



RIVER CITY SCIENCE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOLS

# 2023-2024 IMPACT REPORT





# RIVER CITY SCIENCE ACADEMY

## A MESSAGE FROM DR. T

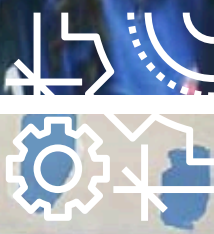
Dear Friends,

2023 was a tremendous year for River City Science Academy and I have thoroughly enjoyed experiencing it alongside our dedicated educators, supportive administration staff, partners, courageous students, and their families. You have all been instrumental to our growth and success over the past year, and we are grateful to be moving ahead together towards a bright, STEM- driven future. Thank you for your ongoing support and your commitment to our students and future leaders.

With deepest gratitude,

*Dr. Dogan Tozoglu*

Dr. Dogan Tozoglu  
Executive Director





# MISSION

To ensure all students reach their maximum potential in a diverse, structured, and nurturing environment and to prepare students for a future in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math.

# VISION

To ensure students become successful in their subsequent education and responsible and productive citizens in a rapidly changing world.

To apply innovative methods and interdisciplinary instruction and rigor, creating a stimulating and student-centered learning environment.

To model, educate, and engage students in critical thinking and problem solving by teaching the whole child extending beyond the classroom.

To be a catalyst for change in STEM education.

To graduate every student college or career-ready.







River City Science Academy (RCSA) is a network of tuition-free, public charter schools dedicated to providing a high-quality education with a focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). Located in Jacksonville, Florida, RCSA serves students from kindergarten through 12th grade, offering a college-preparatory curriculum designed to inspire academic excellence and prepare students for success in higher education and beyond.

With six convenient campuses across Jacksonville, RCSA ensures that students in various communities can access our top-notch education. Each campus is committed to small class sizes, individualized attention, and fostering an innovative learning environment. Whether a child is interested in STEM, the arts, or developing as a leader, River City Science Academy is where their future begins!

## RCSA is



the First Charter School to receive an A-school grade in Duval County.



the First High Performing Charter School in Duval County.

the First High Performing Charter School System.



performing in the top percentiles in statewide tests at both the state and district levels.

a Gap Buster School, ensuring equitable progress across all student subgroups.

# RCSA CORE VALUES



## RESPECT

Appreciating and showing the value of students, families, colleagues, and cultures.



## COMPASSION

Showing kindness, caring, and willingness to help others.



## SELF-CONFIDENCE

Believing and trusting in one's abilities to succeed.



## ACCOUNTABILITY

Demonstrating a personal and school-wide responsibility for learning, ethical conduct, and following policies and procedures.





# CHARACTER TRAITS OF THE MONTH

**AUGUST**

**Responsibility  
& Respect**



**SEPTEMBER**

**Empathy**



**OCTOBER**

**Courage  
& Teamwork**



**NOVEMBER**

**Gratitude**



**DECEMBER**

**Generosity**



**JANUARY**

**Perseverance  
& Leadership**



**FEBRUARY**

**Kindness**



**MARCH**

**Citizenship**



**APRIL**

**Honesty**



**MAY**

**Self-Esteem**



# STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

## RESPECTFUL

- Follow directions the first time.
- Use school language.
- Positive interaction with peers & adults.

## RESPONSIBLE

- Transition quickly & quietly.
- Be prepared for each class.
- Keep cell phones in locker.

## SAFE

- Keep yourself to yourself.



**LAUNCH TO SUCCESS!**  
**RCSA ROCKETS**





# 17 Years of Excellence In Education



## 2007

RCSA is granted a five-year charter contract from Duval County Public Schools (DCPS) in the fall of 2006. After finding a suitable building site, RCSA opens its doors on the corner of Southside and Beach Blvd in August 2007, serving grades 6th and 7th

## 2009

Following the 2008 - 2009 school year, River City Science Academy received an A-grade in just its second year from the Florida Department of Education, becoming the first charter school in Duval county to receive the distinction



## 2009 & 2010

In 2009, RCSA opens phase I of the new building at 7565 Beach Blvd to house 6th and 7th graders.

