2026-2027 HIGH SCHOOL COURSE GUIDEBOOK

RAPID CITY ALTERNATIVE ACADEMY

RCAA

RAPID CITY ALTERNATIVE ACADEMY
601 Columbus Street
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RAPID CITY AREA SCHOOLS

Course Guidebook online at **rcas.org**

RAPID CITY AREA SCHOOLS *Educate. Communicate. Appreciate. Celebrate.*

OUR VISION

RCAS strengthens community through education, communication, appreciation, and celebration.

PURPOSE

This Course Guidebook will assist high school students, families, teachers, and school counselors to select courses and college, career, and life readiness opportunities in a sequence that best meets the needs of each student. A pathway that correlates with students' interests and aptitudes leads to the achievement of college, career, and life readiness goals.

Students are encouraged to choose courses that will stretch, challenge, and allow them to explore all available opportunities while meeting RCAS graduation requirements.

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RAPID CITY ALTERNATIVE ACADEMY OVERVIEW

Principal
Jessica Kanta

The Rapid City Alternative Academy (RCAA) is designed to meet the individual needs of high school students by supporting their academic success, self-efficacy, and readiness for college, career, and life. As a smaller learning community, RCAA provides students with additional support to earn high school credits while maintaining the same overall graduation requirements, including core class credits. However, elective options may differ, and pathway credits required at Stevens and Central can be substituted with other electives.

Each student at RCAA is paired with an advisor, who monitors their academic progress throughout their entire high school journey and conducts a daily advisory class. While attending RCAA, students remain enrolled at either Stevens or Central High School and are considered students of those schools. They will receive their high school diploma from Stevens or Central and may participate in their home school's graduation ceremonies. Additionally, students are eligible to join activities and sports at their home schools.

Applications to RCAA can be made by counselors at Central or Stevens.

Rapid City Alternative Academy Mission:

To empower students through supportive relationships and personalized learning.

Rapid City Alternative Academy Vision:

To improve our community and our world through education.

Rapid City Alternative Academy 2026-2027 Class Schedule

Rapid City Alternative Academy students take 4 classes plus advisory every 9 weeks. Students will change classes every 9 weeks.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

English (4 credits total)

English 9	1 credit (includes .5 credit Writing & .5 credit Literature)
English 10	1 credit (includes .5 credit Speech & .5 credit Literature)
English 11	1 credit (includes .5 credit Writing & .5 credit American Literature)
Language Arts Electives	1 credit

Mathematics (3 credits total)

Algebra 1	1 credit
Geometry	1 credit
Math Electives	1 credit

Science (3 credits total)

Biology	1 credit
Physical Science or Chemistry	1 credit
Science Electives	1 credit

Social Studies (3 credits total)

U.S. History 1, 2, & 3	1.5 credits
U.S. Government	.5 credit
World Geography	.5 credit
World History	.5 credit

Fine Arts (1 credit)

Technology (.5 credit)

Computer Applications	.5 credit

PE/Health (1 credit)

Business Economics or Personal Finance (.5 credit)

Electives (6 credits)

TOTAL 22 CREDITS REQUIRED

COLLEGE - A NEW DEFINITION

The term **"college"** means any educational training opportunity beyond high school. It may include credentials, certificates, military service, and/or college – whether that is a one-year, two-year, and/or four-year degree program.

WHAT IS COLLEGE READY?

Students meet academic indicators, standardized test benchmarks, and complete credit-bearing general education courses or a certificate program without remediation.

WHAT IS CAREER READY?

Students have explored and identified a career interest and possess sufficient foundational knowledge, skill, and general learning strategies necessary to begin studies in a career pathway.

WHAT IS LIFE READY?

Students leave high school with grit and perseverance to achieve their goals, as well as possess a growth mindset that empowers them to approach their future with confidence.

PROFILE OF A GRADUATE

The Rapid City Area School District and its business and community partners have jointly developed and adopted the RCAS Profile of a Graduate which embraces the academic knowledge, skills, and attributes needed for a student to make a successful transition to college, career, and life responsibilities.

With the RCAS Profile of a Graduate, educators can begin to review curriculum and actively create learning experiences that introduce and reinforce the competencies identified in the Profile of a Graduate.

Community partners can use the Profile of a Graduate as a reference point for reinforcing community expectations for work and personal character.

COLLEGE READY

- Meet standardized testing benchmarks
- Develop a college, career, and life readiness plan
- Participate in a work-based or service-learning capstone experience
- Earn college credit, an industry certificate, or both

CAREER READY

- Collaborate and communicate effectively and respectfully
- Demonstrate innovation and creativity
- Analyze problems by exercising critical thinking skills
- Deliver clear and concise ideas through verbal and written communication
- Possess the foundational knowledge and skills necessary to navigate a career search, advancement, and transitions

LIFE READY

- Embody and practice civic engagement and global citizenship
- Manage and balance time, resources, and responsibilities
- Demonstrate adaptability and tenacity in pursuing personal goals
- Build and maintain positive relationships

Preparing for life beyond high school is about more than the classes you take. It's also about developing the skills that will help you succeed in college, career, and life. Consider the following suggested opportunities and benchmarks that will keep you on track during your high school journey and prepare you for success after graduation.

Freshman Year

- ❑ Meet with your school counselor to talk about career exploration and a course plan that will lead you to success
- ❑ Explore extra-curricular activities, volunteer opportunities, and clubs
- ❑ Estimate your financial aid needs using Federal Student Aid Estimator and either continue or start saving for college
- ❑ Identify what kind of education and training is needed for your careers of interest

Sophomore Year

- ❑ Meet with your school counselor to talk about course planning
- ❑ Complete the My Skills Lab in SDMyLife
- ❑ Practice for the ACT using Methodize or SDMyLife
- ❑ Take the PreACT
- ❑ Create a folder to begin collecting college information
- ❑ Continue your college savings plan and begin looking at cost specifics
- ❑ Focus on extra-curricular activities and leadership opportunities of interest
- ❑ Learn more about earning early college credit through Advanced Placement (AP) and Dual Enrollment courses

Junior Year

- ❑ Meet with your school counselor to talk about course planning
- ❑ Take the ACT, SAT, and/or ASVAB
- ❑ Start looking at colleges and/or universities of interest that match your college, career, and life goals
- ❑ Visit your colleges and/or universities of interest
- ❑ Begin putting together an academic resume and portfolio
- ❑ Seek out volunteer and work-based learning opportunities
- ❑ Begin searching for scholarships
- ❑ Continue your college savings plan
- ❑ Continue participation in extra-curricular activities
- ❑ Consider earning early college credit through AP and Dual Enrollment courses

Senior Year

- ❑ Meet with your school counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate
- ❑ Take the ACT, SAT, and/or ASVAB again, if needed
- ❑ Consider earning early college credit through AP and Dual Enrollment courses
- ❑ Ask for letters of recommendation early in the school year
- ❑ Apply for admissions to your colleges and/or universities of choice
- ❑ Participate in Free College Application Events
- ❑ Complete the FAFSA
- ❑ Apply for scholarships
- ❑ Visit the colleges and/or universities that you have been accepted to
- ❑ Make a decision and celebrate!

COLLEGE, CAREER, & LIFE READINESS PLAN

What are your college, career, and life aspirations? Use this College, Career & Life Readiness Plan to begin determining the steps you need to take during high school to ensure that you graduate college, career, and life ready!

Identify a Career Interest

Identifying a career interest is an important part of your College, Career, & Life Readiness Plan. Use the space below to brainstorm a few of your career interests.

_____ _____ _____

Identify a College Option

The term "college" means any educational training opportunity beyond high school. Which of the following college opportunities most closely aligns with the training needed to secure your desired career?

CREDENTIALS	CERTIFICATE	MILITARY SERVICE
ONE-YEAR DEGREE	TWO-YEAR DEGREE	FOUR-YEAR DEGREE

Now that you've identified the training opportunity you will need beyond high school, where can you go for this training?

(Write your answer here) _____

Identify College & Career Preparation & Assessments

Circle the college and career preparation and assessments below that align with your career interest and college option.

NATIONAL CAREER READINESS CERTIFICATE®

AP

The ACT® SAT®

CLEP®

CollegeBoard ACCUPLACER

ASVAB

Align High School Courses

What course offerings and electives will help you further your preparedness for life beyond high school? Use the space below to write specific courses you plan to take to achieve your college, career, and life ready aspirations.

_____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____

High School Experiences

What activities, clubs, and work-based or service-learning experiences would you enjoy participating in during high school that will help you develop leadership and communication skills? Use the space below to list specific high school experiences you want to be involved in.

