

Ringgold High School

Course Descriptions

INTRODUCTION

This document is developed to provide basic information to help students and parents understand the courses offered at Ringgold High School. It is intended to be use as guide only. Not all courses are offered every year or every semester. Changes to course offerings are made based on scheduling requests and personnel certifications. Standards for every course can be found at <https://www.georgiastandards.org>.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Ringgold High School operates under 4x4 block schedule. With this schedule students take four classes each semester and have the opportunity to earn one credit per class. Catoosa County Public Schools require 28 units for graduation. Over a student's four years at RHS, each student will have the opportunity to take 32 classes.

For high school graduation, the state of Georgia requires students to complete four units in each of the academic areas: Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science, and one unit of Health/PE. The local school board requires one unit of technology. In addition, a total of ten units are required from CTAE (Career Tech) and/or World Language and/or Fine Arts, and other electives are required for graduation.

Students planning to enter into a University System of Georgia Institution or other four-year college must take two units of the same World Language. In addition, different types of institutions (research universities, regional universities, senior colleges, two year colleges) may require additional academic units. Each college or university may exceed the minimum requirements for admission. College admissions offices look at a student's SAT, ACT, GPA, and the rigorous curriculum (advanced academic courses) students took and passed during high school, especially the number of Advanced Placement courses and Dual Enrollment courses.

Courses Required for Graduation

SUBJECT	UNITS REQUIRED
English	4
Mathematics	4
Science	4
Social Studies	4
Health/Personal Fitness	1
Technology	1
CTAE, Foreign Language, or Fine Arts (focused area of study)	3 *2 semesters of the same foreign language are required for college but not graduation * fine art credit is recommended but not required
Electives	7
TOTAL UNITS (minimum)	28

Academic Courses of Study

Area of Study	Year	College Prep (CP)	Advanced Academics (Honors) *
English	9 th	9 th Grade Literature/Composition	Honors 9 th Grade Literature/Composition
	10 th	10 th Grade Literature/Composition	Honors 10 th Grade Literature/Composition
	11 th	American Literature/Composition	Honors American Literature/Composition OR AP Language/Composition
	12 th	British Literature/Composition	AP Literature/Composition
Mathematics	9 th	Algebra I	Accelerated Algebra/Geometry A
	10 th	Geometry	Accelerated Geometry B/Adv Algebra
	11 th	Algebra II	Accelerated Pre-Calculus
	12 th	Pre-Calculus, AMDM, or Math of Finance	AP Calculus OR AP Stats
Science	9 th	Environmental Science	Honors Physical Science
	10 th	Biology	Honors Biology
	11 th	Physics	Honors Chemistry
	12 th	Anatomy/Physiology, Chemistry or other 4 th Science	AP Biology, AP Physics, Honors Anatomy/Physiology, OR Honors Physics
Social Studies	9 th	World History	AP World History
	10 th	American Government	AP American Government
	11 th	United States History	AP United States History
	12 th	Economics	AP Macroeconomics

*A student may complete the Advanced Academic Pathway by taking the three course sequence of required courses in English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies to include an Advanced Placement or DE with additional credits in two sequential courses in one world language.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

LANGUAGE ARTS

Ninth Grade Literature/Composition (CP or Honors)

Grade Level: 9

Required

Ninth Grade Literature/Composition focuses on a study of literary genres, with students developing the ability to support interpretations from texts. Students review the writing process and write in all formats, but they concentrate on technical writing. Students choosing Honors are expected to complete summer reading requirements. Also, honors English students should be self-motivated and willing to spend additional time on reading and writing outside of class.

Tenth Grade Literature/Composition (CP or Honors)

Grade Level: 10

Required

Tenth Grade Literature/Composition focuses on the study of literary themes. Students practice all modes of writing but concentrate on persuasive writing. Instruction in conventions takes place in the context of reading, writing, and speaking. Students continue listening and viewing critically and develop further skill in written and oral communication. Students choosing Honors are expected to complete summer reading requirements. Also, honors English students should be self-motivated and willing to spend additional time on reading and writing outside of class.

