

# Academic Catalog

Thank you for your interest in Rockford Lutheran. We've prepared this catalogue to share a glimpse of the ministry of Rockford Lutheran. As you read it, you'll see a school that stands at the intersection of faith and learning.

Our goal is to develop well rounded students who are well suited for college and for life as solid citizens. Rockford Lutheran is the school where students of all faiths, ethnicities and national origin can find academic challenge and perform to their potential.

It's also where they can explore their God given talents with a broad range of athletics and extracurricular activities:

- **STEM**-Through the nationally recognized program "**Project Lead the Way**" we create an engaging environment and empower students to develop in-demand knowledge and skills necessary to thrive in an evolving world. This program includes components in **Engineering, Pre-Medicine and Computer Coding.**
- **World Language** - six year study in French, German, Spanish – with Spanish offered in Pre-K through high school.
- **Music, Art and Drama** from grade PreK through high school
- **More than 70%** of Junior and Senior High students participate in extracurricular activities.

## Fall Sports and Levels

### High School Teams

Football  
Girls Volleyball  
Girls Tennis  
Boys/Girls Cross Country  
Boys/Girls Golf  
Boys Soccer  
Spirit Squad

### Junior High

Football  
Volleyball  
Boys Cross Country  
Girls Cross Country  
Co-ed Soccer 2  
Spirit Squad

## Spring Sports and Levels

### High School

Boys/Girls Track  
Girls Soccer  
Boys Tennis  
Baseball/Softball  
Bass Fishing  
Boys Volleyball

### Junior High

Boys/Girls Track  
Golf  
Tennis

The most compelling reason we can give any family to send their child to Rockford Lutheran is the success of students who are now among our more than 2,000 alumni:

- **Earn college credit at RLHS** through our dual credit program with Concordia University- complete your first year of college before graduating from high school
- More than 25 major universities have joined our "**1+3**" **Program**, approving transfer of our credit in advance, assuring students of their ability to get begin their college experience while still in high school.
- More than 80% of RL students taking AP tests receive college credit in Biology, Physics, Chemistry, College Calculus, World Language and Senior Honors English
- Junior High students average two to three years above national averages
- 99% of graduating seniors go on to college

The best way to get to know Rockford Lutheran is to visit us. You'll experience first-hand the nurturing environment in every classroom.

Rockford Lutheran School admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin.

**To schedule a visit** that is convenient for you and your family, call Julie Behmer, Admissions Counselor at 815-877-9551, ext. 158. We look forward to meeting and getting to know you.

## Winter Sports and Levels

### High School

Boys Basketball  
Girls Basketball  
Boys/Girls Bowling  
Wrestling  
Spirit Squad

### Junior High

Boys Basketball  
Girls Basketball  
Wrestling  
Spirit Squad

**FALL-WINTER SPORT** (dual season sport) Spirit Squad/  
Junior High Spirit Squad

## **Dual Credit**

We have established a relationship with Concordia University-Nebraska and Concordia University-Chicago through their Dual Credit program to offer college level instruction in our building. This program allows our teachers who have Masters Degrees (which is over 50% of our faculty) to be approved as adjunct faculty of the University.

Concordia then reviews and approves our college-level textbooks and curricula for specific Honors level courses which will then offer the opportunity for students who successfully complete those classes to receive credit toward high school graduation, as well as college credit from Concordia University. You may be familiar with similar programs that require students to be transported from their high school to an area community college to get this credit. Our program offers this collegiate instruction right on our campus.

We are already offering a number of courses which will provide the opportunity for students to complete many of their general education requirements now. Current course offerings include:

<b>Biology</b>	<b>English Literature</b>
<b>Calculus</b>	<b>Government</b>
<b>Chemistry</b>	<b>Psychology</b>
<b>Economics</b>	<b>Spanish</b>
<b>English Composition</b>	<b>Statistics</b>

These will be transcribed college credits from Concordia University, a fully accredited institution, transferable to hundreds of other universities and colleges nationwide. Credit from Concordia Nebraska will also be accepted at any of the other 9 Concordia University system schools, from Bronxville, New York to Irvine, California and Mequon, Wisconsin to Selma, Alabama. Contact our Guidance Office for more information on this exciting option.

## **Four Year Plan**

A normal course load is seven subjects each semester and would typically be taken as follows:

### **Freshman**

English  
Physical Science or Biology  
Mathematics  
Fine Arts  
Physical Education  
World Language  
Religion  
\*Study Skills

### **Sophomore**

English  
Science (Biology or Chemistry)  
Mathematics  
Social Studies  
Health/Physical Education  
Religion  
World Language

### **Junior**

English  
U.S. History  
Mathematics  
Science  
Religion  
2 Electives

### **Senior**

English  
Economics/Government  
Religion  
Mathematics  
Science  
2 Electives

### **\*Study Skills**

Study Skills is a class designed to help students with organizational skills, note-taking skills, test study skills, and life skills. Short and long term goals are discussed, as students seek to accomplish the skill sets taught each week. The second half of the class is spent completing homework in a quiet, focused environment with teacher and aide help available.

### **Learning Resource Center**

Academic support is given to students with special educational needs (IEP/504), students who need tutoring, or students who just need additional support for coursework. The teaching approach in resource is adapted to the individual needs of each student serviced. Activities and assignments include the reinforcement, review and practice of academic skills in areas where students need help. Ongoing communication between the resource teacher and the classroom teacher takes place to encourage consistence in reaching the goals and objectives set for each student. This service requires an additional fee. Resource Center is available from 2-4 times a week. The Resource Center also offers private tutoring Monday-Thursday from 3:30-5:30pm for an added fee (these times are flexible and any student will be accommodated). Please contact the Guidance Office for details.

## **Grading Policies**

### Grading Scale

A	92-100
B	83-91
C	74-82
D	65-73
F	64 and below

I - Incomplete - Grade will be issued after completion of requirements. Incompletes must be made up within two weeks.

## **GPA Points**

Honors Classes		Regular Classes	
A	5	A	4
B	4	B	3
C	2	C	2
D	1	D	1

In calculating cumulative averages, all courses shall be counted as one full credit per semester.

## **Communication of Academic Progress**

Our program is established to provide for ample school-to-home communication. This communication is accomplished in a number of different ways:

1. All students and parents have access to classroom assignments, materials and grades through Skyward. With this system parents can check on course activity, review homework with students and receive weekly grade updates, all through password protected on-line access. Please contact the Registrar, who will assist you in establishing a password protected account that will enable you to regularly monitor your student's progress.
2. All parents of students receiving a D or F grade will be emailed when updated weekly reports are posted.
3. Email access to teachers is available through Skyward as well as the school web site.

4. Phone contact is another option for personal communication with teachers. This is always to be the first step in resolving personal or academic concerns that deal with one specific teacher. Please realize that many teachers only have a short period of time outside of the classroom each day. If your message is not received until after their preparation period, return contact may not be made until the next day.
5. If concerns are apparent in a number of classes, a team meeting may be arranged which would involve all of your student's teachers. Contact the school office for an appointment.
6. Assignment notebooks are recommended. Many teachers use these to forward regular written communication concerning a student's progress.
7. Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled during the first semester to provide an opportunity for direct personal interaction.

## **Examinations and Tests**

Cumulative semester exams are an expectation of every high school level course. These 80 minute tests are typically 20% of the semester grade. Students who have an "A" in any one particular class may exempt from that final if they also have fewer than 5 absences in that class, and 3 or fewer detentions for the semester. They may not exempt from the same final both semesters. Second semester seniors are allowed to exempt from a final in any class in which they have an "A" or "B" if they also meet the other minimum requirements.

## **Transfer Credit**

All questions concerning transfer credit will be reviewed and approved by the Academic Dean.

# Academic Honors

## Certificate of Excellence Program

Rockford Lutheran High School offers a two level diploma program.