8th and 9th graders remain in the original location until Phase II completion in August of 2010

## 2010

RCSA is the first charter school in Duval County to receive an "A" grade for two consecutive years as well as making 100% AYP in DCPS charter school history. River City Science Academy earns accreditation from the SACS-CASI, ADVANC-ED (now Cognia) in the 2009 - 2010 school year



## 2011

RCSA produces the 1st Annual Florida STEM & Health Expo, a science festival that has now grown to welcome over 6,000 people annually



In 2010, RCSA applies for and is awarded the approval to open RCSA Elementary to serve students in grades K - 5th



## 2013

RCSA forms its third campus, RCSA Innovation, in 2013. RCSA Innovation is located off Phillips Hwy near Baymeadows Rd and serves grades K - 8

## 2014

River City Science Academy received high-performing status from the Florida Department of Education, a distinction granted to charter schools after consecutive years of high test scores



In May of 2013, RCSA graduates its first class of seniors





## 2016

The RCSA Elementary Science Olympiad team places first for the entire state of Florida



## 2017

RCSA opens its Mandarin campus at 10911 Old St Augustine Rd for the 2016-2017 school year and serves students in grades K-8

## 2018

River City Science Academy is nominated and awarded Folio Weekly's Best of Jax Award for Best Charter Elementary School, Best Charter Middle School, Best Charter High School in 2018. The following year, RCSA won Best Kindergarten, Best Elementary School, Best Middle School, Best Charter Elementary, Best Charter Middle, and Best Charter High School

## 2018

In March of 2018, RCSA Middle-High School competes at the State Science Olympiad Competition in Orlando and took home the gold!

The team then travel to Colorado to represent the State of Florida at the National Competition and thus beginning a great tradition of success in Science Olympiad

## 2019

In January 2019, RCSA Mandarin earns the Five Star School Award from the Florida Department of Education. This award recognizes schools for their community partnerships, family involvement, volunteerism, student community service, and school advisory committee

## 2019

RCSA Mandarin makes history by placing 2nd place in the regional SeaPerch competition! The team then got to travel to Maryland to compete in the national competition for the first time.

RCSA Elementary and RCSA Mandarin are deemed Florida Schools of Excellence for their test scores.

## 2020

River City Science Academy receives approval to open their 5th campus, RCSA Intracoastal



## 2021

RCSA Middle-High and RCSA Mandarin officially become Florida State Schools of Character! All RCSA Schools have worked diligently to meet the requirements set by Character.org

## 2023

RCSA opens its 6th campus, RCSA Southeast, in August 2023







FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**  
fldoe.org

**2023**

All six RCSA non-profit, STEM-focused, public charter schools reached an A-rated and High-Performing status with the Florida Department of Education from the 2023 - 2024 school year

**2023**

RCSA Elementary, RCSA Middle-High and RCSA Mandarin were all awarded the prestigious School of Excellence award by the Florida Department of Education.



**2023**

Local artist and muralist, Mary Joan Hinson, is commissioned to complete the largest single artist mural in Jacksonville, measuring 250 feet at our Middle-High campus. The process took 2 months to complete and stands as River City Science Academy's ongoing testament to STEM education, inventions and innovation, space exploration, and patriotism



**2024**

RCSA Middle-High reached AP School Honor Roll Platinum for the 2024 - 2025 school year



**PLATINUM**  
AP 2024 School Honor Roll  
River City Science Academy  
Middle High School

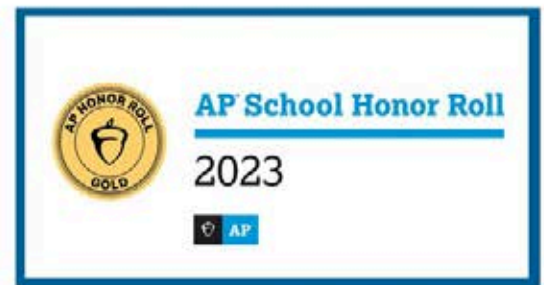
**2023**



RCSA locations places on the U.S. News "Best Elementary Schools", "Best Middle Schools", and "Best High Schools" lists

**2023**

RCSA Middle-High reached AP School Honor Roll Gold designation for the 2023-2024 school year



