



# **RACINE LUTHERAN**

**H I G H   S C H O O L**

**2026-2027**

Course Descriptions

**Racine Lutheran High School's mission is to guide our youth in faith, learning, character and leadership by nurturing their relationship with Jesus Christ and educating them for a life of service to God and man.**

Students are offered an array of required and elective courses to prepare them for successful journeys in their post-secondary studies, workforce endeavors, military ventures and service opportunities.

Please review the current course options and descriptions listed here, recognizing this is a living document with ongoing modifications and additions.

Racine Lutheran High School also has dual-credit agreements with numerous colleges, allowing our students to earn college credits while still in high school.

The dual-credit courses are not listed in the booklet; however, information is available through our guidance team.

Advanced Placement courses are included in the booklet.

The course selection process involves the student, his/her parents and the guidance counselors.

### **Racine Lutheran High School Graduation Requirements**

(One semester equals 0.5 credit)

Theology—4 Credits*	English—4 Credits
Social Studies—3 Credits	Mathematics—3 Credits
Science—3 Credits	Physical Education—1.5 Credits
Health—0.5 Credit	Fine Arts/Industrial Arts—1 Credit
Technology—0.5 Credit	Electives—At least 5 Credits

Total—25.5 Credits

\*--0.5 Credit for each semester of enrollment

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# Business

## **ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

**1 Semester, .5 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Grades 11, 12**

Do you want to own your own business? This course will introduce the step-by-step process one must follow to own their own business. Students will form partnerships with other students in the class to create their own Food Truck businesses. With the inception of an idea, through the planning stages to completion, each group will develop their model for success. Marketing and advertising will also be covered along with their relationship and importance to developing and growing a business. Students will engage in skills developed through course readings/slideshows, videos, and a culminating Shark Tank final presentation to potential Shark investors.

## **INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS**

**1 Semester, .5 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Grades 11, 12**

This course presents a general orientation to the business world. Studies include organization and administration, production, labor and personnel, accounting and statistics, distribution, finance, and the relationship of business to society. This course has a dual credit option that is offered through Gateway Technical College.

# English

## **FRESHMAN ENGLISH**

**2 Semesters, 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Required for Grade 9**

**Literature** – Students read, discuss, and analyze *Night*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Fahrenheit 451*.

**Vocabulary** – Students improve their vocabulary skills by studying words taken from novels and vocabulary lists.

**Writing** – Students participate in weekly journals, write short essays on our readings, and complete a research paper.

**Study Skills** – Goals will include improving organization, listening and note taking, test taking, reading and memory.

**Grammar** – Parts of speech, parts of a sentence, and punctuation will be covered.

## **TRADITIONAL LITERATURE**

**2 Semesters, 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Required for Grade 10**

**Literature** – Short stories, non-fiction articles, plays, and novels are used to improve reading comprehension and expand understanding of literary devices. Major works include *Animal Farm*, *Our Town*, and *Julius Caesar*.

**Vocabulary** – Words will be taken from literature. Goals include learning definitions and proper usage.

**Writing** – Various types of writing purposes are explored including essays, a research paper, and professional writing. Emphasis is placed on elaboration, editing, and organization.

**Grammar** – Parts of speech and sentence are reviewed. Punctuation, clauses, and usage are emphasized.

**ACT Prep** – Strategies for taking standardized tests are introduced with emphasis on the reading and writing portions of the ACT test.

## **AMERICAN LITERATURE**

**2 Semesters, 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Required for Grade 11**

**Literature** – American literature is studied from 1800 to the present day. Emphasis is placed on the classic writers of short stories, poetry, and drama. Novels include *A Separate Peace* and *A Raisin in the Sun*. A literature circle unit, where students will be assigned novels to read in group settings, will apply the skills they have been learning more independently.

**Vocabulary** – Words are selected from literature from each unit studied.

**Spelling** – 10 weeks of spelling are covered.

**Grammar** – Topics studied sophomore year are reviewed with more challenging examples and applications.

**Writing** – Assignments will involve analyzing pieces of literature. A decades research project will also be required for second semester.

**ACT Test Prep** – Strategies for taking the standardized test are covered, and a practice test of the English portion of the ACT Test are taken.

## **WORLD LITERATURE**

**2 Semesters, 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Required for Grade 12 unless taking AP Literature**

**Literature** – World literature is studied from the perspective of authors from various places around the world - including Africa, the Dominican Republic, Asia, America, Europe, and Afghanistan. Emphasis is placed on student interpretation of various works, including poetry, short stories, drama, and novels by renowned authors. A special focus will be placed on understanding the culture and values of these various places as well as how these world perspectives are viewed through a Christian lens. Texts studied may include *Macbeth*, *The House on Mango Street* and *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*, as well as a literature circle unit where students will be assigned different novels, such as *I am Malala*, *In the Time of the Butterflies*, *I Must Betray You*, *Between Shades of Gray* or *There, There*, and will apply the skills they have been learning all year more independently.

**Writing** – World Literature includes a final review of all the basics of grammar, especially phrases, clauses, verb forms, verbals, and techniques for improving sentence structure and word choice. Essays will include a research paper as well as argumentative essays based on the texts studied in class.

**Grammar** – World Literature includes a final review of all the basics of grammar, especially phrases, clauses, verb forms, and verbals.

