



RIVER CITY SCIENCE ACADEMY
CHARTER SCHOOLS

2024-2025 ROCKET PULSE





RIVER CITY SCIENCE ACADEMY

A MESSAGE FROM DR. T

Dear Friends,

2024–2025 has been an inspiring year at River City Science Academy, filled with growth, innovation, and remarkable achievements. It has been an honor to share this journey with our passionate teachers, committed staff, supportive partners, and, most importantly, our incredible students and their families.

Each of you has played a vital role in strengthening our mission and ensuring that STEM education continues to thrive in our community. As we look to the future, I am filled with gratitude and excitement for all that we will accomplish together. Thank you for your unwavering dedication to our students and their success.

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



a high performing, non-profit, public charter school system in Duval County with A grades among all campuses



a Florida District of Character, as designated by Character.org



a Cognia-accredited school, recognized worldwide for excellence in education



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.



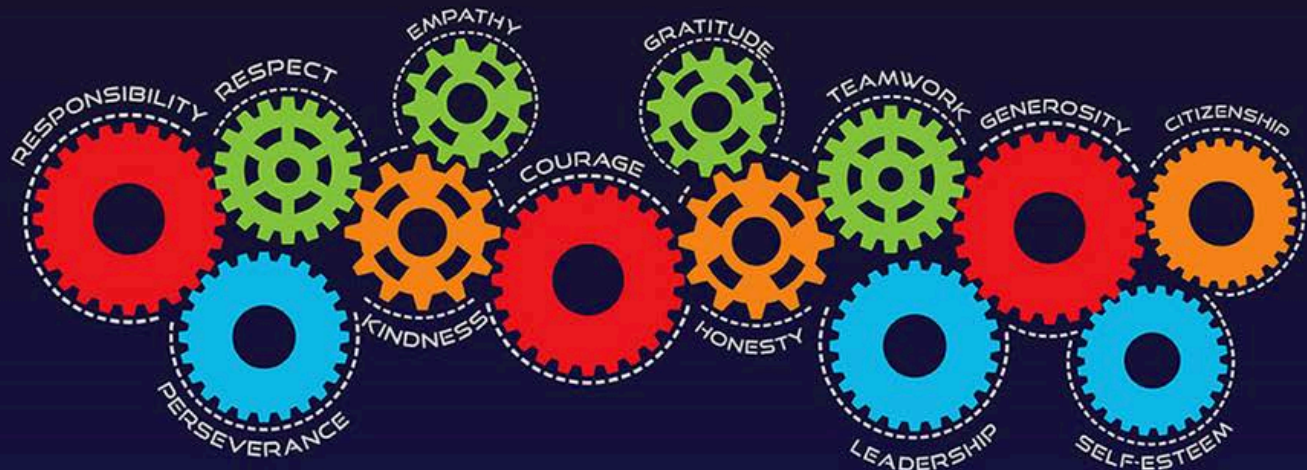
SELF-CONFIDENCE

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

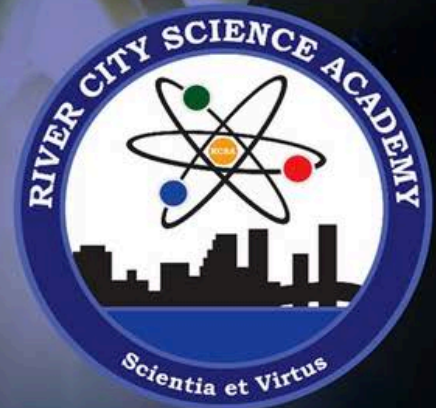
- Follow directions the first time.
- Use school language.
- Positive interaction with peers & adults.

RESPONSIBLE

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

SAFE

- Keep yourself to yourself.



LAUNCH TO SUCCESS!
RCSA ROCKETS

RIVER CITY SCIENCE ACADEMY SCHOOLS PROFILE



RCSA SCHOOLS ARE
A-GRADED AND HIGH-PERFORMING
PER FLDOE

2025



18 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, AdvancEd (now Cognia) in the 2009–2010 school year.