**Level One Diploma** will require students to meet the minimum graduation requirements as set forth by the Board of Directors.

**Level Two Diploma** will require students to meet the following criteria in addition to the minimum requirements. They will receive, upon graduation, an additional Certificate of Excellence:

**A.** Students will be required to participate in 8 school activities, averaging one per semester. A sport such as basketball which transcends two semesters will qualify as one activity. Serving as managers of a sports team for an entire season would also qualify. These activities include:

Academic Team	Art Club
Baseball	Basketball
Bass Fishing	Bowling
Cross Country	Chapel Band
Key Club	Drama Productions
Football	World Language Club
Golf	Jazz Band
Peer Ministry	Peer Tutoring
Soccer	Wrestling
Softball	Student Council
Spirit Squad	Tennis
Track/Field	Volleyball
Swim Team	
Boys Volleyball	
Band (must complete 2 yrs)	
I.C.T.M./WYSE Mathematics Team	

**B.** Students must successfully complete at least four years of mathematics and four years of science. A semester long college class may be substituted for a fourth year of mathematics if the student has already completed Calculus.

**C.** Students must complete at least four years of high school world language, or complete a language through level five.

**D.** Students must rank in the upper 50% of the graduating class.

Requirements for transfer students will be determined in consultation with the school counselor.

## Graduation Honors Policy

Rockford Lutheran High School acknowledges outstanding performance of students by recognizing graduates in good standing that qualify as Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude and Summa Cum Laude. Only courses taken during the high school years are considered for this recognition.

### Cum Laude

- 12 or more Honors Credits
- No more than 14 “B’s” accumulated over the first 7 high school semesters.
- No other grades below a “B”.
- No incompletes or “P/F” grades (other than Christian Service)

### Magna Cum Laude

- 20 or more Honors Credits
- All “A’s” or a 4.0 GPA accumulated over the first seven semesters of high school.
- No more than 7 “B’s”
- No other grades below “B”.
- No incompletes or “P/F” grades (other than Christian Service)

### Summa Cum Laude

- All “A’s” and 30 or more Honors credits accumulated over the first 7 semesters of high school
- No incompletes or “P/F” grades (other than Christian Service)

### Honor Roll

A High Honor Roll shall consist of student attaining above a 3.99 GPA. Honor Roll shall consist of students attaining a 3.5-3.99 average for a semester. Students receiving a 3.00-3.49 average shall receive honorable mention. Eligible students must carry at least 5 classes and have no “D’s” or “F’s”.

## **Accreditation**

Rockford Lutheran School is accredited by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (AdvancEd), National Lutheran School Accreditation and recognized by the State of Illinois. We are also members of the Illinois High School Association and the Association of Lutheran Secondary Schools.

Selected courses are also certified by Concordia University Nebraska and Concordia University Chicago.

Rockford Lutheran School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, tuition assistance, athletic and other school-administered programs.

## **Graduation Requirements: 2020**

8 credits of Religion (1 for each semester in attendance)

8 credits of English

6 Credits of Social Studies (including 1 credit each of Government and Economics, 2 credits of U.S. History and 2 credits of either Geography or World History)

6 credits of Mathematics at the high school level or a minimum of Pre-Calculus (having completed Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II). (If a student completes Pre-Calc as a sophomore, 2 credits of additional Flex courses are required).

6 credits of Science at the high school level or a minimum of 2 credits each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

2 credits of Fine Arts (Art, Music)

4 credits of World Language (could be substituted due to specific educational needs)

4 credits of Physical Education (including 1 semester of Health)

4 credits of Flex classes

Additional courses in Science, Technology, Engineering, Fine Arts or Mathematics.

Dual credit courses (with administrative approval)

4 credits of electives

Minimum total of 52

All students must complete 1 online learning experience prior to graduation.

High School Level courses completed in 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade would be included on the transcript, but would not be counted as part of the 52 credit requirement for graduation.

# Sixth Grade

## **Philosophical Statement**

Our goal for the sixth grade is to equip the students to be independent learners, thinkers and workers.

## **Religion**

The topics covered are those basic to the Christian faith: the early life and teachings of Jesus, Jesus as Savior and the beginning of Christianity. Class activities include scripture memorization, small group activities, role-playing, Bible reading, discussion and applications of the Bible to everyday life. The class also addresses relationship development, bullying and conflict resolution.

## **Reading/Literature**

Sixth grade reading students engage in novel studies to continue the development of skills in vocabulary, comprehension and higher level thinking. The Honors level literature class addresses a similar set of skills, but involves more rigorous expectations for reading level as well as analytical thought. Vocabulary and composition expectations are enhanced as well. Reading outside of class is expected at all levels.

## **Language Arts**

Sixth grade students continue to develop their skills in written and oral language through grammar study, weekly spelling lists and on-going writing topics. The text Elements of Language (Holt) and other supplemental materials provide the basic curriculum. Honors and accelerated level students are able to address grammatical elements more quickly, allowing for in-depth study of advanced elements of composition and creative writing. Honors and accelerated students engage in vocabulary study and spelling based on word origin and context.

## **Math**

Math at the sixth grade level is ability-grouped, with groups using sixth, seventh, and eighth grade text books. All groups cover these topics at a speed and depth appropriate to their ability: number sense and algebraic thinking, decimals, fractions, geometric figures, geometry and measurement, integers, variables and equations, inequalities, exponents, graphs, ratios, proportions, percents and probability/statistics.

## **Social Studies**

Sixth grade social studies focuses on the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Rome China and India. Students engage in a hands-on curriculum that includes various projects, texts and research, as well as individual and group work. Students gain an understanding of what it was like to live in these ancient times and how it relates to their lives today. To develop team-building skills and build self-confidence, the sixth grade class takes a trip in late August to Covenant Harbor Camp in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin.

## **Science**

Students in sixth grade science classes will engage in a hands-on curriculum that encompasses vital skills such as note taking, research in several forms of media, as well as individual and group work. Experiments and projects enhance the study of units such as: The Changing Earth, The Nature of Matter, Forces and Motion and Ecosystems.

## **Physical Education**

Physical education at the sixth grade level still stresses skill work, more strategy and teamwork and developing good sportsmanship. Games and activities emphasize practice and time in participation. Fitness and flexibility continue to be emphasized and tested.

### **Reading/World Language**

Honors level students participate in the course Introduction to World Language and Cultures, which includes a 12 week study of 3 languages (German, Spanish and French) and their cultures. This course is also enriched with 2 weeks each of Russian and Chinese. This course anticipates participation in a high school level world language class as a 7th grader and is oriented toward preparing students for that advanced level of study. Students may also take a 6<sup>th</sup> grade level Reading class focusing on improving vocabulary, reading comprehension and understanding of literary devices.

### **Computer Skills**

In sixth grade, students begin the year by creating a PowerPoint presentation. They will also learn to utilize basic elements of Excel and apply various word processing skills. The focus of the program will be the application and integration of technology skills in various classes and projects. Additionally, students learn about Internet safety, and explore tools used in networking. The Keyboarding component emphasizes proper keying technique and typing speed. This course is taken by students who are not in Explorations.

### **Explorations**

Students who are not involved in the musical arts can enjoy an exploration of a variety of fine art activities. Students will experience different levels of speech/drama and art in addition to instruction in computer keyboarding. The students will encounter a variety of activities, produce a wide range of projects and grow in their understanding of this important aspect of themselves and their world.

