2026-2027 FRESHMAN ACADEMY COURSE GUIDEBOOK

RAPID CITY AREA SCHOOLS
PATHWAYS
CHOOSE YOUR PATH

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.

Central High School
433 Mt. Rushmore Road North
605-394-4063

Stevens High School
4215 Raider Road
605-394-4025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Graduation Requirements 4
Graduation Requirements - Advanced Endorsements 5
4 Year Course Planner 6
College – A New Definition 7
Profile of a Graduate 8-9
College, Career, & Life Readiness Plan 10
College & Career Preparation & Assessments 11-12
South Dakota College & University Admissions 13
NCAA-Approved Core Courses 14
Paying for College 15
RCAS Pathways 16
Freshman Academy 17
Required Course Descriptions 18-19
Freshman Academy Elective Course Descriptions
- *Fine Arts* 20-21
- *Health & Physical Education* 22
- *Other Offerings* 23-24

Registration & Course Selection Policies & Procedures 25-28
Glossary 29
Appendix A 30

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 Elective	1 credit

Science (3 credits total)

Biology	1 credit
Physical Science or Chemistry	1 credit
Science Elective	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)

RCAS Pathways Credits (3.5 credits total)

Freshman Seminar	.5 credit
Pathyway Credits	2 credits
GRADtime	1 credit

Electives (2.5 credits)

TOTAL 22 CREDITS REQUIRED

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS - ADVANCED ENDORSEMENTS

In addition to the base requirements for RCAS Base High School Diploma, students may earn advanced endorsements that are in alignment with the student's personal learning plan. Advanced endorsements outline specific coursework within the base diploma requirements to denote specific emphases. Student may earn one or more of three advanced endorsements: Advanced Endorsement, Advanced Career Endorsement and Advanced Honors Endorsement. Rapid City Area Schools acknowledges all advanced endorsements and will include these endorsements on transcripts. **The requirements beyond the RCAS base high school diploma requirements are in green text in each advanced endorsement section below.**

ADVANCED ENDORSEMENT REQUIREMENTS - Indicates a student has pursued coursework consistent with entrance requirements for postsecondary education at a university.		
4 CREDITS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS must include: • **English 9** (.5 credit Writing & .5 credit Literature): 1 credit • **English 11** (.5 credit Writing & .5 credit American Literature): 1 credit	• **English 10** (.5 credit Speech & .5 credit Literature): 1 credit • **Language Arts Elective:** 1 credit	**1 CREDIT OF FINE ARTS**
3 CREDITS OF MATHEMATICS must include: • **Geometry:** 1 credit	• **Algebra 1:** 1 credit • **Algebra 2:** 1 credit	**.5 CREDIT OF PERSONAL FINANCE or BUSINESS ECONOMICS**
3 CREDITS OF SCIENCE must include: • **A Physical Science Course:** 1 credit	• **Biology:** 1 credit • **Lab Science Elective:** 1 credit	**1 CREDIT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH**
3 CREDITS OF SOCIAL STUDIES must include: • **U.S. History:** 1.5 credits • **World Geography:** .5 credit	• **U.S. Government:** .5 credit • **World History:** .5 credit	**.5 CREDIT OF COMPUTER APPLICATIONS**
3.5 RCAS ACADEMIES CREDITS		**2.5 CREDITS OF ELECTIVES**

ADVANCED CAREER ENDORSEMENT REQUIREMENTS - Indicates a student has career experience in a concentrated area, based on academic and/or workplace experience and a related credential.		
4 CREDITS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS must include: • **English 9** (.5 credit Writing & .5 credit Literature): 1 credit • **English 11** (.5 credit Writing & .5 credit American Literature): 1 credit	• **English 10** (.5 credit Speech & .5 credit Literature): 1 credit • **Language Arts Elective:** 1 credit	**1 CREDIT OF FINE ARTS**
3 CREDITS OF MATHEMATICS must include: • **Geometry:** 1 credit	• **Algebra 1:** 1 credit • **Math Elective:** 1 credit	**.5 CREDIT OF PERSONAL FINANCE or BUSINESS ECONOMICS**
3 CREDITS OF SCIENCE must include: • **A Physical Science Course:** 1 credit	• **Biology:** 1 credit • **Science Elective:** 1 credit	**1 CREDIT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH**
3 CREDITS OF SOCIAL STUDIES must include: • **U.S. History:** 1.5 credits • **World Geography:** .5 credit	• **U.S. Government:** .5 credit • **World History:** .5 credit	**.5 CREDIT OF COMPUTER APPLICATIONS**
3.5 RCAS ACADEMIES CREDITS from the same career cluster or Capstone Experience AND attainment of an industry-recognized credential		**2.5 CREDITS OF ELECTIVES**