2011

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



2010

In 2010, RCSA applies for and is awarded the approval to open RCSA Elementary across from the Middle-High school to serve grades K–5th.



2013

RCSA establishes its third campus, RCSA Innovation, in 2013. RCSA Innovation is located off Philips Hwy near Baymeadows Rd and serves grades K–8.



2013

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



2014

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



MANDARIN
Grades K-8

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

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 FLDOE.



This award recognizes schools for their community partnerships, family involvement, volunteerism, student community service, and school advisory committee.

2016

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



2017

The tradition of KickStart begins - our all-hands staff celebration to start the new school year.

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.

2019

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

2019

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

2020

RCSA Innovation moves to its new location further down Philips Highway and commissions a beautiful campus mural design.



INNOVATION
Grades K-8





2020

River City Science Academy receives approval to open their 5th campus, RCSA Intracoastal, on San Pablo Road.

2023

RCSA opens its 6th campus, RCSA Southeast, off Philips Highway, in August 2023.



2023

RCSA schools place on the U.S. News and World Report's "Best Elementary Schools", "Best Middle Schools", and "Best High Schools" lists.



2023

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



2023

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

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



All six RCSA schools received an 'A' grade and designated as high-performing by the Florida Department of Education for the 2023–2024 school year.

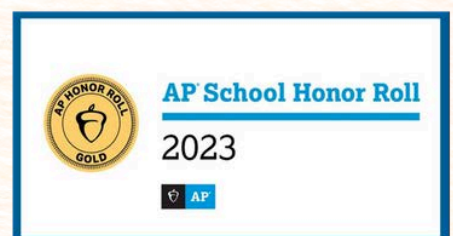
2023

The RCSA STEM and Health Expo is recognized by the Mayor for our contribution to community STEM and Health education.



2023

RCSA Middle-High reaches AP School Honor Roll Gold level and estimated to reach Platinum level for the 2024–2025 school year.



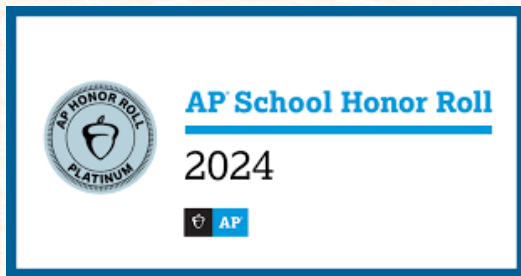
2023

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 takes 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

Our RCSA District receives the prestigious designation of Florida District of Character from Character.org. RCSA Intracoastal also earns the title of Florida State School of Character.



2024

RCSA Middle-High reaches AP School Honor Roll Platinum for 2023–2024.

2025

RCSA selected as one of Jacksonville Magazine's 2025 Companies with Heart.



2023

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.



2024

RCSA is nominated for and wins the 2024 Building Hope Impact S. Joseph Bruno Charter Leadership Award.



2024

RCSA receives many special grants in 2024 including the Fruit Tree Planting Foundation partnership and the Charter School Growth Fund adds us to their exclusive portfolio.



2025

All six RCSA non-profit, STEM-focused, public charter schools reach A-rated and High-Performing status with the Florida Department of Education for the 2024–2025 school year.

For the first time in history, Duval County Public Schools earned an overall “A” grade, and we are proud that RCSA's continued excellence and commitment to high-quality STEM education contributed to this historic milestone.