American Literature/Composition (CP or Honors) Or AP Language/Composition

Grade Level: 11

Required

In American Literature and Composition, students develop understanding of chronological context and relevance of period structures and how they affect meaning in literature. They practice all modes of writing but focus on expository writing. Students study Standard English conventions, learning that conventions are the “good manners” of writing and speaking. Students choosing Honors or AP are expected to complete summer reading requirements. Also, honors English students should be self-motivated and willing to spend additional time on reading and writing outside of class.

British Literature/Composition
Or AP Literature/Composition Honors

Grade Level: 12

Required

The objectives of this course are to develop understanding of chronological context and relevance of period structures in British and Commonwealth literature. Students practice all modes of writing but concentrate on expository writing. They improve their use of conventions in context and become more proficient in analyzing and preparing media presentations.

Students choosing AP are expected to complete summer reading requirements. Also, honors English students should be self-motivated and willing to spend additional time on reading and writing outside of class. Passing the AP exam *may* earn college credit.

Journalism I, II, III, and IV
Or Broadcast Journalism

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective

Journalism explores journalistic writing through analysis of newspapers, yearbooks, literary magazines, and broadcast journalism. A concentration on the following components of journalistic writing is critical: influence, purpose, structure, and diction. Reading, writing, and critical thinking are key components as students explore the power and influence of journalism. Students will participate in news gathering, the study of ethics, and the aspects of copy writing, editing, and revising and will study the ethics of journalism. If a publication is produced, the students will learn the process of publishing.

MATHEMATICS

Algebra I

Grade Level: 9

Required

This is the first in a sequence of three high school mathematics courses designed to ensure career and college readiness. The course represents a discrete study of algebra with correlated statistics application.

Or Accelerated Algebra I/ Geometry A

This is the first accelerated course consisting of all of the content from Algebra I and half of the content from the second course in the sequence, Geometry. It is the first in a sequence of mathematics courses designed to prepare to take higher-level mathematics courses during their high school tenure such as AP Calculus and AP Statistics.

Foundations of Algebra

Grade Level: 9

Remedial Option

FOA is a first year high school mathematics course option for students who have completed mathematics in grades 6 – 8 yet need substantial support to bolster success in high school mathematics. The course is aimed at students who have reported low standardized test performance in prior grades and/or have demonstrated significant difficulties in previous mathematics classes. There are specific eligibility requirements for enrollment in this course.

Geometry

Grade Level: 10

Required

Geometry is the second course in a sequence of three required high school courses designed to ensure career and college readiness. The course represents a discrete study of geometry with correlated statistics applications.

Or Accelerated Geometry B/ Algebra II

This is the second accelerated course consisting of half of the content from the second course in the sequence, Geometry, and all of the content from the third course, Advanced Algebra. It is the second in a sequence of mathematics courses designed to prepare students to take higher-level mathematics courses during their high school tenure such as AP Calculus and AP Statistics.

Advanced Algebra

Grade Level: 11

Required

Advanced Algebra is the third course in a sequence of three high school courses designed to ensure career and college readiness. This course enhances algebra skills and introduces trigonometry through calculators and computers with an emphasis on real and complex numbers, vectors, matrices, sequences, series, statistics, conic sections, functions, and problem solving.

Or Accelerated Pre-Calculus

This is the third accelerated course option in a sequence of three high school math courses. This is a course in pre-calculus and statistics, designed to prepare students to take AP Calculus.

Math Support Classes

Grade Level: 9-11

Remedial Option

Support classes are offered as an additional elective course to provide additional support and instruction in the first three math course, Algebra I, Geometry, and Advanced Algebra. The intent of math support is to give extra time for students to meet the standards of more rigorous math courses and utilize a variety of strategies to help students build a stronger foundation for success in their current and future mathematics courses. Support classes are strongly recommended for students who struggle with math.

