

Special Course Descriptions 2020-2021

ADVANCED PLACEMENT(AP) AND DUAL ENROLLMENT(DE)

Both AP and DE classes can earn students extra weighting on their high school GPA (i.e. an A in AP or DE is worth 5 GPA points vs. 4 points in a standard class) and can earn students free college credit allowing them to get ahead in college. Both programs allow students to stay right here on campus and experience all of our extracurricular activities.

AP: AP classes are overseen by the College Board, the same organization that oversees the SAT test which students take to gain entrance to college. AP classes are a rigorous college preparatory program. At the end of the class, students take a test scored on a scale of 1-5. Many colleges and universities world-wide award college credit to students who score 3 or higher on AP tests. The advantage of AP is that there are many support structures on campus for struggling students and if students do not do well in the class it will NOT affect their college transcript. Students can begin taking AP classes in their freshman year.

DE: RCHS functions as the Northeast satellite campus of Polk State College. Dual enrollment classes earn students credit for both high school and college. Students must make a C or better in the class to be awarded credit by PSC. The advantage of this program is the flexibility of class scheduling with classes offered during the day, in the afternoon, and in the evening right on our campus. Students can begin taking DE classes in their sophomore year.

CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

Baby Bolts: Students learn the growth and development of children from birth to preschool age (4-5 years old). Students then use this knowledge to work in the campus pre-school as a teacher, LTA (Lead Teacher Assistant), teacher assistant, observer, or CW (Childcare Worker). These positions are in charge of creating lesson plans, healthy meal plans, and effective discipline practices.

Culinary Arts: An entry level course available to students who wish to pursue a career in culinary operations upon the completion of high school. Basic measurements, conversions, measuring techniques, and recipes are learned. In addition, the advanced culinary students are in charge of running the afterschool Bolt's Cafe. The Cafe is open Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 2:15-3:00 p.m. The advanced Culinary students are also in charge of catering some events on campus, such as Homecoming dance, team meal for JV Football, Men's basketball, and any other events that come up throughout the year.

Business: A multi-directional program of study that prepares our students for entry into post-secondary education as well as develops the skill sets necessary to enter the career workforce. The program offers industry certifications and specific career pathways.

Yearbook: Enables students to get a hands-on perspective on how teamwork is essential in the business world by giving them the chance to develop and design yearbook pages through Adobe Photoshop. Additional responsibilities also include computer assignments, advertising yearbook sales, and taking pictures of all sporting events and student activities that will be incorporated into the final yearbook product. Pre-requisite: Digital Design I or Graphic Design I. Application and portfolio submission required.

Digital Multimedia (ITV): Focuses on the art of producing movies and videos, technique, use of equipment, and the history of television. Students are able to use TV edit suites which house Apple computers used to create and edit small individual productions, and a main central control room which contains two media style cameras capable of producing a live feed.

Foundations of Web Design – Digital media is a growing source of information and art in our world and has a profound impact on individuals. Foundations of Web Design introduces the student to a wide variety of software that allows them to build artistic designs and concepts for webpages and media. Exploration of code and HTML language are introduced to begin the layout of basic webpages, as well as the key elements of influence used in marketing and advertising.

Vet Assist: A four-year program of study that prepares students for entry into post-secondary education as well as a related veterinary career as a certified veterinary assistant. Students learn and interact with a variety of animals and situations throughout their studies.

Agriscience: Agriculture courses provide students with skills for the workplace in many different areas. Students will understand that leadership, teamwork, and responsibility are all components for success. Students will learn from hands-on activities in the classroom, practical applications in a land lab and from the co-curricular student organization FFA.

AVID: This program is designed to increase schoolwide learning and performance for students in grades K-12. The purpose of the program is to open access to curriculum that will ensure four-year college eligibility for all students. The mission of AVID is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society.

LEADERSHIP/JROTC

Leadership/J.R.O.T.C: These courses motivate students to be better citizens by teaching leadership skills which enable students to excel in school career, community and life. RCHS considers these the foundation for success for our students as they begin high school.