ADVANCED HONORS ENDORSEMENT REQUIREMENTS - Indicates a student has pursued advanced rigorous, academic coursework consistent with §13-55-31 (High school course requirements for opportunity scholarship eligibility: sdos.sdbor.edu). All coursework completed with a "C" or higher.		
4 CREDITS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS must include: • **English 9** (.5 credit Writing & .5 credit Literature): 1 credit • **English 11** (.5 credit Writing & .5 credit American Literature): 1 credit	• **English 10** (.5 credit Speech & .5 credit Literature): 1 credit • **Language Arts Elective:** (must include .5 credit of Writing): 1 credit	**1 CREDIT OF FINE ARTS**
4 CREDITS OF MATHEMATICS must include: • **Geometry:** 1 credit • **Advanced Mathematics:** 1 credit (details at sdos.sdbor.edu)	• **Algebra 1:** 1 credit • **Algebra 2: 1** credit	**.5 CREDIT OF PERSONAL FINANCE or BUSINESS ECONOMICS**
4 CREDITS OF SCIENCE must include: • **Chemistry:** 1 credit • **Science Elective:** 1 credit	• **Biology:** 1 credit • **Physics or any Physical Science:** 1 credit	**1 CREDIT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH**
3 CREDITS OF SOCIAL STUDIES must include: • **U.S. History:** 1.5 credits • **World Geography:** .5 credit	• **U.S. Government:** .5 credit • **World History:** .5 credit	**.5 CREDIT OF COMPUTER APPLICATIONS**
3.5 RCAS ACADEMIES CREDITS		**2.5 CREDITS OF ELECTIVES**

4 YEAR COURSE PLANNER

Required Areas	Graduation Requirements*	9th Grade	10th Grade *minimum of 5 credits earned*	11th Grade *minimum of 11 credits earned*	12th Grade *minimum of 16 credits earned*
ENGLISH	**4.0 credits** English 9 (.5 credit Writing & .5 credit Literature): 1.0 credit English 10 (.5 credit Speech & .5 credit Literature): 1.0 credit English 11 (.5 credit Writing & .5 credit American Literature): 1.0 credit Language Arts Electives 1.0 credit	English 9 or Advanced English 9	English 10 or Advanced English 10	English 11 or AP English Language and Composition	English 12, AP, or Dual Credit
MATH	**3.0 credits** Algebra 1: 1.0 credit Geometry: 1.0 credit Math Electives: 1.0 credit	Pre-Algebra or Algebra 1	Algebra 1 or Geometry	Geometry, Math Elective, AP, or Dual Credit	Math Elective, AP, or Dual Credit
SCIENCE	**3.0 credits** Biology: 1.0 credit A Physical Science: 1.0 credit Science Electives: 1.0 credit	Biology 1 & 2	Any Physical Science	Science Elective, AP, or Dual Credit	Science Elective, AP, or Dual Credit
SOCIAL STUDIES	**3.0 credits** World Geography: .5 credit World History: .5 credit U.S. History 1,2, and 3: 1.5 credits U.S. Government: .5 credit	World History and World Geography	U.S. History 1 & 2, or AP US History	U.S. History 3, U.S. Government, AP, or Dual Credit	U.S. History 3, U.S. Government, AP, or Dual Credit
FINE ARTS	**1.0 credit**				
TECHNOLOGY	**0.5 credit** Computer Applications	Computer Applications (.5)			
PE/HEALTH	**1.0 credit**				
BUSINESS ECONOMICS or PERSONAL FINANCE	**0.5 credit**				
RCAS PATHWAY CREDITS	**3.5 credits**	GRADtime 9 (.25)	GRADtime 10 (.25)	GRADtime 11 (.25)	GRADtime 12 (.25)
		Pathway Explore Course Freshman Seminar (.5)	Pathway Engage Course (1.0)	Pathway Experience Course (1.0)	Optional Pathway Experience Course, AP, or Dual Credit
ELECTIVES	**2.5 credits**				
Total	**22.0 credits**				

**Graduation Requirements for the Rapid City Area School District Base Diploma are contingent on the successful completion of a minimum of twenty-two (22) units of credit per RCAS District Policy IKF.*

Coursework listed in green are suggestions for students to complete during the specified grade level. Students on an accelerated path or students seeking additional academic support may select alternative coursework to complete this plan.

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

PROFILE OF A GRADUATE CONTINUED

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.