Pre-Calculus

Grade Level: 12

4th Math Option

Pre-calculus is a fourth mathematics course option designed to prepare students for calculus and other college level math courses. It requires students to: investigate and use rational functions; analyze and use trigonometric functions, their graphs; use trigonometric identities to solve problems and verify equivalence statements; find area of triangles using trigonometric relationships; understand and use vectors; investigate the Central Limit theorem; and use margins of error and confidence intervals to make inferences.

Advanced Mathematical Decision Making

Grade Level: 12

4th Math Option

AMDM is a fourth course option designed to offer further experiences with statistical information and summaries, methods of design and conducting statistical studies, an opportunity to analyze various processes, modeling of data, basic financial decisions and use network models for making decisions.

Mathematics of Finance

Grade Level: 12

4th Math Option

This course concentrates on the math necessary to understand and make informed decisions related to personal finance. The math in this course will be based on many topics in prior courses; however, the specific applications will extend the student's understanding of the use of these topics. ***This course is not accepted for the 4th math credit for students applying to 4-yr colleges.***

AP Calculus AB

Grade Level: 11-12

4th Math Option

AP Calculus AB is a college level course and conforms to College Board topics for the Advanced Placement Calculus AB Exam. It provides a more challenging approach than the regular Calculus curriculum. Passing the AP exam *may* earn college credit.

AP Statistics

Grade Level: 11-12

4th Math Option

AP Statistics is a college level course and covers four major themes: exploratory analysis, planning a study, probability, and statistical inference and follows the College Board syllabus for the AP Statistics Exam. Passing the AP exam *may* earn college credit.

SCIENCE

Environmental Science

Grade Level: 9

Required

Environmental Science integrates the study of many components of our environment, including the human impact on our planet. Some concepts are global; in those cases, interpretation of global data sets from scientific sources is strongly recommended.

Or Honors Physical Science

This course is designed as a survey course of chemistry and physics. Students investigate physical science concepts through experience in laboratories and field work using the processes of inquiry. Students choosing Honors are expected to be self-motivated, well organized, and possess excellent study skills.

Biology (CP or Honors)

Grade Level: 10

Required

The biology curriculum includes concepts such as the interdependence of organisms, the relationship of matter, energy, and organization in living systems, the behavior of organisms, and biological evolution. Students investigate biological concepts through experience in laboratories and field work using the processes of inquiry.

Students choosing Honors are expected to be self-motivated, well organized, and possess excellent study skills.

Physics (CP or Honors)

Grade Level: 11-12

Required also
4th Science Option

This curriculum includes concepts such as interactions of matter and energy, velocity, acceleration, force, energy, momentum, and charge. Students investigate physics concepts through experience in laboratories and field work using the processes of inquiry

Students who did not take physical science are required to take this course.

Chemistry (College Prep or Honors)

Grade Level: 11-12

Required also
4th Science Option

Chemistry is a course which includes the basic concepts of chemistry: Balanced Chemical Reactions, IUPAC Chemical Formulas, Law of Conservation of Matter, Stoichiometry (moles), Atomic Theory, Periodic Properties, Kinetic-Molecular Theory, Kinetics, and Solutions. Related lab experiences emphasize science process skills and include student-centered and inquiry-based activities.

Students choosing Honors are expected to be self-motivated, well organized, and possess excellent study skills. **Students who took honors physical science are required to take chemistry.**

Human Anatomy and Physiology (CP or Honors)**Grade Level: 12****4th Science Option**

In this course the structures and functions of the systems of the human body are studied in great detail. Most of the concepts are concentrated in physiological function of the organ systems. This course is recommended for students who plan to enter training programs for health care science or forensic science careers.

Students choosing Honors are expected to be self-motivated, well organized, and possess excellent study skills.

AP Biology**Grade Level: 11-12****4th Science Option**

AP Biology is a college level course. This course is for students who are interested in majoring in a science or pre-medical field. This course focuses on the anatomy and physiology of humans, animals, and plants as well as ecology. Course work will include the required AP labs as well as other laboratory experiments and exercises. Students interested in this course must take chemistry first. Most activities will emphasize the material on the AP Biology Exam. Passing the AP exam *may* earn college credit.