THE FINE ARTS

2D/3D Art: 2D Design provides the fundamentals of visual literacy and establishes a base from which both artists and visual designers can utilize: drawing, paint, paper, cameras and computers to develop students' awareness of visual design, etc. 3D Design leans more heavily on ceramics to gain a working understanding of making work that physically exists in height, depth and width.

Digital Art Imaging: Graphic Design—now listed as Digital Art-- incorporates the elements of art and the power of art making and imagery in our contemporary visual culture—the design of everything around us. Coursework includes learning Adobe Photoshop and other CS programs, photography and photo manipulation, as well as designing artworks, logos, signs, and products. Higher coursework includes animation and vector graphics, and advanced students move to AP 2-D Portfolio to continue computer graphics and digital photography work.

Dance: Dance is for any dancer, male or female, who is a beginner or who has had prior dancing experience. Classes include Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced. An audition is required only for students wishing to be placed in advanced classes. Advanced dancers are given the opportunity to be a part of the RCHS Dance Company, Electric Motion. Students at all levels study theory, history, anatomy, vocabulary, as well as develop a repertoire of dance movement skills in various forms of dance such as Ballet, Jazz, and Contemporary. All students are given performance opportunities throughout the year both on and off campus. Students develop strong performance skills as pre-professionals. Each dance student is responsible for the purchase and regular maintenance of professional quality dance uniform and shoes. Materials should be maintained throughout the year.

Drama I/II: Drama I explores the world of theater both on and behind the stage. Students are introduced to the field and given opportunities to participate in acting, directing, creating, and designing. Drama II presents a more in-depth study and builds on the basic skills learned in Drama I. Advanced topics include development of character, character creation, stage lighting, movie and script development, and much more.

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MUSIC

Silver Regiment Marching Band: The Silver Regiment operates during the Fall and combines the Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, Percussion, and color guard. The Silver Regiment Marching Band combines sophisticated music arrangements with stunning marching and visual presentations. They perform their show for Home and Away Football Games, Marching Festivals/Competitions and the Florida Bandmasters Association District 12 Marching Performance Assessment. The band also participates in community events including the Haines City Christmas Parade. Full rehearsals for Marching Band begin in the month of August and run through late October.

Wind Ensemble: The Ridge Community High School Wind Ensemble is designed for the more advanced students, with emphasis placed on the musicianship skills required for performance of sophisticated literature. Members are expected to participate in Solo and Ensemble Music Performance Assessments, and audition for All-County Band. Auditioning for the All-State Band is strongly encouraged. Performances include Concerts, Music Performance Assessments, and Festivals. After-school rehearsal time is required during concert season. Membership is based on audition and director recommendation, members must also participate in the Marching Band. Private lessons are strongly recommended and expected of experienced players.

Concert Band: The Ridge Community Concert Band is comprised of the younger musicians in the band program and is designed for the development of basic fundamentals, technique, and musicianship skills. After-school time is required during concert season. Placement within the ensemble is based on audition and director recommendation. Members must also participate in the Marching Band. Private lessons are strongly recommended. At least one-year of playing experience is required.

Intro to Band: Intro to Band is comprised of 1st year musicians and is designed for the development of basic fundamentals, technique, and musicianship skills. Private lessons are strongly recommended. This class is designed for 9th to 11th grade students.

Silver Regiment Jazz Ensemble: The Ridge Community High School *Silver Regiment Jazz Ensemble* provides an opportunity for students interested in performing music in the jazz idiom. Emphasis is placed on development of swing, Latin, rock, and contemporary styles of repertoire and performance. Performances opportunities vary from Local School Tours, Community Events, Pep Rallies, Concerts and Music Performance Assessments. Placement within the ensemble is based on audition only. Members must also participate in the Wind Ensemble or Concert Band.