_____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____

CAREER EXPLORATION

SDMyLife is an online program assisting students with navigating the career development process. To find a good match, students take interest assessments. They can explore by career cluster, keyword, or school subject. Students can also research postsecondary and ability assessments, education and training options, build a portfolio, and study for the ACT with Methodize.

COLLEGE CREDIT

Advanced Placement Program

apstudents.collegeboard.org

The Advanced Placement Program (AP) is a voluntary program that gives students a chance to experience college-level classes in high school and opens the door to earning college credit before ever setting foot on a college campus. While digging deeper into subjects they love, students will build the skills and confidence they need to succeed in college.

College Level Examination Program

clep.collegeboard.org

The College Level Examination Program (CLEP) assesses college-level knowledge in thirty-six subject areas and provides a mechanism for earning college credits without taking college courses.

Course Equivalency Exam (Test-Out) Program

Rapid City Area School District Policy allows any RCAS student in grades 9-12 to challenge courses specifically identified by the Board of Education. Students are allowed to test out of and receive up to eight credits toward high school graduation when earning a minimum score of 85% for each exam taken. To learn more about the RCAS Test Out Program, visit rcas.org.

Dual Enrollment

Earning college credit in high school means paying for fewer credits in college. Dual enrollment opportunities also open up your college schedule, allowing you to take more electives, pursue a second major, or study abroad.

The South Dakota Legislature has appropriated funding for the creation of the South Dakota High School Dual Credit program. Through this program, participating public universities and technical institutions provide eligible high school students with dual credit course(s) that are governed by the postsecondary institution's policies. This program makes course work available to students at a reduced tuition rate set each year.

Students are responsible for the cost of the course credits and any required course materials and textbooks for all dual enrollment courses.

For the dual enrollment application process for South Dakota Universities and Technical Colleges, visit ourdakotadreams.com/k12-students/dual-credit

The Rapid City Area Schools Dual Enrollment Tuition Assistance Program provides eligible students with funding for tuition and textbooks for all dual enrollment courses available through Western Dakota Technical College. The application can be found at rcas.org/o/rcas/page/college-and-career-preparation-and-assessments or in your school's counseling office.

SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

InnerView

Community service sets students apart from others in the college application process. InnerView is the leading youth platform to help students highlight community service impact, passion for causes, and connect their local effort to Global Goals. It packages their high school service activity in a way to inspire and inform through Individual Student Service Resumes and eligibility for National Community Service Awards. Rapid City Area Schools encourage high school students to use this platform for ease in tracking their service hours and activities.

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

The ACT

act.org

The PreACT simulates the ACT testing experience within a shorter test window on all four ACT test subjects.

The ACT (originally an abbreviation of American College Testing) college readiness assessment is a standardized test for high school achievement and college admissions in the United States which includes includes three sections: english, math, reading, as well as two optional areas of science and writing. Most colleges will accept a student's ACT scores as part of the admissions evaluation.

College Board Assessments

collegeboard.org

The PSAT is an assessment developed by The College Board to determine college readiness for students in grades 9-11. Students are assessed in the areas of critical reading, mathematics, and written expression in preparation for the SAT 1: Reasoning Test. Students who take the PSAT/ NMSQT and obtain a qualifying score will be invited to apply for the National Merit Scholarship program.

The SAT is a standardized test developed by The College Board that measures verbal, mathematical reasoning and writing skills. Four-year colleges use a student's score on this test as part of the admissions evaluation for acceptance.

ACCUPLACER is an integrated system of computer-adaptive assessments designed by The College Board to evaluate students' skills in reading, writing, and mathematics. The results of the assessment, in conjunction with your academic background, goals, and interests are used by academic advisors to determine your course selection.

Grade	Required & Recommended Exam(s)
9th	**PreACT**
10th	**PreACT** AP Exam(s) to earn college credit
11th	**ACT** SAT (optional) PSAT/NMSQT for students hoping to quality for the National Merit Scholarship AP Exam(s) to earn college credit Accuplacer when applicable for Dual Enrollment Placement
12th	ACT and/or SAT AP Exam(s) to earn college credit Accuplacer when applicable for Dual Enrollment Placement or Technical College Admission ASVAB when applicable

CAREER TESTING

Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery

officialasvab.com

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) is a timed multi-aptitude test that measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success.

SOUTH DAKOTA COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS

Admission Requirements to South Dakota Universities

Applicants must meet the general and subject matter requirements; including GPA, Class Rank, or college entrance exams (ACT/SAT).

The state-funded regental institutes in South Dakota are as follows:

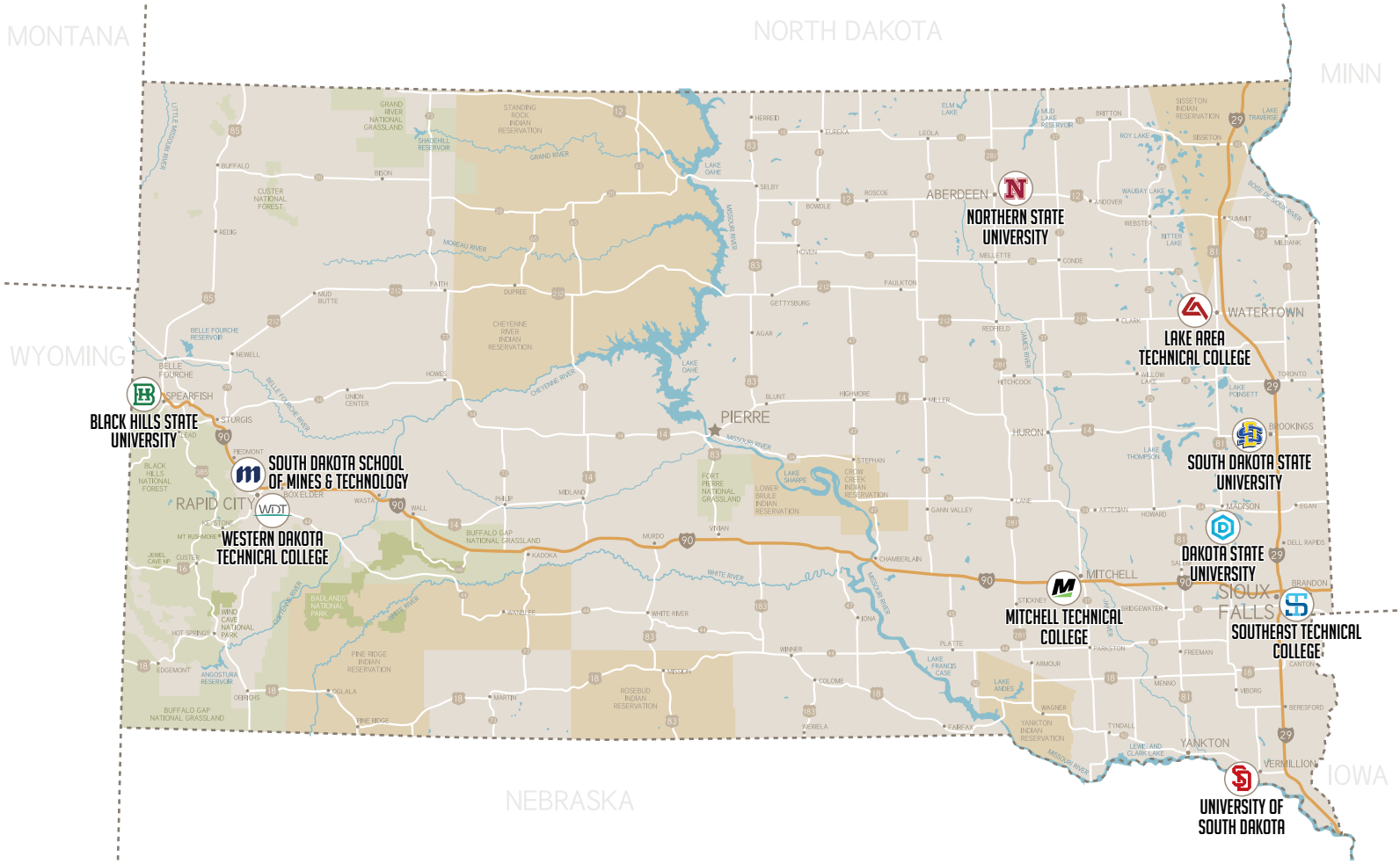
Black Hills State University, Spearfish bhsu.edu
Dakota State University, Madison dsu.edu
Northern State University, Aberdeen northern.edu
South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, Rapid City sdsmt.edu
South Dakota State University, Brookings sdstate.edu
University of South Dakota, Vermillion usd.edu

Admission Requirements for South Dakota Technical Colleges

Admission to a postsecondary technical college is based on individual program requirements. All applicants must submit a high school transcript. Students may be required to take an Accuplacer exam for placement in some courses. Students who plan to pursue this education are advised to enroll in academically challenging subjects at the high school level, especially math, science, and computers. Technical and multi-district courses are strongly encouraged. Postsecondary credits may be earned at the high school level in most programs through articulated credit.