2024 - 2025 BY THE NUMBERS



6

CAMPUS LOCATIONS



626

STAFF



4793 ENROLLED STUDENTS

MIDDLE-HIGH 991

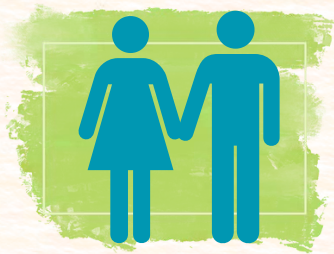
SOUTHEAST 726

ELEMENTARY 579

INTRACOASTAL 814

INNOVATION 813

MANDARIN 870



46.2% FEMALE STUDENTS

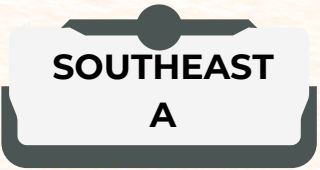
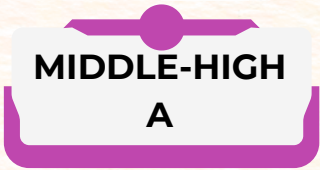
53.8% MALE STUDENTS



133 GRADUATED SENIORS

AT A 100% GRAD RATE OVERALL

2024-2025 FLDOE
SCHOOL GRADES





CHARTER SCHOOLS
Grades K-12

Student Clubs and Organizations

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
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
NEWSLETTER CLUB
NINTENDO SWITCH CLUB
ODYSSEY OF THE MIND
PHOTOGRAPHY
PHOTOSHOP
PUBLIC SPEAKING CLUB
READING CLUB

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
UKULELE.
VIOLIN CLUB
VOLLEYBALL
WEIGHTLIFTING
YEARBOOK CLUB
YOGA
ZOOLOGICAL STUDIES



2024 - 2025 TEACHERS OF THE YEAR



MS. HORNE



MS. PEIFFER



MS. TAYLOR



MS. BRUCE



MS. HALL



MS. TRAVERSO



SPECIAL STAFF SPOTLIGHTS



Dr. T named one of Florida's Charter School Champions of the Year by the Florida Consortium of Public Charter Schools.



RCSA Mandarin's Mrs. Brown won the Cindy Edelman Excellence in Teaching Fellowship from the Jacksonville Public Education Fund.



RCSA Middle-High 7th grade math teacher Mr. Birao received the First Coast News Teacher of the Week award as well as receiving the Duval County's LifeChanger of the Year award.



RCSA Innovation 5th Grade Science teacher, Mrs. Hall, and 5th Grade Math teacher, Ms. White, were selected as 2025's Cindy Edelman Excellence in Teaching Fellows.

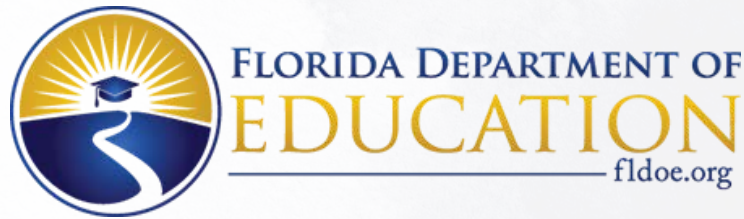


RCSA Mandarin Middle School Health teacher, Mr. Taylor, won the 2025 TaxSlayer Gator Bowl Champions of the Classroom award! Mr. Taylor was one out of twelve teachers awarded \$500 for his classroom.

2024 - 2025 SCHOOL RECOGNITIONS



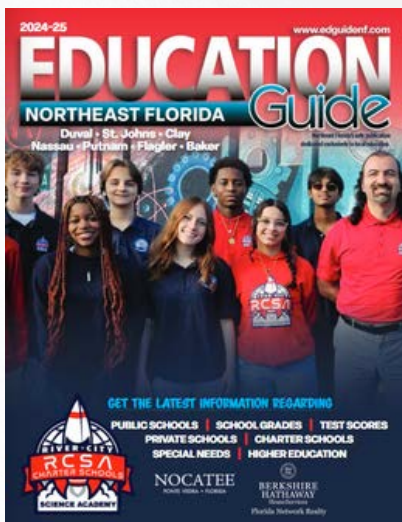
All 6 RCSA schools received an **A-rating** from the Florida Department of Education



