



# RCHS

## 2024-25 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### 9th Grade Options



## ENGLISH

### *Ninth Grade Literature/Composition*

**Reading and Literature:** Students will identify, analyze, and apply knowledge of structures and elements of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and dramatic literature. Students will identify, analyze, and apply knowledge of theme in literary works, as well as employ a variety of writing genres to demonstrate understanding of theme, detailed references, and allusions within a text. Students will understand and acquire new vocabulary. **Writing:** Students will produce writing that establishes an appropriate organizational structure, including thesis and support. Students will demonstrate competence in a variety of genres, including narrative, expository, and technical writing. Students will practice both timed and process writing. **Conventions:** Students will demonstrate understanding and control of the rules of the English language, manuscript form, and writing formats, with a focus on comma usage, sentence structure, and basic sentence modifiers.

### *Honors Ninth Grade Literature/Composition*

Although the standards remain the same, the honors level of Ninth Grade Language Arts typically involves a significantly increased reading and writing workload than the non-Honors class. Honors students must be able to select and independently work with texts from a high-level reading list. Honors students will be expected to deeply read and analyze texts, both with and without classroom guidance. Honors classes cover text and material at an accelerated pace. This class is targeted for motivated students who are more inclined for rigorous assignments.

**Prerequisite: A score of 3 or 4 on their previous ELA EOG/EOC Milestone Assessment AND teacher recommendation or must have earned an 85 or above in their two previous specific core content area courses**

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE

### *Spanish I*

Introduces the Spanish language; emphasizes all skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing in an integrated way. Includes how to greet and take leave of someone, to ask and respond to basic questions, to speak and read within a range of carefully selected topics and to develop an understanding of Spanish-speaking cultures.

### *French I*

French I introduces the French language and emphasizes all skills – listening, speaking, reading, and writing – in an integrated way. The course includes how to greet and take leave of someone, how to ask and respond to basic questions, how to speak and read within a range of carefully selected topics, and how to develop an understanding of French-speaking cultures. Themed units include: “Bonjour,” “Pastimes,” “At School,” “The Weekend Together,” and “People that I Know.”

# MATHEMATICS

## College Readiness Mathematics (9<sup>th</sup> Grade Course)

**\*RIGOR\***

This course focuses on key content and practice standards to ensure that students will be ready for post-secondary academic courses and career preparation in non-STEM fields. The course will emphasize numeracy, algebra and functions, geometry, and statistics in a variety of contexts. Instruction and assessment should include the appropriate use of manipulatives and technology. Mathematics concepts should be represented in multiple ways, such as concrete/pictorial, verbal/written, numeric/data-based, graphical, and symbolic. Concepts should be introduced and used, where appropriate, in the context of realistic experiences. The Standards for Mathematical Practice will provide the foundation for instruction and assessment. The content standards selected are essential for post-secondary preparation in non-STEM study.

## Honors Algebra: Concepts and Connections

**This class is targeted for motivated students who are more inclined for rigorous assignments and will require a deeper understanding of the mathematical concepts.**

Algebra: Concepts and Connections is the first course in a sequence of three high school courses designed to ensure career and college readiness. Students will apply their algebraic and geometric reasoning skills to make sense of problems involving algebra, geometry, bivariate data, and statistics. This course focuses on algebraic, quantitative, geometric, graphical, and statistical reasoning. In this course, students will continue to enhance their algebraic reasoning skills when analyzing and applying a deep understanding of linear functions, sums and products of rational and irrational numbers, systems of linear inequalities, distance, midpoint, slope, area, perimeter, nonlinear equations and functions, quadratic expressions, equations and functions, exponential expressions, equations, and functions, and statistical reasoning.

**Prerequisite: Successful completion of Math prerequisite courses, a score of 3 or 4 on their previous Math EOG/EOC**

**Milestone Assessment AND teacher recommendation or must have earned an 85 or above in their two previous specific core content area courses.**

## Honors Geometry: Concepts and Connections

**This class is targeted for motivated students who are more inclined for rigorous assignments and will require a deeper understanding of the mathematical concepts.**

Geometry: Concepts and Connections is the second course in a sequence of three high school courses designed to ensure career and college readiness. This course is intended to enhance students' geometric, algebraic, graphical, and probabilistic reasoning skills. Students will apply their algebraic and geometric reasoning skills to make sense of problems involving geometry, trigonometry, algebra, probability, and statistics. Students will continue to enhance their analytical geometry and reasoning skills when analyzing and applying a deep understanding of polynomial expressions, proofs, constructions, rigid motions and transformations, similarity, congruence, circles, right triangle trigonometry, geometric measurement, and conditional probability.