## **AP LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION**

**2 Semesters, 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite: Department Approval and completing American Literature with a B+ or better**

**Grade 12**

**Literature** – An AP English course in Literature and Composition engages students in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature through the close reading of selected texts. Students will deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers. As students read, they will consider a work's structure, style, and themes as well as such

smaller scale elements as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, tone, etc. Critical standards for interpreting the effects of an author's artful manipulation of language are developed throughout the course. These techniques will be applied through reading various poems and short stories as well as the following full-length texts: *The Great Gatsby* (summer reading), *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, *Macbeth*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, as well as an independent reading project. AP multiple choice test prep will also be woven throughout the course.

**Writing** – Students will also study writing and speaking skills that will allow them to express their interpretations precisely and logically. There will be a particular focus on the timed writing as AP test requires students to compose three timed essays. Students will also complete an independent literary analysis to emphasize the writing process (rough draft, revised draft, final draft).

**Grammar** – Reinforce techniques learned in 9-11th grade with a focus on how author's use word choice and sentence structure to convey meaning as well as how students can use those same techniques in their writing.

**This course requires the student to do coursework throughout the summer preceding the actual start of school.**

This course prepares the student for the AP exam in May which may be transferred for college credit.

## **ENGLISH ELECTIVES**

### **INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS**

**1 Semester, .5 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Grades:** 11, 12

Everything students do in this one-semester class can be applied to daily life. Our goal will be to practice and improve interpersonal communication skills. We will cover topics including communication in everyday life, group communication, communication with the help of technology, and professional communication. Most of what we do will require very active participation. Projects will be used to assess students' understanding of and proficiency in using the concepts studied in each unit.

### **PUBLIC SPEAKING**

**1 Semester, .5 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12

This one-semester course offers an overview of the process of communication and provides a variety of public speaking experiences. Students will develop speaking and listening skills. We will have individual speeches and group speeches and debates. Speech provides the study of and practice in the basic principles and techniques of effective oral communication. For the majority of this class, projects and speeches will be used to assess students' understanding in using the concepts studied in each unit. Active participation in class will be necessary. This class is meant for students interested in becoming more comfortable speaking in front of larger groups.

### **SPORTS LITERATURE**

**1 Semester, .5 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Grades:** 11, 12

Sports Literature is a semester-long course that will examine the unique relationships between sports and society through literature by contemporary authors, columnists, and other media. The competition,

spectacle, personal struggle, and exaggerated personalities so characteristic of those involved in sports provide the perfect backdrop to look deeply into human nature and the literature that transcends sports. The class will allow students to reflect, analyze, and celebrate the role and influence athletics play in the lives of individuals and our society. Themes studied will include leadership and character, definition of success and failure, rivalries, jinxes, and fate. A variety of high-interest thought-provoking literary forms will be presented throughout the semester.

### **THEATER ARTS**

**1 Semester, .5 Credit**

**Prerequisite: Department Approval for Grade 12**

**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

Theater Arts is designed for the student who wishes to learn techniques that actors must know for the stage. Much of the course is activity based and requires the student to get up in front of peers and try the activities. The course also covers backstage duties such as props, lighting, makeup, and costumes. Each student is required to do four major homework assignments and two projects related to drama. The final exam is the student's performance of a memorized scene for the class.

### **WRITING SURVEY**

**1 Semester, .5 Credit**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Grades 11, 12**

Writing skills will be developed as students learn to use the writing process, expand word choice, vary sentence structure, and follow grammar principles. Students will write several pieces including memoirs, blogs, college essays, articles, and other creative works. Students will also contribute as editors, commenting on strengths and suggesting improvements for their classmates' writing.

## **Fine Arts**

### **Art**

### **INTRO TO 2D ART**

**1 Semester, .5 Credit**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

This course serves as an introduction to the basic elements and principles of art and design. Students will discuss art history, learn vocabulary, technique and how to critique while exploring a wide range of media including, but not limited to: graphite, charcoal, and acrylics.

### **CERAMICS I**

**1 Semester, .5 Credit**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

In this course, students will explore and learn basic skills in different clay hand-building techniques, surface treatments, and the use of the pottery wheel. Students will explore functional and sculptural art as well as be encouraged to work through the design process to develop ideas while learning and revising as the class progresses.

**CERAMICS II****1 Semester, .5 Credit****Prerequisite: Ceramics I****Grades 10, 11, 12**

In this course, students will explore more complex forms in both hand-building techniques and the pottery wheel. Students will be expected to explore the boundaries of the medium and will be given individual freedom in what they choose to develop.

**DIGITAL IMAGING AND DESIGN****1 Semester, .5 Credit****Prerequisite: Intro to 2D Art****Grades 10, 11, 12**

This course is designed to teach students the basics of photography composition and to understand the basics of using a digital camera. Students will learn to take, review and edit pictures for successful image making and storytelling. Students will also learn to develop 2-dimensional design, composition and visual communication skills digitally. Students will learn the basics of design software while problem-solving. Students will combine skills of photography and 2D design to create their own works of art.

**DRAWING/PAINTING I****1 Semester, .5 Credit****Prerequisite: Intro to 2D Art****Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

In this course, emphasis will be placed on the development of eye-to-hand drawing skills, both from life and photograph. Students will learn the basics of composition, drawing techniques, watercolor and color theory with a variety of drawing and painting mediums.

**DRAWING/PAINTING II****1 Semester, .5 Credit****Prerequisite: Intro to 2D Art, Drawing/Painting I****Grades 10, 11, 12**

In this course, students will build upon the techniques learned in Drawing/Painting I and work through more complex and challenging mixed-media work with a greater emphasis on concept. They will learn how to draw the human figure and how to create art with deeper meaning.

