

**ROCKFORD HIGH SCHOOL
FRESHMAN CENTER
COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE**

2009-2010





Rockford High School COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE •2009-2010•

ACCREDITATION

Rockford Senior High School has been continuously accredited by the University of Michigan for many years and has been an approved member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools since 1926. This means that Rockford has met the highest standards of accreditation that exist in Michigan. It means that your teachers have all been given specific training for their fields of teaching and that administration and guidance personnel have been specifically trained for their positions.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the staff of Rockford Senior High School is to enable all students to develop their individual academic and social skills to maximum potential in a learning environment promoting self-esteem and mutual respect among staff, students and community. Our goal is for students to achieve knowledge, skills and positive attitudes necessary to become productive citizens.

FAMILY ACCESS:

Family Access is a secure web application which allows a parent or guardian to view their student's personal information such as demographics, class schedules, grades, attendance, discipline, and busing. The information available may differ depending on whether your student is in the elementary or secondary level.

To obtain an ID and password, you must visit the main office or counseling office of the school your student attends. An office staff member will create your account information and provide you with a form which will include the web site address and your account information needed to start using 'Family Access'. If you find discrepancies in your student's information, please contact the school your student attends to correct that information.

Parents/Guardians:

If you would like to know what your adolescent is learning in a class, go to the web-based curriculum map for every class that is taught at Rockford Middle and High School:

1. www.Rockfordschools.org
2. Click on Curriculum under Administration at the bottom of the home page.
3. Click on Secondary Curriculum 6-12.
4. "Click here to go to the Curriculum Map Webpage" (bottom of page.)
5. Click on grade level maps.
6. Click on the course you want to see.

Rockford High School is an equal opportunity institution. RHS does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, age, sex or physical/mental disability in its educational programming, enrollment, employment or contracting.

Michigan Merit Core/Rockford Graduation Requirements

4 credits of English Language Arts
4 credits of Mathematics – through Algebra 2
3 credits of Science – Biology, Chemistry or Physics and 1 additional Science credit
3 credits of Social Studies - .5 Civics, .5 Economics, US History & Geography, World History & Geography
.5 credit of Physical Education and .5 Health
1 credit of Visual/ Performing//Applied Arts
Online Learning Experience
*.5 Speech or Equivalent
*.5 Computer Literacy
*.5 Additional Physical Education

.5 credit equals one trimester
1 credit equals 2 trimesters

*Additional Rockford Public Schools Requirements

ACT WORK KEYS TEST: Silver or Gold Level
MICHIGAN MERIT EXAM: Good faith effort

Earning College Credit While in High School Articulation

What is articulation?

Articulation is a process where students may earn college credits for certain courses they take in high school. It provides an opportunity for high school and college courses to blend—granting equivalent college credit to students for achieving in identified courses with their school district.

What are the benefits?

In the courses that are articulated between RHS and a college, students don't have to repeat courses they have already taken in high school.

At GRCC and Davenport University, there is no charge for the articulated classes.

Articulated classes become earned college credit once the post-secondary school processes the paperwork.

What post-secondary schools have an articulation agreement with RHS?

Davenport University, Grand Rapids Community College, Baker College and CMU

What courses can be articulated with each post-secondary school?

Davenport University:

Business Tech 1 & 2 (both)

Business 3 Management (full yr)

Accounting

Advertising

*Biology, Honors Biology

*Chemistry, Honors Chemistry

*credit given only with both courses taken

Marketing 1 & 2 (both)

Grand Rapids Community College:

Accounting

Business 2 Entrepreneurship

Parenting Psychology

IS Parenting

Business Tech 1, 2, 3

Baker College:

Accounting

Business Tech 1 & 2

Business 1, 2, 3

CMU:

Broadcast Communications 1, 2, 3

What grade does a student have to have in a class at RHS to articulate that class?

Both Davenport University and GRCC require a 3.0 (B or better) to articulate a class.

What is the process for applying for articulation?

