities for students to establish memberships with Young Medical Explorers. Young Medical Explorers is a partnership of students, teachers, and industries working together to ensure America has a skilled work force. By partnering with healthcare professionals and organizations in the metro-Atlanta area, students will learn about, interact with, and participate in numerous learning opportunities that will expand their knowledge and understanding of the many facets of the healthcare industry including veterinary medicine, research, pharmacology, nutrition, nursing, and beyond.

The demands and high expectations of the healthcare field and our program require dedication, resiliency, commitment, and hard work. Anchors are being utilized as a choice design within our program. These anchor themes serve as constant reminders for our students to "ANCHOR yourselves in healthcare" and "Don't get blown off course... stay ANCHORED!"

To ensure that our students are organized in their studies, they carry ANCHOR binders to class each day. In addition to securely housing our students work, these binders serve as communication tools between parents and instructors. The acronym ANCHOR stands for A Nightly Communication, Homework, Organization, & Reading tool. Healthcare professionals are required to write reports, read/write technical text and articles, and effectively communicate with their colleagues and/or patients. In a similar manner, at EMS, we expect our students to maximize their learning potential using literacy as their base and applying it to all facets of the learning process.

7th grade students are certified in CPR each year. Knowing what to do in an emergency builds confidence and empowerment to be change-makers. Our 8th graders will have the opportunity to earn the Georgia BEST (Business Ethics Student Training) certificate at the end of the year after meeting all program requirements. This program is a joint venture with local school systems and the Georgia Department of Labor. One of the fundamental goals of the program is to equip students with the soft skills and work ethic components needed to succeed in today's workforce. The Work Ethic Certification will serve as validation to employers that those students have successfully displayed strong work habits that will foster success in higher education and in the workplace.

With the ever-changing capacity of technology, progress is made to diagnose and treat diseases and illnesses 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 Z Space computers which allow them 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 be anchored in healthcare so 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 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. Tasha Williams, Ed.D. ~ Principal

Extracurricular Activities

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



EMS Accolades

Scholarship

- 2020 - Georgia REACH Scholarship Recipient

Oratorical Contest

- 2019-2020 - 3rd Place 7th Grade, 3rd Place 6th Grade
- 2018-2019 - 1st Place 8th Grade, 1st Place 7th Grade
- 2017-2018 - 1st Place

Reading Bowl

- 2018-2019 - 1st Place Region
- 2017-2018 - 1st Place

Basketball

- 2020-2021 - Boys/Girls Basketball - Undefeated
- 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)

Dance

- 2018-2019 - CAAC Stroll and Step 1st Place

Cheerleading

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

Chorus

2017-2018

- Nine students passed two auditions to participate in 2018 All-State Chorus
- The 7th/8th Grade Advanced Mixed Chorus scored 1 (Superior) in singing and 1 (Superior) in sight reading for statewide Choral evaluations - LGPE
- The 7th/8th Grade Beginning Girls' Chorus scored 2 (Excellent) in singing and 2 (Excellent) in sight reading for statewide choral evaluations - LGPE

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