### **Music**

There are four classes offered to sixth graders: Band, Orchestra, Beginning Instrumental Music and Choir. These classes offer an opportunity for personal growth and enrichment through the study of music both as an art form and an expression of our faith

These classes are structured to provide young people with motivation, positive attitudes and commitment to success in an atmosphere of discovery and encouragement. Students do not have to be “talented” to succeed in these programs, nor do those in winds or strings need prior experience. Anyone who is willing to learn and put time into practice will find success. Our music programs emphasize dedication, a good work ethic, perseverance, cooperation, music appreciation and the enjoyment of performing. Students who participate in these programs will have the opportunity to perform a number of times during the year, both in school and in the community. These regularly scheduled, required classes do not necessitate students missing other course work in order to participate.

### **Learning Resource Center**

Academic support is given to students with special education eligibility (IEP) or students who require accommodations due to a medically diagnosed condition (504). The teaching approach in resource is adapted to the individual needs of each student serviced. Activities and assignments include the reinforcement, review and practice of academic skills in areas where students need help. Ongoing communication between the resource teacher and the classroom teacher takes place to encourage consistence in reaching the goals and objectives set for each student. This service requires an additional fee. Resource Center is available from 2-4 times a week. The Resource Center also offers private tutoring Monday-Thursday from 3:30-5:30pm for an added fee (these times are flexible and any student will be accommodated). Please contact the business office for details.

# Business/Technology Education

**The Business and Technology Department** offers:

- The latest industry standard software
- Current hardware technology
- Extensive integration of technology into all subject areas
- Application and Programming courses available
- Opportunities with multiple platforms

**The Business Education/Technology Department**

provides a state-of-the-art experience for students in the world of technology. The area is a critical segment in the total educational program at Rockford Lutheran Junior/Senior High School due to the extensive integration of educational technology in the total school program. The department seeks to facilitate the attainment of competencies for work, future education, training and personal use, in addition to formulating the Christian values necessary for the proper use of technology today. Foundation courses allow opportunities for students to explore a variety of careers and occupations and to learn skills and concepts in the areas of keyboarding/word processing, computer applications and principles of accounting. The latest computer software (Microsoft Office, Solidworks, Adobe Suite, etc.) is available.

All students have access to the Internet through every workstation in the building. They may access the Internet in each classroom, a computer lab or the library. Literacy and proper use of the Internet is emphasized in all classes.

The department offers courses for junior high as well as senior high students. Technology has become a cross-curricular component of all classes offered at the junior high and senior high level. Numerous courses integrate multi-media presentations, Excel charts and video/sound components into their class projects.

**The Business Education/Technology Department** offers the following courses, as determined by enrollment:

- Engineering
- Computer Skills
- Accounting I/Entrepreneurship
- Publications: Cavalier (yearbook) Purple Ink (newspaper)

**Accounting I (S)**

Prepares students for vocational technical positions or for those majoring in either accounting or business administration. Uses the double entry bookkeeping and accounting system in its simplest form, illustrating the entire accounting cycle. Students are introduced to a real life business in every chapter and learn about different careers in accounting.

The impact of technology on accounting is addressed with computerized accounting activities using online working papers.

**Computer Skills**

Students explore a variety of software applications, expand their computer skills, and develop technical writing skills. Microsoft® Office Products applications include word processing, spreadsheets, multi-media, and desktop publishing. Other applications include Google Docs and Adobe Photoshop. Keyboarding activities will be focusing on learning the correct typing technique and good posture.

# Business/Technology Education

## **Entrepreneurship (S)**

Do you have what it takes to start a new business? Throughout the semester students will work in groups to develop an idea for a business and test the product or service to determine if it can be successful. The process includes identifying personal attributes needed to be a successful entrepreneur and researching various business opportunities. Students will walk through the steps of setting up a business while developing the necessary leadership abilities. The class is completed with a 'Shark Tank' like experience where classmates will pitch ideas to businessmen in our community. This class could help you become one of tomorrow's business leaders!

## **Introduction to Engineering Design**

Students dig deep into the engineering design process, applying math, science and engineering standards to hands-on projects. They work both individually and in teams to design solutions to a variety of problems using 3-D modeling software and use an engineering notebook to document their work. (Prerequisite: Algebra I)

## **Introduction to Publications**

In this Newspaper/Yearbook pre-requisite class, students learn the basics of publications as they apply to newspaper and yearbook production. Journalistic technique, writing, interviewing, and editing skills are emphasized. One semester is focused on contributing to the RLHS monthly printed newspaper, "The Purple Ink," and one semester focuses on production of the RLHS yearbook, "The Cavalier."

## **Newspaper**

Students who have completed "Intro to Publications" may choose this year-long class focused on production of the RLHS monthly printed newspaper, "The Purple Ink." Throughout the year, journalistic skills including pre-writing, editing, interviewing, photography, design, and publishing are covered. Students also familiarize themselves with InDesign software. Editor positions are available for interested students. This course is especially beneficial for any students interested in pursuing journalism, writing, or communications after high school.

## **Principles of Engineering**

Through problems that engage and challenge, students explore a broad range of engineering topics, including mechanisms, the strength of structures and materials and automation. Students develop skills in problem solving, research and design while learning strategies for design process documentation, collaboration and presentation.

## **Yearbook**

Students who have completed "Intro to Publications" may choose this year-long class focused on production of the RLHS yearbook "The Cavalier." Throughout the year, journalistic skills including photography, design, interviewing, writing, editing, and teamwork are emphasized. The class is self-paced with an emphasis on personal deadlines and time management. Multiple editor positions are available for interested students. This course is especially beneficial for any students interested in pursuing journalism, writing, photography, graphic design or communications after high school.

# English

## **The English Department offers:**

- Extensive writing experience
- Writing activities in all classes across the curriculum
- Application of higher level critical thinking skills in writing activities
- Extensive exposure to literary analysis
- Emphasis on preparation of collegiate level communication skills
- Over 90% of the students who take the English Advanced Placement test receive college credit.

Writing, reading, and speaking are the building blocks of English instruction at RLS. The mission to train thoughtful, well-grounded graduates, prepared to express their understanding, perspectives, and Christian faith begins in the Junior High, with classes that lay the groundwork for upper-level English study. These classes focus on foundational writing and reading skills with an emphasis on comprehension strategies, grammar, and effective sentence and paragraph construction. As students progress into high school, the depth and intensity of the material grows with them. High school courses emphasize writing and literary analysis, progressing to college-level interdisciplinary analysis and research by senior year. Diversity of instruction and assessment methods hallmark RLS English, and teachers work together to more readily integrate technology and hands-on-learning into the curriculum. While all English courses at RLS are geared towards college readiness, honors courses are offered at each grade level to students ready for an additional challenge. These courses enhance the depth, scope, and speed of material covered for students ready for a more advanced learning environment.

**The English Department at RLHS** offers the following courses:

- Grade level regular curriculum courses
- Grade level honors curriculum courses
- Reading (Junior High)
- Speech/Drama as part of Explorations (Junior High)

## **Reading**

This course is designed for students who need a review of basic reading skills, enrichment vocabulary and practice in reading, comprehension and interpretive thinking, as well as basic study skills: researching, note taking, outlining and organizing.

## **7th Grade Regular English**

Seventh grade English is designed to help the student excel in the language arts by enhancing skills in grammar, writing, literature, and speech communication. To enhance understanding and fluency in reading, students will analyze literature to recognize, among other things, the elements of literature, the author's use of literary techniques, and vocabulary meanings. In order to learn to write for a variety of purposes, students will use a four-square organizer for pre-writing. In addition, students will sharpen writing and editing skills by reviewing the most commonly misspelled words, the parts of speech, sentence patterns, and daily oral language (DOL) where they will edit sentences for grammar, punctuation, and capitalization.

## **7th Grade Honors English**

Honors level courses include the elements of regular level courses with additional work in literature, analysis skills and projects. The honors English curriculum connects with the social studies curriculum in some special projects. Work is done at an accelerated pace and/or a higher grade level than regular English classes.

