

Rockdale County Public Schools

Middle School Carnegie Credit Opportunities and Recommendations

2024-2025 School Year



Division of TEACHING and LEARNING

Dr. Terry O. Oatts, Superintendent

Shirley Chesser, Chief Academic Officer

Dr. Denise Richardson, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Date: _____

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Rockdale County Public Schools continually examines ways to best prepare students for high school and beyond by providing accelerated and rigorous course options. For this reason, we offer several high school courses that students can take for Carnegie credit while still in middle school. Each course offered is taught by a teacher certified in grades 6-12 in his/her specific content area.

Earning Carnegie credit while in middle school provides availability in a student's schedule for future opportunities such as Dual Enrollment, Advance Placement, and additional elective classes. Course enrollment is based on student interest, previous coursework and performance, and various assessment data. In this packet, we have provided a description of the high school courses offered to middle school students in 2024-2025 along with registration recommendation and important information regarding final grades and transcripts.

Your child has met the recommended criteria to enroll in one or more high school courses for Carnegie credit. If you would like for your student to enroll in the recommended course(s), please read through this packet carefully and return all signed documents to _____ by _____. We look forward to your support and developing a strong partnership with you as well as providing opportunities for your child to experience the highest level of academic rigor in Rockdale County Public Schools.

Sincerely,

_____, Principal

_____, Middle School

2024-2025 Middle School High School Carnegie Credit Opportunities Summary of Registration Guidelines

Rockdale County Public Schools continually examines ways to best prepare students for high school and beyond by providing accelerated and rigorous course options. For this reason, we offer several high school courses that students can take for Carnegie credit while still in middle school. Course enrollment is based on student interest, previous coursework and performance, and various assessment data as reflected in the summary of registration guidelines identified below.

Course Name	Registration Recommendations
Grade 8-Enhanced Algebra: Concepts and Connections	<p>Indicators for academic readiness include two of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 70%+ final grade in Grade 7 Mathematics <input type="checkbox"/> expresses interest in pursuing advanced mathematics in middle and high school (including courses beyond the four core mathematics course options). <input type="checkbox"/> parent request. <p>AND one (1) of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 80+ percentile ranking (PR) on the Winter or Spring STAR Math administration. <input type="checkbox"/> Scaled Score of 1106+ on the Winter or Spring STAR Math. <input type="checkbox"/> score in Proficient or Distinguished level on the Mathematics Grade 7 Georgia Milestones. <input type="checkbox"/> 80+ national percentile ranking on the mathematics portion of the IOWA in Grade 7. <p>For all students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Student Agreement signed before the course begins by the student and parent/guardian containing the criteria for maintaining course enrollment.
Business and Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Rising eighth-grade student <input type="checkbox"/> Expresses interest in taking more than two years of Business and Technology, Entrepreneurship, or Human Resources Management courses <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Student Agreement signed by the student and parent/guardian before the course begins

<p>Peer Facilitation I</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Rising seventh or eighth-grade student <input type="checkbox"/> Submission of completed application <input type="checkbox"/> Submission of grades (along with the completed application) <input type="checkbox"/> Recommendation letters from all teachers (most current teachers - core and connections) <input type="checkbox"/> Student interview <input type="checkbox"/> Review of discipline and attendance (via Infinite Campus) <input type="checkbox"/> The School Coordinator presents the final list of candidates to the School Principal, Administration, and the School Counselors for final approval. <input type="checkbox"/> Parent Orientation to communicate guidelines for participation <input type="checkbox"/> RCPS Peer Helper Oath acknowledging the NAPPP Code of Ethics must be signed and returned at mandatory student orientation of the course. <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Student Agreement signed by the student and parent/guardian before the course begins. <input type="checkbox"/> Students will be selected for the course once parents have accepted all of the guidelines which are communicated during the parent orientation. Once all parties are aware of the shared responsibilities, the students are selected for the course and the school registrar is notified of the need for a revised schedule to reflect the addition of the course. <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory student training.
<p>Personal Fitness and Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Rising eighth or rising ninth grade student <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Student Agreement signed by the student and parent/guardian before the course begins. <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Additional information on the state mandated standards for Physical Education and Health is available on the Georgia Department of Education's website:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Education: https://www.georgiastandards.org/Georgia-Standards/Documents/Physical-Education-9-12-Georgia-Standards.pdf <input type="checkbox"/> Health: https://www.georgiastandards.org/Georgia-Standards/Documents/HealthEducation-K-12-Georgia-Standards.pdf <input type="checkbox"/> Georgia Senate Bill 401: http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/enUS/display/20172018/SB/401
<p>Physical Science</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Rising eighth-grade student <input type="checkbox"/> At least a Spring STAR Math Scaled Score of 1081 <input type="checkbox"/> At least a Spring STAR Lexile of 1045L <input type="checkbox"/> Final average, 70% or better in the current Grade 7 science course <input type="checkbox"/> Final average, 80% or better in the current Grade 7 grade math course <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Student Agreement signed by the student and parent/guardian before the course begins.