**SCULPTURE****1 Semester, .5 Credit****Prerequisite: None****Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

In this course, students will learn 3-dimensional design with an array of mediums including ceramics, wire, cardboard, found objects, etc.

**ADVANCED STUDIO****1 Semester, .5 Credit**

**Prerequisite: Intro to 2D Art, Drawing/Painting I and II or Ceramics I and II, plus one additional art elective**

**Grades 11, 12**

This course seeks to provide juniors and seniors with individualized visual art experiences leading to the completion of a portfolio. Students may select an area of art to advance their skills. A high level of product and performance will be expected.

**Music****BAND I & II****1 Semester each, .5 Credit each**

**Prerequisite: Department Approval**

**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

This course is designed to teach advanced band students to play their specific instruments in an ensemble setting. Through rehearsal and performance, the student has the opportunity to broaden his/her appreciation and understanding of all types of music. Exercise in technique, dynamics, and articulation are used every day in preparation for all performances. A student in band is required to participate in all scheduled performances throughout the semester. (Most performances are on the weekends and/or evenings.)

Each year the Music Department offers an optional trip. This may incur additional expenses for the students.

**CHORUS I & II****1 Semester each, .5 Credit each**

**Prerequisite: Department Approval**

**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

This course is designed to teach students music skills in singing in harmony and provides an outlet for Christian witness through song. Attention is given to sight singing and proper vocal production, which will enable the student to realize the potential for his/her voice. A student in choir is required to participate in all scheduled performances throughout the semester. (Most performances are on the weekends and/or evenings.)

Each year the Music Department offers an optional trip. This may incur additional expenses for the students.

**Other****AMERICAN FILM AND CULTURE****1 Semester, .5 Credit**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Grades 11, 12**

Students will explore American culture through the analysis of films from a variety of time periods and genres. Students must think critically about film and its relationship to culture and one another, demonstrating their understanding through small projects, worksheets, and responses. Students will gain an understanding of film's development as an art form and a means of cultural expression. The films will

give students a wide range of cinematic experiences spanning the 20<sup>th</sup> century including silent films, Hitchcock thrillers, war films, musicals, sci-fi, drama, comedy, film noir, and more.

## **HUMANITIES**

**1 Semester, .5 Credit**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

Through the study of humanities, students will develop an understanding of the connection between visual art, music, theatre, literature, and Western Civilization. Students will learn how to understand humanitarian concepts from a variety of time periods. This course is highly interactive, consisting of class discussions, informal writing, and small individual and collaborative projects.

## **Foreign Language**

### **SPANISH I**

**2 Semesters, 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite: Proficient in English on Standardized Test scores**

**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

The purpose of the Spanish language program is to communicate with others and to understand the Hispanic culture. Students begin speaking Spanish in the beginning of the course. Students will participate in group activities and speak individually with others in the target language. Students will experience communication by reading, writing, speaking, and listening. This course requires memorization of Spanish Bible verses, vocabulary words, and grammar practice.

### **SPANISH II**

**2 Semesters, 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite: Completing Spanish I with a C- or better or Department Placement**

**Grades 10, 11, 12**

This course reviews themes from Spanish I with further expansion. While grammar is still being taught and acquired, there will be much more focus on the communicative skills of Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening. The goal of this course is for students to reach a Novice High Level in the four communicative skills mentioned above. The grammatical focuses include more present tense, with a focus on irregular verbs, direct, indirect, and reflexive pronouns, comparisons, informal commands, and an introduction to the past tenses (preterit and imperfect). Students are required to complete classwork and homework assignments which practice grammar and vocabulary, as well as reading stories, writing paragraphs, listening to the instructor talk in Spanish and Podcasts in Spanish, and occasionally speaking with your partner to tell a story in Spanish. A dual credit option with Concordia University Nebraska is available for students who earned a B or better both semesters of Spanish I and has teacher recommendation.

### **SPANISH III**

**2 Semesters, 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite: Completing Spanish II with a C or better or Department Approval**

**Grades 11, 12**

This course is for students interested in developing their Spanish language skills beyond a beginning/novice level. It focuses on the communicative skills of Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening. The goal of this course is for students to enter the intermediate level of language

proficiency. Grammar focuses include an in-depth study of the past tenses (preterite and imperfect), especially when they are used together in context. The present and past perfect tenses will also be introduced, as well as informal commands. Students will read, write about, and listen to various culturally relevant topics, such as holiday traditions in Hispanic countries, La Guerra Sucia of Argentina, and the life and work of Frida Kahlo. Students are required to complete classwork and homework assignments which practice grammar and vocabulary, as well as read stories and articles, write paragraphs, listen to the instructor talk in Spanish and Podcasts in Spanish, and occasionally do speaking activities (presentations). A dual credit option with Concordia University Nebraska is available.

## **SPANISH IV**

**2 Semesters, 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite: Completing Spanish III with a C or better**  
**Grade 12**

This course is for students interested in becoming more orally communicative in Spanish. The goal of this course is for students to continue to develop their language proficiency skills to an intermediate mid or high level. This means a student is functional in their second language and can survive an immersion experience. This will be achieved through practicing the skills of Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening and continuing to build their grammar and vocabulary into a more advanced level. Cultural themes will be further explored through reading shorts stories, articles and legends, and listening to podcasts. Grammar focuses include a review of what was previously learned, introducing the future, conditional, as well as formal commands. The main grammatical focus of Spanish four will be the Subjunctive and its uses. A dual credit option with Concordia University Nebraska is available.