## **8th Grade Regular English**

This course continues the study of the building blocks of language as they are incorporated into writing and reading. Structured as a reading and writing workshop, each student receives instruction catered to his/her needs in writing, reading and spelling. Focused on creating lifelong writers and readers, the course encompasses the grammar learned in previous years and integrates it into writing, while teaching students to become critical editors of their own work and the work of others.

# English

## **8th Grade Honors English**

Honors level courses include the elements of regular courses with additional work in reading and writing and a faster paced schedule. Vocabulary focuses on classic origins of words. Writing projects include a research paper, memoirs, poetry, a short story, a literary analysis and professional letters. Independent reading outside of the classroom is required.

## **Freshman Regular English**

Expository and creative writing and a step-by-step introduction to the research paper in MLA style are the focus of this first year course. Students study different types of literature, emphasizing the analysis and uniqueness of each. *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Odyssey* are classics that offer opportunities for meaningful projects and discussions. The grammar and mechanics of the language are studied in relationship to the writing and literature. Individual learning styles and study skills are part of this varied curriculum.

## **Freshman Honors English**

Freshman English is designed to be the foundation of the high school English program. Fundamental study and research skills will be implemented as well as necessary skills used in the writing process. Literature will be analyzed in various forms and genres including short stories, nonfiction, novels, and poetry. Course work includes and is accelerated beyond the regular. Classic pieces of work, such as *Romeo and Juliet*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *The Odyssey*, will provide challenging but insightful material as we study the time period, the style of writing, and their relevancy to today. In addition, we will analyze the nonfiction novel *The Devil in the White City* and apply the concepts to a 21<sup>st</sup> century situation. At the end of this year, students will be able to: analyze works of fiction and non-fiction according to the elements of literature; organize and write a research paper according to MLA standards; and create and present creative projects based on literature.

## **Sophomore Regular English**

Process writing is the focus of this course, specifically essays, stories and a research paper. Persuasive writing and speech is also emphasized. Grammar and mechanics are covered in conjunction with writing assignments. Literature selections include *Julius Caesar*, *Ender's Game*, *And Then There Were None*, *Tuesday's with Morrie* and numerous selections from the textbook. In the spring, students complete a writing portfolio that serves as their final.

## **Sophomore Honors English**

This course covers the same material and includes similar papers and projects as the regular curriculum but is accelerated in pace, depth and works studied. Additional reading includes *Of Mice and Men*.

## **Junior Regular English – American Literature**

This course is a chronological study of American literature from the Native American culture to Contemporary music, movies, and books as it relates to the history of the times. Grammar and mechanics are reviewed in relationship to the writing instruction centered on the literature. In addition to the textbook, students will read *The Great Gatsby*. Students will produce a cross-curricular History/English research paper, which is submitted for a grade in both classes.

## **Junior Honors English – American Literature**

This course covers the same material and includes similar papers and projects as the regular curriculum but is accelerated in pace, depth and works studied. Additional reading includes *The Scarlet Letter*.

# English

## **Senior Regular English**

A thematic study of British literature, this course covers many classic works such as Beowulf, Frankenstein, Heart of Darkness, Macbeth, and The Canterbury Tales. Four units ("Things Fall Apart," "Science and Literature," "Love and Beauty," and "Comedy in Literature") discuss literary themes as well as practical and spiritual connections. Writing continues to be emphasized with a review of mechanics and usage, and a focus on style and argumentation. Writing includes a Literary Analysis Research Paper in which students pull from scholarly and peer-reviewed sources.

## **Dual Credit-AP Senior Honors English**

This class is offered as a dual-credit English course in conjunction with Concordia University - Chicago. The first semester focuses on non-fiction writing and college composition. Student writing is assessed at a collegiate level, and techniques to elevate their writing are discussed. Time is also devoted to reading college-level non-fiction texts with an emphasis on comprehension strategies, close-reading, and note taking. Second semester focuses on literature study. Students see a variety of texts ranging from Shakespeare to modern authors and discuss them in depth. Extensive independent reading is required and time management skills are an essential component of the class.

# Fine Arts

## The Fine Arts Department Offers:

- Four unique year-long fine arts courses available
- Award winning Band, Choir and Orchestra groups at Junior High and Senior High levels
- Extensive community and area-wide exhibitions and performances

The fine arts give students the means to become aware and express themselves creatively as well as respond to the artistic expression of others. Through the fine arts, the students are provided a unique and distinctive way of understanding a link between how man relates to God, nature and society. The study of fine arts includes identifying methods and tools required to produce the basic skills in one of the fine arts, gaining an appreciation of how arts relate to each other and to the daily world around us. As Christians, we also gain an appreciation for how the arts can serve as an expression of, a witness of, and an inspiration of our Christian faith and being.

### **Art I-Fundamental Art**

This course is designed to build a strong artistic foundation for students. Design elements are the backbone to creating successful pieces of art. The students will be introduced to different elements of art that will test their abilities and push their creativity.

### **Art II - Portraiture and Mixed Media**

This course is designed around the art of portraiture. The students will learn and apply different styles of art and media to their portraits. The elements and principles of art will be incorporated into each lesson at an advanced level. Prerequisite: The completion of Art I with either an "A or B" grade is required to take this course.

### **Art III - Sculpture**

This honors level course is designed to expose students to the discipline of three-dimensional sculpture. The students will apply the elements learned in Art I to create their own three-dimensional sculptures. Prerequisite: Completion of Art I with a grade of 'A' or 'B'.

### **Art IV**

This course is for Seniors who are serious and dedicated to explore new materials and continue to perfect artistic techniques. In addition to craftsmanship, teachers stress innovation, originality and expression. This class is demanding and time consuming as the student works independently to create an Art Portfolio. This portfolio will be used to apply for scholarships and entrance to a college art program. Prerequisite: Art I and Art II, grade of "A" or "B" both semesters, strong interest and good work ethic.

### **6th, 7th and 8th Grade Art** (*12 weeks as part of Explorations*)

This is a series of preparatory art classes designed to develop artistic capabilities. The three courses focus on a variety of techniques and media intended to prepare students for further studio experience. Drawing techniques emphasized include face and body proportion, three dimensional drawing, shade and color technique. Media include scratchboard, tempera paint, Prisma colors, charcoal and graphite. This is a great opportunity for students to explore their interest in art.

# Fine Arts

## **Introduction to Instrumental Music**

This course will give students the opportunity to explore the world of instrumental music by learning about the four families of instruments (brass, percussion, string and woodwind) in an enjoyable environment. Students will not only learn about many different kinds of instruments, but they will also learn how to play instruments from each family. After a better understanding is achieved about instruments, students will select an instrument to concentrate on and gain the necessary skills to play in either our band and/or orchestra. This course will also teach students to work with others in order to create music, increase students' knowledge of music history and music theory, improve playing abilities and increase students' appreciation of music. Students will be able to display their talents at a number of performances, including IGSMMA Contest; Six Flags Great America; Christmas and Spring concerts and various community performances.

## **Junior High Band**

This ensemble is a performance based group of students who have played for at least one year. Development continues in fingering, new note valves and refinement of phrasing, dynamics, intonation and articulation. Students work toward several performances and contests throughout the school year. Performances have included a Kiwanis meeting at the Metro Centre, pep rallies, Christmas and spring concerts and state contest concerts. The Intermediate Band has not only qualified for State contest, but also has had dozens of students who received the highest rating of "1" at Solo and Ensemble contest.

## **Junior High Choir**

Performance oriented, this class is geared for students who enjoy singing a variety of song types and styles and praising God through the gift of song. Basic skills of music theory and music history are also taught. Performances have included church, chapel, Christmas and spring concert and state contest concerts. The Junior High Choir has received the highest rating of a "1" at State on numerous occasions. Many students have also received a "1" at solo and ensemble contests.