AP Physics**Grade Level: 11-12****4th Science Option**

AP Physics 1 is an algebra-based, introductory college-level physics course that explores topics such as Newtonian mechanics (including rotational motion); work, energy, and power; mechanical waves and sound; and introductory, simple circuits. Through inquiry-based learning, students will develop scientific critical thinking and reasoning skills. Most activities will emphasize the material on the AP Physics Exam. Passing the AP exam *may* earn college credit.

SOCIAL STUDIES**American Government(CP or AP)****Grade Level: 10****Required**

Course focuses on basic concepts and principles of the American political system and includes the structure and function of the American system of government, the roles and responsibilities of citizen participation in the political process, and the relationship of the individual to the law and legal system.

AP American Government is a rigorous course that teaches students how to apply the themes in American civic life to practical everyday situations. Honors courses will exceed standards by utilizing readings, research, investigative and creative skills.

World History (CP or AP)**Grade Level: 9****Required**

World History provides an in-depth study of world cultures, major ideas, religions, inventions, and people and events of history from the rise of civilization to the present. This includes a study of famous people who have helped advance civilization throughout history. Important events concerning advancements in music, art, science, and architecture are part of the curriculum.

AP courses will exceed standards by utilizing readings, research, investigative and creative skills. Critical thinking and analyses will be exemplified through historical essay writing.

United States History**Grade Level: 11****Required****Or AP United States History**

United States History is a study of our nation from the discovery of the New World to the present with an emphasis on the social, economic, and political changes which have shaped the United States into a world power.

AP US History is a rigorous course that conforms to College Board topics for the AP United States History examination. Passing the AP exam *may* earn college credit.

Economics**Grade Level: 12****Required****Or AP Macroeconomics**

Economics is the study of how people satisfy seemingly unlimited and competing wants with the careful use of scarce resources. It includes the study the behavior and decision making by small units such as individuals and firms and of the economy as a whole and decision making by large units such as governments and unions. The consumer's role in the consumption and production of goods and services is also studied.

AP Macroeconomics is a rigorous course that conforms to College Board topics for the AP Macroeconomics examination. Passing the AP exam *may* earn college credit.

Psychology**Grade Level: 11-12****Elective**

This course is designed for the college bound student who is interested in human growth and development. Areas of study include perception, nature of learning, personality development, and personality theories.

CAREER TECHNICAL AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION (CTAE)

Career Technical pathways consist of a required three courses plus one additional course in that same career cluster. Some of the career pathways have been industry certified by the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute. Student certification will be based upon the student's score on an industry exam taken after completing all the coursework. Pathways are intended to be taken in order.

Introduction to Business & Technology

Grade Level: 9

Required

The course is designed for students as a gateway to the career pathways, and provides an overview of business and technology skills required for today's business environment. Students will learn essentials for working in a business environment, managing a business, and owning a business. The intention of this course is to prepare students to be successful both personally and professionally in an information-based society.

Or Introduction to Digital Technology

This course is designed for students to understand, communicate and adapt to a digital world as it impacts their personal life, society and the business world. Exposure to foundational knowledge in hardware, software, programming, web design, IT support and networks are all taught in a computer lab with hands-on activities and project-focused tasks.

Business and Computer Science

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective

The Business and Computer Science Pathway prepares students with computer skills for future college and career plans. Cluster skills mastered include planning, organizing, directing, and evaluating as well as owning and operating a successful business. RHS offers two pathways in this field.

Business and Technology

1. Introduction to Business and Technology (IBT)
2. Business and Technology
3. Business Communications

Entrepreneurship

1. Introduction to Business and Technology (IBT)
2. Legal Environment of Business
3. Entrepreneurship

Programming

1. Introduction to Digital Technology (IDT)
 2. Computer Science Principles
 3. Programming, Games, Apps, and Society
- * AP Computer Science – also offered as a stand-alone class, must take IDT first

Agriculture

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective

The Agriculture Pathway includes the production, processing, marketing, financing, distribution, and development of agricultural commodities and resources. These commodities include food, fiber, wood products, natural resources, horticulture, and other plant and animal products/resources. RHS offers two pathways in this field.