<p>Spanish I and Spanish II</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Rising seventh or eighth-grade student <input type="checkbox"/> Expresses interest in taking more than two years of Modern Language <input type="checkbox"/> For Spanish II, 70% or better final average in Spanish I. <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Student Agreement signed by the student and parent/guardian before the course begins.
<p>Visual Arts/ Comprehensive I</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Rising eighth-grade student <input type="checkbox"/> Art Teacher Recommendation <input type="checkbox"/> Possesses talent and interest in the area of Visual Arts <input type="checkbox"/> Expresses interest in taking additional courses in Visual Arts while in high school. <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Student Agreement signed by the student and parent/guardian before the course begins.

Carnegie Credit Enhanced Algebra: Concepts and Connections Course

Descriptions and Registration Recommendations

Description:**Course Number: 27.09110**

This blended course option is offered for all learners seeking to pursue accelerated mathematics content in Grade 8 regardless of the course taken previously. The new Enhanced Algebra: Concepts and Connections course will be provided for students interested in pursuing advanced mathematics courses in middle and high school, including courses that go beyond the four core mathematics course options. The course, designed for students who have mastered the Grade 7 Mathematics standards, is a blend of the topics addressed in Grade 8 Mathematics (i.e., linear functions) and the topics addressed in Algebra: Concepts and Connections (i.e., non-linear functions). The content of this course prepares students for the federal assessment requirements, including the content assessed on the Grade 8 EOG and the HS Algebra EOC. Students who successfully complete Enhanced Algebra: Concepts and Connections will be prepared for Geometry: Concepts and Connections as a subsequent course. NOTE: Per federal requirements, students will take the Grade 8 End of Grad (EOG) and Algebra End of Course (EOC.) The percent of grade weight, 20%, is determined by the Georgia State Board of Education.

Considerations for Rising 8th Graders: When deciding the best next math course for you/your student, it is important to consider multiple factors. Indicators for academic readiness include two of the following:

- 70%+ final grade in Grade 7 Mathematics
- Expresses interest in pursuing advanced mathematics in middle and high school (including courses that go beyond the four core mathematics course options).
- Parent request

AND one (1) of the following:

- 80+ percentile ranking (PR) on the Winter STAR Math administration.
- Scaled Score of 1106+ on the Winter STAR Math.
- Score in Proficient or Distinguished level on the Mathematics Grade 7 Georgia Milestones.
- 80+ national percentile ranking on the mathematics portion of the IOWA in Grade 7.

For all students:

- Parent/Student Agreement signed before the course begins by the student and parent/guardian containing the criteria for maintaining course enrollment.

Carnegie Credit Introduction to Business and Technology Course
Descriptions and Registration Recommendations

Description:

Course Number: 07.44130

Introduction to Business & Technology is the foundational course for the Business and Technology, Entrepreneurship, and Human Resources Management pathways. This course is designed as a gateway to the career pathways above and provides an overview of business and technology skills required for today's business environment. Knowledge of business principles, the impact of financial decisions, and technology proficiencies demanded by business combine to establish the elements of this course. Emphasis is placed on developing proficient fundamental computer skills required for all career pathways. Students will learn the 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. Students will not only understand the concepts but apply their knowledge to situations and defend their actions/decisions/choices through the knowledge and skills acquired in this course. Employability skills are integrated into activities, tasks, and projects throughout the course standards to demonstrate the skills required by business and industry.