**2023**

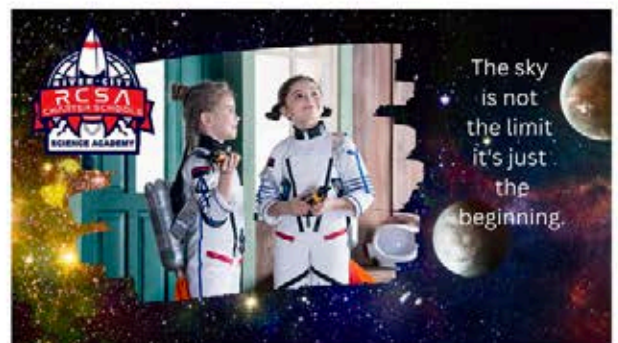
All six campus locations are given a 15-year charter extension in 2023, good through 2039

**2024**

RCSA Mandarin and RCSA Middle-High earn designations as National School of Character by Character.org



RCSA Elementary earns designation as State School of Character by Character.org





# 2023 - 2024 BY THE NUMBERS



**6**

CAMPUS LOCATIONS



**562**

STAFF



**4567 ENROLLED STUDENTS**

MIDDLE-HIGH **989**

SOUTHEAST **465**

ELEMENTARY **583**

INTRACOASTAL **820**

INNOVATION **807**

MANDARIN **903**



45.7% FEMALE STUDENTS

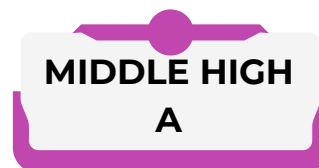
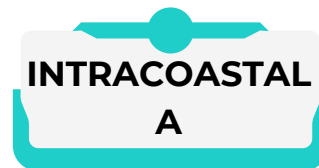
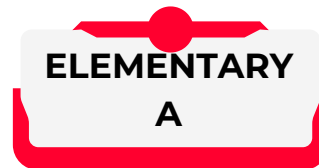
54.3% MALE STUDENTS



**114 GRADUATED SENIORS**

AT A **98.6%** GRAD RATE OVERALL

**2023 - 2024 FLDOE  
SCHOOL GRADES**



# STUDENT AND CLUBS ORGANIZATIONS



RISE UP  
ROBOTICS  
ROCKET NEWS  
ROCKET SINGERS  
ROTARY INTERACT/JR.  
SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

SEAPERCH  
SHOWSTOPPERS  
SOCCER  
SPANISH

SPELLING BEE  
SPORTS CLUB  
STEAM  
STEM  
STOCK MARKET GAME

STUDENT COUNCIL  
STUDY ABROAD

TURKISH DANCE & COOKING  
TURKISH LEARNING COMPETITION

UKELELE  
VIOLIN CLUB  
VOLLEYBALL

WEIGHTLIFTING  
YEARBOOK CLUB

YOGA  
ZOOLOGICAL STUDIES



AR, IREADY & IXL  
AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE CLUB  
ANIME CLUB

ART CLUB  
BAKING/COOKING CLUB  
BAND

BASKETBALL/JV  
BOOK CLUB/BOOK TACO  
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

BRICKS, BOTS, & BEAKERS  
BRICKS4KIDZ  
CARD GAME/BOARD GAME CLUB

CHESS CLUB  
CHOIR  
COASTAL KICKS

CODING CLUB  
COLLEGE MENTORING  
CRAFT CLUB

CREATIVE WRITING  
DANCE & PERFORMING ARTS  
DEBATE

DOMINO CLUB  
DRAMA CLUB  
DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

ELITE SCHOLARS' MAGNET PROGRAM  
FALA LANGUAGE  
FILM CLUB

GARDENING  
GIRLS WITH VIRTUE



GIRLS WITH VIRTUE  
GOLF

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY/NJHS  
INTERNATIONAL CLUB  
JEWELRY MAKING

JOURNALISM  
KAWAII CULTURE  
KNIGHT SCHOOL

KNITTING & CROCHET  
LAUNCH CREW  
LEGO/LEGO ROBOTICS

LIFE SKILLS  
MATH COUNTS  
MATHELETICS

MODEL UN  
MU ALPHA THETA  
MUSIC CLUB

NATIONAL ENGLISH HONOR SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER CLUB  
NINTENDO SWITCH CLUB

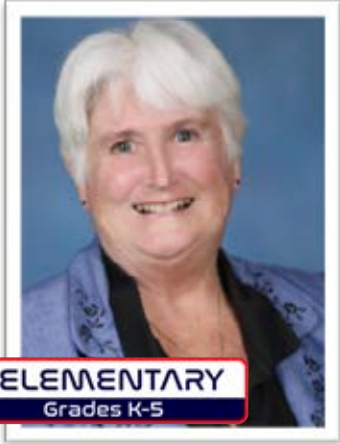
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PHOTOGRAPHY  
PHOTOSHOP

