

ROCKFORD CHRISTIAN
MIDDLE & HIGH
SCHOOL

COURSE OFFERING
2018-19

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ENGLISH

Language is the foundation for all learning. God’s love for us is communicated through His Word encouraging us to communicate effectively and truthfully. Those who learn to articulate truth will become leaders, able to powerfully influence people for the glory of God.

“May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.” Psalm 19:14

Language Arts Grade 6

CONTENT: This course encompasses literature, writing, spelling, and grammar. Students are introduced to middle school grade level forms of literature, including the short story, poetry, drama, and the novel. Required novels include, but are not limited to, *The Bronze Bow* and *The Westing Game*. Writing exercises introduce the organization and composition of the five-paragraph essay. Students further develop the six traits of writing through a variety of writing forms. Students compose a brief introductory level research paper in conjunction with their history or science class. Grammar instruction includes parts of speech, punctuation, and the diagramming of simple sentences. Reading comprehension skills continue to be practiced through the Accelerated Reader program.

Language Arts Grade 7

CONTENT: This course includes expository and creative writing, journaling, vocabulary, grammar, Daily Oral Language, speaking, and a study of literature. Students will read novels, short stories, poetry, and plays, as well as read and study classical mythology. Writing assignments, such as the “perfect school,” first line contest, review writing, and biographies give the opportunity for all students to develop their writing skills. Reading comprehension skills continue to be grown through the use of the Accelerated Reader program.

Language Arts Grade 8

CONTENT: This course focuses on formal writing through the five-paragraph essay. Writing instruction includes introducing the full research and essay writing process: prewriting, outlining, drafting, revising, editing, and presenting. Research writing instruction includes an introduction to the Modern Language Association standards on various topics from biographies to countries. Students read, interpret, apply, and analyze various short stories and plays in class, which includes a Holocaust unit driven by *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Outside of class students are required to continue participation in the Accelerated Reader program. Vocabulary study, the mastery of parts of speech, and public speaking skills are developed continuously throughout the course.

Intermediate Grammar & Composition

2 Credits

CONTENT: This course for English language learners focuses on developing the writing process: prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and presenting. Students read and write various

a classic novel of each individual student's choosing. Students also complete an additional honors project each quarter that focuses on research, literary analysis, and composition.

Prerequisites - Honors Composition, Genre & Grammar and/or permission of instructor.

American Literature Grade 11 2 Credits

CONTENT: Honors American literature surveys various short stories, poems, essays, and novels from the Native American, colonial, enlightenment, romantic, realist, modernist, and contemporary genres including, but not limited to, *The Crucible*, *The Scarlet Letter*, and *The Old Man & The Sea*. Class activities focus on improving writing and critical thinking skills in the form of small group work, performance poetry, and essay writing. The course culminates with a biographically based research paper on an American author and novel, demonstrating mastery of investigative writing skills.

Honors American Literature Grade 11 2 Credits

CONTENT: Honors American literature surveys various short stories, poems, essays, plays and novels from the Native American, colonial, enlightenment, romantic, realist, modernist, and contemporary genres including, but not limited to, *The Crucible*, *The Scarlet Letter*, and *The Old Man & The Sea*. Class activities include Socratic seminars, essay writing, small group projects, and performance poetry; class work emphasizes higher-level critical thinking skills concerning the interpretation, application, and analysis of the text. The honors students are additionally required to independently read and analyze one contemporary American novel per quarter. The course culminates with an independent study of an American author and novel in the form of a biographical, archetypal, historical, and/or psychological research paper, demonstrating mastery of investigative writing skills.

Prerequisites - Honors World Literature and/or permission of instructor.

AP English Language & Composition Grade 11 2 Credits

CONTENT: Students in the introductory college writing course will read and analyze a variety of challenging and stylistically different pieces of nonfiction prose. Additionally, select elements of American fiction will be incorporated to further illustrate author's purpose and the use of rhetoric and language, as seen in the nonfiction counterparts. Through a variety of writing activities, spanning from journaling to digital forum discussion, students will practice their analytical, expository, narrative and argumentative writing skills. Students will frequently edit, review, debate, and analyze writing samples from their own portfolios as well as their peer's work. Furthermore, students will be exposed to an assortment of rhetorical elements, language use, and stylistic choices originating from Ancient Greece (and still being practiced today). Featured authors include Malcolm Gladwell, Mark Twain, Benjamin Franklin, Henry David Thoreau, Marjane Satrapi, Niccolo Machiavelli, Steven D. Levitt, and Stephen J. Dunbar. Students will also have exposure to other periodical, editorial, and historical authors featured in the course's shorter texts.

Prerequisites - Honors World Literature and/or permission of instructor.

CONTENT: This course offers a complete program on basic communications including, oratory, interpersonal communication, and debate. Students will be given a step-by-step skill building approach on preparing, delivering, and analyzing speeches. Students will give several speeches in class, including informative, persuasive, entertainment and impromptu speeches. Students will also be taught the fundamentals of team policy debate, including analysis and research, cross-examination, and logical reasoning.

This is an elective course, and does not count toward the required English credits for graduation.

Creative Writing

2 Credits

CONTENT: This course involves writing in multiple formats. Students will write poems, screenplays, short stories, alternative endings, commercials, and songs. Multiple genres are explored including but not limited to Choose Your Own Adventure, science fiction, mystery, historical fiction, satire, and fable. This course will also include reading a variety of fiction texts and analyzing them for structure, style, tone, and other literary elements that will be emulated in writing. Students will also share their writings and peer review each other's work, working through the writing process from brainstorming to the final draft.

This is an elective course, and does not count toward the required English credits for graduation.

SOCIAL SCIENCES

It is the purpose of our social sciences courses to develop active and contributing American citizens who can make informed and reasoned choices that honor God in our culturally diverse, democratic society.

“Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.” Romans 13:1, 6-7 (NIV)

“Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, ...For it is God’s will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a coverup for evil; live as servants of God. Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.” I Peter 2:13-17 (NIV)

Ancient Civilizations 6

CONTENT: The primary purpose of this two semester course is to give students an opportunity to learn about the geographical, social, and political development of ancient world cultures and how they impacted other cultures and people today around the world. The course includes civilizations of Africa, Greece, Rome, China, the Americas and Western Asia as well as the beginnings and influences of Christianity, Judaism, Islam and eastern philosophies.

Geography 7

CONTENT: This two semester course in geography is designed to familiarize students with the seven continents of our planet. Students will learn fundamental geographic skills and be able to identify many prominent landforms, countries, and cities on Earth. This course also includes discussion of basic economic, political, historical, and cultural concepts as they relate to the various regions of the world.

U.S. History 8

CONTENT: This two semester course of American History starts with a Family Historiography unit which transitions to English colonization of the North American continent, moving into an in depth look at our country's Constitution and government. 8th Grade American History ends with the Civil War and Reconstruction of the United States. Unit studies are based on cause and effect with emphasis on relationships between historical topics and more recent events in the areas of society, economics, politics, and the military. Continued year long emphasis on primary source documents allow students to see a first hand look of the United States throughout our history.