Talk to RHS instructor of course to articulate. The teacher will start the process for a student. Once the Submission Form (Davenport) or Articulation Application + SARP form (GRCC) have been filled out by the instructor, they will take the form/forms to the Counseling Office for further processing. **A student may not take the form/s to the post-secondary school. RHS must send the forms and transcript, if required, to the post-secondary school.**

How does a student get more information about articulation?

Access post-secondary school website:

www.grcc.edu/articulation

www.davenport.edu (look for RHS on website)

Recommended Curriculum for College Bound Students

Advice for high school students and parents as recommended by the
Presidents Council, State Universities of Michigan

Central Michigan University	Oakland University
Eastern Michigan University	Saginaw Valley State University
Ferris State University	The University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Grand Valley State University	The University of Michigan-Dearborn
Lake Superior State University	The University of Michigan-Flint
Michigan State University	Wayne State University
Michigan Technological University	Western Michigan University
Northern Michigan University	

WHAT DO UNIVERSITIES EXPECT OF THE STUDENT?

In considering your potential to be a successful student, each university looks at the courses you took and successfully completed. Your overall grade point average, test scores, special abilities, scholastic and volunteer activities and work experience are also important to universities as they evaluate students who have applied for admission. All things considered, however, the best predictor of college success is the quality and rigor of the courses you take each year in high school.

MAKE GOOD USE OF YOUR TIME IN HIGH SCHOOL

Even though your high school graduation may seem to be a long time away, the courses that you take as you begin high school determine the courses that you are ready to take in the following years. Your guidance counselor is a great source of information and can be very helpful to you in making course selections, but always discuss your plans with your parents or guardian. As a university student you should also expect a larger quantity of reading assignments and to generally spend more time on homework, so it is very important that you develop good study habits.

You are strongly encouraged to take college entrance exams, the ACT Assessment or SAT, by late in your junior year. If available at your school, take PLAN (a pre-ACT test) in your sophomore year. It is also good practice to take the PSAT early in your junior year. Your score on the PSAT may be a factor in consideration for some scholarships. It is also important to take the Michigan Merit Exam (MME). In addition to possibly qualifying for a Michigan Promise Scholarship, taking the MME also gives you information about areas which may need improvement.

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION FOR SUCCESS

ENGLISH (4 years strongly recommended)

MATHEMATICS (4 years strongly recommended)

BIOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES (4 years preferred, 3 years strongly recommended, including 1 year of biological science and 1 year of physical science. It is strongly recommended that your science experience include at least 1 year of a laboratory course).

HISTORY AND THE SOCIAL SCIENCES (4 years preferred, 3 years strongly recommended to include 1 year of world history and 1 year of American history)

FOREIGN LANGUAGE (3 years strongly recommended) NOTE: The University of Michigan College of LSA requires two years of the same foreign language for admission.

FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS (2 years recommended)

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY-COMPUTER APPLICATIONS Students entering college are expected to be familiar with a wide array of computer applications, from word processing to internet information retrieval. They are also expected to be information literate; that is, to be able to critically assess the credibility and quality of information they retrieve.

* 2 trimesters = 1 year

LIST OF COURSE DESCRIPTIONS BY DEPARTMENT

• ART •

DESIGN 1 – Trimester/Elective (grades 9-12)

This class will introduce the basics of design as applied to different media such as pencil, tempera, construction paper, etc. Use of art elements is stressed. Written quizzes and tests or critiques will accompany each project. A written final exam is given.

DESIGN 2 – Trimester/Elective (grades 9-12)

Prerequisite: Basic Design I, with at least a B average

This class is a continuation of Basic Design I and will include work in media such as clay, pastels, paper maché, etc. Projects will include sculpture and commercial art. Written components or critiques will be assigned. A written final exam will be given.

DRAWING – Trimester/Elective (grades 9-12)

Prerequisite: B or better in Basic Design 1 plus a B or better in last art class taken

This class involves the drawing of still life, landscapes, figures and designs. Material used will include pencil, charcoal, pastels, pen and ink, and colored pencils. Written components and critiques will be required.