## **Junior High Orchestra**

The Junior High Concert Orchestra provides students with the opportunity to increase their technical skills in a challenging yet enjoyable environment. This ensemble

will give students the opportunity to create music; increase students' knowledge of music history and music theory; advance playing abilities and increase students' appreciation of music. Students will be able to display their talents at a number of performances including IMEA District Orchestra; IGSMMA contests; Rock River Valley Fine Arts Festival; Seasonal concerts and various community performances.

## **Concert Choir (H)\***

This elective course for high school students includes a variety of music. The group performs in school, at concerts and at IHSA competition. The choir has sung at area schools, nursing homes and has performed at EPCOT. No tryout is required for choir, just a love of singing.

## **Concert Band (H)\***

This high school level performance based class features music of all periods. The band performs in several concerts, athletic events and the IHSA competition. Occasional out-of-state tours are also available. Previous groups have performed in Orlando, New Orleans and at the University of Illinois. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

## **Orchestra (H)\***

The Senior High Symphony Orchestra program will enhance the ability of any string player. This ensemble will give students the opportunity to learn to work with others in order to create music; increase music appreciation and understanding; advance playing abilities and learn music from numerous genres. Students participate in a variety of competitions and contests through IMEA and IHSA.

## **Honors Choir, Band or Orchestra\***

To receive honors credit for orchestra, a student must commit to additional rehearsals and performances, outside of the regular performance schedule for the RLHS Orchestra. Students will be expected to perform at a minimum of eight area churches on Sunday mornings. Students must also audition for the IMEA District competition.

# Mathematics

## The Mathematics Department at Rockford Lutheran Junior/Senior High School offers the following courses:

- In-depth offerings of honors and regular level courses
- Individualized student placement in one of at least 4 different levels
- Extensive upper level offerings including college calculus and statistics
- Comprehensive integration of technology
- Regular level mathematics courses
- Honors level mathematics courses
- Dual Credit/AP Level Courses

The mathematics department of Rockford Lutheran Junior/Senior High School seeks to develop each student to their highest level of competency, to expose students to real world applications of mathematics and to give a solid foundation in the mathematical skills necessary for success at the next level of mathematics education. Whether pursued at the college level or in the workplace, our students are prepared for the challenges of our technological world and have the skills to think logically and analyze clearly the mathematical processes that are demanded. Students are challenged to understand the field of mathematics as a search for order in the complex world of our Creator God. The use of technology (computers and calculators), manipulatives and projects assist with these endeavors.

### 6th/7th/8th Grade Math

Provide a bridge between junior high and high school mathematics, emphasizing skills necessary for both the transition class and high school algebra. Topics covered include integers, equations, graphing and exponents with a heavy emphasis as to their use in algebra. Problem solving skills using fractions, decimals, ratios/proportions and some statistical analysis are incorporated. Introductions to geometry and probability are also included. Prerequisite: Successful completion of 5th/6th/7th grade mathematics.

### Pre-Algebra

Provides further instruction before algebra and prepares students in the basic concepts of algebra and geometry by introducing them to variables, equations, polygons and graphing. This enables students to be more successful in future years in both algebra and geometry. Prerequisite: Successful completion of 8th grade math or teacher recommendation.

### Honors Pre-Algebra

This seventh grade class is designed to reinforce basic skills and begin early algebra and geometry concepts. Seventh graders must maintain at least a “B-” in order to move on to Honors Algebra as eighth graders. Manipulatives and projects that relate the covered skills to everyday life experience will be used to further the students’ understanding. Prerequisite: A grade of “A” in prior course work.

### Algebra I

This course begins high school math for the average student. Topics include integers, order of operations, linear equations, exponents, fractional numbers, factors, multiples, as well as solving quadratics, factoring polynomials and solving systems of equations. Graphing calculators and manipulatives are used to aide with concept understandings. Projects coordinate algebra topics and real life experiences.

### Honors Algebra I

This course begins high school math for the accelerated student. The same processes of algebra which are studied in Algebra I are introduced with a greater depth of coverage. Higher level questions and assignments will be used to stimulate thinking and problem solving skills. Projects are assigned to broaden the students’ knowledge of the role of algebra in the “real” world. This class may be taken in junior high. Junior high students must maintain at least a “B” in order to move to the next level. Prerequisite: Grade of “A” in prior course work.

# Mathematics

## Geometry

Provides continuation of the students' knowledge gained from algebra. Angles, lines, reflections, proofs, polygons, triangle congruence, perimeters, areas, volumes, similarity, trigonometry and circles are studied. Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra I.

## Honors Geometry

Covers all of the topics covered in regular geometry with supplemental topics taught at an accelerated pace. A rigorous emphasis on proof and coordinate geometry prepares students for upper level math courses. Projects are completed on a higher level than regular geometry. Junior high students must maintain at least a "B-" in order to move to the next level. Prerequisite: A grade of "A" or "B" in Honors Algebra.

## Algebra II

A continuation of the students' knowledge gained from Algebra and Geometry, this course studies functions (linear, quadratic, exponential and logarithmic), systems of equations, powers, inverses, radicals and polynomials.

## Honors Algebra II

Includes the concepts taught at the regular level course. Graphing calculators are used extensively to enhance lessons. Prerequisite: A grade of "A" or "B" in Honors Algebra I and Geometry. (May be taken concurrently with Honors Geometry)

## Pre-Calculus

Integrates the background students must have to be successful in calculus, including advanced work with functions, matrices, conics and trigonometry and an introduction to limits and other calculus concepts. This course progresses at a moderate pace. Computers and/or graphing calculators will be used frequently. Prerequisite: A grade of "A" or "B" in Algebra II

## Honors Pre-Calculus

Integrates the background students must have to be successful in calculus, including advanced work with functions, matrices, conics and trigonometry and an introduction to limits and other calculus concepts. Mathematical thinking, including specific attention to formal logic and proof is a theme throughout. The Honors level course gives more attention to mathematical theory and advances at an accelerated pace. Computers and/or graphing calculators will be used frequently. Prerequisite: A grade of "A" or "B" in Honors Algebra II.

## AP Calculus

This is a first course in calculus covering the topics of limits, derivatives including applications such as the first and second derivative test, and integration including Riemann Sums and definite integrals. Logarithmic, exponential and other transcendental functions will also be studied along with some differential equations. The course will continue with applications of integrals such as finding area and volume using both the disk and shell method and more advanced integration techniques. Prerequisite: A grade of "A" or "B" in Honors Pre-Calculus or "A" in Pre-Calculus.

## Statistics-Dual Credit

This is a specialized course covering introductory statistics, discrete math topics, probability distributions, estimating parameters, hypothesis testing, regressions and correlations, and Chi-Square and F Distributions. Projects, Excel, and graphing calculators will be used to enhance classroom learning as well as assist in assessment. Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra II.

# Mathematics

## Honors Statistics-Dual Credit-AP

Honors Statistics will study the four main areas of statistics: exploring data and its relation to patterns, sampling and experimentation, probability with simulations, and statistical inference. Students in this course are expected to have a working knowledge of graphical and algebraic concepts. The prerequisite for this course is an A in Algebra II, an A or B in Honors Algebra II or Pre-Calculus, a C or better in Honors Pre-Calculus, or approval of the department.

## Mathematics Program Sequence

Program options include, but are not limited to, the following:

	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade
<b>Option 1</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Math	Pre-Algebra	Algebra I	Geometry I	Interm.Alg or Algebra II
<b>Option 2</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics	Pre- Algebra	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	Pre-Calculus or Stats Trig
<b>Option 3</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Honors Pre-Algebra	Honors Algebra I	Honors Geometry	Honors Algebra II	H Pre Calculus or Stats	Stats/Honors Stats, AP Calculus
<b>Option 4</b>		Honors Algebra I	Honors Geometry	Honors Algebra II	H Pre Calculus or Stats	Stats/Honors Stats or AP Calc.	AP Calculus Honors Stats

Students are placed in the math program on the basis of prior course work, achievement testing results and/or by teacher recommendation. Students who wish to move to an alternative track may request a review of their current placement. Students may also advance within their track by taking additional course work during the summer. Administrative review and approval is required.