## **Industrial Arts**

### **HOME REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE**

**1 Semester, .5 Credit**

**Prerequisite: None**  
**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

This is a course of study which would allow the student to engage in activities and develop skills for home repair and maintenance. The student will learn to use various hand tools, begin to understand their proper use, and the techniques to make common repairs around the home. This course of study will enable the student to communicate in the technical terminology in the areas of carpentry, plumbing, electrical, and auto maintenance. At the conclusion of the study, the student will have developed a confidence to make most common home repairs.

### **INTRO TO WOODS**

**1 Semester, .5 Credit**

**Prerequisite: None**  
**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

Intro to Woods is designed to teach the basic fundamentals of woodworking through the use of hand tools and small tabletop equipment. The areas explored are types of wood, small project design, project assembly, correct tool use, and safety. Woodburning, scroll saw projects, penmaking, independent wood working, project design and drawing, furniture building.

**INTRO TO CONSTRUCTION TRADES****1 Semester, .5 Credit****Prerequisite: Intro to Woods or Instructor Approval****Grades 11, 12**

Students will be introduced to general areas of study in the construction trades, emphasizing carpentry and electrical wiring. Other areas of the construction trades may also be introduced as dictated by the interest of students. Students will learn about the different hand and power tools used in the trades and how to safely use them in constructing small backyard structures. Students will also learn about many different trade organizations, and acquire the skills needed to start in an apprenticeship program upon successful completion.

**WOODCRAFTING I****1 Semester, .5 Credit****Prerequisite: Intro to Woods****Grades 10, 11, 12**

Students will expand their learning from Intro to Woods through a series of projects which will include furthering their skills using tools. Some new skills will include the use of the scroll saw, mini lathe, and optional woodburning.

**WOODCRAFTING II****1 Semester, .5 Credit****Prerequisite: Woodcrafting I****Grades 10, 11, 12**

Students will expand their learning from Woodcrafting I through a series of projects which will include enhancing their skills in the use of scroll saw, mini lathe, and woodburning.

## **Mathematics**

**ALGEBRA A****2 Semesters, 1 Credit****Prerequisite: Department Placement****Grade 9**

Algebra A is the first part of the two-year Algebra I course. Topics are covered at a slower pace with continuous review. Topics include: basic arithmetic review, real numbers, irrational numbers, powers and roots, transforming and solving linear equations, and graphing in one and two dimensions.

**ALGEBRA B****2 Semesters, 1 Credit****Prerequisite: Completing Algebra A****Grade 10**

Algebra B is the second part of the two-year Algebra I course. This course will review the Algebra A topics and expand them to include: manipulating and factoring polynomials, solving linear equations with two variables, solving quadratic equations, working with inequalities, and setting up and solving word problems.

**ALGEBRA I****2 Semesters, 1 Credit****Prerequisite: Department Placement****Grade 9**

Students use the basic properties of the real number system to manipulate expressions and equations involving both numbers and variables. Topics include: products and factors, powers and roots, rational and irrational numbers, solving of linear and quadratic equations with one variable, solving of linear equations with two variables, working with fractions, graphing in one and two dimensions, working with inequalities, and setting up and solving word problems.

**ESSENTIAL GEOMETRY****2 Semesters, 1 Credit****Prerequisite: Algebra I or Algebra B or Department Approval****Grades 10, 11**

Essential Geometry is designed to provide the basic geometry concepts without the writing of formal proofs. Topics include: the study of points, lines and planes, congruent and similar figures, polygons, circles, coordinate graphing, area and volume, algebra review, and an introduction to trigonometry.

**GEOMETRY****2 Semesters, 1 Credit****Prerequisite: Completing Algebra I with a C- or better or completing Algebra B with a B or better or Department Approval****Grades 9, 10, 11**

Students study the properties and characteristics of points, lines, planes, and two-dimensional figures such as triangles, quadrilaterals, and circles. Some three-dimensional geometry is also part of the course.

Topics include: parallel and perpendicular lines and planes, congruent and similar figures, polygons, right triangles, circles and spheres, areas and volumes, coordinate geometry and graphing, introductory trigonometry, and direct proof.

**ALGEBRA II****2 Semesters, 1 Credit****Prerequisite: Completing both Algebra I and Geometry with a C- or better or Department Approval****Grades 10, 11, 12**

Algebra II reviews skills obtained in Algebra I, applies them to more complex and involved problem situations, and extends these algebra skills into more advanced mathematical topics and real-world situations. Topics include solving and graphing of linear, quadratic and polynomial equations, exponential and logarithmic functions, radical and rational functions, imaginary and complex numbers, and an introduction to analytic geometry and trigonometry.

**INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA****2 Semesters, 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite: Completing both Algebra I (or Algebra A and B) and Geometry (or Essential Geometry) with a C- or better or Department Approval**  
**Grades 11, 12**

Intermediate Algebra reviews skills obtained in Algebra I (or A and B), applies them to more complex and involved problem situations, and extends these algebra skills into more advanced mathematical topics and real-world situations. Topics include solving linear, quadratic and polynomial equations, rational expressions and equations, quadratic equations, functions, and inequalities, exponential functions, probability, and applications. This course is designed to strengthen students' algebra skills and enable them to feel more confident moving forward.