PUBLIC SPEAKING CLUB  
READING CLUB



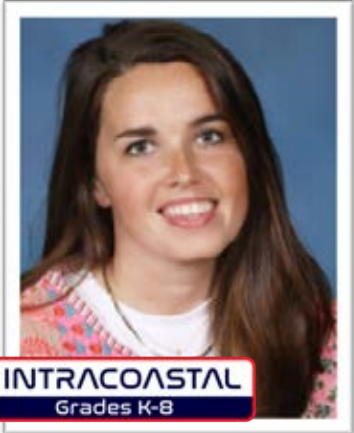


# 2023 - 2024 TEACHERS OF THE YEAR



**ELEMENTARY**  
Grades K-5

**MRS. CHRISTIAN FRAN**



**INTRACOASTAL**  
Grades K-8

**MS. REBECCA ALIANO**



**Middle - High**  
Grades 6-12

**MR. UGUR BARINDIK**



**SOUTHEAST**  
Grades K-8

**MR. DEMARIO BRANTLEY**



**INNOVATION**  
Grades K-8

**MS. ASHLYN LUPINSKI**



**MANDARIN**  
Grades K-8

**MS. HALEY ARNOLD**



# 2023 - 2024 SCHOOL ACCOMPLISHMENTS



## International **SeaPerch** Submarine Competition

**RCSA Mandarin** While competing against 147 teams from 5 countries, RCSAM Seaperch Teams won 5 categories in the International Seaperch Challenge.

Team Aquarius won the Overall International Championship in the High School division and placed 1st in the obstacle course and in the missions course.

Team The Octonauts got 2nd place in the missions course and 3rd in the obstacle course



**RCSA Middle High** Team Nautilus won the 2nd Place High School Division in the Regional competition on April 1st.

The 2024 STEM and Health Expo drew a record-breaking attendance of over 6,000.





# 2023 - 2024 SCHOOL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Building Hope Impact Award

River City Science Academy was selected from almost 200 completed charter school applications from schools in 36 states and US territories as 2024 IMPACT Award recipients in the S. Joseph Bruno Charter School Leadership Award category.



## RCSA Middle-High

The Rockets Debate Team had an outstanding showing at their first Florida Civics & Debate Initiative Competition of the season!



**RCSA Mandarin and RCSA Middle-High** named 2024 National Schools of Character



**RCSA Elementary** named 2024 State School of Character





*Exploring the World of Science*

## RCSA Middle High

In the Eastern Regional competition, RCSA's middle school teams excelled with the Rockets and Rocketeers placing 1st and 2nd respectively, while the RaTs achieved 1st place in high school. The Rising Stars also placed 4th.

At the Florida State Science Olympiad Tournament, the RCSA Rockets (middle school) placed 2nd, securing their fifth national qualification. The RCSA Rocketeers (middle school) placed 5th, and the RCSA RaTs (high school) placed 6th.

The RCSA Rockets went on to compete at the National Science Olympiad at Michigan State University, demonstrating exceptional talent and hard work, earning the following honors:

3rd Place – Ecology

4th Place – Mission Possible

5th Place – Wheeled Vehicle

8th Place – Solar Power

10th Place – Agricultural



## RCSA Mandarin

At the Northern Florida Science Olympiad Regionals held at Buchholz High School in Gainesville, the RCSA Mandarin teams won 8 Gold, 3 Silver, and 6 Bronze medals. Notably, Team Jupiter secured 2nd place overall and advanced to the State Finals for the third consecutive year.

The RCSA Mandarin Middle School team earned 3 bronze medals and placed 14th overall at the Florida State Science Olympiad Competition.



## RCSA Southeast

The RCSA Southeast team had an exceptional showing at the Science Olympiad regional competition, earning four gold and two silver medals.