_____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____

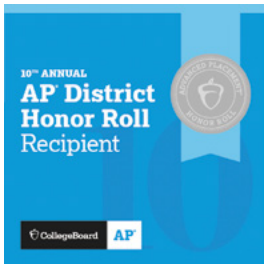
COLLEGE & CAREER PREPARATION AND ASSESSMENTS

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 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:

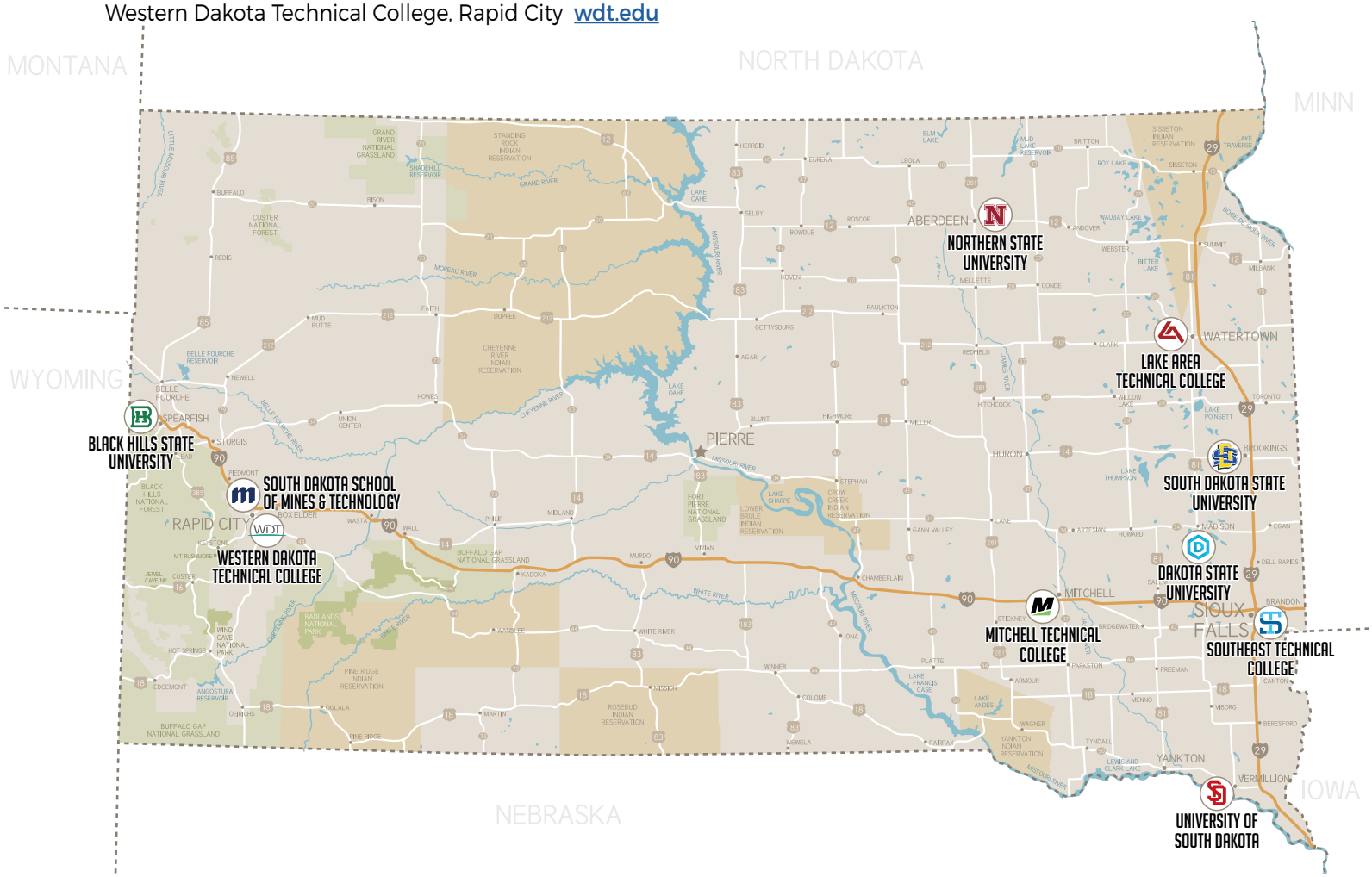
Black Hills State University, Spearfish bhsu.edu
Dakota State University, Madison dsu.edu
Northern State University, Aberdeen northern.edu
South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, Rapid City sdsmt.edu
South Dakota State University, Brookings sdstate.edu
University of South Dakota, Vermillion usd.edu

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



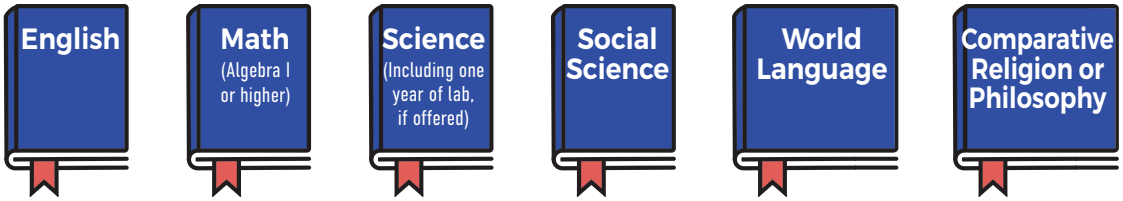
NCAA-APPROVED CORE COURSES

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!