**STATISTICS****2 Semesters, 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite: Completing both Geometry and Algebra II with a C- or better and Department Approval**  
**Grades 11, 12**

This year long course is designed to study the collecting, analyzing, and interpreting of data through descriptive and inferential statistics, including topics like measures of central tendency, variability, probability, sampling methods, hypothesis testing, correlation, and data visualization techniques, with a focus on applying these concepts to real-world situations and interpreting results effectively. Prerequisite of Algebra 2.

**PRE-CALCULUS****2 Semesters, 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite: Completing both Geometry and Algebra II with a C- or better and Department Approval**  
**Grades 11, 12**

Pre-calculus provides solid preparation for college-level courses in calculus, linear algebra, and finite mathematics. Heavy emphasis is placed on problem solving. The topics covered include functions, trigonometry, analytical geometry, logarithms, probability, vectors, matrices, and limits.

**AP CALCULUS AB****2 Semesters, 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite: Completing Pre-Calculus with a C or better and Department Approval**  
**Grade 12**

This full-year course is designed to provide the student with the necessary skills to take the AP calculus test. Topics to be covered include functions and graphs, limits and continuity, differential calculus, and integral calculus.

This course prepares the student for the AP exam in May which may be transferred for college credit.

# Physical Education

## HEALTH

**1 Semester, .5 Credit**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Required for Grade 9**

Health is a course that is designed to bring awareness to students concerning issues that affect their physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health. Through this course, students will learn proper behaviors that will prolong life and vitality. They will also learn how to help others understand the importance of health in their own lives. Scriptural support for healthy living will also be a major emphasis. Topics covered will include fitness and nutrition, mental health and suicide, substance abuse, and reproductive health.

## PE I/II

**1 Semester, .5 Credit**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Required for Grades 9, 10**

This class aims to teach the value of a well-coordinated, efficient body, to promote good health, and to develop strength, endurance, speed, and agility. Students will benefit from this comprehensive program that includes weight training, along with speed and agility stations. Physical education also provides opportunities to develop Christian character traits and to establish physical activities, which will persist throughout life.

## FITNESS

**1 Semester, .5 Credit**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Grades 11, 12**

This class is a co-ed junior/senior Physical Education class designed to give students the opportunity to learn fitness concepts and conditioning techniques used for obtaining optimal physical fitness. Students will benefit from this comprehensive program that includes core workouts, circuit training, speed and agility stations, weight training and other endurance activities. Students will be empowered to make wise choices, meet challenges, and develop positive behaviors in fitness, wellness, and movement activity for their favorite sport and for the rest of their lives. Students will also learn about injury prevention and nutrition in relationship to optimal physical fitness.

## LIFETIME ACTIVITIES

**1 Semester, .5 Credit**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Grades 11, 12**

Lifetime Activities is a co-ed junior/senior Physical Education course for those who wish to participate in activities that can generally be pursued throughout one's lifetime. Students will learn rules and fundamental techniques for a variety of games and activities. Emphasis in this class will be more on development of a spirit of cooperation and good sportsmanship than fostering a sense of competition. Because of the known health benefits associated with physical activity, it is important that students develop an understanding of the rules and fundamental techniques for games and activities that can be played throughout one's lifetime. Having basic knowledge of a variety of games and activities will increase the likelihood that students will become lifetime participants in physical activities.

**OFFICIATING AND SPORTSMANSHIP****1 Semester, .5 Credit****Prerequisite: None****Grades 11, 12**

This course is designed to introduce sports officiating. Students will learn and understand official rules and interpretations, communication, signals, and ethics. Students will participate in skills labs and complete the WIAA certification for volleyball and basketball. A third sport may be introduced.

**Resource****FRESHMAN SEMINAR****1 Semester, .5 Credit****Prerequisite: None****Grade 9**

This course is offered during the first semester of ninth grade. It is designed to promote a successful transition between middle school and high school to ensure educational success at RLHS. This course covers various study skills, note-taking techniques, test preparation, goal setting, and reading and writing strategies. Students will learn and practice organizational skills and will receive a daily agenda to use in all their classes.

**Science****STEM LAB****2 Semesters, 1 Credit****Prerequisite: None****Required for Grade 9**

This course is designed to prepare students for the science series with implementation of STEM styled instruction. Integration of chemistry and physics topics will be supplemented with scientific inquiry, questioning, lab skills and critical thinking. Students will also be exposed to a variety of STEM related careers and expected to apply STEM skills to guided and independent research and projects.

**BIOLOGY****2 Semesters, 1 Credit****Prerequisite: STEM Lab****Required for Grade 10**

Biology students study the chemistry of life, cell structure and function, DNA and genetics, ecology and taxonomy. By developing scientific research skills, exploring relationships between concepts, applying biological principles to everyday life, and strengthening critical thinking skills, students should gain a deeper appreciation of the wonders and complexities of God's miraculous gift of life. Bioethics and careers in biological science will also be investigated.

**CHEMISTRY****2 Semesters, 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite: Completing Algebra I and first semester STEM Lab with a C or better and completing Biology with a C or better**

**Grades 10, 11, 12**

This course covers the basics of chemistry - the composition, structure, and properties of matter, the changes it undergoes, and the energy involved in those changes. We will be studying these topics from both a conceptual and a mathematical point of view. Laboratory work relating to topics is part of the course. Since the scientific process is extremely important in chemistry, students who take this course must be willing to think critically and problem solve. Chemistry builds from the first day of school to the last, so daily attendance, attention, and participation are necessary for the successful completion of this course.