World History

2 Credits

CONTENT: The primary purpose of this two semester course is to give students an opportunity to learn about the economic, political, and social developments that created the western civilization of which they are a part. The course includes the Ancient Middle East and Egypt, Ancient Greece and Rome, the Middle Ages and the Rise of Nation States, The Renaissance and the Reformation, Industrialization, Imperialism,

the World Wars, the Cold War, and a look at the challenges facing our world today.

Honors World History

2 Credits

CONTENT: The primary purpose of this two semester sophomore course is to give students an opportunity to learn about the economic, political, and social developments that created the western civilization of which they are a part. The course includes the Ancient Middle East and Egypt, Ancient Greece and Rome, the Middle Ages and the Rise of Nation States, The Renaissance and the Reformation, Industrialization, Imperialism, the World Wars, the Cold War, and a look at the challenges facing our world today.. This course has a focus on critical thinking and primary sources are integrated into the narrative and are supported by document-based question to help students develop and improve their critical thinking skills.

Prerequisites - (Must meet 2): Teacher recommendation, Grade of an A in Grammar and Composition, 85% or higher on standardized test.

AP World History

2 Credits

CONTENT: AP World History is for the exceptionally studious high school sophomore who wishes to potentially earn college credit in high school through a rigorous academic program. This class approaches history in a nontraditional way in that it looks at the common threads of humanity over time-trade, religion, politics, society, and technology- and it investigates how these things have changed and continue over time in different places.

Prerequisites - (Must meet 2): Teacher recommendation, Grade of an A in Honors Grammar and Composition, 85% or higher on standardized test.

U. S. History

2 Credits

CONTENT: This two semester survey course uses textbook information plus primary sources, period movies and music to study American History from the end of the Civil War to the present.

Honors U.S. History

2 Credits

CONTENT: A two semester college preparatory survey course of American History since the Civil War using textbook, information, primary sources, classic novels, and music. Emphasis is on practicing writing and critical thinking skills.

Prerequisites - (Must meet 2): Teacher recommendation, Grade of an A in World History, 85% or higher on standardized test.

AP U.S. History

2 Credits

CONTENT: An Advanced Placement two-semester class designed to provide qualified high school students with a learning experience equivalent to a college level introductory United States history survey course. The class will provide committed, and focused students

opportunities to read and analyze historical writing, reflect upon historical evidence, participate in discussion and write about central themes in America's past. The course of study centers on the political, economic, religious, social, and intellectual history of the United States from 1490 to the present.

Prerequisites - (Must meet 2): Teacher recommendation, Completion of AP World History, Grade of an A in Honors World History, 85% or higher on standardized test.

American Government **1 Credit**

CONTENT: A one semester study of the U.S. and Illinois constitutions and our American political system. This course is designed to encourage students to be active citizens of the United States and to live by the biblical command to exert godly influence on our nation's policies.

Honors American Government **1 Credit**

CONTENT: A one semester college preparatory study of the U.S. and Illinois constitutions and our American political system. This course is designed to encourage students to be active citizens of the United States and to live by the biblical command to exert godly influence on our nation's policies.

Prerequisites - (Must meet 2): Teacher recommendation, Grade of an A in U.S. History, 85% or higher on standardized test.

AP American Government **1 Credit**

CONTENT: This Advanced Placement one-semester class in U.S. Government and Politics is designed for qualified students who wish to complete a college level introductory course while still in high school. This course is also designed to encourage students to be active citizens of the United States and to live by the biblical command to exert godly influence on our nation's policies. There are five main topics of study in this course: constitutional structure and principles, political beliefs and behaviors; the institutions of our national government; political parties, interest groups and mass media; and public policymaking.

Prerequisites - (Must meet 2): Teacher recommendation, Completion of AP U.S. History, Grade of an A in Honors U.S. History, 85% or higher on standardized test.

Economics **1 Credit**

CONTENT: This one semester course is an introductory study of economics in relation to people, business, and government. Emphasis is placed on contemporary American and world problems, their causes and solutions.

Honors Economics **1 Credit**

CONTENT: This one semester college preparatory survey course covers an introduction to the study of micro and macroeconomic principles and practices in our American economy.

Prerequisites - (Must meet 2): Teacher recommendation, Grade of an A in U.S. History, 85% or higher on standardized test.

AP Microeconomics

1 Credit

CONTENT: This Advanced Placement one-semester class in Microeconomics is designed for qualified students who wish to complete a college level introductory course while still in high school. This course will provide the student with a understanding of the principles of economics as they apply to individual decision-making units, including individual households and firms. The course is designed to examine the theory of consumer behavior, the theory of the firm, and the behavior of profit maximizing firms under various market structures. Basic economic concepts, the nature and functions of product markets, factor markets, and market failure / the role of government will be discussed.

Prerequisites - (Must meet 2): Teacher recommendation, Completion of AP U.S. History, Grade of an A in Honors U.S. History, 85% or higher on standardized test.

AP Psychology

2 Credits

CONTENT: The AP Psychology course is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. They also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice.

Prerequisites - Honors Composition, Genre, & Grammar or World Literature

This is an elective course, and does not count toward the required social science credits for graduation.

Sociology

1 Credit

CONTENT: The study of groups of people from a Christian point of view is the subject of this college prep on semester elective. It is an introductory course investigating America's social structures. Topics covered include community, civil rights, AIDS/HIV, and other social problems.

This is an elective course, and does not count toward the required social science credits for graduation

Psychology

1 Credit

CONTENT: This college prep elective is a one semester introductory course in the study of the human mind and personality from a biblical perspective. Topics covered include school, child & adolescent psychology, educational development and testing, psychology and religion, and Christian counseling.

This is an elective course, and does not count toward the required social science credits for graduation.

BUSINESS

Business 101

2 Credits

CONTENT: This course provides an introduction to the business world, and helps students prepare for the economic roles of consumer, worker and citizen. Topics include: our economic environment, business operations, business and government in our global economy, small-business management, careers, and business communications. (offered every other year)

This is an elective course, and does not count toward the required social science or math credits for graduation. This course is offered every other year opposite Introduction to Law.

Introduction to Law

2 Credit

CONTENT: This course introduces students to a basic understanding of law and the study of legal issues. Topics include: ethics and the law, the court system, criminal law, torts and family law. Students will take part in an in-class mock trial at the end of the course. (offered every other year)

This is an elective course, and does not count toward the required social science credits for graduation. This course is offered every other year opposite Business 101.

Personal Finance

2 Credits

CONTENT: This course is designed to provide students with sound financial principles that will guide them into adulthood. They will be taught how to avoid debt and build wealth. Topics include: gross and net pay, banking services, loans and credit cards, owning a home and a car, insurance, investments, giving, and budgeting. In addition to learning the math behind these concepts, Dave Ramsey's curriculum, *Foundations of Personal Finance*, is used to learn how to apply these concepts.