The state-funded postsecondary technical colleges in South Dakota are as follows:

Lake Area Technical College, Watertown lakeareatech.edu
Mitchell Technical College, Mitchell mitchelltech.com
Southeast Technical College, Sioux Falls southeasttech.edu
Western Dakota Technical College, Rapid City wdt.edu



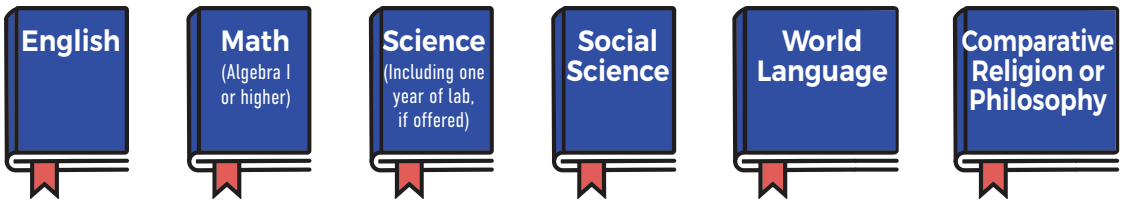
NCAA-APPROVED CORE COURSES

NCAA core curriculum (**core course**) requirement ensures you're taking high school courses that prepare you for the academic expectations of college. Note: Not all high school classes are NCAA-approved core courses and may not count toward your 16 core-course credit requirement. *It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian and student to select courses that align with scholarships, NCAA, NAIA, and/or other college admissions requirements.*

What is a Core Course?

An NCAA-approved core course must meet the following requirements:

Is a four-year college preparatory course in one of these subject areas:



	✓
Is taught by a qualified instructor.	✓
Is taught at or above your high school's regular academic level.	✓
You receive credit toward high school graduation and course appears on an official transcript with course title, grade and credit awarded.	✓
Is in a noncore area, such as driver education, typing, art, music, physical education or welding.	✗
Prepares you for work or life, or for a two-year college or technical school, such as personal finance, consumer education or tech prep.	✗
Is taught below grade level, at a slower pace or with less rigor or depth, such as basic, essential, fundamental or foundational courses.	✗
Is a credit-by-exam course.	✗

Courses that meet the above criteria must be submitted to and approved by the Eligibility Center. Approved classes are included on **your high school's list** of NCAA-approved core courses. (For additional information on how your high school addresses core-course credits in your transcript, review the High School Information section of your high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses.) Make sure you're taking courses on your high school's approved list; ask your high school counselor if you need help. For more information regarding courses that can be taken in each core-course subject area, including additional subject areas, scan the QR code or visit **on.ncaa.com/CCL.**

Scan QR code to find your high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses.

CORE-COURSE CREDITS

You can earn credit for a core course only once. If you take a course that repeats the content of another core course, you earn credit for only one of these courses, and the higher grade counts toward your core-course GPA. For more information on core-course credits, visit **ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/core-courses.**

DUAL-ENROLLMENT COURSEWORK

Dual-enrollment coursework may be used to satisfy NCAA core-course requirements if the course appears on your high school transcript with grade and credit and meets all requirements for an **NCAA-approved core course.**

NAIA

To obtain information regarding National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) eligibility please visit **naia.org.**

PAYING FOR COLLEGE

Financial aid comes in the form of scholarships, grants, loans, and work-study jobs. Make sure you know the facts and are financially prepared for college, career, and life success!

Scholarships

Scholarships are a form of financial aid that does not have to be repaid or earned through employment. Scholarship usually refers to an award based on academic merit; however, scholarships are also awarded for performing community service, leadership, talent, etc. *It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian and student to select courses that align with scholarships, NCAA, NAIA, and/or other college admissions requirements.*

Visit the South Dakota Department of Education's website, doe.sd.gov, to view scholarship opportunities specific to South Dakota colleges and universities.

Check out the following websites for additional scholarship opportunities:
School Counseling and Advising | Stevens High School
docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1z-DiXvQDscHTxGjgbk2PEf6q5K2RICmnpAbaCtU-Mek/edit#gid=0
ourdakotadreams.com/paying-for-college/sd-scholarships/statewide-scholarship-bulletin-board

Fastweb Scholarship Search fastweb.com
Access to over 1.5 million scholarships to help you pay for college.

College Board Scholarship Search bigfuture.collegeboard.org
Find scholarships, other financial aid, and internships from more than 2,200 programs, totaling nearly $6 billion.

College Scholarships collegescholarships.org
Search for national, state, and local scholarships plus scholarship essay examples and financial aid resources.

RaiseMe raise.me
RaiseMe allows students to earn scholarships from colleges for the things that best prepare you to succeed in high school, like having perfect attendance, getting an A in a class, participating in an extracurricular activity and more.

Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) wiche.edu
The Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) is an agreement among WICHE's 16 members, through which 160+ participating public colleges and universities provide steep nonresident tuition savings for Western students.

Federal Student Aid

Thousands of schools across the country participate in federal student aid programs; ask the schools you're interested in whether they do!

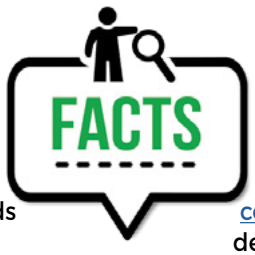
Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) studentaid.gov
The FAFSA form is a free application used to apply for federal student aid, such as federal grants, loans, and work-study.

Grants - Grants are financial aid, often based on need, that does not need to be repaid (unless, for example, a student were to withdraw from school and owe a refund).

Subsidized Loans - Subsidized loans are based on financial need for which the federal government generally pays the interest that accrues while the borrower is in an in-school, grace, or deferment status, and during certain periods of repayment under certain income-driven repayment plans.

Unsubsidized Loans - Unsubsidized loans mean the borrower is fully responsible for paying the interest regardless of the loan status. Interest on unsubsidized loans accrues from the date of disbursement and continues throughout the life of the loan.

Work-Study - A federal student aid program that provides part-time employment while a student is enrolled in school to help pay educational expenses.



Resources at ourdakotadreams.com help you determine projected college costs for South Dakota's colleges and universities.

Students are eligible for federal student aid even when studying at a school outside of the United States.

The U.S. Department of Education awards more than $120 billion a year in grants, work-study funds, and low-interest loans to more than 13 million students.

collegeaccess529.com are College Savings Plans designed to help individuals and families save for college in a tax-advantaged way. These plans are named for Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code.

CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Computer Applications

Credits: **.5**	Approved CTE Course
Prerequisites:	Grade: **10,11,12**

It is highly recommended that students with little to no computer skills take this foundational course. Students will be immersed in skills-based training to enhance their understanding of technology, software, and applications. This course will cover topics such as word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, and digital literacy. Students will gain career readiness skills in the areas of job applications, resumes, cover letters, and professional business communications.

Personal Finance

Credits: **.5**	Approved CTE Course
Prerequisites:	Grade: **11,12**

Are you ready to take control of your financial future and unlock the secrets to lasting financial success? Join us for "Personal Finance" where we transform the world of personal finance into an exciting and empowering journey! Discover the Power of Your Finances: In this hands-on and engaging course, we delve deep into the realm of personal finance, equipping you with the tools and knowledge to thrive in today's dynamic financial landscape. Seize this opportunity to change your life—enroll today and secure your financial future!

Introduction to Health Services 1 & 2

Credits: **1**	Approved CTE Course
Prerequisites:	Grade: **10,11,12**

Do you have a knack for science and curiosity for modern medicine? Do you think you may want to go into the fast-paced field of healthcare? This course will help you develop marketable and real-world knowledge and skills that are essential in providing high quality patient care and having a successful career in healthcare. As part of this course, students will receive certification in First Aid and CPR.

Capstone Experience - Five Course options available to 11th - 12th graders. Descriptions/details on page 27.