**EARTH SCIENCE/ASTRONOMY****2 Semesters, 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite: STEM Lab**

**Grades 11, 12**

This class is intended to give students a true appreciation for the earth, its enormity, its inferiority, and its place in the universe. We will explore how science is continually shaping the earth, its people, and their culture. The dynamics of populations, ecosystems, and the biosphere as well as human impact on the environment will be studied. Additionally, we will travel beyond the earth to our celestial neighborhood. Utilization of principles and tools in science, technology, engineering and mathematics will be emphasized.

**PHYSICS****2 Semesters, 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite: Completing Biology, STEM Lab, and Algebra II with a C or better**

**Grades 11, 12**

In this course, we will explore mechanics, sound, light, electricity, and magnetism, which are the foundation to a deeper understanding of science.

**AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE****1 Semester, .5 Credit**

**Prerequisite: Biology**

**Grades 11, 12**

Agricultural sciences deal with food and fiber production and processing. They include the technologies of soil cultivation, crop cultivation and harvesting, animal production, and the processing of plant and animal products for human consumption and use. This course will include both in-class and laboratory work and may include field experiences. Laboratory work will include soil testing, homemade lip balm, ice cream, and more. A portion of this class will be devoted to agriculture in Wisconsin and the impacts it has on our communities and economy.

**ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY****1 Semester, .5 Credit**

**Prerequisite: Completing Biology with a B or better and Department Approval**

**Grades 11, 12**

Anatomy and Physiology explores the structure and function of the systems of the human body. This class will help you to understand how our bodies work and some of the causes and effects of problems.

Through this study, you will be able to see the intricate complexities of God's miraculous creation. A dual credit option through Concordia University Nebraska is available.

**FORENSIC SCIENCE**

**1 Semester, .5 Credit**

**Prerequisite: Biology**

**Grades 11, 12**

Students will be working on researching, collecting data, organizing, reasoning, and evaluating as they study some of the areas of forensic science. Some of the topics to be covered are: history of forensic science, collection and analysis of evidence, fingerprinting, hair, fiber, the chemistry of drugs and poisons, and serology (blood) analysis.

**GENETICS**

**(Offered in 2027-28)**

**1 Semester, .5 Credit**

**Prerequisite: Completing Biology with a B or better or Department Approval**

**Grades 11, 12**

Genetics focuses on the cellular and molecular processes of human inheritance. This class will examine the purpose, method, and repercussions of errors within our genes. The semester is divided into the following units: re-productive genetics, chromosomes and molecular genetics, mendelian (prediction) genetics, and genetic applications. The class will also cover concepts such as bioethics, stem cell research, cloning, The Human Genome Project, human uniqueness, genetic engineering, gene therapy, and some forensic applications. A dual credit option through Concordia University Nebraska is available.

**MICROBIOLOGY**

**(Offered in 2027-28)**

**1 Semester, .5 Credit**

**Prerequisite: Completing Biology with a B or better or Department Approval**

**Grades 11, 12**

Microbiology is a course designed to broaden student understanding of microscopic organisms (both beneficial and detrimental) as well as laboratory and microscope skills. Topics will include foundations of microbiology, bacteria and bacterial disease, other microorganisms, disease and resistance, control of microorganisms, and microbiology and public health.

**ZOOLOGY**

**1 Semester, .5 Credit**

**Prerequisite: Biology**

**Grades 11, 12**

This class studies vertebrate animals, with the primary focus on mammals. Birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish are also studied. A brief overview of the entire animal kingdom is provided. Anatomy, physiology, behavior, habitats, and environmental interaction of the animals are examined. Emphasis is on living animals, although several dissection labs may be offered. Frequent trips to the zoo are also utilized.

**AP BIOLOGY****2 Semesters, 1 Credit****Prerequisite: Completing Biology with a B or better and Department Approval****Grade 11, 12**

This course is a second-level experience in the biological sciences. The range and depth of topics covered, the kinds of laboratory work required, and the text used is the caliber of a first-level college biology course. Successful completion of the AP Biology examination permits some students to receive college credits and enroll in upper-level biology courses upon entering college. This course is recommended for students desiring to enter an area of medicine, nursing, medical research, or biology in college.

**This course requires the student to do coursework throughout the summer preceding the actual start of school.** This course prepares the student for the AP exam in May which may be transferred for college credit. A dual credit option is offered through UW-Oshkosh.

## **Social Studies**

**AFRICAN HISTORY AND MODERN AFRICA****1 Semester, .5 Credit****Prerequisite: None****Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

This course explores Africa's rich history and its modern realities. Students will begin with an overview of major ancient African civilizations, drawing on archaeological, cultural, and historical evidence to understand the continent's early achievements. The second part of the course examines modern Africa, including culture, governance, food security, natural resources, and economic development.

Throughout the semester, students will consider both the impact of outside forces and Africa's own internal challenges and strengths. The goal is to develop a balanced and informed understanding of Africa as a complex, dynamic continent. Learning will include a mix of readings, visual materials, discussion, and case-based activities.

**GEOGRAPHY****1 Semester, .5 Credit****Prerequisite: None****Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

This course studies location, characteristics, environment, and cultures of the major regions of the world in relation to the five themes of geography. The course further provides an overview of geopolitics, climate, weather patterns, natural disasters, and natural resources. This is achieved through a variety of means including lecture, discussion, cooperative learning, and various forms of assessment.

**GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS)****1 Semester, .5 Credit****Prerequisite: None****Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are computer programs that help people create maps that can be used to make decisions. Rooted in the science of geography, GIS allows users to analyze location and organize layers of information into maps and 3D scenes. This course provides an introduction to GIS.