This is an elective course, and does not count toward the required social science or math credits for graduation.

MATHEMATICS

Mathematical truths reflect many attributes of God such as His sovereignty, universality, orderliness, precision, dependability and infinitude. As we study mathematics, we add to our understanding and expressions in other areas of life as well as our understanding of God. God has given us mathematics as a tool to create as well as explore His magnificent world.

“When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place, what is man that You are mindful of him...O Lord how majestic is Your name in all the earth!” Psalm 8:3, 4, 9

Math 6

CONTENT: This course reviews the four basic arithmetic operations with whole numbers, decimals, and fractions. Students extend their understanding of the number system to include positive and negative rational numbers. Also, in this course students will begin the formal study of algebraic expressions. Ratios, statistical variability, inequalities, and quantities that change will be explored in this course. Students build on their geometric concepts as they determine area, surface area, and volume.

Honors Pre-Algebra 6

CONTENT: This course is designed for middle school students who grasp math concepts quickly and can apply those concepts in different situations. Operations involving integer and rational numbers are reviewed. Students are introduced to simplifying expressions and solving and graphing linear equations and inequalities, including work with slope and y-intercept. Also, there is an introduction into geometric principles including work with angles, parallel and perpendicular lines, similar and congruent figures, polygons, perimeter, area and volume.

Academic Pre-Algebra 7

CONTENT: This course provides a review of number theory including exponents, factors, multiples, organizing data, ratios and proportions. There is work with operations for integers and rational numbers. The course provides an introduction to equations. There is also an introduction to some geometric principles including angles, similar figures, area and perimeter.

Pre-Algebra 7

CONTENT: This course includes operations involving integer and rational numbers. Students are introduced to simplifying expressions and solving and graphing linear equations and inequalities, including work with slope and y-intercept. Also, there is an introduction into geometric principles including work with angles, parallel and perpendicular lines, similar and congruent figures, polygons, perimeter and area.

Honors Pre-Algebra 7

CONTENT: This course is designed for the middle school student for whom math concepts are grasped quickly and retained. Students are introduced to basic algebraic skills and

terminology including solving multi-step equations and inequalities. Study is given to factors, fractions, exponents, and rational numbers and their use within equations. Students also study ratios, proportions, probability and percent. Linear functions are introduced as well as systems and graphing of functions. There is an introduction to the use and application of irrational numbers, and basic trig ratios. Geometric concepts of measurements, areas, and volumes are reinforced. Students are exposed to various types of data analysis and probability. In preparation for Algebra 1, students are introduced to adding, subtracting, and multiplying polynomials as well as factoring polynomials.

Placement is by teacher recommendation.

Academic Algebra 8

CONTENT: This course starts with a review of exponents, factors, order of operations, and operations involving integers and rational numbers. It has an introduction to Geometry including angles, polygons, area, the Pythagorean Theorem, surface area, and volume. It provides an introduction to Algebra, including simplifying expressions, combining like terms, and solving one and two step equations and inequalities. The course also includes graphing linear and quadratic functions.

Algebra 8

CONTENT: This course starts with a review of order of operations, inequalities, combining like terms, and properties of real numbers. It includes solving one step and multi-step linear equations and inequalities. It includes graphing linear functions and inequalities, solving systems of linear equations and inequalities, powers and roots, factoring polynomials and evaluating rational expressions.

Honors Algebra I

CONTENT: This course is designed for the middle school student for whom math skills are learned quickly. It is a study of solving linear equations through various methods including factoring, completing the square, and use of the quadratic formula. Students study polynomials, factoring, and the use and application of algebraic fractions. Functions are introduced as well as systems of linear equations, inequalities, and work with rational and irrational numbers.

Prerequisite - Honors Pre-Algebra 7

Algebra Essentials

2 Credits

CONTENT: This course includes solving linear equations and inequalities, powers and roots, polynomials, factoring polynomials, and evaluating rational expressions. It also includes graphing linear functions and inequalities, and solving systems of linear equations and inequalities.

Prerequisite - Academic Algebra 8

Algebra I

2 Credits

CONTENT: This course is a continuation of the study of Algebra by solving, graphing and writing

linear equations and inequalities. Students study systems of equations and inequalities, exponents and exponential functions, polynomials and factoring, quadratic equations and functions (including using the quadratic formula), and rational equations and functions. The course also includes a brief overview of probability and data analysis.

Prerequisite - Algebra 8

Honors Geometry

2 Credits

CONTENT: This course is a formal study of Geometry with an emphasis on two-column proofs. Students study the relationship of points, lines, and planes, deductive and inductive reasoning, congruent triangles, quadrilaterals, inequalities, similar polygons, right triangles, circles, construction and loci, areas and volumes, and coordinate geometry. Algebra concepts and skills are interwoven with the geometry.

Prerequisite - Honors Algebra 1

Informal Geometry

2 Credits

CONTENT: A course covering geometric vocabulary, properties, and relationships as well as thinking skills and applications of geometric principles to the physical world. This course places an emphasis on inductive and numerical reasoning. This is intended as a more informal study of geometry with not as much emphasis on proofs. Algebra concepts and skills are interwoven with the geometry.

Prerequisite - Academic Algebra.

Geometry

2 Credits

CONTENT: In this course students study congruence and similarity, apply properties of lines, triangles, quadrilaterals, and circles. Problem solving skills using length, perimeter, area, circumference, surface area, and volume are developed. Algebra, data analysis, and probability are interwoven with the geometry.

Prerequisite - Algebra 1

Honors College Algebra

2 Credits

CONTENT: This course is designed for the high achieving student who has a strong background in Algebra. First semester presents a review of Algebra 1 including basic terminology, notations, concepts, and skills. The first semester continues with a study of equations and inequalities, including complex numbers and the application and modeling of quadratic equations. Also included in the first semester is the study of linear functions, circles, parabolas, function operation and composition, and graphing techniques. Second semester includes the study of polynomial and rational functions, inverse, exponential, and log functions, systems and matrices, analytic geometry, sequences, and series.

Prerequisite - Honors Geometry

Algebra II**2 Credits**

CONTENT: This course is designed for the student who needs additional time and practice in order to comprehend basic algebraic concepts. First semester reviews algebraic terminology, solving and graphing of linear equations as well as systems. During the second semester, inequalities, absolute value, quadratic functions, and factoring are presented. Students continue work with data analysis and probability.

Prerequisite - Informal Geometry

College Algebra**2 Credits**

CONTENT: Review of basic concepts of algebra, inequalities, linear equations and functions, products and factors of polynomials, rational expressions, irrational and complex numbers, quadratic equations and functions, variation and polynomial equations, and an introduction to exponential and logarithmic functions as well as a brief presentation of matrices and determinants.