• CONSUMER ECONOMICS/LIFE MANAGEMENT SKILLS •

FOOD FOR FITNESS – Trimester/Elective (grades 9-11)

The “science” of eating, what’s in what you eat, how your body works, how food affects your performance, sorting out food fact and fiction is the focus of this course. Some basic food preparations of the foods in the food pyramid are included. We discuss decisions about our food choices, lifestyles, and the exercise that affect our health throughout life. When successfully completed, a student will know how to make healthy food choices.

PERSONAL LIVING SKILLS – Trimester/Elective (grade 9)

This introductory course includes fast paced instruction with scenario based learning. Numerous hands-on activities allow students to immediately apply skills learned for numerous financial concepts including goal setting, career exploration and creating a spending plan. Whether working independently, in small groups or as a class, students will fully engage in classroom activities and remember knowledge learned.

TEEN LEADERSHIP – Trimester/Elective (Grades 9-12)

Teen Leadership is a trimester course in which students develop leadership, personal and business skills. Students learn to develop a healthy self-concept, healthy relationships, and learn to understand the concept of personal responsibility. They will also develop an understanding of Emotional Intelligence and the skills it measures, which include self-awareness, self-control, self-motivation, and social skills. Teen Leadership students will develop communication skills through public speaking and further their understanding of principle-based decision-making and personal image. Specific lessons will develop skills for conflict resolution and students will acquire an understanding of the effects of peer pressure and will develop skills to counteract negative influences. Teen Leadership will also promote the need for goal-setting, both personally and professionally.

• ENGLISH •

ENGLISH PRINCIPLES AND ESSENTIALS - Trimester/Elective (grade 9)

Prerequisite: Teacher or Counselor placement only.

This course is designed for the student who needs additional improvement in basic reading and writing skills. This course integrated the teaching of vocabulary, comprehension, reading strategies, and writing with the objectives and components taught in English 9. DOES NOT COUNT TOWARD CORE ENGLISH CREDITS.

ENGLISH 9 Team – 2 Trimesters (grade 9)

Prerequisite: Teacher or Counselor placement only.

This is a remedial English class designed for students who had difficulty with basic language art skills in eighth grade. Students will develop their skills in grammar usage, sentence structure, vocabulary and paragraph composition. Students will also explore literature, poetry and drama.

ENGLISH 9 – 2 Trimesters (grade 9)

Recommended for students of average 9th grade reading and writing ability. Students will develop their skills in grammar usage, sentence structure, vocabulary, and paragraph composition. The class will also provide students with the opportunity to survey different types of literature, poetry and drama.

ENGLISH 9 HONORS – 2 Trimesters (grade 9)

Prerequisite: Successful completion of honors program application essay and testing.

Recommended for students with high abilities. The course is designed to develop and improve skills in spelling, usage, reading, vocabulary, and composition. The class will also provide students with the opportunity to survey different types of literature, poetry, and drama.

MYTHOLOGY – Trimester/Elective (grade 9)

This elective course will focus on myths and their influence on literature and culture. These stories take place in an age with strict codes of courage, honor, and loyalty, but their heroes also have faults and weaknesses with which all people can identify. This mix of strong and weak traits humanizes them in a way that transcends time, place, and culture. Students will explore myths from various cultures, including Greek, Roman, and Anglo-Saxon myths, as well as myths from India, China, and the Americas.

• MATHEMATICS •

PRE-ALGEBRA PRINCIPLES AND ESSENTIALS - Trimester/Elective (grade 9)

Prerequisite: Teacher or Counselor placement only.

This course is designed for the student who needs additional improvement in basic number operations, meaning, notation, place value and comparisons of numbers. This course integrated the teaching of number relationships and meaning of operations with objectives and components taught in Pre-Algebra. DOES NOT COUNT TOWARD CORE MATH CREDITS.

ALGEBRA PRINCIPLES AND ESSENTIALS - Trimester/Elective (grade 9)

Prerequisite: Teacher or Counselor placement only.

This course is designed for the student who needs additional improvement in basic number systems and number sense. This course integrates the teaching of calculations using real and complex numbers in expressions and equations. The objectives and components taught in Algebra are covered in this course. DOES NOT COUNT TOWARD CORE MATH CREDITS.

