

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 and 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.

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 50 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
- 95+% 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.

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

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

Junior High

Boys/Girls Track
Golf
Tennis

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:

Biology

Chemistry

Economics

English Composition

English Literature

Government

Psychology

Sociology

Spanish

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 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	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59 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	Ambassadors
Bass Fishing	Anime Club
Bowling	Basketball
Cross Country	Bowling
Key Club	Chapel Music/Team
Football	Drama Productions
Golf	World Language Club
Soccer	Jazz Band
Softball	Peer Tutoring
Spirit Squad	Wrestling
Track/Field	Student Council
Swim Team	Tennis
Volleyball	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 (Cognia), 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:

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 7-8th grade would be included on the transcript, but would not be counted as part of the 52 credit requirement for graduation.

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. Students will also learn the basic structure of corporate organization. They will analyze the annual reports of actual corporations to glean relevant information on their performance and profitability,

Computer Skills

Students explore a variety of software applications, expand their computer skills, and develop technical writing skills. An emphasis includes utilizing the Canvas Learning Management System and the Skyward School Information System. Microsoft® Office Products applications include word processing, spreadsheets, multi-media, and desktop publishing. Other components include Google applications and tools. 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.

Business/Technology Education

Entrepreneurship and Business Management (S)

Do you have what it takes to start a new business? Throughout the semester students will work individually and in groups to develop an idea for a business and solicit feedback on the product or service to determine if it can be successful. The course explores the identification of personal attributes needed to be a successful entrepreneur, the steps needed to start a business, and the leadership skills necessary to ensure success. Students will create a website that could be used to market their business idea. The course includes a special unit on managerial skills, with an emphasis on personal management and development. 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)

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.

Civil Engineering and Architecture

Students learn important aspects of building and site design and development. They apply math, science, and standard engineering practices to design both residential and commercial projects and document their work using 3D architecture design software.

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 (I, II)

This course is designed for sixth and seventh grade 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.

Introduction to World Language

Honors level students participate in the course Introduction to World Language and Cultures, which includes a 12 week study of 2 languages (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.

6th Grade Regular English

Sixth grade English is designed to improve students' comfort and facility with the use of proper grammar and mechanics in their compositions as they compose a variety of types and styles of writing. Students are expected to integrate the skills they learn in this class into their work across the curriculum. There is an emphasis on both theoretical and active understanding of the four domains of language (grammar, the writing process, spelling, and reading).

6th Grade Honors English

While following a similar scope of the written language indicated above, honors level students are able to address grammatical elements more quickly, allowing for in-depth study of advanced elements of composition and creative writing. Honors students also engage in vocabulary study and spelling based on word origin and context.

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.

English

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.

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* and *The Odyssey*, will provide challenging but insightful material as we study the time period, the style of writing, and their relevancy to today. Additional novels that will be read, analyzed, and applied to 21st century concepts are *1984* and *Brave New World*. 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, poetry and a research paper. Persuasive writing and speech is also emphasized. Grammar and mechanics are covered in conjunction with writing assignments. Critical thinking skills are developed through literature selections including *Julius Caesar*, *And Then There Were None*, *Tuesday's with Morrie*, two independent novels 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.

Experiences in Human Communication

An introduction to basic principles of interpersonal and intrapersonal communication as well as group processes and development. The course includes effective communication skills, verbal and non-verbal communication as well as the fundamentals of group dynamics, group processes, and public speaking. Elective Credit. 2 semesters

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 relatively 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 the fine arts includes identifying methods and tools required to produce the basic skills in one of the fine arts, gaining an appreciation of how the 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, witness of, and an inspiration of our Christian Faith and being.

6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Explorations (9 weeks)

This is a series of preparatory art classes designed to develop artistic capabilities. The course content will introduce and develop skills and knowledge in the areas of Art History, Art criticism, design concepts, art production and art careers. A sketchbook requiring drawing, writing, and idea development will be required for this course.

Art I: Introduction to Visual Art

This introductory studio course will prepare the student for further high school art experiences. The student will be introduced to skills and media that are utilized in Drawing, Painting, Ceramics, The Elements and Principles of Design, color theory, the creative process and keeping a sketchbook with Drawing, Writing, research and experimentation.