**Prerequisite: Successful completion of Math prerequisite courses, a score of 3 or 4 on their previous Math EOG/EOC**

**Milestone Assessment AND teacher recommendation or must have earned an 85 or above in their two previous specific core content area courses.**

# SCIENCE

## Environmental Science

The Environmental Science curriculum is designed to extend student investigations that began in grades K-8. This curriculum is extensively performance, lab and field-based. It integrates the study of many components of our environment, including the human impact on our planet. Instruction should focus on student data collection and analysis. Some concepts are global; in those cases, interpretation of global data sets from scientific sources is strongly recommended. It would be appropriate to utilize resources on the Internet for global data sets and interactive models. Chemistry, physics, mathematical, and technological concepts should be integrated throughout the course. Whenever possible, careers related to environmental science should be emphasized.

## Honors Biology

The Biology curriculum is designed to continue student investigations of the life sciences that began in grades K-8 and provide students the necessary skills to be proficient in biology. This curriculum includes more abstract concepts such as the interdependence of organisms, the relationship of matter, energy, and organization in living systems, the behavior of organisms, and biological evolution. Students investigate biological concepts through experience in laboratories and field work using the processes of inquiry.

**Prerequisites: Successful completion of eighth-grade Physical Science with acceptance of high school credit, 3 or 4 on the most recent Science EOC, written recommendation from their most recent Science teacher.**

### **Physical Science**

The Physical Science curriculum is designed to continue student investigations of the physical sciences that began in grades K-8 and provide students the necessary skills to have a richer knowledge base in physical science. This course is designed as a survey course of chemistry and physics. This curriculum includes the more abstract concepts such as the conceptualization of the structure of atoms, motion and forces, and the conservation of energy and matter, the action/reaction principle, and wave behavior. Students investigate physical science concepts through experience in laboratories and field work using the processes of inquiry.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

### **American Government/Citizenship**

Focuses on the basic concepts and principles of the American system. Covers the structure and function of the American system of government, the roles and responsibilities of citizen participation in the political process, and the relationship of the individual to the law and legal system. Stresses critical analysis of public issues. Integrates and reinforces social studies skills.

### **AP Human Geography**

**\*RIGOR\***

The purpose of the AP Human Geography course is to introduce students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human social organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their science and practice. This course is open to all grade levels.

**This course is taught as a college course with a rigorous curriculum. Students will be expected to take the AP Exam at the end of the school year.**

**Prerequisite: A score of 3 or 4 on their previous EOG, and teacher recommendation**

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

### **Personal Fitness**

Provides instruction in methods to attain a healthy level of personal fitness. Covers how to develop a lifetime fitness program based on a personal fitness assessment and stresses strength, muscular endurance, flexibility, body consumption, and cardiovascular endurance. Includes fitness principles, nutrition, fad diets, weight control, stress management, adherence strategies, and consumer information; promotes self-awareness and responsibility for fitness.

**Required for Graduation**

### **Health Education**

Explores the mental, physical, and social aspects of life and how each contributes to total health and well-being; emphasizes safety, nutrition, mental health, substance abuse prevention, disease prevention, environmental health, family life education, health careers, consumer health, and community health.

**Required for Graduation**

### **Team Sports**

Introduces fundamental skills, strategies, and rules associated with team sports such as basketball, volleyball, soccer, softball, baseball, and flag football.

### **Weight Training**

Introduces weight training; emphasizes strength development training and proper lifting techniques. Includes fitness concepts for developing healthy lifetime habits.

### **Body Sculpting**

Provides methods to redefine body shape through specific exercises. Covers weight training, conditioning exercises, and proper nutrition to improve muscle tone, muscle definition, posture, bodily proportions, overall conditions of the body, and increased energy levels. Based on the American College of Sports Medicine guidelines for fitness and conditioning programs.

### **Outdoor Adventure Class**

The Adventure Education class is a class in which students are provided with knowledge and diverse experiences in outdoor activities. Students will be safely guided into outdoor activities as they experience new outdoor adventures and make connections to Rabun County, knowledge, skills, strength, and appreciation that they can use throughout their lifetime. Activities include Hiking, Orienteering, Cycling, Repelling, Fishing, Horseshoes, Bocce Ball, Volleyball, Golf, and Archery.



### **Lifetime Fitness**

Lifetime Fitness is a class that has a focus that is threefold. The course will provide various opportunities to develop muscular tone, strength and endurance while paying special attention to one's core and flexibility. Core strength and flexibility will be addressed through various forms of yoga and pilates. In addition and to aid in weight control and body composition, various forms of aerobic and anaerobic conditioning.