1. **Entrepreneurship Experience**
2. **Senior Experience**
3. **Service Learning**
4. **Youth Apprenticeship**
5. **Youth Internship**

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Reading Requirement - Students in grades 9 through 12 who have not met the district's reading requirement must continue to enroll in reading support until the 9.0 grade level reading equivalency is met, unless the IEP Team has determined this course is not required. Students must demonstrate the ninth-grade level of reading proficiency on a district adopted standardized test in order to graduate. Students on an Active IEP may be allowed to graduate without this course as determined by the IEP Team. To learn more about this reading requirement, please reference District Code IKF.

Communications

Credits: **.5** per term	
Prerequisites:	Grade: **9-12**

Communications focuses on the application of written and oral communication skills through a variety of formal and informal experiences. The course is performance-based and emphasizes effective interpersonal and team-building skills. Communications covers the study of how interpersonal communications are affected by stereotypes, nonverbal cues, vocabulary, and stylistic choices. *This is a required course for all students enrolled in the Discovery course at RCAA.*

English 9 - A&B

Credits: **.5** per term	
Prerequisites:	Grade: **9**

English 9 is a year-long course satisfying the ninth grade English requirement. This course includes all standards in the ninth grade reading, writing, and speaking / listening & language strands in an integrated approach. English 9 is required for all ninth grade students.

English 10 - A&B

Credits: **.5** per term	
Prerequisites:	Grade: **10**

English 10 is a year-long course satisfying the tenth grade English requirement. This course will include all standards in the tenth grade reading, writing, and speaking / listening and language strands in an integrated approach. Students will satisfy the state speech requirement. English 10 is required for all tenth grade students.

English 11 - A&B

Credits: **.5** per term	
Prerequisites:	Grade: **11**

English 11 is a year-long course satisfying the eleventh grade English requirement. This course will include all standards in the eleventh grade reading, writing, and speaking / listening and language strands in an integrated approach. Students will also satisfy the state American literature requirement.

English 12 - A&B

Credits: **.5** per term	
Prerequisites:	Grade: **12**

English 12 is a year-long course fulfilling the twelfth grade English requirement. This course integrates all twelfth grade ELA standards. Students will explore ethics and inclusion while engaging in projects and activities that will help them develop advanced levels of reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. As a culminating project, students will research, prepare, and present a chosen topic to a specific audience of stakeholders.

Technical Writing

Credits: **.5**	
Prerequisites:	Grade: **12**

Business & Technical Writing is a term course satisfying 0.5 credit of the state English composition requirement. This course prepares students for writing in real-world situations. Students will explore ethics and inclusion, content and design strategies, using technology in business, evidence-based and instructional communication, and collaborative engagement with professional communities. Writing will focus on communicating effectively with other professionals.

Literature (Fiction/Nonfiction)

Credits: **.5**	
Prerequisites:	Grade: **12**

A term course that satisfies 0.5 credit of the state literature requirement. This course focuses on literary and informational texts which emphasize diversity, ethics, and inclusion. Students will cite strong evidence from the text, determine central ideas, and analyze the impact of authors' point of view, purpose, and form. Students will evaluate texts for accuracy and bias by examining the author's tone, purpose, and audience.

Art 9 (2D)

Credits: .5	
Prerequisites:	Grade: 9-12

Students are introduced to design and composition with emphasis on the 2-dimensional format. Students are exposed to the basic fundamentals, vocabulary, tools, and a variety of media through drawing, painting, and mixed media. Students will be introduced to examples of artists' works and their ideas to serve as a source of inspiration and interpretations.

Art 9 (3D)

Credits: .5	
Prerequisites:	Grade: 9-12

Students will create 3-dimensional projects using basic fundamentals of design with emphasis on subtractive and additive methods. A variety of materials such as clay, plaster, wood, paper, and wire will be used in creating a multitude of sculptural forms.

Clay Construction & Design

Credits: .5	
Prerequisites:	Grade: 10,11,12

Students explore clay as a 3-dimensional medium through a variety of hand-forming techniques including coil, pinch, slab and combinations. A variety of projects allow students to build utilitarian wares or sculptural pieces. Along with learning the basic techniques, tools, materials, and vocabulary, students experiment with a variety of decorating processes (including additive, subtractive, glazing, staining, and use of mixed media).

Crafts

Credits: .5	
Prerequisites:	Grade: 9-12

Students will discover a variety of craft techniques with an emphasis on good craftsmanship. There will be exploration of various mediums and equipment used in designing hand-crafted items. Areas which may be included are copper foil, fiber arts, glass etching, clay, paper mache, and jewelry design.

Native American Arts

Credits: .5	
Prerequisites:	Grade: 9-12

Students will become acquainted with traditional Native American culture and art forms, design, and techniques through the use of contemporary media. Students will utilize the various methods and skills of Native American arts within projects.

Painting

Credits: .5	
Prerequisites:	Grade: 11,12

Students will develop an individual style in painting through the study of various styles in art history using acrylics, tempera, water color, mixed media, and collage. Exploration of the basics of color, design, composition and drawing are the strong foundations of this class. Development of a portfolio and a language of art criticism are emphasized.

Advanced Art

Credits: .5	
Prerequisites: Completion of Art 9 (2D), Art 9 (3D), Clay, & Crafts is essential for success.	Grade: 11,12

Limited supplies required. Development and creation of ideas toward individual expression using the elements and principles of art, 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional projects, creative choice, use of medium, developing artist statement, discussing art, and presentation will be explored. *This course may be taken more than once for credit.*

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Health & Physical Education courses may be taken more than once for credit.
Only one (1) Health & Physical Education course may be taken per term.
Physical fitness testing will be required throughout the term.
Health instruction will be presented throughout the term for each course offered in Health & Physical Education.

Team/Lifetime Activities & Life Choices

Credits: **.5**	
Prerequisites:	Grade: **9-12**

Students will experience a variety of coed activities to develop strength, speed, agility, balance, coordination, flexibility, muscular endurance, cognitive thinking skills and strategies and rules of games. Students will be expected to perform basic skills and complete written assignments.