Various forms of technologies will be highlighted to expose students to the emerging technologies impacting the business world. Professional communication skills and practices, problem-solving, ethical and legal issues, and the impact of effective presentation skills are taught in this course as a foundational knowledge to prepare students to be college and career ready.

Registration Guidelines:

- Rising eighth grade student
- Expresses interest in taking more than two years of Business and Technology, Entrepreneurship, or Human Resources Management courses
- Parent/Student Agreement signed by the student and parent/guardian before the course begins.

Carnegie Credit Peer Facilitation I

Course Descriptions and Registration Recommendations

Description:**Course Number: 35.04100**

The purpose of this course is to train and certify students as peer facilitators or leaders in Rockdale County Schools. Students gain critical life skills through training and practice in the eight peer helping/communication skills. Additionally, the course will help peer facilitators/leaders learn problem-solving techniques, decision-making strategies, and basic concepts of human behavior as they relate to helping others (i.e. peer tutoring, peer mentoring, peer mediation, and peer listening). Additionally, students will be provided the opportunity to complete modules in the areas of office procedures, student orientation, mandated reporting, ethics, suicide prevention, mediation, bullying prevention, time management, and self-care. In addition, students have the opportunity to receive community service hours at their specific school site. Rockdale County Peer Leaders' course is a Certified Peer Program through the National Association of Peer Program Professionals (NAPPP) and demands the highest commitment to the standards of the program.

Registration Guidelines:

To foster a climate where character, academia and leadership development are fostered, students partake in the following prior to participation:

- Rising seventh or eighth grade student
- Submission of completed application
- Submission of grades (along with the completed application)
- Recommendation letters from all teachers (most current teachers - core and connections)
- Student interview
- Review of discipline and attendance (via Infinite Campus)
- The School Coordinator presents the final list of candidates to the School Principal, Administration and the School Counselors for final approval.

- Parent Orientation to communicate guidelines for participation
- RCPS Peer Helper Oath acknowledging the NAPPP Code of Ethics must be signed and returned at mandatory student orientation of the course.
- Parent/Student Agreement signed by the student and parent/guardian before the course begins.

- Students will be selected for the course once parents have accepted all of the guidelines which are communicated during the parent orientation. Once all parties are aware of the shared responsibilities, the students are selected for the course and the school registrar is notified of the need for a revised schedule to reflect the addition of the course.

Mandatory student training.

Carnegie Credit Personal Fitness and Health Course

Descriptions and Registration Recommendations

Description:**Course Numbers: Health-17.01100****Personal Fitness- 36.05100**

The purpose of the Personal Fitness course is to support students in developing health-related fitness, physical competence in movement activities, cognitive understanding, and positive attitudes toward physical activity so that they can adopt healthy and physically active lifestyles.

The purpose of the Health course is to acquire basic personal health concepts that help maintain healthy behaviors and prevent disease. In addition, students will demonstrate patterns of healthy behaviors to prevent or reduce the risk of injury and/or illness throughout their lifespan. Essential components of this health course will describe the interrelationships of emotional, physical, social, and intellectual health and how each aspect of health can be impacted by their surroundings. Unlike the middle school course, the performance expectations of the high school Health course provides the following objectives to address the Growth and Development unit of the Health curriculum.

- Through an introduction of correct terminology, students will be able to ask questions and discuss sexuality accurately.
- Through group activities, students will be able to identify the physical and emotional changes that occur during adolescence.
- Through discussions and digital video discs, students will identify differences between males and females.
- Using lectures, class discussions, and digital video discs, students will study the biology of reproduction in humans.
- Through discussions and digital video discs, students will learn behaviors appropriate for interacting with persons of the opposite sex.
- Students will understand some of the problems related to sexuality and how to effectively avoid them.
- Students will evaluate the effect of media on personal and family health.
- Students will study about the transmission of HIV, the effects of AIDS, and cause/effects of STDs.
- As of August 2018, Senate Bill 401, requires students enrolled in grades K-9 to annually receive age appropriate sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention education.

Additional information on the state mandated standards for Physical Education and Health is available on the Georgia Department of Education's website:

- Physical Education: <https://www.georgiastandards.org/Georgia-Standards/Documents/Physical-Education-9-12-Georgia-Standards.pdf>
- Health: <https://www.georgiastandards.org/Georgia-Standards/Documents/HealthEducation-K-12-Georgia-Standards.pdf>
- Georgia Senate Bill 401: <http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/enUS/display/20172018/SB/401> **Registration Guidelines:**

Rising eighth or rising ninth grade student

- Parent/Student Agreement signed by the student and parent/guardian before the course begins.