Art II: 2-Dimensional Art and Design

This studio course builds upon the basic skills acquired from Art I. A variety of Wet and Dry drawing media are used to render complex subject matter. The Elements

and Principles of design are studied and applied to the creative process of planning, and executing various drawing challenges; personal interpretation and design exploration are strongly encouraged. Students must maintain a sketchbook with sketches, reflection, research, and experimentation. Prerequisite: The completion of Art I with an “A” or “B” is required to take this studio course. A second year of 2-Dimensional II is available to continue building upon the Elements and Principles of Design with teacher recommendation.

Art III: 3- Dimensional Art and Design

In this studio course, the Elements and Principles of 3-D Design are studied and utilized to create art that exists in the three dimensions. Various artists, art styles, and genres will be explored. The ability to generate original solutions to design problems will require drawing skills, creative thinking, and artistic exploration of possible approaches. Weekly sketchbook assignments that require drawing, reflection, research, and experimentation are required. Prerequisite: Completion of Art I with a grade of an “A” or “B”. A second year of 3-Dimensional II is available to continue building upon the sculptural Elements and Principles of Design with teacher recommendation.

Art IV: Advanced Art Portfolio

This is a rigorous studio course offered to seniors who have had an “A” or “B” in Art I and art II or Art III. Course work is designed to build mastery in technique composition/design, research, experimentation and creative problem solving. Critical thinking, objective analysis of artwork, and the ability to communicate in the language of art will be developed and used throughout the course. Maintaining an active sketchbook is a critical requirement. The portfolio will be used for competitions, as well as scholarship opportunities and the entrance to college art program

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 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 and Christmas and Spring concerts.

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 include the Christmas, March, and spring concerts. Students have the opportunity to participate in ILMEA District Band and IGSMMA Solo & Ensemble.

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 include chapel and Christmas, March, and spring concerts. Students have the opportunity to participate in ILMEA District Choir and IGSMMA Solo & Ensemble.

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 fall, Christmas, March, and spring concerts, and have the opportunity to participate in ILMEA District Orchestra and IGSMMA Solo & Ensemble.

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.

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. This choir has sung at area schools, nursing homes, and community events. 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 IHSA competitions.

Orchestra (H)*

The High School 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 ILMEA and IHSA.

*** Honors Choir, Band, or Orchestra**

Honors credit requirements will be set by the instructor and may include extra performances, participation in ILMEA District ensembles, IHSA Solo & Ensemble, concert reports, and additional projects.

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 Grade 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.

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

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

Mathematics Program Sequence

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

	6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade	9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
Option 1	6 th Grade	7 th Grade Mathematics	8 th Grade Math	Pre-Algebra	Algebra I	Geometry I	Intermediate Alg. or Algebra II
Option 2	7 th Grade	8 th Grade Mathematics	Pre- Algebra	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	Pre-Calculus or Statistics
Option 3	8 th Grade	Honors Pre-Algebra	Honors Algebra I	Honors Geometry	Honors Algebra II	H Pre Calculus or Statistics	AP Calculus Statistics
Option 4		Honors Algebra I	Honors Geometry	Honors Algebra II	H Pre Calculus or Stats	AP Calculus or Statistics	AP Calculus or Statistics

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. Available as a summer online class.

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. Available as a summer online class.

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

Freshman Religion

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."

6th Grade 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.

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.

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 Religion

Sophomore Religion looks at six major worldviews, and prepares the student for defending their faith in the face of a world that tells them that all roads lead to the same God. This process begins with a one semester study of the New Testament, with a focus on understanding the Christian worldview as told through the ministry of Jesus. While studying the second chapter of Colossians, students learn that Paul tells this church not be "taken captive" by attractive—but false—non-Christian ideas. This curriculum is addressing the same type of challenge to the church today. This course, integrating a study of scripture with the understanding of the views of Christianity, involves a great deal of discussion, allowing students the opportunity to voice their faith and learn how to think through and express their belief. This is an excellent opportunity to utilize scripture to help students mature in their faith and be prepared for the challenges they face as they engage a variety of worldviews in their collegiate experience.

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.

Religion

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.

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.

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.

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

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

- Updated laboratory facilities with state-of-the-art data collection equipment
- Eleven complete year-long courses in high school science
- Excellent collegiate preparation
- Over 60% of our students receive college credit through Dual Credit or Advanced Placement tests.

complexity of our world. Our teachers are members of various state and national science teacher associations.