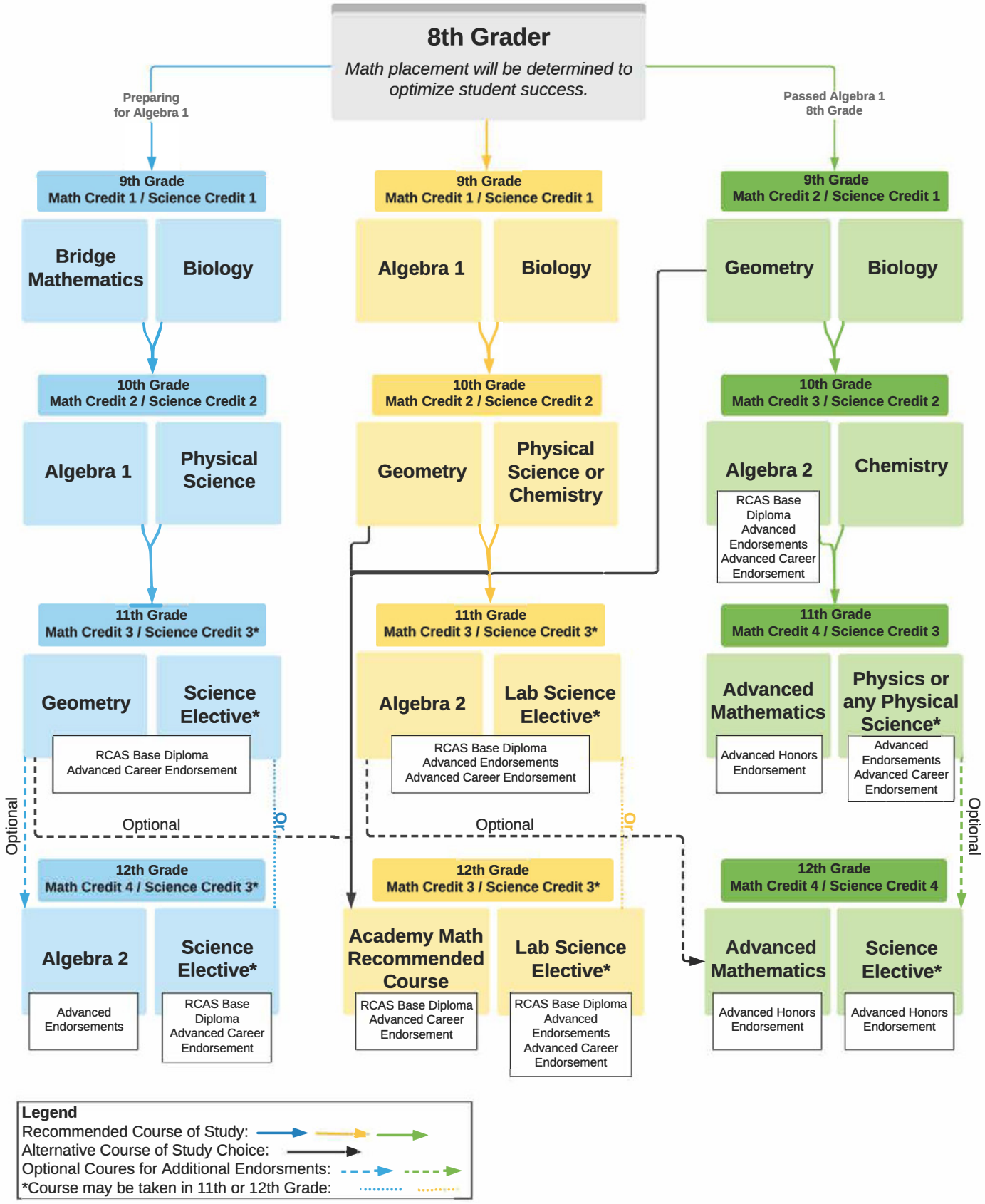
Weight Training & Personal Health

Credits: **.5**	
Prerequisites:	Grade: **9-12**

The emphasis of this class will be the development of strength, power, muscle endurance, and the cardiovascular system. Students will be taught the proper techniques in using machines and free weights, spotting procedures, and a variety of weight training workouts. Cardiovascular circuits may include jump ropes, running, plyometrics, balance discs, medicine balls, and stability balls.

District Code: IKF-E3

RCAS High School Math & Science Course of Study



Bridge Mathematics - A&B

Credits: **.5** per term	
Prerequisites:	Grade: **9**

The Bridge Course is an introduction to basic algebra concepts and a review of pre-requisite arithmetic skills. The course emphasizes the concepts necessary to be successful in Algebra 1 and Geometry. The course helps students develop mathematical study skills, remediate lost learning, and gain access to new learning strategies.

Algebra 1 - A&B

Credits: **.5** per term	
Prerequisites:	Grade: **9-12**

The fundamental purpose of Algebra 1 is to formalize and extend the mathematics that students learned in the middle grades. Students will deepen and extend understanding of properties and operations of the real number system; evaluating rational algebraic expressions; solving and graphing first-degree equations and inequalities; translating word problems into equations; operations with and factoring of polynomials; and solving simple quadratic equations.

Geometry - A&B

Credits: **.5** per term	
Prerequisites: Algebra 1 is essential for success	Grade: **9-12**

The focus of Geometry includes topics such as properties of plane and solid figures; deductive methods of reasoning and use of logic; geometry as an axiomatic system including the study of postulates, theorems, and formal proofs; concepts of congruence, similarity, parallelism, perpendicularity, and proportion; and rules of angle measurement in triangles.

Financial Algebra - A&B

Credits: **.5** per term	
Prerequisites:	Grade: **10,11,12**

Financial Algebra is a mathematical modeling course that is algebra-based and technology-dependent. The course covers math concepts using eight financial umbrellas: Discretionary Expenses, Banking, Investing, Credit, Employment and Income Taxes, Automobile Ownership, Independent Living, Retirement Planning and Household Budgeting. The course allows students to experience the interrelatedness of mathematical topics from known situations to unknown situations.

Algebra 2 - A&B

Credits: **.5** per term	
Prerequisites: Geometry is essential for success	Grade: **10,11,12**

The purpose of Algebra 2 is to develop and connect learning from Algebra 1. Students will apply methods and extend learning in topics such as set theory; operations with rational and irrational expressions; factoring of rational expressions; linear equations and inequalities; quadratic equations; solving systems of linear and quadratic equations; graphing quadratic equations; properties of higher-degree equations and rational exponents.

SCIENCE

Biology 1/Lab

Credits: .5	
Prerequisites:	Grade: 9-12

This course introduces the students to and focuses heavily on the microscopic (small scale) aspect of biology and developing their skills in experimental design using the scientific method. The students will gain an understanding in the basics of chemistry, cellular structure and function, the flow of energy through studying photosynthesis and cellular respiration, and the importance of genetics in all biological fields.

Biology 2/Lab

Credits: .5	
Prerequisites:	Grade: 9-12

In this course, the students will study the macroscopic (large scale) components of biology. They will be introduced to the significance of heredity (how genes carry traits from parent to offspring and the impact those characteristics have on a species), the mechanisms of genetic change (mutations and how such changes lead to the diversity of biological organisms), and ecology, which will lead to an understanding and knowledge of humans' impact on the environment.

Physical Science 1/Lab

Credits: .5	Approved Physical Science Course
Prerequisites:	Grade: 9-12

Physical Science 1 will emphasize matter, energy, and their interactions. Topics will include: kinetic theory, heat transfer, waves, conservation laws, atomic structure and theory, the periodic table, chemical bonds, and reaction types. The emphasis will be on the close relationship between these areas and how they are important to the individual student and society. Critical thinking and lab skills will be an additional focus of this class.

Physical Science 2/Lab

Credits: .5	Approved Physical Science Course
Prerequisites:	Grade: 9-12

Physical Science 2 will emphasize forces, motion, energy, work, power, electricity, and magnetism. The emphasis will be on the close relationship between these areas and how they are important to the individual student and society. Critical thinking and lab skills will be an additional focus of this class.

Environmental Science 1

Credits: .5	
Prerequisites: Biology 1 & 2 are essential for success	Grade: 11,12

Do you love the great outdoors? Are you passionate about the environment? Environmental Science is a course that enables students to develop an understanding of the natural environment and the environmental problems the world faces. Students will participate in projects that will explore opportunity to manage, conserve, and preserve our natural resources. This term will establish foundational knowledge around environmental science, population dynamics and energy conservation.

Environmental Science 2

Credits: .5	
Prerequisites: Biology 1 & 2 and Environmental Science 1 are essential for success	Grade: 11,12

Do you love the great outdoors? Are you passionate about the environment? Environmental Science is a course that enables students to develop an understanding of the natural environment and the environmental problems the world faces. Students will participate in projects that will explore opportunity to manage, conserve, and preserve our natural resources. This term will center on human impact on the environment and explore various viewpoints and strategies around maintaining a healthy environment.

SCIENCE CONTINUED

Anatomy & Physiology 1/Lab

Credits: .5	
Prerequisites: Biology 1 and Biology 2 are essential for success	Grade: 11,12

This course takes a closer look at the biological structure of humans, including things such as organs, muscles, and bones. The first term includes anatomical terminology, the study of structure and function of tissues, and the integumentary, skeletal, and muscular systems. This course also involves a laboratory component, which includes anatomical studies using microscopy and dissection and the study of physiological concepts.

Anatomy & Physiology 2/Lab

Credits: .5	
Prerequisites: Anatomy & Physiology 1 is essential for success	Grade: 11,12

This course takes a closer look at the biological structure of humans, including things such as organs and blood. The second term includes an in-depth study of the nervous and cardiovascular systems. This course also involves a laboratory component, which includes anatomical studies using microscopy and dissection and the study of physiological concepts.

Chemistry A

Credits: .5	Approved Physical Science Course
Prerequisites: Completion of Algebra 1 is essential for success	Grade: 10,11,12

This course explores key foundational principles of chemistry through the development of critical thinking and problem solving. Through class discussion and guided experimentation Chemistry A explores such topics as atomic structure, chemical bonding, reactions, and the periodic table.

Chemistry B

Credits: .5	Approved Physical Science Course
Prerequisites: Completion of Algebra 1 is essential for success	Grade: 10,11,12

This course builds off of the fundamental concepts taught in Chemistry A. Students will engage in laboratory experiments to demonstrate concepts such as thermodynamics, reaction kinetics, equilibrium, and organic chemistry.

World Geography

Credits: .5	
Prerequisites:	Grade: 9

Students will study the physical, political, and cultural geography of the Eastern Hemisphere. They will analyze the cultures, histories, governments, religions, and current affairs of these regions. They will understand the interdependence of various countries and peoples through the use of the five themes of geography: location, place, movement, human-environment interaction, and regions.

World History

Credits: .5	
Prerequisites:	Grade: 9

Students will study history from the Renaissance onward. This course is designed to increase student awareness of various ideas, events, people, and outcomes in World History that have produced our modern world. Students will analyze how major events are chronologically connected and evaluate their impact on one another; analyze and evaluate the impact of people, events, ideas, and symbols upon history using multiple sources; and develop historical research skills.