# Physical Education & Health

A comprehensive physical education and fitness program is an integral part of the total education of each student at Rockford Lutheran Junior/Senior High School. The program will encourage students to see and understand the benefits of being active through a variety of activities. The program will help the student develop physical skills for present and lifelong involvement in activities which complement a positive, active Christian lifestyle. All levels of the program will promote positive attitudes and behaviors through learning good sportsmanship, cooperation, teamwork, emotional control and leadership. Students will recognize their own strengths and weaknesses and how to develop a positive self-concept. Students will be required to properly convey information on selected tests or writing assignments using proper writing format and technique. The high school level will be responsible for the application of health and skill related components of fitness and the cognitive components of sport, games and leisure activities.

## **Junior High Physical Education**

Students will be introduced to a variety of activities and sports to help maintain and improve their individual health and fitness. Throughout the year, students' fitness levels will be assessed by the use of a variety of fitness testing programs. This course will work on developing physical movement skills, teamwork and sportsmanship to help students begin a lifelong appreciation for a healthy lifestyle of activity.

## **Freshman Physical Education**

This course is designed to teach students the concepts, knowledge and skills necessary for the maintenance and/or improvement of their level of fitness. Components of fitness, both health-related and skill-related will be the foundation of this course through the use of the Fitness for Life series. Students are given instruction on self-management skills that will give them the responsibility to plan their own fitness and physical activity programs. Students will learn basic skills, rules and strategies for a variety of team and individual sports, along with lifetime activities in order to help them make healthy lifestyle choices.

## **Upper Level Physical Education**

The primary emphasis of Physical Education at the upper class level is to provide a review, continuation and maintenance of physical fitness concepts and healthy lifestyles. Students are given added opportunities to develop individualized fitness programs that will encourage them to improve their current fitness levels. Students are given the opportunity to obtain certification in CPR and standard first aid.

## **Health**

The Health program of Rockford Lutheran Junior/Senior High School is designed to help the student understand the principles of nutrition and exercise, efficient management of emotional stress, positive self-concept development and drug use and abuse. The prevention and treatment of illness and basic lifesaving activities are covered.

## **8th Grade Health**

Includes a variety of health related topics including nutrition, personal health, drug education and abstinence education. The primary goal is to make students aware of the fact that their decisions and actions have future consequences in all areas of their lives. (One Semester)

## **10th Grade Health**

Includes nutrition, disease awareness, mental/emotional health, drug education and abstinence education. A critical focus includes understanding our bodies as a gift to us from God and the responsibility we have to make wise choices concerning the use of this gift. (One Semester)

# Religion

The Religion department provides a program of instruction that is based on the scriptural truths of the Bible applied to our lives in a practical and meaningful way. This process takes place in a dynamic environment of students from all denominations of Christianity, representing over 100 area churches. We seek to integrate this faith-based instruction into all subjects in the curriculum, thus integrating our faith into all aspects of our life. Through a combination of instructional activities, personal growth opportunities, worship events and service activities, all students are encouraged to grow in their faith and put it into action, providing the basis of a life-long faith journey, after which we all seek to enjoy the blessings of life eternal with our Savior Jesus Christ. Our purpose is demonstrated in the Great Commission: Matthew 28:19-20: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

## **7th Grade Old Testament**

A foundation for all Old Testament courses, this class explores the historical and eternal significance of the events recorded in the Old Testament, with students completing various assignments and projects designed to draw them into a relationship with Jesus and strengthen that relationship through a better understanding of God's plan of salvation.

## **8th Grade New Testament**

Focuses on the life and teachings of Jesus, as well as the early Christian church. Through this study of the Bible, students are encouraged to grow into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ, as well as to gain a greater knowledge of Biblical truths and historical background.

## **Freshman Religion**

This is a foundational course in the sequence of high school religion classes, covering the history of the Bible from Adam and Eve through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. It encourages students to gain a better understanding of God's plan of salvation for all people by connecting biblical truth to their own lives. The ultimate goal is to help students grow in their relationship to Jesus Christ.

## **Sophomore New Testament**

Presents the story of Christ's life, death and resurrection, including life as members of Christ's body, the church. The course focuses on the Epistles, exploring those truths and how they are built on the Gospel foundation. Topics include the Bible, salvation, death and dying, angels, friendship and various other issues related to the Christian life. The ultimate goal of this course is to bring students closer to Christ and to help them recognize the place faith occupies in the heart and life of a Christian.

## **Junior and Senior Christian Service**

These semester courses focus on challenging all of our Juniors and Seniors to put their faith into action. The class meets one day per week to encourage and monitor student progress on their 40 hour service project. Class content includes current religious, moral and ethical issues.

## **World Religions**

This semester course is a comparative study of world religions, including each religion's history, major doctrines, leaders and relationship to Christianity. Students develop an understanding of various world cultures and are able to effectively express their faith as they encounter people of various belief systems.

## **Commitment in Marriage**

This semester course is an introduction to Christian marriage and related issues, with focus on relationships, dating, sexuality, unity and practical skills related to marriage and parenting. Students will also discuss issues related to being single. It is hoped that through the study of these topics, students will recognize the importance of God's plan for sexuality, marriage and family.

# Religion

## Christian Service- Leadership

These semester elective courses focus on challenging our Juniors and Seniors to put their faith into action. The class meets one day per week to encourage and monitor student progress on their 40 hour service project as well as provide opportunity for growth in their abilities to function as the leaders of tomorrow. Class content includes discussion activities on philosophies of leadership, verbal and non-verbal communication, confrontation and integrity. Various other topics are addressed, frequently directed by student interest and experience, with a desire to grow in our understanding of Servant Leadership, as modeled by Jesus.

## Service Hour Requirements

Ten hours of service work are required for each semester of religion credit in grades 7-10. A signed slip verifying participation is required from the person or group who received the service. A reaction paper is also required for this credit. The junior and senior years require a semester of service, including 40 hours of work in the community.

The following serves as guidelines of areas of service:

- 7th - 8th Grade  
Church and family service
- 9th - 10th Grade  
Church or school service.
- 11th - 12th Grade  
Community service

# Science

## The Science Department offers:

- Extensive offerings in each area of Life Science, Chemistry and Physics
- Honors and regular level courses to meet the varying abilities of students
- Updated laboratory facilities with state-of-the-art data collection equipment
- Eleven complete year-long courses in high school science
- Excellent collegiate preparation
- Over 80% of students who take the Advanced Placement tests receive college credit

The Science Department at Rockford Lutheran Junior/Senior High has designed a curriculum that challenges each student, preparing them for the dynamic environment of collegiate scientific research. Each 45 minute class period provides a wide variety of instructional practices, including: lecture/discussion

group and individual projects and presentations, teacher demonstrations, lab activities, videos, research projects, self-directed and guided study, along with homework, quizzes and tests. This exciting environment provides an ideal opportunity to understand our Creative God and the complexity of our world. Our teachers are members of the National Science Teachers Association, National Association of Biology Teachers, Illinois Science Teachers Association, and American Chemical Society.