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

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 th Grade	8 th Grade	9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th 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

6th Grade Science

Provides a basic knowledge of scientific inquiry and the scientific method. This course introduces students to the process of engineering. Through project based learning, sixth graders will design their own solutions to real

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,

world problems. By using the design process, students will learn to work collaboratively to build, test, and present their own projects. Topics include learning and using the scientific method to design and model given science based projects, improving automation and robotics.

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.

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.

Science

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

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

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.

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.

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 (Dual Credit)

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 Studies Department at Rockford Lutheran Junior/Senior High

6th Grade Ancient civilizations

Will study the civilizations of ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, Israel, India, China, Greece, and Rome. Components of the course may include class discussions and readings, active learning experiences including group and individual studies, and individualized learning projects for each unit of study.

7th Grade World Civilizations

Schools 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 this nation, different perspectives on issues and events, and the complexities of the world community. Teachers use a broad variety of materials and teaching techniques specific to each particular subject. Social studies at Rockford Lutheran Schools is more than just what happened in the content, but what to do with this information and how to use it to shape the world to be better unto our neighbor and to the glory of God.

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

- Grade 6: Ancient Civilizations
- Grade 7: World Civilizations
- Grade 8: United States Social Studies – Illinois Constitution, United States Constitution, and United States History from Pre Columbian civilizations to Westward Expansion
- Grade 10: World History and Honors World History – both with an emphasis on Human and Physical Geography
- Grade 11: United States History and United States History Honors – Beginnings to the present
- Grade 12: Regular and Dual Credit American Government and Economics (One semester each)
- Electives: Regular and Dual Credit Sociology and/or Psychology (One semester each)

Will study the civilizations of The Islamic World, Early African Civilizations, China, Japan, The Early America, The Middle Ages, The Renaissance and Reformation, Science and Explorations, and Enlightenment and Revolution. Components of the course may include class discussions and readings, active learning experiences including group and individual studies, and a focus on notetaking skills.

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.

8th Grade – United States Social Studies

Covers United States History from the history of the indigenous civilizations to the period leading up to the Civil War. This course contains an in depth study of the United States and Illinois Constitutions. Students must pass both Constitution tests as required by state law. Internet research, geography, presentations, classroom and group activities are used in addition to a variety of supplemental materials to take the content we learn and apply it to the bigger picture of the “now” that we find ourselves in.

Social Studies

World History

Covers a review of human & physical geography and world history from the beginnings to the Industrial Revolution and continues in depth to the present. Students will gain historical perspective through discussion of text, research, and writing. Students will often be expected to put themselves in the shoes of lives of old to better understand how the decisions of the few and the many shape history itself. The history learned in this class will often point to the world we live in today

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,

and why the world is the way it is and how we can shape how it will be in the future.

United States History

Covers a review of human & physical geography and United States history from the beginnings to the Civil War and continues in depth to the present. Discussions of the major events, concepts, eras, and personalities of our past stress the need for involvement by Christian citizens from a place of love. Numerous simulations, a reenactor, internet research and art assignments, presentations, and cross curricular projects serve to provide the skills and understandings necessary for a successful collegiate study, as well as positive roles as Christians in a challenging world.

**Additional materials are available to those who would choose to take this class as an AP Course. 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)

World Languages

The Department of World Languages offers:

- Up to 6 years of high school level study in 2 languages (French, Spanish)
- 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

discussions, case studies, research and hands-on activities are used. (One Semester)

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. ("B" for junior high students). Honors and regular level courses are available for Spanish.

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, and other European destinations.

Introduction to World Languages

This course, offered to sixth through ninth graders, is an excellent opportunity for students to sample two languages (French and Spanish). The year is divided into two 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 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. ("B" for junior high students).

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. Dual Credit is also available for students in upper level Spanish.

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

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

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.

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

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

Boys	Girls
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	Track & Field, Volleyball

Rockford Lutheran Junior High Sports

Boys	Girls
Basketball, Cross Country	Basketball, Cross Country
Soccer	Soccer, Spirit Squad
Track & Field, Wrestling	Track & Field, Volleyball
Golf	Golf

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
- Model UN
- Chapel Bands
- National Honor Society
- Musical/Drama Productions
- World Language
- Academic Team
- Key Club
- Builders Club
- Math Team
- Worldwide Youth in Science Engineering
- Model UN
- Art Club
- Eco Club