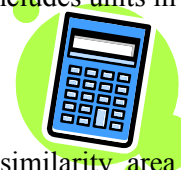
PRE-ALGEBRA – 2 Trimesters (grade 9-10)

The course has a primary emphasis on general mathematics and includes about one-third of Algebra I. The focus is on basic math skills with rational numbers. Course includes equation solving with rational numbers and an introduction to Geometry, and Probability and Statistics.

ALGEBRA 1 – 2 Trimesters (grades 9-12)

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra with grade of C- or above recommended.

Middle School teacher consent recommended for a 9th grader. This is the first course taken in Algebra. It introduces the student to the basic terms, symbols and concepts used in the study of Algebra. The focus is on equation solving, inequalities, systems of equations, factoring, and radicals. This course includes units in linear equations, probability and statistics.



GEOMETRY – 2 Trimesters (grades 9-12)

Prerequisite: Algebra I with grade of C- or above recommended.

This course is devoted to the study of geometric figures in which the ideas of congruence, similarity, area and volume are introduced and explained. Formal proof is extensively used. Geometry is required for college prep.

GEOMETRY HONORS – 2 Trimesters (grade 9-10)

Prerequisite: This is the accelerated Geometry class for those who complete Algebra in 8th grade with a B- or above.

Course content includes area, volume, coordinate geometry, and trigonometry.

ALGEBRA 2 HONORS – 2 Trimesters (grades 9-11)

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Honors Geometry

This course covers the same topics as Algebra II, but in greater detail. Students will be assigned many of the more difficult problems from the book and occasionally will be asked to demonstrate their understanding of the material to the class. Students enrolled in Algebra II Honors will also participate in a variety of math contests and competitions, such as the Michigan Math Prize Competition test and the Michigan Math League. It is a very rigorous course.

• **MODERN LANGUAGES** •

SPANISH 1 – 2 Trimesters/Elective (grades 9-12)

A minimum grade of C+ in English is recommended.

The emphasis in this course will include speaking Spanish, learning the basic grammatical structures of the language, learning vocabulary, appreciating Spanish culture, and reading selections.

FRENCH 1 – 2 Trimesters/Elective (grades 9-12)

A minimum grade of C+ in English is recommended.

The emphasis in French is on the conversational language. Students will converse in everyday situations to develop comprehension skills. They will read short selections and write original conversations.



GERMAN 1 – 2 Trimesters/Elective (grades 9-12)

A minimum grade of C+ in English is recommended.

The student communicates at a beginning proficiency level developing listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing skills as he/she works with course materials such as CD rom. The new vocabulary focuses on the student and his/her environment, and he/she begins to compare our culture to the cultures in countries where German is the predominant native language. This course will enable the student to become a more knowledgeable world citizen.

CHINESE 1 – 2 Trimesters/Elective (Grades 9 – 12)

A minimum grade of C+ in English is recommended.

This course will provide students with a basic introduction to Chinese language, society and culture. Particular attention will be paid to developing proper Mandarin pronunciation and basic reading and writing skills, and learning simple phrases and language/situational survival skills.

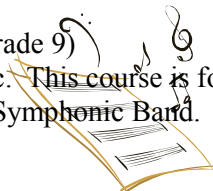
JAPANESE 1 – 2 Trimesters/Elective (Grades 9 – 12)

A minimum grade of C+ in English is recommended.

The students develop proficiency in the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing as well as in an appreciation of the difference in cultures. The objective of this beginning course is to communicate with Japanese people in both casual and formal (business) situations.

• **MUSIC** •

CONCERT BAND – 3 Trimesters/Elective (grade 9)
Study of theory and performance of band music. ~~This course is for all Freshmen band students who enter Rockford High School. It is a prerequisite for Symphonic Band.~~



CHOIR 9th - 3 Trimesters/Elective

The class will include vocal techniques, music theory, music literature, and performance of vocal music of all periods in large group and small ensembles. This class does not require an audition.

• **PHYSICAL EDUCATION** •

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 9 – Trimester (grade 9) required for graduation

This is a beginning course in physical education. The emphasis is on lifetime activities including both fitness and sports. Fitness activities focus on strength, cardiovascular endurance, flexibility and agility. Sports activities such as badminton, basketball, disc golf, flag football, floor hockey, soccer, softball, and volleyball include the individual and team aspects.