## RCSA Intracoastal

The RCSA Intracoastal Science Olympiad team, Spark Sharks, won regionals with two 2<sup>nd</sup> and two 3<sup>rd</sup> placings, qualifying for the State Competition where they received two 4<sup>th</sup> place rankings.



## RCSA Innovation

RCSA Innovation's Science Olympiad teams featured 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3<sup>rd</sup> placings at Regionals and 5<sup>th</sup> place on the State Championship level.

**RCSA Mandarin** Model UN attended the Georgia Southern University conference in Savannah and received first place in Best Delegation: Authentic Cultural Representation, and second place in Outstanding Delegation: Human Rights Council- India.



**RCSA Innovation** girl's volleyball team won the Florida Charter Athletic Association Championships





IN THE LAST 5  
YEARS, OUR  
STUDENTS HAVE  
RAISED OVER  
\$205,000 TO  
DISTRIBUTE TO THE  
COMMUNITY  
THROUGH  
PROGRAMS SUCH  
AS:

# GIVING back

**Christmas Gifts**

**Jaguar Honor Rows**

**Toy Drives**

**Pink Day**

**Red Ribbon Week**

**All-Pro Dads**

**Wounded Warrior Project**

**Military appreciation breakfast**

**Grandparents Day**

**Angel Trees**

**Beach Cleanup**

**Feeding Northeast Florida**

**Natural disaster fundraising**

**Healing Hearts**

**Pennies for Pets – Humane Society**

**Cans for Cookies**

**Boosterthon**

**STEM & Health Expo**

**Spring Carnivals or Festivals**

**First Responders**

**School Supply Drives**

**Hope Lodge**

**Space Week**

**Clara White Garden**

**Salvation Army**

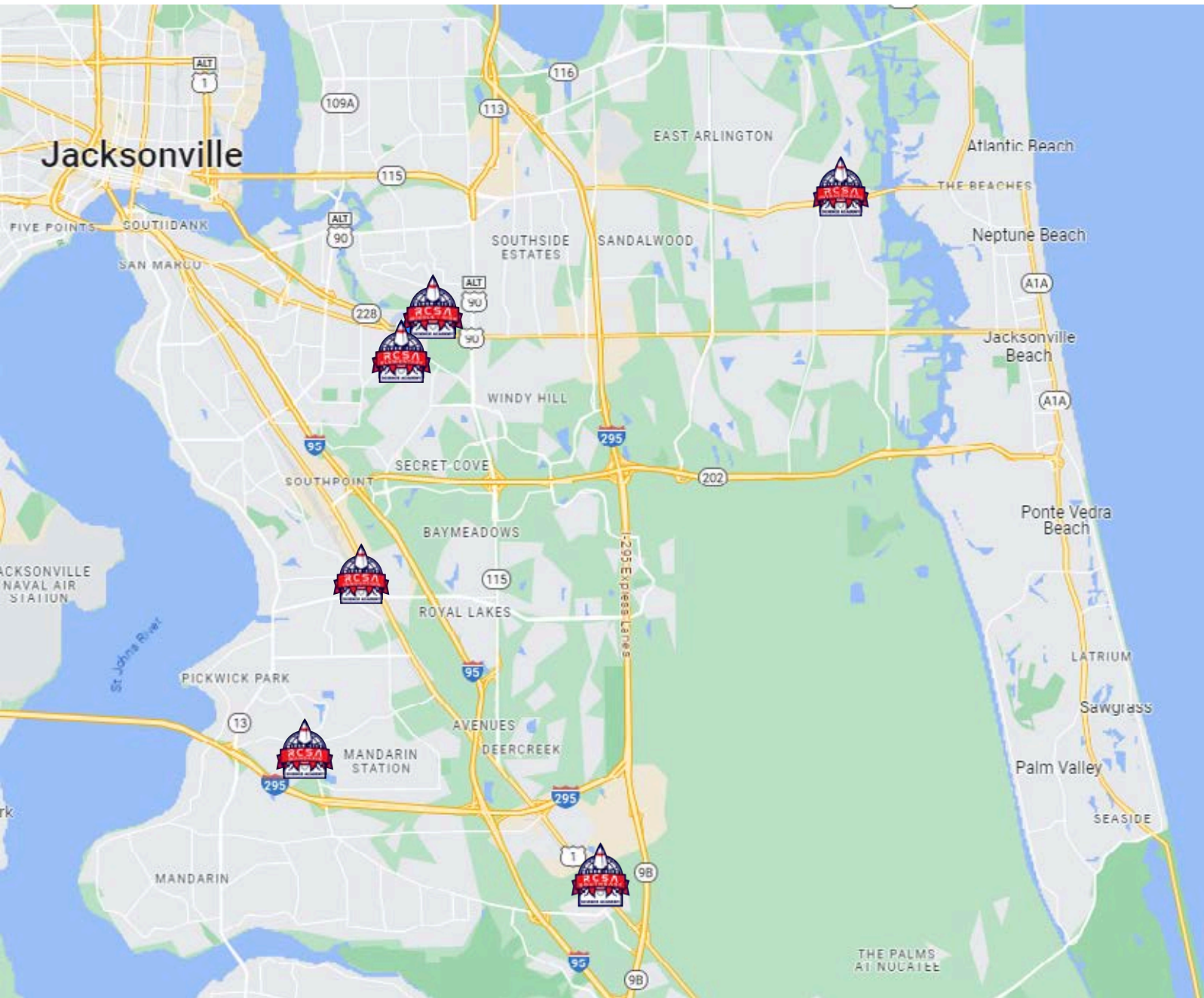
**Daniel Kids**

**JFRD Fallen Firefighter Memorial Fund**





# RCSA LOCATIONS



**MIDDLE HIGH**  
6 - 12  
904-855-8010 X1  
7565 BEACH BLVD.  
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32216



**MANDARIN**  
K - 8  
904-855-8010 X4  
10911 OLD ST. AUGUSTINE RD.  
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32257



**ELEMENTARY**  
K - 5  
904-855-8010 X2  
7450 BEACH BLVD.  
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32216



**INTRACOASTAL**  
K - 8  
904-855-8010 X5  
2002 SAN PABLO RD. SOUTH  