River City Science Academy was named a
2025 State District of Character



River City Science Academy **Intracoastal**
was recognized as a **2025 State School of Character**



Our district was featured on the
cover of the **Northeast Florida
Education Guide**, for the second
year

RCSA was named one of Jacksonville
Magazine's **Companies with Heart**



2024 - 2025 SCHOOL RECOGNITIONS



THE FRUIT TREE
PLANTING
FOUNDATION

Our beautiful Middle-High garden received a \$10,000 award from **Sprouts Healthy Communities Foundation**, as well as 50 fruit trees from the **Fruit Tree Planting Foundation**.



RCSA Middle-High ranked Best High School
RCSA Intracoastal, RCSA Innovation, RCSA Mandarin ranked
Best Middle School
RCSA Elementary ranked Best Elementary school.

2024 - 2025 SCHOOL RECOGNITIONS

Mayor Donna Deegan visited RCSA Elementary for **Read Across America**. Not only did she read to some of our students but they also got the opportunity to pick out a book of their choice from the Mayor Deegan's River City Readers book mobile.

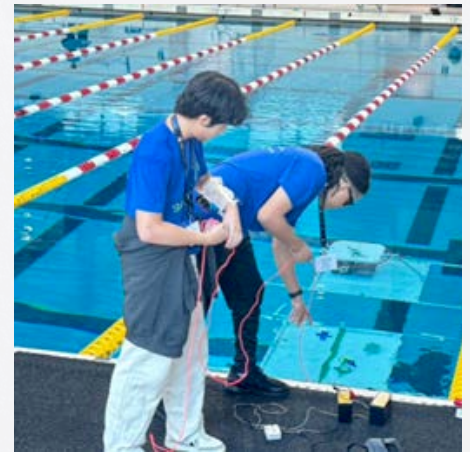


RCSA Middle-High student, Luke Valenzuela was invited to compete against the top mathletes in the **Mathcon Nationals** in Chicago.



2024 - 2025 SCHOOL RECOGNITIONS

RCSA Middle-High Team Charybdis placed 4th overall, and Team Aquarius placed 7th overall in the High School Stock Class at the International **SeaPerch Challenge**!



RCSA Mandarin's Team Koi also qualified for the International **SeaPerch Challenge**!



RCSA Middle-High's middle school robotics team, Rockets-Rock won the Core Values Award at the **First Lego League (FLL)** qualifier competition. The team also qualified to compete at the regional tournament.



2024 - 2025 SCHOOL RECOGNITIONS



RCSA Mandarin Mathletics team showcased their problem-solving skills at the **Perennial Math Tournament**. They tackled challenging math problems both individually and collaboratively. Their hard work paid off with 4 individual awards and 9 team awards.

At the Central Florida Regional competition, the RCSA Southeast team earned an incredible 2nd Place out of the top teams in the state with many medals in individual lab, engineering and academic events.

RCSA Innovation went to the finals for the **FCAA Championship** in volleyball and their Boys Soccer Team won the Championship.



RCSA Innovation completed the **Elementary Robotics Expo** at the Providence School of Jacksonville, and both teams won the Challenge Solution Award. This award is presented to teams that demonstrate excellent problem-solving skills in creating innovative and helpful solutions to challenges.

2024 - 2025 SCHOOL RECOGNITIONS



Noetic Learning Math Contest:

Out of 40,874 participants, our 6th graders, RCSA Middle-High students Annabelle Stasyuk and Yousof Azaizeh, made it into the top 10% across the country, earning the prestigious title of National Honor Roll.



At the Florida State **Science Olympiad** Tournament in Gainesville, the RCSA Middle-High middle school team, Rockets, placed 4th, and our High School team, RaTs, placed 6th! Across both teams, RCSA Middle-High brought home four 1st place, three 2nd place, four 3rd place, and five 4th place medals.