Food Animal Systems

1. Basic Agricultural Science
2. Animal Science and Biotechnology
3. Agricultural Animal Production and Management

Agriscience Systems

1. Basic Agricultural Science
2. Animal Science and Biotechnology
3. Plant Science and Biotechnology

Carpentry

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective

The Construction Pathway includes studies in designing, planning, managing, and building structures.

1. Industry Fundamentals and Occupational Safety
2. Introduction to Construction
3. Carpentry

Criminal Investigations

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective

The Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security Career Cluster prepares individuals for employment relating to emergency and fire services, legal services, protective services, and homeland security.

1. Introduction to Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security
2. Criminal Justice Essentials
3. Criminal Investigations

Early Childhood Care and Education

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective

The Education Pathway includes planning, managing, and providing education and training services as well as related educational support services.

1. Early Childhood Education I
2. Early Childhood Education II
3. Early Childhood Education III

Graphic Communication and Design

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective

The Graphics Pathway includes designing, producing, exhibiting, performing, writing, and publishing multimedia content. RHS offers two pathways in this field.

Graphic Communications

1. Introduction to Graphics and Design
2. Graphic Design and Production
3. Advanced Graphic Output Processes

Graphic Design

1. Introduction to Graphics and Design
2. Graphic Design and Production
3. Advanced Graphic Design

Health Science

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective

The Health Science Career Cluster includes planning, managing, and providing services in therapeutics, diagnostics, health informatics, support areas, and biotechnology research and development. RHS offers two pathways in this field.

Allied Health and Medicine

1. Introduction to Healthcare Science
2. Essentials of Healthcare
3. Allied Health and Medicine

JROTC - Army I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective

This course includes classroom instruction and laboratory instruction in the history, customs, traditions and purpose of Army JROTC. It contains the development of basic leadership principles, values and attributes. The performance standards in this course are based on the performance standards identified in the curriculum for the US Army JROTC.

Work Based Learning (WBL)

Grade Level: 11-12

Elective

Applicants for Work-Based Learning (WBL) encompasses internship (unpaid), cooperative work experience, and apprenticeship. In order to receive credit for WBL, students must complete several assignments a month including journals and time logs. **Georgia requires students participating in WBL to complete a CTAE pathway.**

PHYSICAL EDUCATION*

* Students may only take one course per semester.

Personal Fitness/Health

Grade Level: 9

Required

Both are taught in one semester. Personal Fitness provides instruction in methods to attain a healthy level of physical fitness. The Health component is designed to help students develop an awareness of safety and healthy lifestyles and methods of dealing with related emergencies. Included in the health component is the drug and alcohol awareness class required by the Georgia Highway Patrol before students are eligible to secure their driver's license. The instruction on human sexuality and AIDS awareness required by the state of Georgia is also part of the curriculum.

Team Sports/Lifetime Sports

Grade Level: 10-12

Elective

Course introduces fundamental skills, strategies, and rules associated with team sports such as basketball, volleyball, soccer, softball, baseball, field hockey, and flag football. Class enhances skills in team sports strategies. This course may not be offered every semester.

Weight Training/ Body Sculpting/ Physical Conditioning

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective

Weight training is a series of courses designed to assist students in the enhancement of their physical strength. The program will augment the strength of particular muscle groups, improve body conditioning, reapportion body measurements, and increase power, coordination, speed and flexibility. Proper weight-lifting techniques and safety measures will be introduced and a planned program of weight training for the individual will be developed and implemented.

FINE ARTS

A student may complete a fine arts pathway in fine arts by taking three courses in any one of the following areas: visual arts, theatre, chorus, band, or journalism.

Advanced Band (Marching Band) I, II, III, IV

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective

Advanced Band is offered to students who will participate in marching band. No audition is required; however, previous playing experience is necessary. Certain performances and activities are required including band camp, all rehearsals, field and marching shows, parades, marching festivals and competitions.