Prerequisite - Geometry

Honors Trig/Pre-Calculus**2 Credits**

CONTENT: Trigonometry meets 1st semester. This course covers right and oblique triangles, trigonometric identities and equations, and radian measure. Analytic Geometry meets 2nd semester and covers analytic proof, conic sections, transformations, polar coordinates, parametric equations, and vectors.

Prerequisite - Honors College Algebra

Advanced Math Topics**2 Credits**

CONTENT: This course is highly recommended for students planning to attend college but need additional time and practice in order to comprehend mathematical concepts. This course includes a study of trigonometry including right triangle trig, graphing of trig functions, the Laws of Sines and Cosines. Students also study polynomials and polynomial equations, exponential and logarithmic functions, rational equations and functions, discrete math, and conic sections.

Prerequisite - Algebra 2

Pre-Calculus**2 Credits**

CONTENT: Extension of topics of algebra for the solving of linear, quadratic and polynomial functions. Stress is given to real world applications from business as well as science. Solving inequalities of one and two variables, and a study of exponential and logarithmic functions are among the included topics. An introduction to trigonometry, probability, and statistics is also included in this course.

Prerequisite - College Algebra

AP Statistics**2 Credits****CONTENT:**

This college level statistics course introduces qualified students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students are exposed to four broad conceptual themes: exploring data, sampling and experimentation, anticipating patterns by exploring random phenomena using probability and simulation, and statistical inference. The student that successfully completes this course and the AP exam may receive credit for a one-semester introductory college statistics course. Preparation for the AP exam given in early May is part of this course. To access a course outline and more information, go to www.collegeboard.com > for students > college board tests > AP subjects > Statistics > topic outline.

Prerequisite - Honors College Algebra or College Algebra

AP Calculus AB**2 Credits****CONTENT:**

This course covers the four main concepts of calculus: limits, derivatives, indefinite integrals and definite integrals of any function. Students are expected to evaluate each numerically, graphically and analytically and give a verbal explanation of each process. Concepts are emphasized first semester and applications during the second semester. Time is allowed for preparation for the Advanced Placement Exam (Calculus AB form) given during the first two weeks of May. To access course outline and more information, go to www.collegeboard.com >for students>college board tests>AP subjects>Calculus AB>topic outline.

Prerequisite - Honors Trig/Pre-Calc

AP Calculus BC**2 Credits****CONTENT:**

AP Calculus BC extends the content learned in AB to different types of equations and introduces the topic of sequences and series. This course covers topics in differential and integral calculus, including concepts and skills of limits, derivatives, definite integrals, the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus, and series. Students will learn how to approach calculus concepts and problems when they are represented graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally, and to make connections amongst these representations. Students will also learn how to use technology to help solve problems, experiment, interpret results, and support conclusions.

Prerequisite - AP Calculus AB

SCIENCE

God controls every part of creation. He created it and sustains it for His own purpose and pleasure. By observing the natural world we learn about God. Though we can never know everything about the universe, we are drawn to praise God and bring glory to Him.

“The heavens declare the glory of God, the skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech, night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world...The law of the lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statues of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.” Psalm 19:1-4, 7

Science 6

CONTENT: Inquiry, an open-ended approach to the study of science, has a large role in Grade 6 Science. Instruction concentrates heavily on problem solving. Students demonstrate scientific process skills such as classifying, inferring, observing, measuring, and communicating as they conduct field and laboratory investigations. This course assists students in becoming lifelong learners who grow in their understanding of the world God has created. Topics that are emphasized include the proper use of a microscope, human body systems, classification of living things, cell biology, astronomy, geology, ecosystems, meteorology, and forensics.

Science 7

CONTENT: This lab-based course integrates the basics of physics and chemistry. Students are challenged to relate God’s work in His “physical world” to their own world of technology and engineering. Instruction is hands-on and inquiry based. Lab safety is emphasized as the students manipulate lab equipment to measure, calculate, and analyze data. The focus of first semester is on physics and the basic laws of the cosmos. Instruction includes introduction to matter, motion, forces and energy while the second semester focuses on chemistry and the processes that occur in the world around us. Students gain a deeper understanding of atomic structure, ionic covalent and metallic bonding, the periodic table, chemical reactions, solutions, acids, bases, electricity, and magnetism.

Science 8

CONTENT: This course takes a hands-on, thematic approach to the study of life. Students compare and contrast the life God has created as they study the tiniest bacterium to the largest tree. Students engage in experiments which investigate biology through inquiry and real-life application. Major biological themes include cell division and growth, genetics, bacterium, plant processes, animals and behavior, cycles in nature, and environmental problems.

Earth Science

2 Credits

CONTENT: This course is designed to interpret and understand the world and universe around us. Students will investigate and study the interactions between the four major Earth’s sphere’s, the geosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere and biosphere in order to explain Earth’s formation, processes, history, landscapes --the “how” and “why” the Earth changes over time. It also covers the earth’s place in the universe. Topics include,

but are not limited to, the scientific method, metric system, meteorology, geology, earthquakes, volcanoes, the earth's freshwater and saltwater oceans, and astronomy. Students will participate in laboratory exercises, small group activities, web-based investigations, class discussions, projects, and research.

This class does not count as a "Lab Science" for college entrance purposes.

Biology

2 Credits

CONTENT: Biology is the study of living organisms, their life processes and biochemistry. It covers organic macromolecules, cell structure and reproduction, the human genome, heredity, classifying using the five kingdoms, the biotic relationships of ecology, and the human body systems—all within the framework of God's design. Students will be introduced to common biological terms, theories, the experimental method and the metric system. Standard labs are carried out to reinforce these science concepts.

Corequisite - Algebra I

Honors Biology

2 Credits

CONTENT: Honors biology is a detailed study meant for the serious life science student. It covers the same wide array of topics as the regular biology course, but they are covered in greater depth with more emphasis on photosynthesis, cellular respiration and the DNA human genome. It includes a more serious emphasis on laboratory skills. This course is designed for college bound students with an active interest in biology or those who wish to pursue a career in agriculture or a medical field.

Prerequisites - recommendation of Grade 8 science teacher, maintenance of an A average in Grade 8 science, score of 85th percentile or higher in science section on Aspire Test and/or permission of Science Department Head.

AP Biology

2 Credits

CONTENT: AP biology is a college level course which studies all areas of Biology in great detail using an AP college textbook. It is intended to prepare students to pass the College Board AP Biology Exam. It stresses the scientific terminology, principles, concepts and methodologies needed to understand the interactions between living organisms, their complex structure and their function. All twelve required laboratory experiments are covered in detail with lab book write-ups to teach both content and standard lab procedures and skills.

Prerequisites - Honors Biology, Honors Chemistry and/or permission of Science Department Head.

Chemistry

2 Credits

CONTENT: A college preparatory laboratory science course designed to give students a greater understanding of the composition and changes matter undergoes. The topics included in this course are atomic theory, periodic trends, ionic and covalent bonding, chemical formulas and equations, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, and states of matter.