RCHS Percussion Studio: The Ridge Community Percussion Techniques class is offered as a year-long course and is required for all percussionists in the band program. Emphasis is placed on the development of rudimentary skills, drumline performance, as well as concert and orchestral percussion performance. Students are required to participate in ensembles that are formed within the class to perform at Solo & Ensemble Assessments and recitals. All percussionists are assigned to one of two Concert Ensembles and rehearse with their respective groups after school.

RCHS Impact Colorguard: Also called the “sport of the arts,” this course has two separate seasons for the program: fall and winter. During the fall season, students will perform with the marching band at Friday night football games and at competitions on a few Saturdays. This requires Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday after school and occasionally Saturday practices. All students who wish to participate with the marching band color guard during the fall season are encouraged to sign up for a class called “Eurhythmics” during the school day. In this class, students learn a variety of terms for dance, rifle, flag, and saber. This is a multi-level class that includes all different levels of experience, so students can learn from others. For the winter season, we transfer to our indoor season. When we perform, we perform with a track instead of live music. This is our more intense season with more advanced work and rigorous schedule. We also perform in the competitive FFCC (Florida Federation of Colorguard Circuit) competitions. This has offered many new opportunities to the guard. Not only that, but there is a non-competitive team for beginners who are more interested in learning only. Indoor season operates relatively similar to marching season with practices on the same days, but with more Saturdays for our competitive team. Both teams require auditions. Fall season auditions will be held in May and indoor winter season will be held in October.

Chamber Choir: An advanced mixed ensemble that participates in all-county chorus, all-state chorus, FVA Music Performance Assessment, FVA Solo & Ensemble Festival, community performances, the RCHS Winter Holidays on the Ridge Concert, as well as the RCHS Music Department Spring Concert. Director’s approval required (audition only).

Guitar I/II: Guitar I is open to any student with a desire to learn how to play the guitar. Instruments and music books are provided, while instruction of the basic fundamentals of music notation and music reading are emphasized, along with proper guitar technique. Admittance into Guitar II requires passing the Guitar I course as well as teacher approval. The course is a continuation of Guitar I and builds upon those previously learned skills. A detailed class syllabus is available upon request.

Piano I-IV: Piano I is open to any student that wishes to learn to read music and play the piano. No prior musical experience is necessary, but students are expected to respect and care for their electronic piano, bench, and headset. Requirements include the purchase of a book for \$12. Piano II-IV students must have successfully completed the requirements for Piano I and have teacher approval. Students will then be challenged with more difficult music and work to include music theory, piano pedagogy, duets, and ensemble work. Opportunity to perform at the FBA Solo & Ensemble Music Performance Assessment in February as well as the All County Piano concert exists for those students wanting to go beyond classroom expectations.

Beginning Orchestra: Would you like to learn to play violin, viola, cello, or string bass? Or need to relearn the basics? This course is open to all students with no experience required. Students/families will be guided in renting instruments. Concerts outside of the school day are required.

Intermediate Orchestra: Continue learning to play you violin, viola, cello, or string bass. This orchestra is for students who have prior experience and have a working knowledge in playing their instrument while reading music. Prior performance experience from middle school or high school required. Concerts outside of the school day are required.

Advanced Orchestra: Advance your orchestra knowledge and techniques on violin, viola, cello, or string bass. This upper level orchestra requires director’s approval and significant prior experience. Concerts and music competitions outside of the school day are required.

Rochestra Orchestra: This is an alternative styles course for students already with experience performing on violin, viola, cello, and string bass. The course will focus on alternative/non-traditional playing styles while incorporating the use of electric instruments. This is a second ensemble class, you must be in another orchestra class to take this course. Concerts outside of the school day are required.

Music Theory: Non-performance based music class that focuses on the components and building blocks of music and music composition. This course is open to all students, however, having background in music reading is recommended. Students learn how music is structurally put together and develop ear training.

AP Music Theory: Upper level, non-performance based music class that moves at a fast pace. This course is recommended for anyone considering studying/performing music after high school. Students learn how music is structurally put together and develop ear training.