- Resistance in the form of primarily bodyweight and dumbbell exercises.
- Flexibility in the form of general exercise, Pilates, and Yoga.
- Aerobic/Anaerobic conditioning in multiple forms to include resistance bands, dumbbell circuits, running, hiking, etc..

## **DRIVER EDUCATION**

### **Driver Education**

Offers non-drivers and beginning drivers 15 years of age or older a minimum of thirty (30) hours of classroom instruction and six (6) hours behind the wheel; stresses defensive driving skills and refining perceptual and critical skills for safe driving. **Students must have their Georgia Learner's License on the first day of class.**

## **VISUAL ARTS**

### **Visual Arts/ Pottery/Sculpture I**

Introduces the characteristics of clay as well as design techniques. Students will experience various techniques of construction and decoration. This 3-D course emphasizes hand-building skills and also blends in various other types of construction, surface design, and glaze application. This course also touches on various styles of pottery and sculpture. Students will be expected to keep a sketchbook and complete sketchbook assignments, outside of class time, as well as classroom projects. Students will be expected to read and write about art as well.

### **Visual Arts/ Comprehensive I**

Emphasizes the ability to understand and use elements and principles of 2-D and 3-D design through a variety of media and processes (weaving, drawing, painting, pottery, and crafts). Students will be exposed to the art of various cultures. Students will be expected to keep a sketchbook and complete sketchbook assignments, outside of class time, as well as classroom projects. This course also introduces art history and criticism through Art Talk sessions. Students will be expected to read and write about art as well.

### **Visual Arts/ Drawing I**

Emphasizes the ability to understand and use elements and principles of 2-D design through a variety of drawing media and processes. This course also introduces art history and criticism through Art Talk sessions. Students will be expected to keep a sketchbook and complete sketchbook assignments, outside of class time, as well as classroom projects. Students will be expected to read and write about art as well.

# DRAMATIC ARTS

## **Dramatic Arts/ Technical Theater I**

This class incorporates all aspects of theater that are not involved in acting. Students will learn about different types of set construction, set design, lighting, sound, publicity, costuming, prop fabrication, stage management, administrative roles in a production and much more. Assignments and materials will be appropriate to the level of the class. Skills learned in this class have career field applications.

**Note:** For students in levels 2-4, the class is co-curricular and there is a requirement to participate in the production that involves after-school activities. This is part of the Final Exam for the class. This schedule will be communicated at the beginning of the semester with the syllabus.

## **Theatre Arts 1/Acting 1**

This is a beginner-level class for a student who is curious about theater and would like to see if it is a good fit. This class includes a solid introduction to public speaking, stage presentation, theater history, acting skills, technical theater and more. Students will have the option to participate in public shows, but it is not required.

**There is no after school requirement for this class.**

# MUSIC

## **Beginning Guitar Techniques I**

Introduces basic guitar techniques, covers performance and production, analysis and theoretical studies, historical and cultural contributions and influences, creative aspects of music, and appreciation of music. Provides an individualized setting.

## **Beginning Keyboarding Techniques I**

Introduces basic piano keyboard techniques. Covers performance and production, analysis and theoretical studies, historical and cultural contributions and influences, creative aspects of music, and appreciation of music. Provides an individualized setting.

## **Beginning Mixed Chorus I**

Provides opportunities to develop performance skills and knowledge in mixed choral singing. Covers performance and production, analysis and theoretical studies, historical and cultural contributions and influences, creative aspects of music, and appreciation of music. Organizes objectives for self-paced progress through all four levels. Stresses individual progress and group experiences.

# BAND

## **Advanced Band I (Percussion)**

Provides the opportunity to advance as a percussionist through the use of a variety of music and materials. Percussionists will learn basic and advanced techniques in all areas of pitched and non-pitched percussion instruments. Students will have opportunities to specialize in areas of percussion performance that they are most interested in. Class emphasis will be on marching and concert techniques, rudiments, scales, and tuning. Performers will have the opportunity to perform as individuals, in a percussion ensemble, and as a part of the full band.

## **Advanced Band I (Winds)**

Provides the opportunity to advance as a wind musician through the use of a variety of music and materials. Students will be instructed in comprehensive musicianship with a focus on music theory, history, composition, and performance. Students will be expected to learn a wide range of fundamentals including scales, sight-reading, solo performance, small ensemble performance, and full group performance. Music provided will focus on many genres including marching, classical, jazz, and popular music!