Prerequisite - Biology

Honors Chemistry

2 Credits

CONTENT: A college preparatory laboratory science course designed for students who aspire to major in science or a science related field. The topics included in this course are atomic theory, periodic trends, ionic and covalent bonding, chemical formulas and equations, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, gas laws, states of matter, acids, bases, and energy involved in chemical reactions. As an honors offering, this course moves at an accelerated pace and expects students to have a strong foundation in algebraic mathematics.

Prerequisites - Honors Biology and Algebra I and/or permission of Science Department Head.

AP Chemistry

2 Credits

CONTENT: Advanced Placement Chemistry is the equivalent of an introductory college-level chemistry course, including the laboratory component of typical college level courses. It is intended to prepare students to pass the College Board AP Chemistry Exam. Students are required to have completed one year of Honors Chemistry, before enrolling in AP Chemistry and should have very strong math skills. AP Chemistry builds on the skills and knowledge attained in a standard high school course and provides the student with an opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of chemistry and the ability to think critically and to solve problems. The course topics include atomic theory, stoichiometry, chemical bonding, property of gases, liquids, solids, and solutions; chemical equilibrium, chemical thermodynamics, chemical kinetics, periodic properties, and electrochemistry.

Prerequisite - Honors Chemistry and/or permission of Science Department Head.

Physics

2 Credits

CONTENT: A laboratory course with a non-mathematical emphasis, which studies many topics of physics. Topics that are included in this course of study are: linear motion, momentum, circular motion, gravity, heat, light, electricity, and sound. Several student designed projects allow students to apply the topics discussed.

Prerequisites - Algebra I

Honors Physics

2 Credits

CONTENT: Physics is the brand of science that describes motion, electricity, sound, light, and other topics. Students will learn about the pursuit of science and scientific data, velocity, acceleration, gravity, Newton's Law of Motion, vectors, momentum, energy heat, sound light and electricity. Students can expect to apply content to laboratory procedures and safety, scientific thinking and reasoning, problem solving, and hands-on application projects. This course will take an algebraic and conceptual approach to explaining the

fundamentals of classical physics. The concepts will then be extended and applied to problems of varying complexity. Students will be challenged to complete multiple application-based projects. This course utilizes more math than standard physics, but has more concept foundations than AP Physics 1 & 2. This course prepares students for introductory college-level physics courses such as those regularly required for degrees in engineering, science or some pre-med fields.

Corequisite - Enrolled in College Algebra

AP Physics 1

2 Credits

CONTENT: This course is an algebra based, introductory college level physics class. It will focus on the big ideas typically included in the first semester of a college physics sequence and provide students with enduring understandings to support future advanced course work in the sciences. Through inquiry-based learning, students will develop critical thinking and reasoning skills. Topics include kinematics, dynamics (Newton's Laws), circular motion simple harmonic motion, work energy & conservation of energy, electrostatic charge, mechanical waves & sound and similar topics.

Prerequisites - College Algebra and Honors Science class or permission of Science Department Head.

AP Physics 2

2 Credits

CONTENT: This course is an algebra based, college level physics class. It covers a typical second college semester of physics and prepares students for calculus based physics. Students cultivate their understanding of physics through inquiry-based investigations as they explore topics such as fluid statics and dynamics; thermodynamics with kinetic theory; PV diagrams and probability; electrostatics; electrical circuits with capacitors; magnetic fields; electromagnetism; physical and geometric optics; and quantum, atomic, and nuclear physics.

Prerequisites - AP Physics 1 or permission of Science Department Head and College Algebra. This course is not offered every year.

Honors Anatomy and Physiology

2 Credits

CONTENT: This is an intense laboratory course designed for students interested in medicine and medically related careers. It involves an in-depth study of both the detailed structure and the function of all human body systems, organs, glands, tissue types, cell organelles and the biochemistry of metabolism of the human body. Labs stress the microscope slide study of different tissue types and the dissection of animal organs for a hands-on understanding of anatomy. It is patterned after the Rock Valley College Bio 185 Course worth 1 semester of 5 college credits.

Prerequisite - Honors Biology and/or permission of Science Department Head.

AP Environmental Science

2 Credits

CONTENT: This is an advanced course taught at the college level with an AP Textbook. It is intended to prepare students to take the College Board AP Environmental Science Exam. It will provide students with the scientific principles, lab skills, concepts and methodologies necessary to understand the complex interrelationships between living organisms and their nonliving environment. Man's interaction with nature is stressed. Emphasis is placed on evaluating environmental problems and challenging the students to take personal responsibility for their environmental impact.

Prerequisite - Biology

Introduction to Engineering **1 Credit**

CONTENT: This one semester class focuses on the engineering process of problem solving with hands-on learning. Projects will include Civil Engineering (structures), Computer Engineering (Raspberry Pi), and a self-determined project following the steps of the engineering process: research, planning, prototyping, testing, and iteration.

Prerequisite - Algebra I

This is an elective course, and does not count toward the required science credits for graduation.

CAD (Computer Aided Drafting) **1 Credit**

CONTENT: This one semester class introduces CAD using AutoCAD software. Students will be guided through tutorials to learn 2-D drafting including building plans. 3-D drafting will culminate in the 3-D printing several projects.

This is an elective course, and does not count toward the required science credits for graduation.

Engineering **2 Credits**

CONTENT; An introduction to the field of engineering with an emphasis on hands-on learning. Projects will be completed in robotics, bridge building, aeronautics, nanotechnology, alternative energy, etc. in order to develop thinking and analytical skills. Computer programming will be introduced. Career exploration in various types of engineering will also be featured.

Prerequisite - Algebra I

This is an elective course, and does not count toward the required science credits for graduation.

BIBLE

Godliness is a lifelong pursuit for those of us who have surrendered our lives to Christ and have been transformed by the Holy Spirit. Because of God's grace, we can experience the dynamic and stimulating life that emanates from Scripture and flourishes in faithful obedience to Christ.

"If you hold to My teaching, you are really My disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:31, 32

Bible 6

CONTENT: This course will include studies from characters in the Old and New Testaments, the life of Christ, and the book of Revelation. The students will also read the book Preparing for Adolescence, which will challenge the students to live a life devoted to Christ.

Bible 7

CONTENT: Both Genesis and the Gospel of John start their books with the phrase "In the beginning" suggesting they go together. This course will explore the narrative created by these two books of the Bible: how God's created order has been cursed due to man's rebellion and God's gracious response to restore the world. God will create a covenant promise with Abraham which finds its fulfillment in Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Through Jesus' resurrection, God begins a new humanity.

Bible 8

CONTENT: *Where did we come from? How should we live? What happens when we die?* This course will be a study of the various answers given to these and other important philosophical questions. We will be studying the origins of different religious worldviews and comparing them with Christianity. The goal is to help students answer for themselves what they believe and why.

Bible I

2 Credits

CONTENT: The story of the Bible is really a love story whereby God uses promises to accomplish his purposes. This course will be an overview of the Old and New Testaments, whereby the student gains a broad understanding of each book of the Bible and a firm grasp of the biblical story from creation to new creation. Along the way the character of God will be emphasized and students will be challenged to glorify God with their lives.