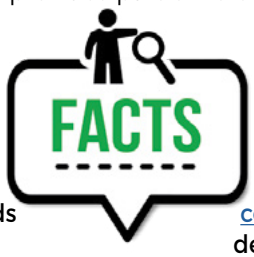
Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) **studentaid.gov**
The FAFSA form is a free application used to apply for federal student aid, such as federal grants, loans, and work-study.

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.

RCAS PATHWAYS

The Rapid City Pathways Approach brings intentional career-connected learning into Rapid City Area Schools, as well as builds strong connections to employers, institutions of higher education, and community-based organizations.

The purpose of the Rapid City Pathways Approach is to equip RCAS students with the knowledge and skills they need to explore career options throughout each level of school and participate in a career pathway in high school. This approach will help students develop a plan that leads graduates to a successful transition beyond high school including postsecondary education and training, careers, and life responsibilities.

RCAS Pathways are being designed with three potential outcomes:
- an industry-recognized certification while in high school or after a short-term training program;
- an associate degree at a two-year or technical college; and
- a bachelor's degree at a four-year college or university.

Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources Pathway

Business, Entrepreneurship, & Hospitality Pathway

Construction Pathway

Engineering Pathway

Healthcare Pathway

Human Services Pathway

Information Technology Pathway

Performing Arts Pathway

Visual Arts & Design Pathway

Rapid City Area Schools Pathways are proudly supported by ELEVATE RAPID CITY, Scull Construction Service Inc., RAMA, Monument Health

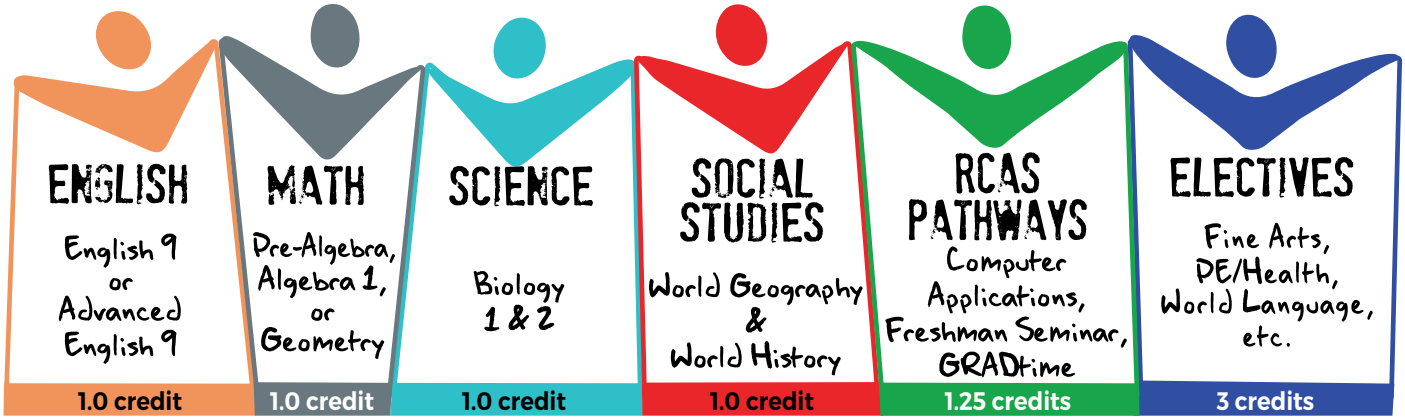
WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF AN PATHWAY SYSTEM?

The pathway system is designed to support the development of college, career, and life readiness skills so that you can successfully enter and advance in a career path.