HEALTH EDUCATION – Trimester (grade 9) required for graduation

This class focuses on the relationship that exists among physical, mental and social health. Students will learn that their decisions affect all of these areas of health and that these decisions can promote their health and their enjoyment of life now and in the future.

STRESS MANAGEMENT – Trimester/Elective (grade 9)

This course provides an understanding of the causes and effects of stress on a person's life and introduces methods for enhancing holistic wellness. Students will assess personal stress levels, experience a variety of stress reduction and management techniques, and develop a personal stress action plan.

• **SCIENCE** •

EARTH SCIENCE TEAM – 2 Trimesters (grade 9)

Prerequisite: teacher or counselor placement only.

This is a remedial Science class designed for students who struggle in science. The course covers geology, weather, astronomy and the processes that change the earth surface.



EARTH SCIENCE – 2 Trimesters (grades 9-12)

Introduces the tools and techniques used in our high school science program. Subjects covered include geology, weather, astronomy, and processes that change the earth's surface.

EARTH SCIENCE HONORS – 2 Trimesters (grade 9)

Prerequisite: Successful completion of honors program application essay and testing.

This class is designed to be an alternative to the required Earth Science class for Freshmen who have demonstrated exceptional ability in their eighth grade science classes. The class will compact the curriculum of the regular Earth Science class in order to allow time for students to research and complete one original research project.

• SOCIAL STUDIES •

With changes taking place at the state level in regards to the new Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC), Michigan Merit Exam (MME) and in an effort to maintain compliance with the federally mandated No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), the social studies department has undergone and will continue to undergo changes as our school district moves from a traditional two semester school year to the three trimester format. This will impact the course offerings and may impact the courses a student will be placed in this upcoming school year.

WORLD STUDIES A – Trimester (grades 9 – 10) required for graduation

This course will help students understand the development of the modern world and the fundamental themes in *Western* history, geography, politics and economics. This course is designed to give students the ability to critically analyze the evolution of *Western* ideals and their impact on global issues. It enables students to view themselves as members of a global community who appreciate diversity in the world and are prepared to make decisions about world affairs.

WORLD STUDIES B – Trimester (grades 9 – 10) required for graduation

Prerequisite: World Studies 1

This course will help students understand the development of the modern world and the fundamental themes in *Non-Western* history, geography, politics and economics. This course is designed to give students the ability to critically analyze the evolution of *Non-Western* ideals and their impact on global issues. It enables students to view themselves as members of a global community who appreciate diversity in the world and are prepared to make decisions about world affairs.

NATIONAL AND GLOBAL ISSUES – Trimester/Elective (grade 9)

In National and Global Issues, students will take a National and Global look at current events and issues to gain a better understanding of the world around them. Topics that students will explore will include: Human Rights, Economic Development, Environmental Issues, and Political Discourse. Students will explore these areas through online media, television media, magazines, newspapers, and other materials provided in class. There is no prerequisite for this course. This course is not a prerequisite for any other course.

• TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION •

PRODUCT DESIGN AND FABRICATION – Trimester/Elective (grade 9)

This course is designed to be a project-oriented introduction into the World Level courses offered at the high school. The hands-on projects will primarily focus on the areas of woodworking, manufacturing, robotics and energy & transportation. The emphasis for all projects will be centered on design, fabrication, testing and production phases. The purpose of this class is to let students explore new areas of technology while building on the foundations established at the middle school.

WORLD OF COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY – Trimester/Elective (grades 9-12)

Prerequisite: Grades 10-12: None. Grade 9: Any 2 classes in Middle School Tech Ed. or Product Design and Fabrication.

This course will focus on technical drawing (*drafting techniques*) in both architectural and machine drawing design. Students will be utilizing different types of AutoCAD (*computer aided design*) software throughout the semester. We will be drawing in both 2D and 3D environments giving the student insight into the 21st century industrial design field. Students will also be exposed to other software and hardware devices including: scanners, digital cameras, printers, plotters, and Microsoft Office products.