Bible II

2 Credits

CONTENT: God works through history. In fact, some have called history *His Story*. This course will study of the work of God through his people in the NT and the Church. Students will learn how God's redemptive plan using his Church to restore the world unfolds throughout history, beginning with the book of Acts and continuing throughout church history up to the present day.

Bible III**2 Credits****CONTENT:**

Acts 17 records Paul's journey to Athens wherein the apostle preached the gospel of Christ to the Athenian people through his knowledge and understanding of Greek beliefs, writings, and practices. This course will enable the student to effectively understand and share the good news of Jesus as Paul did in two ways. The first will be to provide a solid understanding of Christian doctrines as found in the Scriptures, covering concepts such as the attributes of God, the person and work of Jesus, and the Church. The second way of preparation will be a study of the world's major religions and competing worldviews, focusing on the history, beliefs and practices, and writings of each. This equips the student to, as Paul did before them, be able understand the beliefs and views of others and to effectively share the good news of Jesus with people of all faiths through that understanding.

Bible IV**2 Credits****CONTENT:**

How do YOU answer the big questions of life: *Where did I come from? Why do I exist? Does God exist? What will happen when I die?* In this course we will focus on what the Christian response to these questions is as well as how to interact with others with differing worldviews. Logical arguments will be presented for why believing in Christianity makes more sense than any other worldview regarding our beliefs about ourselves and the world around us. Many questions people often have when sorting through their beliefs, especially pertaining to Christianity, often involve how to read passages in the Bible. Therefore, we will learn how to read the different types of genres in the Bible in order to better understand those difficult passages.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Mass Media I

2 Credits

CONTENT: Students will learn how to plan, produce, edit and share videos. They will use school equipment and iMovie to create original content. They will know how to create storyboards and basic cinematography concepts. Students will learn the history of mass media and how current media affects us today. They will create a YouTube channel and learn how to post and analyze content with an emphasis on the business of YouTube. Students will be introduced to the artistic elements of film and how to create content with meaning and storylines.

Mass Media II

2 Credits

CONTENT: Students will work with clients to develop real-world content. This group plans, films and edits content for the school Advisor videos and live events and then uploads it and manages the school-run YouTube channel. They analyze the school channel to plan future content and predict patterns in an effort to increase channel participation. Students will also work with third-party nonprofits to create original content.

Prerequisite - Mass Media I and invitation of the teacher

Introduction to Computer Science

2 Credits

CONTENT: This is an introduction to computer science with no experience required. Students will learn computational thinking and programming logic using M.I.T's *Scratch* software. They will be introduced to coding through C# and applying it through the interactive Unity 3D Software. This class can be taken as an isolated elective or as preparation for the AP Computer Science Principles Class.

AP Computer Science Principles

2 Credits

CONTENT: Students will learn in-depth computing concepts including: how computers are built, communicate, read programs and learn how technology impacts our society. They will learn how to create algorithms, abstraction, work with data and information, troubleshoot and analyze problems, and create computational artifacts. Students will learn web and programming languages using a text editor and the Unity game engine as a tools. Students will complete two computational artifacts and take a multiple choice test for their AP score. The College Board recommends Algebra I as a prerequisite for this course. Students will develop an online portfolio to display their work.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

God expects us to develop physically as well as mentally. Our physical strength and stamina directly impact our mental and spiritual effectiveness. In addition, we are to be self-disciplined, not being controlled by our physical craving. One of the goals of the Physical Education Department is to show students the essential nature of self-discipline as it relates to physical and spiritual fitness.

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” Mark 12:30

MIDDLE SCHOOL PE

CONTENT: Physical Education courses allows students to explore their physical abilities through a variety of sports and activities. Fitness is also a component of these courses to encourage the development of physical fitness.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

1 Credit per semester

CONTENT: Physical Education courses are designed to get students actively involved by participating in a number of sports and activities. This course focuses on team sports as well as individual sports. Students are taught the rules and regulations of sports and activities and are expected to abide by the rules and guidelines set forth for that activity. Students are also taught the origin of sports and are quizzed on the knowledge that they have learned.

HEALTH

1 Credit

CONTENT: This one semester class is designed to challenge you to think about your overall health and the many things that influence your health. We will explore many areas of health such as: self-esteem, stress, exercise, disease, nutrition, etc. Class assignments and projects will help you apply important principles to your personal health. Other topics discussed this semester will be social issues like drugs and alcohol, sleep, and relationships. Major points of emphasis in the class are the impacts of personal choices and behavior on your health now and in the future.

WEIGHT TRAINING

1 Credit per semester

CONTENT: This course is designed to give students the opportunity to learn weight training concepts and techniques used for obtaining optimal physical fitness. Students will benefit from comprehensive weight training and individual weight training program development. Students will learn the basic fundamentals of weight training, strength training, aerobic training, and overall fitness training and conditioning.

ART

Our creations are the expressions of our inner thoughts and feelings, reflecting God and His beauty. God created us with the ability to produce and appreciate beauty. We are to know what pleases Him and create works with meaning and beauty, drawing people to Him.

Middle School Art

CONTENT: This course introduces students to the visual arts. Focus will begin on the fundamentals of design and will progress to the development of creativity and craftsmanship. Students will have the opportunity to work in several mediums including graphite, colored pencil, tempera paint, printing, and ceramics. Students will grow in art appreciation through exposure to art history, the masters, and creation.

Art I - Foundations 2 Credits

CONTENT: This course is open to all high school students. Students will have experiences in producing two-dimensional and three-dimensional works of art. Emphasis will be on the study of the elements of art, principles of design, composition, color theory, vocabulary, art criticism, and art history. Students will experiment with a variety of materials and techniques. Projects include drawing, painting, collage, sculpture, and mixed media. Students will have a weekly sketchbook assignment.

Art II 2 Credits

CONTENT: This course continues to build upon skills and knowledge obtained in Art 1. The study of the elements & principles, color theory, vocabulary, and art history will continue to be integrated and applied. The approach to art experiences is less experimental and based more on informed choices. Emphasis will be on high quality craftsmanship, originality, and personal expression. There is a broader focus on mixing media and exploring new materials. Students will have a weekly sketchbook assignment.

Prerequisite - Art I

Art III 2 Credits

CONTENT: This course is for juniors and seniors who have completed Art 1 and 2 and are serious and dedicated to pursue their art. This course is a continued development of skills with a more in-depth approach to the study of art processes and techniques. Students will work on creating a personal style and philosophy of art, as they begin to broaden their portfolio. Work outside of class time may be necessary to complete projects. A digital camera is highly recommended for this course, as students will be using their own photo references for projects. Students will have a weekly sketchbook assignment.