U.S. History 1

Credits: .5	
Prerequisites:	Grade: 10,11,12

This course explores the history of the United States from the founding of the United States through Civil War and Reconstruction. Students will compare and contrast social, political, and economic forces that impacted America during this time period. Cause-and-effect understanding of historical moments is emphasized. Students will analyze primary and secondary documents that have shaped the founding of the United States.

U.S. History 2

Credits: .5	
Prerequisites:	Grade: 10,11,12

This course investigates history of the United States from post-Civil War movement westward through the Great Depression. Students will compare and contrast social, political, and economic forces that impacted the United States during this period. Cause-and-effect understanding of historical moments is emphasized. Students will analyze primary and secondary documents that have shaped America's modern era.

U.S. History 3

Credits: .5	
Prerequisites:	Grade: 10,11,12

This course examines history of the United States from World War II to the present. Students will compare and contrast social, political, and economic forces that impacted the United States during this period. Cause-and-effect understanding of historical moments is emphasized. Students will analyze primary and secondary documents that have shaped America's current era.

Psychology

Credits: .5	
Prerequisites:	Grade: 10,11,12

Psychology is the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. The course will emphasize the mind and its development, principles of learning, memory, sensation and perception, personality theories, emotion and stress, states of consciousness, motivation, and abnormal behavior.

Native American Heritage

Credits: **.5**	
Prerequisites:	Grade: **9-12**

This course introduces Lakota culture and its language. Students will also further explore other native cultures like; Pueblo, Northwest coast, Plateau and many more rich native cultures. Our emphasis will be the Lakota culture. Students will be able to identify products and practices to help you understand native cultural perspectives. Lakota will be presented through cultural experiences via music, videos, old recordings, and storytelling.

U.S. Government

Credits: **.5**	
Prerequisites:	Grade: **11,12**

Students will study the Constitution, fundamentals of democracy, and U.S. government. The course will examine interactions of government institutions and the ways in which government institutions affect individuals and participation in the political process. Students will study public policy and how it relates to current events. This class emphasizes the rights, duties, and responsibilities of American citizenship.

OTHER OFFERINGS

Advisory

Credits: **.25**	
Prerequisites:	Grade: **9-12**

Required every year of high school at RCAA. Advisory teaches students specific skills to improve their self-regulation, habits of success, self-efficacy, and college/career readiness.

Discovery

Credits: **1.5**	
Prerequisites:	Grade: **9-12**

Discovery is a dynamic and innovative course designed to empower students on their journey toward personal and academic fulfillment. Through a combination of experiential learning, self-reflection, and skill-building activities, students will uncover their passions, strengths, and goals. Discovery equips students with the tools and confidence they need to thrive in both their academic pursuits and future endeavors. *This is a required course for all students entering RCAA.*

GRADtime 9

Credits: **.25**	
Prerequisites:	Grade: **9**

GRADtime is intentional time throughout the school year when students will learn skills to be successful in high school and beyond. Students will learn about healthy relationships, set personal and academic goals, and explore career and college options. Students will also learn about graduation requirements and the different types of diplomas, which will guide their decision making when selecting classes. *This course is required for ninth graders and is pass/fail.*

GRADtime 10

Credits: **.25**	
Prerequisites:	Grade: **10**

GRADtime is an intentional time when students will learn skills to be successful in high school and beyond. Students will learn about helping him/herself and others, test-taking, and anxiety. Students will explore their interests, skills, work values, and career opportunities. Students will also learn about course planning, graduation requirements, types of diplomas, and earning college credit in high school. *This course is required for tenth graders and is pass/fail.*

GRADtime 11

Credits: **.25**	
Prerequisites:	Grade: **11**

GRADtime 11 is an intentional time throughout the school year when students will learn skills to be successful in high school and beyond. Students will learn about college and career assessments, test-taking skills, problem-solving and conflict resolution, growth mindset, and time management as well as explore career and college options. Students will also learn about graduation requirements and the different types of diplomas, which will guide their decision-making when selecting classes. *This course is required for eleventh graders and is pass/fail.*

GRADtime 12

Credits: **.25**	
Prerequisites:	Grade: **12**

GRADtime 12 is an intentional time throughout the school year when students will learn skills to be successful in high school and beyond. Students will learn about options for life after high school, how to take the needed steps for their post-high plan, and ways to fund their future. Students will also learn about problem solving and self-advocacy, goal setting, resiliency, and finding a life balance. Additionally, students will celebrate their post-high plan and review graduation events and protocols and complete a senior exit survey. *This course is required for twelfth graders and is pass/fail.*

OTHER OFFERINGS CONTINUED

Employability Experience

Credits: **.5**	Approved CTE Course
Prerequisites:	Grade: **10,11,12**

Students will explore skills and knowledge necessary to understand the factors that contribute to lifelong work success. Students will obtain and maintain employment during this course. In cooperation with the student, the workplace supervisor, and teacher, students will pursue personal growth goals. This course involves direct employment in a real job.

Journalistic Writing

Credits: **.5**	
Prerequisites:	Grade: **10,11,12**

Students learn to gather and write news, commentary, and feature stories for the school newspaper. Projects introduce students to multimedia publishing technologies.

Teacher Aide

Credits: **.5**	
Prerequisites:	Grade: **10,11,12**

Students work with individual teachers, helping to prepare classroom materials and assist other students. Excellent attendance is required. *Only one (1) credit of aide service can be applied toward graduation.*

CAPSTONE EXPERIENCES

Capstone allows students to experience work-based and career learning opportunities that are chosen based on student aptitude and interest. Experiences can range from career shadowing to more integrative work-based learning opportunities. Once the semester begins, students will work with their Capstone Coordinator to select the best Capstone Experience that aligns with a student's future goals (options listed below). Please note that experience can extend throughout and beyond a regular school day. This course can be taken more than once for credit. Only one (1) credit of Capstone can be applied toward graduation.

Youth Internship

Credits: **.5**	Approved CTE Course
Prerequisites:	Grade: **11,12**

Preparing for success after high school graduation is about developing skills that will help you succeed in college, career, and life. This course provides opportunities both in and out of the classroom to develop and apply career skills. In this course you will analyze personal aptitudes and abilities, apply career development skills, complete a youth internship/job shadow, and develop a postsecondary plan. Transportation will be the responsibility of the student.

Youth Apprenticeship

Credits: **.5**	Approved CTE Course
Prerequisites:	Grade: **11,12**

Students gain work experience with a registered sponsor. An apprenticeship is designed for students to acquire hands-on job skills both in the classroom and through a career site. Students earn high school credit as well as hours towards a registered apprenticeship. Students can continue their apprenticeship to earn a nationally recognized credential.

Entrepreneurship Experience

Credits: **.5**	Approved CTE Course
Prerequisites:	Grade: **11,12**

Students develop the skills needed to establish a business. Through hands-on projects, students gain skills to be successful in the workplace. Students study, research, and prepare a business plan that illustrates the practicality of their particular business. Both school and business mentors assist students in the process of developing a business plan.

Senior Experience

Credits: **.5**	Approved CTE Course
Prerequisites:	Grade: **11,12**

Students demonstrate what they know and what they can do, based on a personal proposal. Students will be expected to conceive a plan of action that incorporates the following four elements: a product, research component, portfolio, and presentation. Taking students out of their comfort zones, preparing them for life beyond high school.

Service Learning

Credits: **.5**	Approved CTE Course
Prerequisites:	Grade: **11,12**

Students will explore community needs, identify their personal strengths and talents, and implement a service project that mutually benefits the student and community. This course will be more than community service or volunteerism. Students will work directly with the Youth Engagement Coordinator who will provide connections to resources and support students in the development, implementation, and reflection of their service plan. Transportation will be the responsibility of the student.

REGISTRATION & COURSE SELECTION POLICIES & PROCEDURES

REGISTRATION

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian and student to select courses that align with scholarships, NCAA, NAIA, and/or other college admissions requirements.

Course Registration

Course registration for the following school year will be held by Rapid City Alternative Academy during the spring terms. Students are asked to select the courses they will take during the next school year. Course availability is based on student course requests and staffing.

Students must give careful consideration to their course planning and should consult with counselors, parents, and/or teachers. Parent/guardian involvement is recommended prior to the student finalizing course registration.

Personal Transfers/Open Enrollment

Personal Transfer requests allow residents of the Rapid City Area School District to transfer their student to another school within the district as described in Policy JECC and Procedure JECC-P. Applications must be filed with the Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services at the times designated within Procedure. Applications will be reviewed in the order received and approval is subject to program and/or space availability.