Students will learn fundamental GIS concepts with hands-on experience creating maps and using mapping software and geographic data. Student skills in this course will be evaluated, in part, through the creation of a portfolio of maps.

### **INFORMATION LITERACY**

**1 Semester, .5 Credit**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

This course teaches students to navigate today's complex information landscape. Focusing especially on online and social media environments, students will learn to distinguish accurate, reliable, and useful information from misinformation, manipulation, and bias. Key topics include rhetoric and persuasive techniques, election campaign strategies, fear-mongering, the use and misuse of statistics, biases and the ways targeted ads and algorithms create information silos.

Students will also explore how local governments function and learn about the various resources available in the community. Learning will occur through hands-on projects, class discussions, analysis of current events, and engagement with visual and digital materials. By the end of the course, students will be better equipped to critically evaluate information and engage with their community— essential skills for informed participation in the world around them.

### **WORLD HISTORY**

**2 Semesters, 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Required for Grade 10**

The purpose of World History is to provide each student with the knowledge of the events that have taken place in our world from the Paleolithic Age through the current happenings in the Middle East. This will be achieved through a variety of means including lecture, discussion, cooperative learning, and various forms of assessment.

### **UNITED STATES HISTORY**

**2 Semesters, 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Required for Grade 11 unless taking AP US History**

The purpose of United States History is to provide each student with an accurate and independent knowledge of our nation's rich past. This shall be accomplished via class lecture, discussion, reading, and cooperative interaction. Each student will be able to form and defend his or her own opinion on the interpretation of significant events throughout the past two hundred years.

### **AP UNITED STATES HISTORY**

**2 Semesters, 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite: B+ or better GPA, completing World History with at least an A-, and Department Approval**

**Grades 11, 12**

The purpose of AP US History is to provide advanced students with in-depth, accurate, and independent knowledge of our nation's rich past. This shall be accomplished via class lecture, discussion, reading, and cooperative interaction. Each student will be challenged to form and defend his or her own opinion on the

interpretation of significant events throughout the last two hundred years. Students will be required to write analytical essays based on historical documents.

This course prepares the student for the AP exam in May which may be transferred for college credit.

### **AMERICAN GOVERNMENT**

**1 Semester, .5 Credit**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Required for Grade 12**

American Government is the study of principles, functions, and organization of American government as expressed in our national, state, and local political systems. Emphasis is also placed on contemporary political philosophy and current problems.

### **US AS A WORLD POWER**

**1 Semester, .5 Credit**

**Prerequisite: World History**

**Grades 11, 12**

The purpose of this course is to provide each student with an accurate and independent knowledge of the United States over the past 75 years. Starting with the end of World War II, students will go in depth into the Cold War, Korea, Vietnam, the Hippie generation, and end with current events. Students will participate in a variety of activities, including class discussion, debate, and analysis of the music and movie industry.

### **PERSONAL FINANCE (FORMERLY ECONOMICS)**

**1 Semester, .5 Credit**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Required for Grade 12**

Economics is a social science course that deals with the way individuals and societies organize themselves to deal with the problem of unlimited human wants and scarcity of resources. Topics will include: capitalism, free enterprise, role of business and labor, supply and demand, the stock market, and consumer economics.

### **PSYCHOLOGY**

**1 Semester, .5 Credit**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Grades 11, 12**

This is a survey course, including human behavior and the individual's role in society from the Christian viewpoint. Students will learn theories, applications, and what makes people behave the way they do.

### **MACROECONOMICS**

**1 Semester, .5 Credit**

**Prerequisite: Completing Algebra I with at least a C or Algebra B with at least a B and Traditional Literature with at least a C+**

**Grades 11, 12**

Macroeconomics explores how national and global economies function and how major economic decisions affect society. Students will study topics such as government spending, taxation,

unemployment, inflation, and international trade. They will also learn how economists measure economic performance and why economies grow, slow down, or enter recession.

Throughout the course, students will apply macroeconomic ideas to real-world events, evaluate policy choices, and develop a clearer understanding of how fiscal and monetary policies influence everyday life. This class offers a dual-credit option through Concordia University Nebraska and is excellent preparation for students interested in business, government, or becoming informed and responsible citizens.

## Technology

### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

**1 Semester, .5 Credit**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Required for Grade 9**

This course encompasses a wide range of topics in the world of computers and technology. Students will develop skills in keyboarding and use the Google Suite to create real world projects in word processing, spreadsheets, presentation, and web development apps. Many projects are valuable for education, the workplace, and life skills beyond RLHS. These skills will be evaluated through units on a wide variety of topics including, but not limited to buying a computer, web design, job skills, cybersecurity, internet safety, your digital image, digital consumerism, and more.

### **COMPUTER AIDED DRAFTING I (CAD I)**

**1 Semester, .5 Credit**

**Prerequisite: Instructor Approval and completing Information Technology**

**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

Students interested in engineering, interior design, CNC machining, and architecture will receive a hands-on, exercise driven approach to developing the skills necessary to succeed in CAD. Students must be able to visualize objects in 2D, be creative and think critically and precisely. Through exercises, students gain knowledge about the commands, settings, drawing aides, and shortcuts available in the CAD software. This course is foundational preparing students for 3D modeling in CAD II. Attention to detail, a basic understanding of geometry, and strong basic math are all important skills of a successful student in CAD I.