At the Florida Elementary **Science Olympiad** Competition in Gainesville, the RCSA Elementary team achieved remarkable success, with two firsts and a third place finish.

2024 - 2025 SCHOOL RECOGNITIONS



RCSA Mandarin Team Carbon competed in the regional **Science Olympiad** bringing home 8 gold, 2 silver, and 4 bronze medals. The RCSA Mandarin elementary school team earned medals in all of their events at the Florida State Science Olympiad Competition. For the third year in a row, The Galaxy team is the Florida's First Coast Science Olympiad Champions.



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



The RCSA Intracoastal **Science Olympiad** team placed 7th at the First Coast Florida Elementary Science Olympiad and 9th at the Central Florida Elementary competition.



2024 - 2025 SCHOOL RECOGNITIONS

RCSA Innovation's **Science Olympiad** teams participated in the Regional competition and received several top 10 placements including Air Trajectory, Dynamic Planet, Experimental Design, Reach for the Stars, Tower, Write it Do it. Odyssey of the Mind received 2nd and 5th place!



RCSA Southeast's Team Rocket competed in the **Florida State Energy Whiz Olympiad**. In their very first competition, they earned an amazing 2nd place finish at the University of Central Florida's Florida Solar Energy Center in Cocoa, Florida!

RCSA Middle-High competed in the 20th annual Admiral Jonathan T. Howe Academic World Quest sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Jacksonville. **Academic WorldQuest** is a flagship program of the World Affairs Council network, is a team game testing competitors' knowledge of international affairs, geography, history, and culture. There were over 46 teams making it the largest ever iteration of World Quest in Jacksonville!



2024 - 2025 SCHOOL RECOGNITIONS

The RCSA Middle-High middle school and high school debate teams traveled to Sarasota, Florida to compete in the **FCDI State Championship** alongside over 450 talented competitors from across the state.

We're incredibly proud to share that 20 RCSA debaters represented our school with excellence and determination — and their hard work paid off with standout placements across multiple categories!



The RCSA Southeast Speech and Debate Team competed in the **FCDI Regional Tournament #2** in St. Augustine and took first place.



RCSA Middle-High School students brought their A-game to the **Model United Nations Conference** at George Southern University this past weekend with 18 other schools and nearly 500 students.

Eskander Alsrai and Jithesh Mithra received an honorable mention for their representation of Myanmar, while Arya Shalton and Anthony Safar were awarded Distinguished Delegation from Cyprus.

2024 - 2025 SCHOOL RECOGNITIONS



RCSA Innovation had the privilege of hosting a group of educators from the Netherlands! Our visitors were eager to learn more about our programs and expressed a strong interest in exploring schools that collaborate with UNF.

RCSA is proud to share our innovative approach to STEM and character education with partners around the globe.

RCSA Innovation was honored to welcome the Jacksonville Jaguars to their campus for **Read Across America Week!** Players and staff shared stories with our students, making reading come alive in an unforgettable way.



RCSA Southeast's Model UN Team represented the school brilliantly at the Georgia Southern University 43rd Annual **Model UN Conference**, receiving an Honorable Mention overall.

IN THE LAST 5 YEARS, OUR STUDENTS HAVE RAISED OVER \$250,000 TO DISTRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNITY THROUGH PROGRAMS SUCH AS:

GIVING back



PENNIES FOR PETS, HUMANE SOCIETY

CANS FOR COOKIES

BOOSTERTHON

STEM & HEALTH EXPO

CARNIVALS OR FESTIVALS

BEACH CLEANUP

CARLINE CAMPAIGNS

CHRISTMAS GIFT DONATIONS

GOODWILL DONATIONS

RED RIBBON WEEK

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVES

NATURAL DISASTER RELIEF

DRESS DOWN DAYS

HEALING HEARTS

PINK OUT WEEK

ALL-PRO DADS

CLOTHING DRIVES

JAGUARS HONOR ROWS

GRANDPARENTS DAY

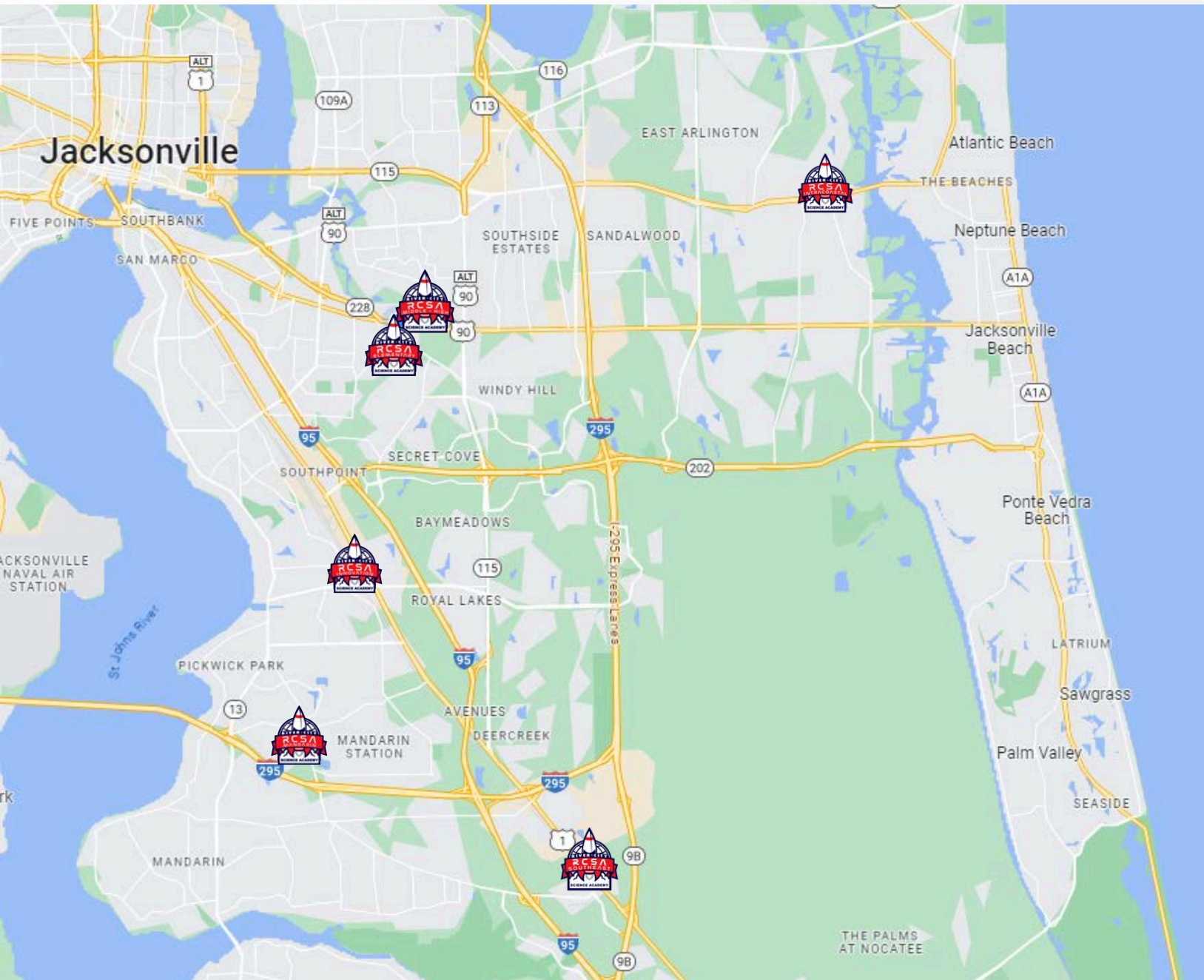
MILITARY APPRECIATION

ANGEL TREES

HEALING HEARTS



RCSA LOCATIONS



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



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



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



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



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



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