# CAREER, TECHNICAL, AND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

## **Audio & Video Technology & Film I**

This course will serve as the foundational course in the Audio & Video Technology & Film pathway. The course prepares students for employment or entry into a postsecondary education program in the audio and video technology career field. Topics covered may include, but are not limited to: terminology, safety, basic equipment, script writing, production teams, production and programming, lighting, recording and editing, studio production, and professional ethics. Working in teams is an integral part of this class. Students will be involved in effective collaboration, communication, and product management. To be successful, students must work well within small-group and large-group settings. Students will be taught practices that foster effective collaboration, communication, and project management skills. Soft Skills are an integral part of daily classroom lessons. TSA is an example of, but not limited to, an appropriate organization for providing leadership training and/or for reinforcing specific career and technical skills and is considered an integral part of this program.

## **Basic Agriculture Science and Technology**

This course is designed as an introduction or support course for the entire Agriculture Program of Study. The course introduces the major areas of agricultural production and research. It presents problem solving lessons and introductory skills and knowledge in agricultural science and agri-related technologies. Classroom and laboratory activities are supplemented through supervised agricultural experiences and leadership programs and activities.

**This is the Prerequisite for all Agricultural Courses**

## **Foundations of Manufacturing and Materials Science**

Foundations of Manufacturing and Materials Science is the introductory course for the Manufacturing career pathway. This course provides students with opportunities to become familiar with related careers and develop fundamental technological literacy as they learn about the history, systems, and processes of manufacturing. In addition, the course will provide an overview of the safe use of tools and equipment used in the industry.

**This course is the prerequisite for all Manufacturing classes.**

## **Foundations of Engineering and Technology**

Foundations of Engineering and Technology is the introductory course for all Georgia Engineering and Technology Education pathways. This course provides students with opportunities to develop fundamental technological literacy as they learn about the history, systems, processes of invention and innovation, and engineering disciplines.

**This course is the prerequisite for all Engineering classes.**

## **Introduction to Business & Technology**

Time for a job. Now what? Which one do I want? What am I good at? We can teach you to find a career, get a job, and make money! Discover how to examine your strengths and research jobs to best meet those abilities. Find a future career that will keep you satisfied and give you the benefits you deserve. Want to be the owner and not the employee? This class will provide you with the essentials of working in a business environment, managing a business, or owning a business of your own. Learn how to use technology as a tool for both your job search and in the work environment. This class also focuses on teaching you the basic components of computers, technology, software, and networking in the business environment. You will learn: keyboarding skills, basic computer literacy, and the fundamentals of word processing, database management, spreadsheets, presentations, desktop publishing, Internet, and e-mail. Class Certification: Microsoft Word

## **Introduction to Healthcare Science**

Introduction to Healthcare Science is the foundational course for all Health Science pathways and is a prerequisite for all other Healthcare Science pathway courses. This course will enable students to receive initial exposure to the many Healthcare Science careers as well as employability, communication, and technology skills necessary in the healthcare industry. The concepts of human growth and development, interaction with patients and family members, health, wellness, and preventative care are evaluated, as well as the legal, and ethical responsibilities of today's healthcare provider. This course will provide students with a competitive edge to be better candidates for either entry-level into the healthcare global marketplace and/or the post-secondary institution of their choice to continue their education and training.



## **Introduction to Software Technology**

Introduction to Software Technology is the foundational course for Cloud Computing, Computer Science, Game Design, Internet of Things, Programming, Web and Digital Design, and Web Development pathways. This course is designed for high school students to understand, communicate, and adapt to a digital world as it impacts their personal life, society, and the business world. Exposure to foundational knowledge in programming languages, software development, app creation, and user interfacing applications are all taught in a computer lab with hands-on activities and project-focused tasks.

**\*\*\*\*\*IMPORTANT Scholarship Information\*\*\*\*\***

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**What are Rigor Requirements?**

**Rigor courses: Advanced Math, Advanced Science, Advanced Foreign Language, Advanced Placement (AP) in core subjects, International Baccalaureate (IB) in core subjects, Dual Credit Enrollment courses in core subjects taken at an eligible postsecondary institution.**

**To be eligible for the HOPE Scholarship, in addition to Grade Point Average and other requirements:**

- **Students graduating on or after May 1, 2017 must earn FOUR full credits.**

**A full list of courses which satisfy this requirement can be found on**

**GA FUTURES or in the RCHS Guidance Office.**

**Rigor Courses offered at RCHS will be designated in this booklet with the following: \*RIGOR**