Supplementary Materials Objection Form

The Rapid City Area School District encourages students to read, view, and listen to a variety of supplementary materials. All supplementary materials have been reviewed and approved by practicing teachers who consider the materials to be valuable and pertinent to the themes and ideas addressed within the content of the class. Because some materials contain content of a sensitive nature, a parent may request that an alternative assignment/selection be offered to the student.

For a copy of the Supplementary Materials Objection Form, please see Appendix A.

COURSE SELECTION PROCEDURES

Adding a Class

Courses may be added on a space available basis during the first five (5) class meet times of a new term. Students are responsible for making up any schoolwork missed by the late addition of a class to their schedule.

Course Cancellations

Course offerings not having sufficient enrollment after registration will be discontinued for the next school year.

Course Load

All students must have a full schedule each term (four courses plus Advisory and GRADtime), unless they are in their last term before graduation.

All seniors must enroll in at least 5 classes for their fall terms. Those 5 classes may include dual enrollment, capstone, employability experience credits, etc. During the spring terms of their senior year, students may enroll in any number of credits/classes they choose as long as they meet eligibility and graduation requirements set forth by Rapid City Area Schools.

Course Retake

Students are allowed to take a course over. Both grades will remain on the transcript. However, only the highest grade will be calculated into the cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA).

Course Retake grade entry is the responsibility of the student. This process is not done automatically.

Students wishing to replace a failed or unsatisfactory grade that is figured into the GPA must retake the same course. Upon successful completion of the repeated course, students must submit a Grade Replacement Form to the records secretary. The records secretary will then adjust the weight of the failed or unsatisfactory grade so that it will not be reflected in the computation of the cumulative GPA.

VIRTUAL HIGH SCHOOL

Course Load/Schedule

All Virtual High School students are required to be enrolled in a minimum of four (4) courses per quarter. Students in grade 12 must enroll in courses needed to graduate and additional electives are recommended for college and career readiness goals. Period times do not apply to VHS, therefore each schedule will look different based on student needs.

Course Offerings

Virtual High School courses are offered through an online learning management system. Courses are aligned as closely as possible with those listed for Rapid City Alternative Academy. Not all courses are available virtually. VHS students will focus on credit attainment towards graduation utilizing the courses available.

VHS Course Offerings: *(List may not be current. Students should schedule a meeting with the Registrar or their Advisor.)*

- Algebra I Semester 1
- Algebra I Semester 2
- Algebra II Semester 1
- Algebra II Semester 2
- Animal Science I
- Art History
- Biology Semester 1
- Biology Semester 2
- Bridge Math Semester 1
- Bridge Math Semester 2
- Career Explorations Semester 1
- Career Explorations Semester 2
- Computer Applications Office 2019
- Economics
- Employability
- English 10 Semester 1
- English 10 Semester 2
- English 11 Semester 1
- English 11 Semester 2
- English 12 Semester 1
- English 12 Semester 2
- English 9 Semester 1
- English 9 Semester 2
- Environmental Science Semester 1
- Environmental Science Semester 2
- Fiction/Nonfiction
- Financial Algebra Semester 1
- Financial Algebra Semester 2
- Geometry Semester 1
- Geometry Semester 2
- Introduction to Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources I
- Introduction to Art
- Introduction to Health Science I
- PE Healthy Living Semester 1
- PE Healthy Living Semester 2
- PE Lifetime Fitness Semester 1
- PE Lifetime Fitness Semester 2
- Personal Finance
- Physical Science Semester 1
- Physical Science Semester 2
- Technical Writing
- U.S. Government
- U.S. History I
- U.S. History II
- U.S. History III
- World Geography
- World History

Policies/Procedures

Virtual High School students are required to follow all Rapid City Area Schools and Rapid City Alternative Academy Policies and Procedures.

Dropping a Class After Registration

Since staffing is based on students' course selections, dropping a class after registration will only be done to accommodate extenuating circumstances. Students who are dropped administratively from a course will receive a Withdraw Fail (WF), which is recorded on transcripts for the entire course, and it will figure into their GPA as a zero. Students who elect to not attend a course and are subsequently dropped will not receive credit and will receive a WF, which will figure into their GPA.

Dual Enrollment Policies

Any student wishing to participate in dual enrollment must follow the appropriate school and postsecondary institution admissions and enrollment procedures.

Student understands that there is a possibility that their future college or university may not accept their dual enrollment course credits. It is the student's responsibility to check with any postsecondary institution they are considering attending after high school to inquire about transfer of credit.

Student understands that dual enrollment grades will be entered onto their high school transcript and will be utilized in calculating GPA, class rank, and factored into eligibility requirements for athletics and activities.

Student understands that they are fully responsible for completing the requirements of all dual enrollment courses. This would include attending dual enrollment classes even when the home high school classes are not in session.

Student understands that there is a possibility that their eligibility to obtain Student Federal Financial Aid in the future may be impacted by their participation in dual enrollment coursework.

Course Selection Procedure Note: Student schedules will be changed only to balance class sizes, to allow students to repeat a failed course, and/or to allow students to meet graduation, college, and scholarship requirements. Special circumstances will be handled at the discretion of the building principal.

Course Selection Procedure Note: Unless otherwise specified, courses may be taken only once for credit.

COURSE SELECTION POLICIES

Accelerated Learner Services

District acceleration practices ensure that students have their academic needs addressed. Per District Code IGBB, RCAS provides acceleration for students who have demonstrated high performance in core academic areas, have unique academic cognitive and social needs, and demonstrate adequate prior knowledge of academic content within current grade-level.

Earning College Credit in High School

The Rapid City Area School District believes that high school students need to be continually challenged in order to maintain their academic interests. There are a number of different options for earning college credit while in high school and students should select the option that supports their college plans and/or career interests. District Code IGCF outlines the implementation of the district's Advanced Placement program and Dual and Concurrent Enrollment credit partnerships with South Dakota Board of Regents and the Technical College institutions. Advanced Placement and Dual Credit courses will be weighted on a 5.0 scale per District Code IKA-P.

Grading System

Per District Code IKA-P, students will earn letter grades according to the following scale:

Percentage	Grade Earned	Percentage	Grade Earned
90 – 100	A	60 – 69	D
80 – 89	B	Below 60	F
70 – 79	C		

Scholastic Class Rank

Class rank will be based on the final grades in all subjects after the 1st term of a student's senior year. Students who have maintained the following Grade Point Averages (GPA) will be recognized as:
Summa Cum Laude - GPA 3.8 | **Magna Cum Laude** - GPA 3.5 | **Cum Laude** - GPA 3.2

Graduation Requirements

Credit Equivalents

Per District Code IKF, one (1) unit of high school credit is defined as the amount of credit earned in a year-long class. One-half (.5) unit of high school credit is the amount of credit earned in a term class. To learn more about credit equivalents, please reference District Code IKF.

For Dual Credit, One-half (.5) to three (3) credit hours of college credit earned is equal to one-half (.5) high school credit; four (4) or more credit hours of college credit earned is equal to one (1) high school credit. To learn more about dual credit equivalents, please reference District Code IKF-P.

Reading Requirement

Students in grades 9 through 12 who have not met the district's reading requirement must continue to enroll in reading support until the 9.0 grade level reading equivalency is met, unless the IEP Team has determined this course is not required. Students must demonstrate the ninth-grade level of reading proficiency on a district adopted standardized test in order to graduate. Students on an Active IEP may be allowed to graduate without this course as determined by the IEP Team. To learn more about this reading requirement, please reference District Code IKF.

Early Graduation

Early graduation allows a student to graduate from high school in three-and-a-half years or less. This is accomplished by increasing the amount of coursework undertaken each year of high school. The diploma will be awarded at the conclusion of the school year.

Student Classification

Students are classified according to number of credits earned, not number of years in high school.

Sophomore - minimum of 5 credits and is enrolled in his/her second year of high school, whose high school class is within three years of graduating
Junior - minimum of 11 credits and is enrolled in his/her third year of high school, whose high school class is within two years of graduating
Senior - minimum of 16 credits and is enrolled in his/her fourth year of high school, whose high school class is within one year of graduating

Online/Distance Learning

In receiving high school credit for online or distance learning courses, RCAS has established District Code IGCB. This allows a student enrolled in an approved distance learning course or an online course through the South Dakota Virtual School to receive high school credit for the course completed, provided the course meets the identified parameters.

Annual Public Notice of Non-Discrimination in Career & Technical Education

Rapid City Area School District does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in admission its programs, services, or activities, in access to them, in treatment of individuals, or in any aspect of their operations. Rapid City Area School District Career and Technical Education (CTE) department does not discriminate in enrollment or access to any of the programs available.