### **COMPUTER AIDED DRAFTING II (CAD II)**

**1 Semester, .5 Credit**

**Prerequisite: CAD I and completing Algebra 1 or B and Instructor Approval**

**Grades 10, 11, 12**

Building on drafting skills from CAD I, students will move into isometric drafting and 3D modeling, focusing on the development of skills necessary to create industrial and mechanical drawings. This 3D modeling knowledge will be employed making useful objects on our 3D printer through the process of additive manufacturing. Students must think critically and creatively, pay attention to detail, and understand basic geometry to successfully accomplish the required coursework while meeting deadlines.

**WEB DESIGN/INFORMATION ARCHITECTURE****1 Semester, .5 Credit****Prerequisite: Instructor Approval****Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

Do you want to learn about the language of the web and prepare yourself with valuable 21<sup>st</sup> century job skills that will open employment opportunities? Students will learn about visual communication and the principle involved in web design, user experience design, and information architecture and synthesize them into complete website blueprints, wireframes, and websites. They will learn to code HTML and CSS documents and put this knowledge into practice creating their own webpages. This course is designed around the construction of each student's own webpage from conceptual through completion. Students must be creative, able to think critically, be self-directed to meet deadlines, and have an attention to detail.

## **Theology**

**THEOLOGY I****2 Semesters, 1 Credit****Prerequisite: None****Required for Grade 9**

This course focuses on God's restoration plan for all to a broken and hurting world. Students will learn how God gave this plan through people and events in the Old Testament, highlighting some of the Messianic prophecies of Jesus Christ.

**THEOLOGY II****2 Semesters, 1 Credit****Prerequisite: None****Required for Grade 10**

In this course, students learn more about God's plan for all throughout the New Testament. An intensive study of the gospels is also covered, examining at the early ministry of Jesus Christ.

**THEOLOGY III****2 Semesters, 1 Credit****Prerequisite: None****Required for Grade 11**

Epistles and Christian Ethics. This course will emphasize a study of the Epistles of the New Testament, combining them with themes from the Gospel and the Old Testament. The student will be exposed to the development of the early Christian Church, and the teachings and understanding of the early Christians during and after the apostolic era. The book of Revelation will also be examined, in light of the themes and message of the whole of Scripture, and we will learn how to avoid the common misunderstandings of this book by the modern western world.

While learning the teachings found in the Epistles, we will emphasize their role in the discussion of Christian Ethics in our modern era, culture, and community. We will use God's Word as our foundation and content and will emphasize class discussion of how the Bible's teachings apply to the many ideas,

beliefs, and cultural assumptions we find around us in our daily lives. An emphasis will be placed on our interpersonal relationships as Christians. We will examine our own relationship with God in the person of Jesus Christ, and in light of that relationship, we will look at our interactions with families, friends, and various communities of which we are members. We will also look at building our future relationships – spouses, families, and friends – founded in the love of Christ Jesus.

## **THEOLOGY IV**

**2 Semesters, 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Required for Grade 12**

**Defending the Faith (Christian Apologetics) and World Religions.** During the first semester, the bulk of this course will focus on becoming more comfortable with why Christians believe what they do, being more confident in the reliable evidence of those beliefs, and also being able to communicate the hope that we have in Christ Jesus to others around us, in a rational and responsible way. We will come at the topic of the reliability of Scripture and the Christian faith from several directions, making use of philosophy and logic, science, archaeology, history, etc., to show the rational evidence for the beliefs that we hold. We find that God's Word continues to give us an accurate portrayal not only of world history and antiquity, but also of the conditions in which humans find themselves, across cultures of the world.

The second semester will pick up with the themes of the human condition as we find it across time and space, and we will especially focus on learning about various world religions, comparing and contrasting them to the Christian belief. This will be to familiarize our students with the various beliefs they will encounter in their communities and relationships, to help them to feel more secure in their own beliefs, and also to give them confidence and practice in having productive, respectful, and accurate conversations with people around them, sharing the faith of Jesus our Messiah.

## **Academic Honors Diploma**

A graduate from RLHS may earn an academic honors diploma by completing the following:

- Earn a minimum of 28 credits with a 3.0 GPA
- Complete at least the 4 core credits of English or Dual Credit/AP equivalent
- Complete at least 4 credits of mathematics including Algebra 2
- Complete at least 4 credits of science including Biology and Chemistry
- Complete at least 3.5 credits of social studies
- Complete at least 2 credits of foreign language
- Complete at least 1 credit of fine arts
- Complete and earn college credits in at least 3 Advanced Placement or Dual Credit courses
- Earn an ACT composite score of 24 or better

## **STEM Endorsement**

RLHS graduates may earn a STEM Endorsement on their final transcripts by meeting the following requirements:

- 3.0 cumulative GPA
- Complete the minimum amount of required courses in the approved STEM course curriculum and earn at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA in those courses
- Take the AP exam in the courses offering that option (or Dual Credit AP Biology)
- Complete an approved cooperative experience, camp, job shadow experience, or internship in a science, mathematics, or technology related field
- SCIENCE: Complete at least 4 credits in the following courses:
  - STEM Lab
  - Biology or Honors Biology
  - Chemistry
  - Physics
  - AP Biology
  - Anatomy and Physiology
  - Genetics
  - Microbiology
- MATHEMATICS: Complete at least 4 credits in the following courses:
  - Algebra 1
  - Geometry
  - Algebra 2
  - Precalculus
  - AP Calculus
  - Statistics
- TECHNOLOGY: Complete at least 2 of the following courses:
  - Information Technology
  - CAD 1, 2
  - Web Design