## Science Program Sequence

Student placement is based upon current grade point average and past science and math grades. Program options include, but are not limited to the following:

	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	12 Grade	11/12 Electives
Option 1	Life Science	Earth Science	Physical Science	Biology	Honors or Regular Chemistry	Honors or Conceptual Physics	Anatomy & Physiology Biology II Chemistry II
Option 2	Life Science	Physical Science	Earth Science or Biology	Honors, Regular or Consumer Chemistry or Biology	Honors or Conceptual Physics	Honors or Regular Anat/Phys. (multiple)	Physics II Chemistry II Biology II
Option 3	Life Science	Physical Science	Biology	Honors Chemistry	Honors Physics Biology II Chemistry II	Honors Anatomy/ Physiology Biology II Chemistry II (multiple) Physics II	Physics II Biology II Chemistry II

# Science

## **Life Science**

Provides students with a basic knowledge of life science and is considered an introduction to biology. This course gives an overview of the classification of living organisms, cells, the human body, heredity and ecology with laboratory activities and demonstrations related to each chapter. Dissections of simple animals are included. The regular level course addresses these topics at a more deliberate pace.

## **Earth Science**

Provides a basic knowledge of earth science as it relates to students and to their own range of experiences. Topics from several branches of science, including geology, meteorology, oceanography and astronomy in computer related interactive simulations lead to topical research reports, laboratory investigations and demonstrations.

## **Physical Science**

Provides an introduction to chemistry, physics and earth science, develops skills in measurement, calculations and use of the scientific method and provides a foundation for more in-depth studies in science. Students gain a basic knowledge in the principles of the structure, patterns and behavior of matter and energy. Major physics topics include: motion, light, sound, energy and measurement. Chemistry topics include properties or states of matter, the Periodic table, acids, bases, salts, reactions and nuclear chemistry. Earth Science topics include studying the surface and interior of the earth, weather and climate. Prerequisite: Be in high school or in 8th grade currently taking Honors Algebra I.

## **Biology**

Allows the student to examine, survey and understand the magnitude and complexity of God's creation. Topics include the scientific method, cells and cell activity, cellular respiration and photosynthesis, genetics, DNA, RNA and the molecular basis of inheritance, evolution, and ecology. Topical labs, research topics related to biology and development of laboratory skills are included. Prerequisite: Physical Science. Ninth graders must be taking Honors Geometry concurrently.

## **Honors Biology II (Dual Credit)**

A study of general biology topics and concepts which includes molecular biology, cell organelles, cells, genetics, systems structure and function of plants and animals, reproduction, growth and development, population biology, and ecology. Upon registration and applicable fee payment, four hours of college credit is available through Concordia University Nebraska. Prerequisite: Have passed Biology with an "A" or "B", Chemistry or Honors Chemistry with an "A" or "B" and a 3.5 GPA.

## **Consumer Chemistry**

Has a student-centered, activity based, issues oriented chemistry curriculum including traditional chemistry concepts and laboratory skills. Discussion of the complex and perplexing problems facing our nation involving individual and social values and group decision-making processes, as well as scientific processes. Math requirement is less rigorous than for other chemistry classes. Prerequisite: Passing both semesters of Biology and Physical Science.

## **Chemistry**

Covers the nature of matter and changes in matter caused by energy. Topics include atomic theory, periodicity, bonding, acids and bases, naming compounds, chemical reactions, measurement, organic chemistry and nuclear chemistry. Lab topics include properties of matter, acid base reactions, rates of reactions, descriptive chemistry and synthesis. Prerequisite: Passing both semesters of biology and physical science and completed Algebra I with a "C" or better.

## **Honors Chemistry**

Includes the same topics as chemistry but with more in-depth course work and lab work. Other lab topics include finding unknown materials, percentage yields, both qualitative and quantitative analysis of reactions. Projects include using demonstrations to explain concepts and analyzing data gained from computerized labs or demonstrations. Prerequisite: Passing both semesters of Biology, Physical Science and Algebra I. Must have a 3.5 GPA and a "B" in Biology and last math taken; or 3.0 GPA and an "A" in Biology and the last math class taken.

# Science

## **Honors Chemistry II (Dual Credit)(AP)**

Reviews and expands on many of the topics and concepts learned in previous chemistry classes. This class will introduce more theory and a mathematical basis on how discoveries were made. The emphasis will be on inorganic chemistry starting with atomic structure and continuing to how compounds interact physically and chemically. Upon registration and applicable fee payment, four hours of college credit is available through Concordia University in Nebraska. Prerequisite: Have passed Chemistry or Honors Chemistry with an "A" or "B", Algebra II or Honors Algebra II with an "A" or "B", enrolled in Pre Calculus and a 3.5 GPA.

## **Conceptual Physics**

For those students who wish to continue in their studies in science using a unique conceptual approach to understand physics, this class ties physics to the students' personal experiences in the everyday world. It follows a similar sequence as honors physics by addressing the following topics: classical mechanics, thermodynamics, wave theory, magnetism and modern physics. Projects include presentation, written reports and egg drop devices. Prerequisite: Passing both semesters of an Algebra I class and Chemistry class.

## **Honors Physics I (AP)**

This course is for juniors to help develop logic and reasoning skills needed for college entrance tests and to advance their knowledge in science and prepare them for college or future careers in science. The content is geared to produce a genuine understanding of the physical laws fundamental to all sciences. The topics covered include motion, Newton's laws, gravity, rotational motion and thermodynamics. Physics concepts are introduced in the context of everyday applications relevant to the student. Prerequisite: Must have a 3.5 GPA and completed Algebra II and Chemistry, or 3.0 GPA and an "A" in the last science class taken.

## **Honors Physics II (AP)**

The second year of a two year physics curriculum designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Physics "B" Exam. It covers: fluids, electricity and magnetism (electrostatics, conductors, capacitors, dielectrics, electric circuits, magnetic fields and electromagnetism), waves and optics (wave motion, sound, physical optics and geometric optics), and atomic and nuclear physics (atomic, physics, quantum effects and nuclear physics). Tests, labs, home work and semester projects will be used to prepare students for college physics, to improve the student's problem-solving skills and to reinforce concepts covered in the classroom.

## **Anatomy and Physiology**

This course is offered both as an honors and a regular level class and is intended for juniors and seniors with a high interest in the life sciences. It will help them prepare for college and future careers in science. This course is an in-depth analysis of human systems: cardiovascular, respiratory, muscular, metabolic and nervous systems. Individual and group research into topics related to course work and organ dissections are featured. Prerequisite: Honors: Must have a 3.5 GPA and completed Chemistry, or 3.0 GPA and an "A" in the last science class taken. Regular: 2.5 GPA and completed Chemistry.

# Social Studies

## **The Social Studies Department offers:**

- Honors and regular level courses to meet the varying abilities of students
- Extensive integration of writing and research
- Emphasis on college level skill development and critical thinking capabilities
- Prominent focus on character development

Skills and knowledge gained in the Social Sciences Department of Rockford Lutheran Junior/Senior High School lead to sound decision-making and to an ability to apply the principles of a Christian perspective in life situations of our democracy today. This department works toward attaining this goal through aiding students in understanding themselves, their role as Christian citizens in a democracy and the complexities of the world community. Teachers use a broad variety of materials and teaching techniques specific to each particular subject.

## **The Social Studies Department at RLS offers the following sequence of courses:**

- Grade 7 - World History Fall of Roman Empire to the 18th Century
- Grade 8 - United States History - Beginnings to Reconstruction
- Grade 10 - World History (Honors) or World Geography
- Grade 11 - United States History (Regular or Honors) - Reconstruction to the Present
- Grade 12 - American Government and Applied Economics (one semester each)
- Electives – Sociology and/or Psychology (one semester each)

## **7th Grade World History**

Focuses on World History of both the Eastern and Western Hemispheres (400 A.D. – 1750 A.D.). Student projects are presented on such topics as the Middle Ages, Islamic World, Africa, Renaissance, Reformation, Enlightenment, Revolutions, Asian culture, and exploration of the New World, using various media, such as the Internet, traditional research methods and hands-on activities. Field trips supplement the use of research and projects in bringing the world of the past to life.

