



RBCS CLUBS AND AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES Fall 2009

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| 3:30 – 5:30 Drama Club (6 th Grade) 3:30 – 4:30 Chess Club (Grades 4 th -6 th) 3:30 – 4:30 Math Tutoring (2 nd Grade) 3:30 - 4:30 Literacy Tutoring (2 nd) 3:30 – 4:30 Math Tutoring (3 rd Grade) 3:30 – 4:30 Math Tutoring (4 th Grade) 3:30 – 4:30 Math Tutoring (6 th Grade) | 3:30 – 4:30 Science Club (Grades 4 th -6 th) 3:30 – 4:30 Art Club (Grades 5 th & 6 th) 3:30 – 4:30 Literacy Tutoring (3 rd Grade) | No activities Due to staff/faculty meetings | 3:30 – 4:30 Science Club (Grades 4 th -6 th) 3:30 – 4:30 Chess Club (Grades 1 st – 3 rd) 3:30 – 4:30 Math Tutoring (5 th Grade) 3:30 – 4:30 Literacy Tutoring (5 th Grade) 3:30 – 4:30 Literacy Tutoring (6 th Grade) 3:30 – 4:30 Debate Club (6 th Grade) | Weekend! Time for everyone to relax... |

What are these clubs all about?

Enchantment Theater (Mondays – 3:30 to 5:30)

The Enchantment Theatre Company's (ETC) Magic of Masks Residency Program brings ETC Teaching Artists directly into the Russell Byers Charter School to work with students. Enchantment Teaching Artists begin the program with theater games to inspire the students to build confidence and work as an ensemble. Students explore exercises, which teach life skills and acting skills including: energy, eye contact, spatial awareness, teamwork, body language and stage movement, communicating ideas, memorization, and improvisational skills. RBCS students create costumes and props using found objects and craft supplies. ETC Teaching Artists also work on character development using masks and puppets. Students will explore storytelling identifying theme, setting, characters, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution and the moral/lesson. Through the course of the program, RBCS students will learn to express themselves and collaborate with others, becoming a true ensemble, and ultimately creating and performing an original production for an audience.

Chess Club (Mondays and Thursdays 3:30 – 4:30)



The after-school Chess Club is offered to students on two different days. Lower grades attend on Thursday afternoons and include 1st through 3rd grade students. 4th through 6th grade students attend Monday afternoon sessions. Chess is a game that teaches students to become critical thinkers and problem solvers. They learn to strategically analyze, solve multi-step problems, understand the relationship between consequences and rewards, and develop camaraderie. Some students will have the opportunity to become a member of the RBCS Knights Chess Team and participate in local and national competitions.

Art Club (Tuesdays 3:00 – 5:00)

The Art Club Program is a 20 week visual arts education program for 5th and 6th grade RBCS students held after school hours at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. The Delphi Project Foundation covers all costs of the Art Club, which includes art supplies, transportation to the museum, exhibitions and celebrations and healthy after-school snacks. The goals of the program are to develop self-expression through art, to enhance critical thinking skills through artistic problem solving, introduce students to career opportunities in the visual arts through interaction with Museum staff, and to provide a safe, welcoming and supervised environment where students can spend after school hours in stimulating, creative activities with friends. Students work with a variety of artistic media including painting, ceramics, sculpture and printmaking. The students are exposed to a multicultural curriculum, studying art from places such as China, India, Europe and Japan. A special emphasis is placed on African America and Latino contemporary artists. After the 14th week of the program, The Philadelphia Museum of Art holds an exhibition of student work in its Education Gallery. To celebrate the exhibition and the students' accomplishments, the students and their families are treated to a special reception at the Museum and a performance in their honor.

Science Club (Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30 – 4:30)

The Science Club allows students in grades 4 through 6 to investigate scientific topics that would not normally be covered in elementary and middle school classrooms. We use a collaborative, hands-on approach to research different natural phenomena that are of interest to students. Some of the fascinating projects in the 2008-2009 school year included:

-  *Trout in the classroom:* For seven months, science club members explored the lifecycles of trout by raising over 100 fish in classroom aquariums. After learning everything from tank maintenance to the politics of maintaining native ecosystems, students release the trout into the Wissahickon Creek with their parents and friends cheering them on.
-  *Alternative energy:* Students studied and designed models that did not need conventional sources of power, including solar cars, rubber band robots, winches and fans.

Debate Club (Thursdays 3:30 – 4:30)

RBCS is launching a Debate Club for interested 6th grade students. Our students will be coached by college-level debaters from the University of Pennsylvania and Drexel through a program called Perspectives Debate. Through debate, students will be able to defend both sides of any topic, and through research, argumentation, and discussion with others, students will broaden their perspectives and learn more about a variety of issues. A 2004 study by the Soros Foundation found that over the course of just one school year, students on debate teams improved their reading comprehension scores by 25% more than non-debate students. Debate focuses on developing skills in critical thinking, public speaking, writing, and research. Students in the RBCS Debate Club will have the opportunity to compete in local debate tournaments against participating schools.

Tutoring (Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30 – 4:30)

Tutors work with individual students or small groups of students who need extra support in literacy, numeracy and mathematics. The tutoring session includes skill development, review of topics that have already been covered in class and assistance with homework. Tutoring sessions usually last for one hour and are held most often after school, but sometimes occur before school and during the lunch/recess hour. The students are recommended by their teachers to participate in these groups.