Notice of Non-Discrimination

The Rapid City Area School District 51-4 does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age, in its programs and activities. This Notice of Non-Discrimination is provided pursuant to federal laws and regulations, including those implementing Title VI, Title VIII, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act.

This Notice is provided to inform all faculty, staff, students, parents, and guests that Rapid City Area School District is committed to the principle of equal opportunity and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or status as a disabled or Vietnam-era veteran in its programs, activities, or conditions of employment.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin in any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. Programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance from the United States Department of Education are covered by Title VI. The Office for Civil Rights of the United States Department of Education is the agency charged with enforcing Title VI.

Age Discrimination Act of 1975 protects people from discrimination based on age in programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance. The United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission is the agency charged with enforcing the Age Discrimination Act of 1975.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination based on sex in education programs or activities and extends to employment and admission to institutions that receive federal financial assistance. The Office for Civil Rights of the United States Department of Education is the agency charged with enforcing Title IX.

Website Accessibility

We continually strive towards compliance with RCAS Non-Discrimination Policies, Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), as well as Section 508 policy regarding web accessibility. RCAS is committed to providing accessibility to all users, and we will continue to make improvements to our website to ensure that it meets the requirements of these laws and standards. If assistance is needed in accessing material on any of the RCAS websites, please contact our Service Desk at (605)394-6629.

Questions, complaints, or requests for additional information regarding the laws may be forwarded to the designated compliance coordinator: Director of Human Resources located at the Rapid City Education Center, or phone (605)394-4014.

The District's anti-discrimination, anti-harassment, and anti-retaliation policies and grievance procedures may be accessed electronically via District Code AC or in hard-copy format at the District's Human Resources Office.

For further information about anti-discrimination laws and regulations, or to file a complaint of discrimination with the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) in the U.S. Department of Education, please contact OCR at Lyndon Baines Johnson Department of Education Bldg.,400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-1100, Telephone 800-421-3481 (voice), or 800-877-8339 (telecommunication device for the deaf, or TDD), or 202-453-6012 (fax), or OCR@ed.gov (email).

GLOSSARY

ACCUPLACER: The purpose of the ACCUPLACER test is to provide you with useful information about your academic skills in math, English, and reading. The results of the assessment, in conjunction with your academic background, goals, and interests, are used by academic advisors to determine our course selection.

Advanced Placement (AP): College-level courses in high school with exams given in each course area that, if passed, will give students college credit. It is at the discretion of the postsecondary institution as to whether or not they accept this credit. All students are eligible to take AP courses.

American College Test (ACT): The ACT is a national college admissions examination that measures scholastic development and consists of subject area tests in English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science. Many colleges and universities require a student's ACT scores as part of the college admissions process.

Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB): The ASVAB is a timed multi-aptitude test that measures developed abilities and helps predicts future academic and occupational success in the military.

Associate Degree: A two-year degree that prepares you for a specific career or for further education.

Bachelor's Degree: A four or five-year program that provide in-depth, specialized knowledge in a major or field of study.

Capstone: Capstone experiences will allow students the opportunity to consolidate and apply the learning from their high school coursework into a meaningful and relevant career-connected experience. This student-driven experience is based on the student's chosen pathway and is designed to help guide the student's college, career, and life readiness plan.

Career & Technical Education (CTE): CTE provides students of all ages with the academic and technical skills, knowledge, and training necessary to succeed in future careers and to become lifelong learners.

Certificate: Generally, a one-year program that leads directly to entry-level employment in a specific occupation.

College: The term "college" means any educational training opportunity beyond high school. This may include credentials, certificates, military service, and/or college – whether that is a one-year, two-year, and/or four-year degree program.

College, Career, & Life Readiness: College, Career, & Life Readiness means the academic knowledge, skills, and attributes needed for a student to make a successful transition to careers and further education. It includes a progression of knowledge and skills necessary to be prepared for the full range of postsecondary opportunities.

College, Career, & Life Readiness Plan: A plan that leads graduates to a successful transition beyond high school including postsecondary education and training, careers, and life responsibilities.

Community College: A two-year college that serves the residents of a local or regional area.

Concurrent Enrollment: A program that provides high school students with the opportunity to take college-credit bearing courses taught by college-approved high school teachers, generally on the high school campus.

Doctorate Degree (PhD): Provides further training in a more specialized area, in occupations similar to master's or professional degrees.

Double Dipping: Attempting to apply one course to two graduation requirements.

Dual Enrollment: An enrollment plan that allows a student to earn credit in both a high school and a college course at the same time.

FAFSA4caster: The FAFSA4caster gives students a free estimate of their eligibility for federal student aid. This information helps families plan ahead for college.

FERPA: The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal privacy law that gives parents certain protections with regard to their student's education records, such as report cards, transcripts, disciplinary records, contact and family information, and class schedules. Parents have the right to review their student's education records and to request changes under limited circumstances. To protect a student's privacy, the law generally requires schools to ask for written consent before disclosing their personally identifiable information to individuals other than the student. When a student turns 18 years old or enters a postsecondary institution at any age, all rights afforded to the parents under FERPA transfer to the student ("eligible student"). However, FERPA provides ways in which a school may – but is not required to – share information from an eligible student's education records with parents, without the student's consent.

Financial Aid: Money awarded to students to help them pay for postsecondary education. Aid is given as loans, grants, scholarships, or work-study. Some forms of financial aid are required to be repaid after graduation.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA): A free financial aid application form used to determine eligibility for federal financial aid money for college.

Grade Point Average (GPA): The average obtained by dividing the total number of grade points earned by the total number of credits attempted.

GRADtime: A regularly scheduled opportunity for students to engage in advisory content in all four years of high school. GRADtime will provide academic, social-emotional, and college, career, and life readiness skills needed to fulfill the RCAS Profile of a Graduate.

Industry Recognized Credentials: Industry recognized credentials area a way for students to demonstrate mastery of knowledge and skills. With credentials, students can increase job prospects and options for postsecondary education as well as increase their marketability to employers.

Master's Degree: An academic degree awarded by a university to students who complete a bachelor's degree and continue to study a specific academic area. Master's degrees usually required two or more years beyond a bachelor's degree.

PreACT: The PreACT simulates the ACT testing experience within a shorter test window on all four ACT test subjects.

PSAT/NMSQT: An assessment developed by The College Board to determine college readiness for students in grades 9-11. Students are assessed in the areas of critical reading, mathematics, and written expression in preparation for the SAT 1: Reasoning Test. Students who obtain a qualifying score will be invited to apply for the National Merit Scholarship program.

RCAS Profile of a Graduate: The RCAS Profile of a Graduate embraces the academic knowledge, skills, and attributes needed for a student to make a successful transition to college, career, and life responsibilities.

Resume: A brief written account of personal, educational, and professional qualifications and experience.

SAT: The SAT is a standardized test widely used in college admissions developed by the College Board. The test is intended to assess a student's readiness for college in Mathematics and critical Reading and Writing.

Scholarship: A form of financial aid that does not have to be repaid or earned through employment. Scholarship usually refers to an award based on academic merit; however, scholarships are also awarded for performing community service, leadership, talent, etc. In some instances, financial need may also be required.

SDMyLife: SDMyLife is an online program assisting students with navigating the career development process. Students can take interest and ability assessments, explore careers, research postsecondary education and training options, study with Method Test Prep, and find out about scholarship opportunities.

Technical College: A college that specializes in teaching techniques and technical skills required for high skilled jobs.

Transcript: An official copy of a student's educational record.

University: A university is made up of an undergraduate division which confers bachelor's degrees and a graduate division which comprises a graduate school and professional schools each of which may confer master's degrees and doctorates.

Work-Based Learning: Work-based learning connects students with industry to engage in real-world experiences that bridge academic, technical, and employability skill development to help students become college, career, and life ready.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS OBJECTION FORM

The Rapid City Area School District encourages students to read, view, and listen to a variety of supplementary materials. All supplementary materials have been reviewed and approved by practicing teachers who consider the materials to be valuable and pertinent to the themes and ideas addressed within the content of the class. Because some materials contain content of a sensitive nature, a parent may request that an alternative assignment/selection be offered to the student.

Questions regarding the approved supplementary materials used should be directed to the individual classroom teacher and/or building principal. This form must be signed and dated by the parent/guardian and returned to the teacher if the parent is requesting an alternative assignment for the student.

I **do not** wish (student name)_____ to participate in the use of or viewing of (title)_____ in (teacher)_____'s class.

Signature of Parent/Guardian:_____ Date:_____

I understand that my student is responsible for completing an alternative assignment.