Students	Families	Employers	Community
More engagement through relevant project-based learning	Student career exploration and exposure	Access to more well-prepared workers	More skilled workers with careers vs. underemployed and unemployed
Better prepared for college, career, and life	Knowledge and preparation for postsecondary planning	Mentor students by building positive relationships	Stronger families and neighborhoods through school-community collaboration
Confidence from real-world experiences	Smarter financial investments regarding postsecondary attainment	Making a difference in the community through education and business partnerships	Workforce development partnerships

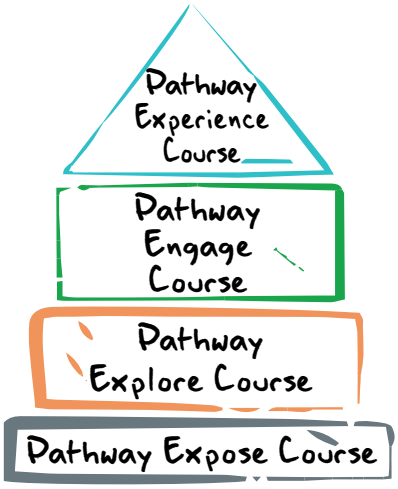
FRESHMAN ACADEMY

The Freshman Academy is a small learning community with a network of teachers focused on helping you make a successful high school transition and future academy and pathway selection. This Academy will provide coursework in core content areas, elective opportunities, and career and academy exploration through the Freshman Seminar course. Within the Freshman Academy, you can earn up to eight (8) credits.



WHAT IS A PATHWAY?

A pathway is a chosen course of study (high school graduation requirements are embedded) offered in our two comprehensive high schools. Students will select their pathway during course selection.



Within an RCAS Pathway:

- You took an **Expose Course**: Career Exploration as an 8th grader
- You will take an **Explore Course** in 9th grade;
- An **Engage Course** in 10th grade;
- An **Experience Course** in 11th or 12th grade: and
- Electives, including Fine Arts, World Language, Physical Education, and Special Offering courses.

WHAT IS GRADtime?

GRADtime
Graduation · Readiness · Advising · Direction

Within the Freshman Academy, you will participate in an advisory course called **GRADtime**. **GRADtime** is an intentional time for you to develop a College, Career, and Life Ready plan beyond high school. Teachers will facilitate **GRADtime** eight times per year which will offer you the opportunity to receive Graduation, Readiness, Advising, and Direction in a classroom setting through an online learning platform. This advisory course will allow you to have intentional time to explore college and career options, reflect on your own educational journey, learn about healthy relationships, and obtain the skills needed to fulfill the RCAS Profile of a Graduate.

FRESHMAN ACADEMY REQUIRED COURSES

Advanced English 9 - A&B

Credits: **1**	
Prerequisites:	Grade: **9**

This course includes all ninth grade English standards with a rigorous focus on a faster pace, depth of content and increased workload. This course is aligned to prepare students for Advanced English 10. This course is recommended for students who display a strong work ethic, who have a desire to engage in learning, and who self-advocate. Advanced English 9 will fulfill the ninth grade English requirement.

English 9 - A&B

Credits: **1**	
Prerequisites:	Grade: **9**

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

Biology 1/Lab

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

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**

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.

Computer Applications

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

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, memos, and professional business communications.

Freshman Seminar

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

Freshman Seminar is an introduction to high school and the Rapid City Pathways Approach. This Pathway Explore course focuses cultivating successful school habits, healthy behaviors, introduces workplace norms, and gives students an overview of their RCAS Pathway choices. *This course is taken as a Pass/Fail course.*

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.*

Criteria for Pre-Algebra or Algebra 1 Placement

Recommendation for Pre-Algebra or Algebra 1 placement for students transitioning to High School: A face-to-face meeting with an appropriate High School staff member and the 8th Grade Middle School math teachers is a key component to identifying students' needs and proper placement into the high school math class. The meeting should verify students' placement and alert the high school of any concerns or improper placements prior to the start of the academic school year.

Criteria for Geometry Placement

Successful completion of Algebra 1 as an 8th grade student.

Pre-Algebra - A&B

Credits: **1**	
Prerequisites:	Grade: **9**

Pre-Algebra increase students' foundational mathematics skills and prepare them for Algebra I by covering a variety of topics, such as properties of rational numbers (i.e., number theory), ratio, proportion, estimation, exponents and radicals, the rectangular coordinate system, sets and logic, formulas, and solving first-degree equations and inequalities.

Algebra 1 - A&B

Credits: **1**	
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: **1**	
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.

World Geography

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

Students will study the physical, political, and cultural geography of the world. They will analyze the cultures, histories, governments, religions, and current affairs of each continent. They will understand the interdependence of various countries and peoples through the application of the six elements of geography: spacial terms, place and region, physical systems, human systems, society and environment, and the use of geography.

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.

FRESHMAN ACADEMY ELECTIVES - FINE ARTS

Art 9 (2D)

Credits: .5	
Prerequisites:	Grade: 9

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

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.

