



Ritch Middle School Improvement Plan at a Glance

P.B. Ritch Middle School Snapshot

P.B. Ritch Middle School opened in August 2012, nestled among retail shops and local businesses just off Charles Hardy Parkway. As a Title I school, we proudly serve a rich and diverse population of both students and staff from a variety of neighborhoods and apartment communities.

The school is named in honor of Paul B. Ritch, Sr., a dedicated educator who served Paulding County for over 40 years. Mr. Ritch began teaching in a two-room schoolhouse at Willow Springs and later became principal at Hiram in 1938. Under his leadership, the commercial department was introduced, offering students valuable skills like typing and shorthand as the county transitioned from agriculture to industry.

One of Mr. Ritch's proudest accomplishments was having a junior high school named in his honor—Paul B. Ritch School, originally located off Ridge Road. After that campus was later converted to an elementary school and eventually closed, the Ritch family requested the name be carried forward. On January 24, 2012, the Board of Education honored that legacy by naming Middle School #9 "P.B. Ritch Middle School.

Mission	Vision
Our mission is to actively prepare students to become respectful, responsible, resourceful, and relatable in a changing society.	Our vision is to actively engage students in rigorous instruction focused on individual needs.

Goals

Accountability Goal 1: By May of 2026, 70% of students in grades 6–8 will demonstrate expected or high growth ($SGP \geq 35$) in English Language Arts and Mathematics on the Georgia Milestones Assessment. Growth will be evaluated in relation to the following grade level median SGPs (based on Spring 2025 GMAS): 6th Grade: ELA – 54, Math – 67, 7th Grade: ELA – 55, Math – 47.5, 8th Grade: ELA – 47, Math – 36

Accountability Goal 2: By May 2026, 100% of students in grades 6–8 will participate in at least one interdisciplinary, performance-based STEM learning experience that integrates STEM cross-cutting concepts and includes authentic inquiry, the engineering design process, and real-world applications which connect to our school garden, as evidenced by student projects and performance rubrics.

Beliefs

We believe students thrive when they take responsibility for their own learning within a supportive environment rooted in respect, equality, and dignity. Learning is most effective when it occurs through meaningful relationships among all stakeholders and when teachers serve as facilitators who guide and inspire rather than simply instruct. Collaborative learning with peers, exploration of diverse resources, and engagement with relevant, real-world curriculum further enrich the educational experience. By maintaining high expectations and fostering a climate of mutual respect, we empower students to grow intellectually, socially, and emotionally.

Demographics

RMS serves approximately 748 students in grades 6–8. Our student body is diverse: 56.8% Black/African American, 16.7% Hispanic/Latino, 16.1% White, 8.2% multiracial, 1% Asian, and 0.04% American Indian/Alaskan Native. About 70.5% of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, 4% are English Language Learners, and 13.9% receive Special Education services.

Honors/Awards/Certifications

- PCSD STEM Badge Level III
- Currently working with Cognia to achieve STEM Certification
- Scored higher than the state and district in Closing Gaps on CCRPI 2024
- Since our opening in 2012, we have had 3 district spelling bee winners with one making it to the state level competition
- Two of our teachers have been named as the PCSD District Teacher of the Year since we opened our doors in 2012