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32224



**INNOVATION**  
K - 8  
904-855-8010 X3  
8160 BAYMEADOWS WAY W.  
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32256



**SOUTHEAST**  
K - 6  
904-855-8010 X6  
12397 PHILIPS HWY.  
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32256



# Thank You

to our wonderful administration, faculty, staff, parents, students, volunteers, partners, and Board of Directors for their continued commitment to the success and growth of River City Science Academy.

## Governing Board

Mr. Emre Mese, President/Board Chair  
Mr. Serkan Dogan, Vice President  
Mr. Fatih Kurt, Board Secretary  
Dr. Sakhavat Mammadov, Board Member  
Dr. Dogan Tozoglu, Executive Director

## Executive Management Team

Dr. Dogan Tozoglu, Executive Director  
Mr. Sel Buyuksarac, Director of Public Affairs & Engagement  
Mr. Alisher Kuvatov, Director of Academics  
Mr. Mehmet Aksoy, Director of Information Technology  
Ms. Nicole Spanbauer, Principal of Elementary  
Ms. Megan Jackson, Principal of Intracoastal  
Mr. Mesut Erdogan, Principal of Innovation  
Mr. Yakup Ustaomer, Principal of Middle-High  
Mr. Bekir Durmus, Principal of Mandarin  
Dr. Alaaddin Akgul, Principal of Southeast

## Top RCSA Support Network

Jacksonville Transit Authority  
VyStar  
CSX  
Well & You  
The Morris Center  
First Coast Cardiovascular Institute  
The Bailey Group  
Florida Blue  
Galaxy Builders, Inc.  
Jacksonville Electric Authority

## Education Partners

University of North Florida  
Florida State College at Jacksonville  
Jacksonville University  
Florida Consortium of Public Charter Schools  
Doral College  
Duke Tip  
Florida Charter Alliance  
Graduate School of Stanford Business  
Leadership Jacksonville  
Leadership Florida  
Northeast Florida Regional STEM2 Hub

## Organizations & Government Partners

City of Jacksonville  
Office of the Sheriff  
Department of Justice, FBI  
DoD Starbase  
Downtown Rotary Chambers  
Jacksonville Public Education Fund  
Jax Chamber

## Community Partners

Florida Theater  
Jacksonville Jaguars  
LifeSouth  
Breezy Beauty Bar  
Museum of Science and History  
Bricks, Bots, & Beakers