

## Organizational Overview (FAQ's)

**Q: What is Rachel's Daughters?**

**A:** Rachel's Daughters of RHS is an all-female, peer education organization. Based on the principles of leadership, scholarship, service, and faith, the organization is dedicated to the betterment of Riverdale High School via student-centered activities, seminars, and training sessions.

**Q: Why was Rachel's Daughters started?**

**A:** The RHS chapter of Rachel's Daughters is component of Rachel's Daughters, Inc. a faith-based nonprofit organization founded Mrs. Shekema Tinch Holmes in 2003. At its inception, Rachel's Daughters, Inc. offered free, after school tutoring and mentoring for at-risk teen girls in the Grady Homes community (a property of the Atlanta Housing Authority). During its first year, Rachel's Daughters served more than 100 girls ages 12-18 and gained attention of the Metro Atlanta community.

In 2004, Fulton County Government's Department of Youth Services awarded the Charles Thomas, Jr. Achievement Award to Mrs. Holmes for her dedication to the education and improvement of the lives of young people in Fulton County. In 2005, Rachel's Daughters opened offices in Riverdale and in Wilmington, DE. The following year, the organization was awarded the Hosea Williams Award for Community Service and Social Activism during Georgia State University's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Convocation.

Since its founding in 2003, Rachel's Daughters has continued to pursue its mission to encourage a new generation of leaders and teachers. After stepping down from the organization to teach at Riverdale High School, Mrs. Holmes witnessed numerous teen pregnancies, an increase in gang and domestic violence. She once again saw the need for change and answered the call to serve. Through discussions with the students in her own classroom, Mrs. Holmes and 55 dedicated young women decided to be the change they wanted to see in the world. The result was Rachel's Daughters of RHS—the first ever chapter on a high school campus—which was chartered by Dr. Duncan's approval on November 15, 2006.

**Q: What does Rachel's Daughters of RHS do?**

**A:** Rachel's Daughters of will conduct peer education activities, seminars, and training sessions for students, faculty, and staff. This peer education will take place in various venues: in-class, student forums, and person-to-person contact. Members of Rachel's Daughters will engage their classmates in discussions about prevention of at-risk behaviors, prevention of violent confrontation, and prevention of early dropout due to unplanned pregnancy.

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### **Q: Who can join Rachel's Daughters?**

**A:** Membership in Rachel's Daughters is open to all female students at Riverdale High School. All students interested in membership must complete a membership application and submit two character reference forms from teachers, youth group sponsors, or employment supervisors. An interview by Rachel's Daughters sponsors and/or student officers is also required. To maintain membership, students must attend meetings regularly, maintain a minimum of a 75% average in all core courses, and participate in a minimum of 10 service learning hours each academic year\*.

*Note: Hours earned for other service organization may also count towards the 10-hour minimum\*.*

**\*\*All meetings are held on Monday afternoons in the Media Center from 3:30-4:30pm.\*\***

### **Q: I want to get involved, but I'm not sure where I can do the most good. Can you help me decide?**

**A:** There are three major groups within our organization. When deciding where to serve, you should consider what each group specializes in. Here is what each of the three groups does best:

#### Peer Prevention Specialists (prevention of at-risk behaviors)

- ❖ drug & alcohol abuse prevention
- ❖ teen pregnancy prevention
- ❖ STD prevention
- ❖ suicide prevention

#### Peer Mediation Specialists (prevention of violence and disruptive aggression)

- ❖ gang violence prevention
- ❖ domestic violence prevention
- ❖ date rape prevention
- ❖ mediation of small, on-campus civil disputes

#### Pregnant & Parenting Teen Support Group (prevention of early dropouts due to unplanned pregnancy)

- ❖ work closely with the school social worker and community social service organizations to provide on-going support and resources to pregnant and parenting teens

### **Q: Where can I learn more about Rachel's Daughters?**

**A:** To learn more about Rachel's Daughter of RHS and how you make a change in your school, contact Mrs. Holmes in room B-215 or Ms. Johnson in the Media Center.

For additional information and or membership materials, please visit our website at [www.rachelsdaughters.org/RiverdaleHigh](http://www.rachelsdaughters.org/RiverdaleHigh).

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