## **8th Grade United States History**

Covers United States History from its beginnings to the Reconstruction period. This course contains a study of the United States and Illinois Constitutions. Students must pass a Constitution test as required by state law. Internet research, Power Point presentations, classroom and group activities are used in addition to a variety of supplemental materials.

## **World Geography**

Covers basic elements of physical geography and an emphasis on understanding of various cultural areas of the world. The course provides students with an understanding of the many cultures with whom we share this planet. Maps, videos and Internet research are used.

## **Honors World History**

Covers a review of world history from the beginnings to the Revolution and continues in depth to the present. Dynamic computerized simulations facilitate the application of lessons of the past to our life today. Students will gain historical perspective through discussion of text, research and writing; therefore, strong language arts skills are necessary.

## **Regular United States History**

A study of the Reconstruction period to the present, this course fosters an appreciation for the great leaders of our past and an understanding of their impact on our lives today. Discussions of the major events, concepts, eras and personalities of our past stress the need for involvement by Christian citizens. Numerous simulations, Internet research projects, Power Point presentations and cross-curricular projects serve to provide the skills and understandings necessary for successful collegiate study, as well as positive roles as Christians in a challenging world.

# Social Studies

## **Honors United States History \***

This course covers the same general content as the regular class; additional materials and requirements and an accelerated pace encourage higher expectations.

*\*This class is also available as a certified AP History course for those who would so choose. Additional requirements concerning the pre-colonial through Civil War eras are included in the AP version to meet those testing expectations. Contact the instructor for details.*

## **Applied Economics**

This course gives students an overall view of today's economy and their role as consumers in it. Students participate in discussions, classroom activities and computer-based simulations. One simulation focuses on students managing businesses in a competitive business environment while another allows students to control the economy through monetary and fiscal policy. Students use the Internet to research and complete a simulation on the stock market. (One Semester)

## **American Government**

This course develops an understanding of the role and function of the federal and state government, with emphasis on the federal system. Students engage in a mock Congress, which includes debate on current issues, are also given the opportunity to participate in a mock trial and serve as local election judges. Guest speakers include our representative in the House of Representatives. (One Semester)

## **Sociology**

This course shows how cultural traits form behavior patterns for groups to follow. It examines how personality, social pressures and the family develop many aspects of society. (One Semester)

## **Psychology**

This course discusses both the physical brain and the theoretical brain. It emphasizes all aspects of the mind, mental states and processes. Group activities, discussions, case studies, research and hands-on activities are used. (One Semester)

# World Languages

## The Department of World Languages offers:

- Up to 6 years of high school level study in 3 languages (French, German, Spanish)
- High school level courses in Chinese.
- High school level courses available to junior high students who qualify
- Introduction to World Languages course for younger students

Grammar, writing, reading, translating and speaking are the essential components of the study of any world language. This department focuses on the essentials while also emphasizing an understanding of and appreciation for the diversity of this world that God has created. Our purpose is to build communication skills while creating an understanding and respect for world affairs, events and cultures. Field trips and tours are offered to supplement the students' educational experience and to reinforce an appreciation for cultures different from ours. Mission trips to Spanish speaking countries have been supplemented by one-to-two week long travel tours to France, Germany/Austria and other European destinations.

## Introduction to World Languages

This course, offered to sixth through ninth graders, is an excellent opportunity for students to sample five languages (French, German, Chinese, Russian and Spanish). The year is divided into multiple segments wherein the basics of the language, culture, geography and history are taught. Various projects and computer programs are incorporated to make the class an enjoyable, as well as educational, experience. By the end of the year it is hoped the student will have formed a preference for which language he/she will continue to study.

## World Language I

This course teaches the basic language skills of writing, speaking and listening comprehension. Projects, computer programs, videos and guest speakers are incorporated to study the geography, culture, history and customs of each language's native countries.

Prerequisite-Passing grade in English and successful completion of Introduction to World Language (or administrative exemption). Junior High level students who begin high school level classes must have an "A" or "B" in English.

## World Languages II

This course reviews and then builds upon the basics learned in the first year. More emphasis is placed on oral comprehension and verbal skill, with opportunities for the students to practice their conversational skills in the target language. Projects are incorporated to instill an understanding of and appreciation for this diverse world in which we live. Prerequisite: "C" or better in World Language I. Honors and regular level courses are available for Spanish.

## World Languages III

This honors level course reviews and builds upon the basics learned in the second year. Because only two continuous years of a world language are required for graduation, it is expected that students continuing on are serious about the language. Therefore, the majority of the course is taught in the target language and students are required to use the target language the majority of the time as well. Prerequisite: "C" or better in World Language II.

## Advanced Languages

These honor level courses continue to review and build upon the basics with progressive emphasis placed on written and oral communication and literature comprehension. Grammar principles are presented or reviewed, literature is analyzed, and historical and cultural topics are discussed in the target language. Much of these courses are conversational and students must use the target language to communicate at all times. Many projects are incorporated for the students to creatively express themselves using their language skills. Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth year courses are available. Prerequisite: "C" or better in World Language III.

# Athletics

Many of the principles and skills that are learned in the classroom are challenged and developed through participation in athletics. The field of competition provides the opportunity for character growth and the development of our student athletes. These programs provide a venue for students to challenge themselves to do their best and strive for excellence in all aspects of their lives.

Rockford Lutheran High School is privileged to be a member of the Big Northern Conference at the high school level. This affiliation allows us to continue the excellent opportunities for competition with schools such as Byron, Oregon, Stillman Valley and Winnebago. The Junior High competes in the Northern Conference against schools such as Christian Life, Harlem, Freeport Jr. High, Prairie Hill, Roscoe, Rockford Christian and Stephen Mack. The Jr. High football team competes in the Stateline Football Conference.

We emphasize the development of sportsmanship, leadership and teamwork as fundamental to the success of each student athlete. Total programs incorporate preparation and competition, both in-season and off. Our facilities provide quality practice environments, as well as weight training and conditioning opportunities.

## Rockford Lutheran High School Sports

<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>
Baseball, Basketball, Bass Fishing	Basketball, Bass Fishing, Bowling
Bowling, Cross Country	Cross Country, Golf
Football, Golf, Soccer	Soccer, Softball
Tennis, Track & Field	Spirit Squad, Tennis
Wrestling, Volleyball	Track & Field, Volleyball

## Rockford Lutheran Junior High Sports

<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>
Basketball, Cross Country	Basketball, Cross Country
Football, Soccer	Soccer, Spirit Squad
Track & Field, Wrestling	Track & Field, Volleyball
Golf	Golf

### Competitive Athletics

High School Team History

- 52 Conference Championships
- 48 Regional Championships
- 2 District Championships
- 14 Sectional Championships
- 3 Super-Sectional Championships
- 22 State Tourney Appearances
- 1 State Championship

### Competitive Athletics

Junior High Team Championships

- 5 Cheerleading
- 5 Girls Track
- 4 Boys Track
- 5 Boys Basketball
- 2 Volleyball
- 1 Boys Basketball National Runner Up

# Activities

We offer a wide variety of activities to provide opportunity for everyone to get involved in the life of the school ministry. We believe a quality educational experience and the holistic growth of the individual includes the development of leadership skills, involvement in service, practice at teamwork, cooperation and sportsmanship, and a strong work ethic. While taught in the classroom, these abilities are developed, refined and tested on the field of competition, the stage of performance and the platform of community engagement. We encourage you and your student to become part of this total growth experience as a critical component of preparation for our service to God and others.



- Active Student Council and Class Officers
- Extensive Leadership Development Program
- Spiritual Leadership Teams
- Model UN
- Chapel Bands
- National Honor Society
- Renaissance
- Musical/Drama Productions
- Madrigals (Singing Group)
- World Language
- Academic Team
- Key Club
- Builders Club
- Math Team
- Computer Tech Team
- Worldwide Youth in Science Engineering
- Model UN
- Art Club
- Eco Club