Band 1 - A&B

Credits: 1	
Prerequisites: Previous study of a wind or percussion instrument is essential for success	Grade: 9

Students will focus on creating and performing music. They will develop critical listening skills in responding to music and work toward connecting music for historical and cultural relevance. They will continue developing their technique and musicality with opportunities like Solo & Ensemble Contest, Large Group Contest, All State Ensembles, and Honor Band. In band they will learn leadership, collaboration, and independent working skills.

Orchestra 1- A&B

Credits: 1	
Prerequisites: Previous instrumental experience is essential for success	Grade: 9

Students will build upon previously learned skills and will learn new techniques which will enable the student to progress with ease to the next level. Students will advance their technique by performing more advanced string literature in concerts, preparing and performing in a small ensemble or solo, and developing critical listening skills. Students are eligible to participate in All-State Orchestra.

Chamber Orchestra 1-2-3-4 - A&B

Credits: 1	
Prerequisites: Audition required; Enrollment in Orchestra 1-2-3-4 is strongly recommended	Grade: 9-12

Chamber Orchestra gives the student an opportunity to study advanced small group ensemble music and orchestral literature. Students will continue the advanced development of instrumental technique, music reading and comprehension skills, independent musicianship, style, critical thinking skills, a deeper understanding of small group ensemble music, and orchestral literature. Students will perform both in small group ensemble projects and as a large group. *This course may be taken more than once for credit.*

Jazz Band 1 - A&B

Credits: 1	
Prerequisites: Enrollment in Band 1 is essential for success	Grade: 9

Students in Jazz Band will explore the uniquely American music and it's influences in the world. They will perform and explore multiple jazz styles/songs, create improvisation solos, learn about the great musicians, and the historical context of jazz music. Through jazz analysis they will begin to explore modes, scales, harmony, form, and the organizational theory behind music. Students will fine tune their leadership skills and perform independently and collaboratively.

Bass Choir 1-2-3-4 - A&B (Hosted at Central) & Raider Choir 1-2-3-4 - A&B (Hosted at Stevens)

Credits: **1**	
Prerequisites: Previous music ensemble experience is essential for success	Grade: **9-12**

This course is for tenor, baritone bass, and/or changing voices. Students will create and perform music from different genres, cultures, and languages. Music reading skills will be developed and connections to music history will be strengthened. Through choir students will gain skills in leadership, collaboration, creative thinking, and problem solving. *This course may be taken more than once for credit.*

Treble Choir 1 - A&B

Credits: **1**	
Prerequisites: Previous music ensemble experience is essential for success	Grade: **9**

This course is for voices in the soprano and alto range. Students will create and perform music from different genres, cultures, and languages. Music reading skills will be developed and connections to music history will be strengthened. Through choir students will gain skills in leadership, collaboration, creative thinking, and problem solving. *This course may be taken more than once for credit.*

Freshman Forte - A&B (Hosted at Central) & Blue & Silver Express 1 - A&B (Hosted at Stevens)

Credits: **1**	Audition Required
Prerequisites: Enrollment in Bass Choir, Raider Choir or Treble Choir is essential for success.	Grade: **9**

This course is for mixed voices. Students in this select ensemble will create and perform choral music at concerts and community functions. Students will continue to develop their vocal technique and musicality. Students will gain leadership, collaborative, and independent working skills.

Drama 1 (Introduction to Theatre)

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

An introduction to theatre arts and performance through the topics of storytelling, the origins of drama, pantomime, vocal production, improvisation, basic stage movement, play reading, performing, and observation. Students will engage in theatre related exercises and activities, developing characters, and creative problem-solving skills using dramatic literature. Theatre etiquette and art appreciation are also covered.

Drama 2 (Acting & Theatre History)

Credits: **.5**	
Prerequisites: Drama 1 is essential for success	Grade: **9-12**

Drama 2 consists of further study of the topics covered in Drama 1, with advanced vocal production and movement, memorization skills, scene work, audition techniques, advanced script study, theatre history, and the development of play production. Students will further engage in observation, interpretation, and analysis or artistic work.

Stagecraft (Theatre Technology & Design)

Credits: **.5**		Hosted at Central - Grade: **10,11,12**
Prerequisites: Drama 1 is essential for success		Hosted at Stevens - Grade: **9-12**

This class emphasizes basic backstage training for production. Basic stagecraft, safety, publicity, drafting, design, stage makeup, costuming properties, stage lighting, sound, and painting are all topics covered in this class.

FRESHMAN ACADEMY ELECTIVES - 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 semester.
Physical fitness testing will be required throughout the semester.
Health instruction will be presented throughout the semester for each course offered in Health & Physical Education.