Prerequisite - Art II

Senior Portfolio 2 Credits

CONTENT: This course is for senior students who have excelled in previous art courses and will be pursuing art in college. Students will develop a concentration and a thematic body of

work, while expanding their knowledge of materials, techniques, and process. Students will develop professional work habits by working independently and relying on critical thinking, problem solving, and exploration to create their own expressive works. A portfolio of 12 or more pieces reflecting quality, concentration, and breadth will be completed. Access to a digital camera is necessary. Students will have a weekly sketchbook assignment. This course will have some summer preparation.

Teacher Approval required

Ceramics I

2 Credits

CONTENT: This course explores the three basic hand-building methods of clay; pinch, coil, and slab as well as use of the pottery wheel. Early projects will build skills to prepare for more challenging projects later in class. A variety of both utilitarian and non-utilitarian projects will be constructed. Students will be able to demonstrate their own creativity as well as follow specific guidelines. Projects will include exposure to various tools, techniques, glazing, and vocabulary. We will examine the history and use of clay in various cultures and in the contemporary art world.

Prerequisite - Art I

Ceramics II

2 Credits

CONTENT: This course is a continuation from Ceramics I engaging students in more advanced ceramic techniques and projects. Students will further develop and enhance skills learned in Ceramics I and refine and experiment with new materials and techniques. Students will continue to work toward mastering hand-building and wheel thrown techniques and further their ability in construction and design principles. Advanced methods of ceramic decoration in slip trailing, sgraffito, water etching, wax resist, stenciling, printing, and underglaze brushwork decoration will be studied and practiced.

Prerequisite - Ceramics I

AP Art History

2 Credits

CONTENT: Throughout our walk on the earth, artists have visually responded to events and emotions during their journey to find meaning and purpose in life. In this course, students examine major forms of artistic expression from the ancient eras to the present in a variety of cultures. They will learn how to assess, interpret and analyze works of art within their historical context, as well as express their responses in an articulate way. We will cover works in painting, drawing, architecture, sculpture, as well as other media based on the AP exam expectations. Some summer reading is required.

Graphic Design I

2 Credits

CONTENT: Students will use Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Photoshop to create digital images. They will learn the necessary tools to generate vector and bitmap graphics. They will understand the different file types and formats, and how to save and navigate through a file system. Students will have an online portfolio to display their art and will be encouraged to enter multiple art competitions.

Prerequisite - Art I

Graphic Design II

2 Credits

CONTENT:

Students will use Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop, and third-party software to create real-world applications. This class collaborates with clients and printers to develop school marketing collateral including the yearbook. Students are introduced to basic photography techniques, composition theory, working with fonts, and the history of graphic design. Students will have an online portfolio to display their art and will be encouraged to enter multiple art competitions.

Prerequisite - Graphic Design I

MUSIC

The goal of the Music Department is to develop each young musician to their full potential so that they may glorify God with their music and minister to others.

“The aim and final reason of all music should be nothing else but the glory of God and the refreshment of the spirit.” Johann Sebastian Bach 1685-1750

“It is to praise the Lord and make music to Your name, O Most High, to proclaim Your love in the morning and Your faithfulness at night...” Psalm 92:1,2

Band 6

CONTENT: Sixth grade band is a beginning to intermediate level class for students with one year of previous band experience or who are new to RCS. Students will play one of the following band instruments: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto, Tenor, and Baritone Saxophone, Bassoon, Trumpet, F Horn, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba, or Percussion. Within full band rehearsals and weekly small group lessons, students will learn to perform music from a variety of genres (folk, classical, jazz, rock, etc.). This class also reinforces the fundamental aspects of excellent music making such as proper breathing, tone control, technical facility, music reading skills, improvisation, and development of the embouchure-all in a fun-filled environment.

Band 7/8

CONTENT: Middle School Band is an intermediate level class for students with previous band experience on their chosen band instrument. Both in full-band rehearsals and weekly small group lessons, band students will further develop their abilities and reinforce fundamental aspects of music making learned in beginning and intermediate level band. In learning and performing music from a variety of genres, students will research and experience God’s diverse world. As students mature musically, they may be given the opportunity to audition to join the High School level activities such as Pep Band, Jazz Lab Band, graduation performances, various field trips, and IMEA Honors Festival.

Prerequisite- Teacher Approval

Jazz Band 7/8

CONTENT: Middle School Jazz band is a zero hour course for students interested in performing Jazz, Latin, and Rock music. The middle school jazz band performs 4 concerts a year including the Rock Valley College Jazz Festival. The jazz band curriculum focuses on music literacy, performance and improvisation.

Prerequisite- Teacher Approval

Concert Band

2 Credits

CONTENT: High School Band is an advance level class for students with previous band experience

on their chosen band instrument. Within full band rehearsals and small ensemble sessions, band students will further develop their playing abilities. In learning and performing music from a variety of genres (folk, classical, jazz, rock, etc), students will research and experience God's diverse world. This class also reinforces the fundamental aspects of excellent music making learned in beginning and intermediate level band such as proper breathing, tone control, technical facility, music reading skills, improvisation, and development of the embouchure. All students in the Concert Band are also members of the Pep band.

Prerequisite- Teacher Approval

Jazz Band

1 Credits

CONTENT: This course is an advanced, hands-on, performance ensemble class and is open by audition to current participants in the RCS Band program. It is a one year course with specific instrumentation, and because it is based on a continuous curriculum and ensemble balance, students must remain in the class for both fall and spring semesters. Learning music through music-making is the principal mode of instruction, so along with classroom work, the ensemble will perform publicly during the school year outside of the classroom. This course meets during zero hour.

Prerequisite- Audition only

AP Music Theory

2 Credits

CONTENT: This one-year course is designed to teach music literacy in student musicians through the pace and rigor of a college-level course. This course expands upon basic music fundamentals and focuses on the development of aural, composition, analytical, and performance skills. Concepts are introduced, taught and reinforced orally, visually, aurally, graphically, through examples and exercises. Students will use a variety of texts and resources, which are available online and in the classroom. Songwriting and arranging will be central to understanding common practice harmony and various style periods of vocal and instrumental music. Curriculum will work toward success on the AP Music Theory exam written by The College Board. Students will be expected to take the AP Music Theory exam in May.

Prerequisite- Teacher Approval

Concert Choir

2 Credits

CONTENT: This performance-based choir will be open to all high school students with varying backgrounds in music. Many genres of vocal music will be performed including but not limited to jazz, pop, classical, blues, folk, and musical theatre repertoire. Participants can expect to learn musical skills that will prepare them for Concert Choir auditions and success in college chorale ensembles. Students need not have experience in music to join Chorale.

Chamber Choir**1 Credits**

CONTENT: This auditioned choir is for women only. It meets during zero hour. The chamber choir focuses on vocal technique and music literacy. The chamber choir performs throughout the year both on and off campus.