WORLD OF CONTROLS AND SENSORS TECHNOLOGY – Trimester/Elective (grades 9-12)

Prerequisite: Grades 10-12: None. Grade 9: Any 2 classes in Middle School Tech Ed. or Product Design and Fabrication.

The student will be exposed to electricity, electronics and sensors including how they apply to everyday life and how they relate to varying technologies. These studies will help the students build a home/auto burglar system.

WORLD OF MANUFACTURING ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY – Trimester/Elective (grades 9-12)

Prerequisite: Grades 10-12: None. Grade 9: Any 2 classes in Middle School Tech Ed. or Product Design and Fabrication.

The students will be exposed to various aspects dealing with manufacturing, including product design, material handling, computer aided design and manufacturing. Students will develop manufacturing teams responsible for the designing and mass production of a product using computer controlled lathes and mills (*CAD CAM*).

WORLD OF STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY – Trimester/Elective (grades 9-12)

Prerequisite: Grades 10-12: None. Grade 9: Any 2 classes in Middle School Tech Ed. Or Product Design and Fabrication.

Students will be introduced to basic concepts dealing with construction and structural engineering. Students will be exposed to various problem-solving situations in areas including: construction systems, planning and management, structural design and material testing. The class will include the production of prototype models and/or full-scale production of various construction styles.

WORLD OF ENERGY/TRANSPORTATION TECHNOLOGY – Trimester/Elective (grades 9-12)

Prerequisite: Grades 10-12: None. Grade 9: Any 2 classes in Middle School Tech Ed. Or Product Design and Fabrication.

In this area of physical technology the student will be exposed to several concepts related to energy and transportation. In this course the student will convert energy from one form to another. In addition the student will work with gear ratios and radio control systems. Energy and Transportation will combine physics, engineering and a hands-on problem solving approach to education. Emphasis will be placed on critical thinking and group work.

WORLD OF WOODWORKING TECHNOLOGY – Trimester/Elective (grades 9-12)

Prerequisite: Grades 10-12: None. Grade 9: Any 2 classes in Middle School Tech Ed. Or Product Design and Fabrication.

This is a hands on course designed to introduce the students to various woodworking processes and techniques. The student will focus on building various required projects using hand and power tools and machinery. Students will gain an insight into designing and manufacturing wood based products.

NOTES

PATHWAYS TO CAREERS AT KENT CAREER/TECHNICAL CENTER



Arts & Communication Pathway

Graphic Design	2 years
Regional Theatre Arts Technology <small>students must provide transportation to Van Singel Fine Arts Center in Byron Center</small>	2 years



Business, Management, Marketing & Technology Pathway

Accounting Online	1 year
Accounting Systems and Solutions	2 years
Business Tech	Semesters
Banking and Financial Services	1 year
Information Technologies	1 or 2 Years
Marketing: Retail and Management	2 years
Microsoft Office Certification Online	Semesters



Engineering/Manufacturing & Industrial Technology Pathway

Applied Construction Technology <small>students must complete extra application and interview for spot</small>	2 years
Auto Collision Repair	2 years
Automotive Technology	2 years
Aviation Maintenance Technology <small>students must provide transportation to Gerald R Ford International Airport</small>	2 years
Avionics-Aircraft Electronics Technician <small>students must provide transportation to Gerald R Ford International Airport</small>	2 years
Diesel and Equipment Technology	2 years
Electronics/Electrical Trades	2 years
Engineering CAD/Site Development	2 years
Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration (HVACR)	2 years
Power Sports Technology	2 years
Precision Machining Technology	2 years
Wood Products Manufacturing	2 years



Health Sciences Pathway

Health Careers	2 years
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Human Services Pathway

Cosmetology Services <small>students must complete extra application and interview for spot</small>	1-2 years
Criminal Justice <small>students must complete extra application and interview with instructor</small>	1 year
Hospitality	2 years



Natural Resources & Agriscience Pathway

Agriscience	2 years
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~~~~~ For specific information on any of these programs log on to [www.kc-tc.org](http://www.kc-tc.org) ~~~~~