Strength & Conditioning

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

The emphasis of this class will be the development of athleticism through workouts that focus on speed, power, muscle endurance, and the cardiovascular system. Cardiovascular/power circuits may include jump ropes, running, plyometrics, balance discs, medicine balls, stability balls, etc. Sport specific development will also be an emphasis in this class. In addition to the physical training component, students will also participate in health units to support lifelong healthy habits.

Advanced Strength & Conditioning / Cobbler Power / Raider Power

Credits: **.5**	Hosted at Central - Grade: **9-12**
Prerequisites: Strength & Conditioning is essential for success	Hosted at Stevens - Grade: **10,11,12**

The emphasis of this class will be the development of athleticism through advanced lifting practices. Students will be taught advanced lifts, strength training periodization, and proper nutritional practices to enhance athletic performance. Sport specific development will also be an emphasis in this class. In addition to the physical training component, students will also participate in health units to support lifelong healthy habits.

Team Activities (Hosted at Stevens)

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

Students will experience a variety of health and fitness-related activities, as well as physical skills, while participating in **team-centered activities**. Students will also acquire the practical experiences and knowledge required to establish a healthy lifestyle, both as an adolescent and a maturing adult.

Individual & Team Sports (Hosted at Central)

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

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

FRESHMAN ACADEMY ELECTIVES - OTHER OFFERINGS

Ag Leadership & Service

Credits: **.5**	Approved CTE Course
Prerequisites:	Grade: **9**

This course will help students learn resilience, imitative, commitment, and emotional security by developing skills such as goal setting, communication, and organization. Students will learn the essential skills necessary to be good leaders in their school and community. Students will be able to demonstrate these skills through classroom-based experiences, a supervised agricultural experience (SAE), and extra-curricular opportunities in FFA.

Debate

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

This course will ensure that students develop skills critical to college success. It will teach students to research with purpose and be able to understand and analyze information. Students will improve their speaking skills and will gain improvisational, argumentative, and rhetorical techniques. Students will work both independently and collaboratively to create unique speaking projects and debate national topics. *This course may be taken more than once for credit.*

Junior ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corp) Program 1 - A&B (Hosted at Central)

Credits: **1**	Approved CTE Course
Prerequisites:	Grade: **9-12**

This course focuses on the development of better citizens by building skills in leadership, citizenship, personal growth, team building, service learning, and fitness in a structured, collaborative, and interactive environment. JROTC 1 introduces the student to the program and provides foundational skills to move forward in subsequent classes and accept increased responsibility. Students will have the option to expand upon these skills by participating in JROTC co-curriculars such as competitions, outdoor adventure activities, and service events throughout the community.

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.

French 1, Beginning - A&B (Hosted at Central)

Credits: **1**	
Prerequisites:	Grade: **9-12**

Learn French through fun, music, videos, and storytelling! Be marketable by completing two or more years of the same language to compete for jobs, colleges, and scholarships! The emphasis will be on developing language abilities in speaking, listening, reading, and writing on a variety of basic and everyday topics. You will be able to identify products and practices to help you understand global and cultural perspectives.

Bonjour et bienvenue en français! French is one of the world's most influential languages. It is used widely in journalism, law, education, and diplomacy. French is the official language in 28 countries with 76 million native speakers, most of whom live in Africa! It is the third most spoken language in the European Union and the fourth most spoken language in the United States. It is one of the six official languages of the United Nations and is spoken fluently by 235 million people every day. French is considered the second most useful language for business and has been projected to be the most spoken language globally by 2025!

FRESHMAN ACADEMY ELECTIVES - OTHER OFFERINGS CONTINUED

German 1, Beginning - A&B

Credits: **1**	
Prerequisites:	Grade: **9-12**

Learn German through fun, music, videos, and storytelling! Be marketable by completing two or more years of the same language to compete for jobs, colleges, and scholarships! The emphasis will be on developing language abilities in speaking, listening, reading, and writing on a variety of basic and everyday topics. You will be able to identify products and practices to help you understand global and cultural perspectives.

German is the third most commonly taught language globally and the fourth largest economy in the world. The German-speaking population has contributed substantially to literature, science, and the arts. German is the native language of almost 100 million people worldwide. With an estimated number of 44 million people, German Americans are the largest heritage group in the US! We have a sister city exchange program with Apolda, Germany which allows students to travel to Germany and/or host German students for two weeks. Learning German can be fun and easy because English and German share 60% of their vocabulary.

Lakota Language 1, Beginning - A&B (Hosted at Central)

Credits: **1**	
Prerequisites:	Grade: **9-12**

You will be introduced to Lakota language and cultural awareness. Our emphasis will be on developing novice proficiency in conversational language usage. Listening, reading, and writing skills are on a variety of basic and everyday topics. You will be able to identify products and practices to help you understand global and cultural perspectives. Lakota culture will be experienced via music, videos, old recordings, and storytelling.