Advanced Instrumental Ensemble (Drums) I, II, III, IV

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective

Percussion Band is offered to students who wish to improve their knowledge of percussion technique. No audition is required; however, previous playing experience is necessary. Certain performances and activities are required including band camp, all rehearsals, field and marching shows, parades, marching festivals and competitions.

Advanced Jazz (Color Guard) I, II, III, IV

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective

This course is for students who march with the band's color guard. Auditions are required. Certain performances and activities are required including band camp, all rehearsals, field and marching shows, parades, marching festivals and competitions.

Instrumental Orchestra (Spring Concert) I, II, III, IV

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective

Concert Band is designed for the intermediate band student, playing level III literature. No audition is required; however, previous playing experience is necessary. Certain performances and activities are required including band camp, all rehearsals, field and marching shows, parades, marching festivals and competitions.

Advanced Orchestra (Spring Concert) I, II, III, IV

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective

Advanced Orchestra is designed for the most advanced band student; auditions are required. Certain performances are required. Activities that may be required are band camp, all rehearsals, field and marching shows, parades, marching festivals and competitions, district honor band clinic and All-State Band. Emphasis will be placed on individual musicianship and group musicianship through the study of basic fundamental techniques. Emphasis will also be placed on self and group discipline.

Beginning Chorus I, II, III, IV
Advance Chorus I, II, III, IV

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective

Chorus offers an opportunity for singers with experience singing and reading music to further develop their vocal instruments while rehearsing and performing more advanced choral literature. Students enrolled in this course may also have opportunities for representing the school at regional choral festivals. Concepts covered in this class may include sight-singing, ear training, vocal production, music theory, music history, and performance techniques. This is a performing group and performances outside of the regular school day may be required.

Musical Theater I, II, III, IV

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective

Musical Theater focuses on the style and characteristic elements of modern musical theater. This course covers production staging, orchestration, voice and dance; offers an opportunity for team teaching through interdisciplinary collaboration with the chorus, band, art, and technology. This course includes the opportunity for performance.

Art I

Grade Level: 9-12

Elective

Students will study the fundamentals of design and composition through the techniques of drawing, commercial art, crafts, and printmaking. Media included are pencil, charcoal, markers, pastels, and pen and ink. This course is required as a first course to all other Arts courses.

Art II

Grade Level: 10-12

Elective

Art II enhances level-one skills in art history, art criticism, aesthetic judgment and studio production, emphasizes and reinforces knowledge and application of the design elements and their relationship to the principles of design, and explores different two- and three-dimensional art media and processes.

Drawing and Painting

Grade Level: 10-12

Elective

This course introduces drawing and painting techniques and a variety of drawing and painting media, stresses critical analysis of master paintings and drawings of different styles and historical periods; emphasizes problem-solving techniques to achieve desired results in personal work.

Sculpture I

Grade Level: 10-12

Elective

This class focuses on the design and production of 3-D works of art including sculptures, reliefs and ceramics. It introduces tools and procedures used in the production of 3-D work.

Photography

Grade Level: 10-12

Elective

This course introduces photography as an art form; covers the historical development of photography and photographic design and its cultural influences, emphasizes the basics of exposing and processing photographs, and stresses appropriate processing techniques and safe use of photographic materials and equipment.

WORLDLANGUAGE

A student may complete a world language pathway in world language by taking three courses in any one of the following areas.

French I, II, III, IV

Grade Level: 10-12

Elective

Or **German I, II, III, IV**

Or **Spanish I, II, III, IV**

Foreign Language courses focus on the four language skills (speaking, understanding, reading, and writing) and understanding of the culture(s) of the people who speak the language. Level I courses assume that the students have minimal or no prior knowledge of the language and culture. Students will focus on communicating about their immediate world and daily life activities, read material on familiar topics, and write short, directed compositions. Level II, III, and IV courses focus on the continued development of communicative competence in the target language and understanding of the culture(s) of the people who speak the language. Four year colleges require two credits in a single foreign language.