Prerequisite- Audition only

Royal Lion A Cappella Choir**1 Credits**

CONTENT: This elite choir meets during zero hour. Students are expected to have a strong music literacy skills and vocal technique. This group has many performances both on and off campus. Students are accepted by audition only

Prerequisite- Audition only

Keyboarding/Music Theory I**2 Credits**

CONTENT: This course provides students with basic keyboarding skills. Students will also learning basic music theory including note names, key signatures, clefs, intervals, chord structures and rhythm reading. This course is open to all students and will prepare students for the AP Music Theory course.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Language experience can contribute to our usefulness in God’s service as well as deepen our appreciation for and understanding of the common human experience. Only the third and fourth year of foreign language courses are for honors credit.

“Each new form of human speech introduces one into a new world of thought and life.” Roger Ascham 1515-1568.

*“...with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.”
Revelation 5:9*

Spanish 1

2 Credits *(if taken during high school only)*

CONTENT: Spanish 1 is a year-long course designed to introduce students to the language and to build foundational skills in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in the target language. Students will also explore the culture, customs, and geography of a variety of Spanish-speaking countries. This course gives students the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge through formal and informal assessments and projects.

French 1

2 Credits *(if taken during high school only)*

CONTENT: French 1 is a year-long course designed to introduce students to the French language. Students will learn how to communicate in French and start to build their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. They will also be exposed to the culture of the diverse French-speaking world, in order to enhance their appreciation of the cultures.

Honors Chinese 1

2 Credits *(if taken during high school only)*

CONTENT: Chinese 1 is a year-long honors course designed to introduce students to the Chinese language. Students will learn how to communicate in Chinese and build their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills throughout the year. Students will also explore the culture, customs and history of China. Students will demonstrate their knowledge of learning through games, assessment and projects.

Spanish 2

2 Credits *(if taken during high school only)*

CONTENT: Spanish 2 is a year-long course that reinforces and expands skills from the previous year. Emphasis continues on the building of proficiency in the Spanish language through the study of grammatical structures and practical vocabulary. The study of customs and cultures of Spanish-speaking countries is also an integral part of study. Bible verses applicable to everyday life are also incorporated.

French 2

2 Credits

CONTENT: French 2 is a year-long course designed to build upon the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing acquired during the first year

of language study. This course aims to increase the ability to communicate in French through developing the knowledge of the grammar, vocabulary and culture of the diverse French-speaking world. Language skills and cultural knowledge are enhanced by the use of Internet, as well as audio and video programs.

Honors Chinese 2

2 Credits

CONTENT: Chinese 3 is year-long honors course designed to give students the opportunity for self-expression in the Chinese language while further developing their reading, writing, and speaking skills. Students will continue accumulating their vocabulary, while advancing their abilities in speaking, listening, and writing. A variety of means including media, technology and daily interactive conversations will be applied.

Honors Spanish 3

2 Credits

CONTENT: Spanish 3 is a year-long honors course designed to give students the opportunity for self-expression in the language while further developing their reading and writing skills. This course places greater emphasis on students' aural and verbal communication skills in Spanish. The history and culture of Spain is added to the continued study of Latin American history and culture. Assessment tools include quizzes, tests, compositions, mini-dialogues, and projects. Bible verses applicable to everyday life are integrated in the curriculum.

Prerequisite of an 80% minimum in both semesters of Spanish II for enrollment in Honors Spanish 3.

Honors French 3

2 Credits

CONTENT: Honors French 3 is a year-long course that exposes students to advanced grammar concepts as well as pertinent current and historical events, with emphasis on the French-speaking world and their culture, people, geographical locations and histories. Students further deepen their understanding of French by focusing on the three modes of communication: interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational. Students will continue to enhance their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills through activities that are based on pedagogically proven methods of foreign language instruction. The course is aligned to the national Foreign Language standards.

Honors Chinese 3

2 Credits

CONTENT: Chinese 3 is year-long honors course designed to give students the opportunity for self-expression in the Chinese language while further developing their reading, writing, and speaking skills. Students will continue accumulating their vocabulary, while advancing their abilities in speaking, listening, and writing. A variety of means including media, technology and daily interactive conversations will be applied.

Honors Spanish 4

2 Credits

CONTENT: Spanish 4 is a year-long honors course dedicated to the practical application of students' language skills which are demonstrated through creative projects and presentations.

Cultural enrichment in the areas of history, geography, art, music, and literature is an integral element of the course. The mastery of aural, oral, and written communication skills is the emphasis of the course using a variety of means including media, technology, and interactive dialogues.

Prerequisite of an 80% minimum in both semesters for Spanish # for enrollment in Honors Spanish 4.

Honors French 4

2 Credits

CONTENT:

Honors French IV is an introductory survey of French literature selections. Grammar is reviewed, and conversational skills are refined. Written media and literary excerpts are used to practice translation. Major artistic movements are reviewed. In this course students will continue to sharpen listening, speaking, reading and writing skills through activities that are based on pedagogically proven methods of foreign language instruction. Students will be actively engaged in their language learning, in areas of speaking, writing, as well as participating in conversations covering a wide range of topics. Students will also analyze cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various French-speaking countries as well as read and analyze important pieces of literature.

Honors Chinese 4

2 Credits

CONTENT:

Chinese 4 is a year-long honors course dedicated to the practical application of the language skills over the preceding years. Students will continue accumulating their vocabulary, while enhancing their abilities in speaking, listening, reading and writing around themes. Cultural enrichment is presented in the areas of history, geography, art, music and literature. A variety of means including media, technology and daily interactive conversations will be applied to prepare students for the AP Chinese class.

AP Chinese

2 Credits

CONTENT:

In the AP Chinese course, students will intensively practice and develop Chinese language skills in the five goal areas: communication, cultures, connections, comparisons and communities. Students will learn how to engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, exchange opinions, and make presentations, in appropriate cultural setting. Students will also learn to understand, write, and discuss a variety of topics. Students should understand significant components of Chinese culture, such as traditions, history, literature, art, etc., to compare and contrast with his or her native language, and to apply the Chinese language in communities both within and beyond the school setting.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

ROCKFORD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Bible	8 credits (4 years)
English	8 credits (4 years)
Social Studies	6 credits (3 years)
Mathematics	6 credits (3 years)
Science	6 credits (3 years)
Physical Education	3 credits
Health	1 credit
Electives	12 credits
Jan Term	2 credits

This is a total of 52 credits. One credit is given for each full time semester class. Please note the following college requirements. Colleges/Universities are increasing their admission requirements, and leaders of business and industry are concerned about the academic preparation of those entering the workforce. The faculty and administration of RCHS expect all students to enroll in a minimum of six or more courses during each year of high school. Institutions of higher learning report a direct correlation between academic success at the university and the maintenance of a rigorous course of study during the senior year of study.

COLLEGE PREPARATORY RECOMMENDATIONS

English	8 credits (4 years)
Mathematics	6 credits (3 years) – a fourth year is recommended
Science	6 credits (3 years)
Social Studies	6 credits (3 years)
Foreign Language/Fine arts	4 credits (2 years)
Computer	2 credits (1 year)