The Indigenous peoples in the South Dakota region are comprised of the Lakota, Dakota, and Nakota bands that have combined to be what is known as the Sioux Tribe. This group, the Sioux Nation, is the third largest Native American tribe in the United States. Although many Lakota tiwahes and tiospayes have at least one or more Lakota speakers, the Lakota language is on the international language endangerment list. Furthermore, today many Lakota families and their extended families use English as their primary language. When students seek to learn the Lakota language, they gain a deeper insight into the culture and contribute to its preservation and evolution. Students who continue with the Lakota language may enhance their opportunities for employment as lawyers, translators, journalists, authors, artists, healthcare workers, or educators just to name a few. Indeed, the possibilities are endless. Lakota Language is a class that Native and non-native students are encouraged to take and whose lives can be enriched by taking it.

Spanish 1, Beginning - A&B

Credits: **1**	
Prerequisites:	Grade: **9-12**

Learn through fun, music, videos, and storytelling! Be marketable by completing two or more years of Spanish to compete for jobs, colleges, and scholarships. You will be able to speak, listen, read, and write about a variety of basic and everyday topics. You will be able to identify products and practices that help you understand global and cultural perspectives.

Bienvenidos...to the Spanish speaking world abroad and in the United States, Spanish is the native language of more than 437 million people world-wide, and more than 41 million people in the U.S. The United States has the second largest Spanish-speaking population in the world, after Mexico. The Hispanic culture is the largest minority in the United States. Studying Spanish helps students become more marketable in many career fields including health care, journalism, law enforcement, teaching, business, and many more. A background in Spanish can increase employment opportunities and enrich travel experiences and save money in College. 'Nos vemos'!

REGISTRATION & COURSE SELECTION POLICIES & PROCEDURES

REGISTRATION

Course Registration

Course registration for the following school year will be held by Central and Stevens High Schools during the spring semester. 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

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

Adding a Class

At Central and Stevens High Schools, courses may be added on a space available basis during the first five (5) days of a new semester. 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 in grades 9, 10, and 11 are required to enroll in a minimum of six (6) courses per semester. Students in grade 12 must enroll in a minimum of 5 courses for the fall semester. Those 5 courses may include dual enrollment, capstone, employability experience, etc. During the spring semester, students may enroll in any number of courses that are needed to graduate and additional electives are recommended for college and career readiness goals. Students participating in extracurricular activities must be enrolled in a minimum of two (2) units of credit and have passed two (2) units of credit the proceeding semester as per the SD High School Activities Association requirements. Two (2) units of credit is equal to at least four (4) classes.

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.

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 (semester or year), 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
90 – 100	A
80 – 89	B
70 – 79	C
60 – 69	D
Below 60	F

Scholastic Class Rank

Class rank will be based on the final grades in all subjects after the 1st semester of a student's senior year. Students who have maintained the following Grade Point Averages (GPA) will be recognized as:

Class Rank	GPA
Summa Cum Laude	3.8
Magna Cum Laude	3.5
Cum Laude	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 semester 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 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.

Classification

Sophomore - minimum of five (5) credits and is enrolled in his/her second year of high school, whose high school class is within three (3) years of graduating

Junior-minimum of eleven (11) credits and is enrolled in his/her third year of high school, whose high school class is within two (2) years of graduating

Senior-minimum of sixteen (16) credits and is enrolled in his/her fourth year of high school, whose high school class is within one (1) 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 Center for Virtual Education 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 of 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

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.

Career & Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs): CTSOs enhance student learning through contextual instruction, leadership and personal development, applied learning, and real-world application.

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.

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

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.

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.

Freshman Academy: A small learning community with a network of teachers focused on helping students make a successful high school transition and future academy and pathway selection. The Freshman Academy provides coursework in core content areas, elective opportunities, and career and academy exploration.

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 are 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.

Pathway: A pathway is interconnected academic and elective courses organized around a broad career or subject theme. Each pathway is integrated with work-based learning as well as connections to postsecondary education, training, and/or apprenticeship programs.

Pathway Engage Course: A Pathway Engage Course will be taken after completion of the Freshman Seminar Course as an introduction to a student's pathway of choice.

Pathway Experience Course: A Pathway Experience Course allows students to consolidate and apply learning from their Pathway Explore and Engage Courses into a meaningful and relevant career-connected experience.

Pathway Explore Course: An Pathway Explore Course, Freshman Seminar, will be taken to connect a student's learning in the Engage Course with preparation for a deeper understanding of their chosen pathway.

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.