Carnegie Credit Physical Science

Course Descriptions and Registration Recommendations

Description:**Course Number: 40.01100**

Physical Science will offer a blended approach of the fundamental concepts from chemistry and physics while extending the ideas and skills of 8th grade physical science. Unlike the middle school course, the performance expectations of the high school course focus on several scientific practices. These include developing and using models, planning and conducting investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, using mathematical and computational thinking, and constructing explanations.

Registration Guidelines:

- Rising eighth grade student
- At least a Spring STAR Math Scaled Score of 1081
- At least a Spring STAR Lexile of 1045L
- Final average, 70% or better in the current Grade 7 science course
- Final average, 80% or better in the current Grade 7 math course
- Parent/Student Agreement signed by the student and parent/guardian before the course begins.

Carnegie Credit Spanish I and Spanish II Course Descriptions and Registration Recommendations

Description:**Course Numbers: Spanish I - 60.07100****Spanish II - 60.07200**

Spanish I is the first high school course in the world languages pathway, which includes Spanish II, Spanish III, Spanish III, Spanish IV, and AP Spanish Language. Two credits of Carnegie world language are required for enrollment in four-year colleges and universities; however, some universities may require at least three credits.

Spanish I introduces the Spanish language; emphasizes all skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in an integrated way. It includes how to greet and take leave of someone, to ask and respond to basic questions, to speak and read within a range of carefully selected topics and to develop an understanding of Spanish-speaking cultures. It assumes that the student has minimal or no prior knowledge of the language and culture.

Spanish II assumes that the students have successfully completed a Level I course. Students begin to show a greater level of accuracy when using basic language structures, and they are exposed to more complex features of the language. They continue to focus on communicating about their immediate world and daily life activities, read material on familiar topics, and write short, directed compositions. The major means of communication between students and instructors will be in the target language.

Spanish I and Spanish II may be offered as a traditional course or online via Rockdale Virtual Campus (RVC). Students enrolling in RVC will complete the coursework online using their school issued laptop in a supervised location during the school day.

Registration Guidelines:

- Rising seventh or eighth grade student
- Expresses interest in taking more than two years of World Language For Spanish II, 70% or better final average in Spanish I.
- Parent/Student Agreement signed by the student and parent/guardian before the course begins.

Carnegie Credit Visual Arts/Comprehensive I Course

Descriptions and Registration Recommendations

Description:**Course Number: 50.02110**

Visual Arts/Comprehensive I is the first high school course in the Visual Arts pathway and serves as a pre-requisite for all other visual arts courses. The course introduces art history, art criticism, aesthetic judgment and studio production. Instruction emphasizes the ability to understand and use elements and principles of design through a variety of media, processes and visual resources. Students also explore master artworks for historical and cultural significance.

Registration Guidelines:

- Rising eighth grade student
- Art Teacher Recommendation
- Possesses talent and interest in the area of Visual Arts
- Expresses interest in taking additional courses in Visual Arts while in high school
- Parent/Student Agreement signed by the student and parent/guardian before the course begins.

Student Recommendation for High School Carnegie Credit Courses

Student Name: _____ Current Grade: _____ School: _____

Students in middle school have the opportunity to earn high school credit in a number of classes. Courses offered in middle school will follow the same standards, curriculum, and procedures found in the high schools.

Your child is currently on track to meet the criteria to enroll in the following high school courses taken for Carnegie credit:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enhanced Algebra: Concepts and Connections | <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Introduction to Business & Technology | <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish I |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peer Facilitation | <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish II |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Fitness and Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Visual Arts |

Please select each high school course in which you would like your child may enroll:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enhanced Algebra: Concepts and Connections | <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Introduction to Business & Technology | <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish I |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peer Facilitation | <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish II |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Fitness and Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Visual Arts |

Please check the boxes below to indicate you have read and understand the requirements for your child to earn Carnegie Credit for a high school course taken while in middle school.

- I understand the course requirements for my child’s promotion into the year-ahead high school course for the upcoming school year.
- I have read and understand the Parent/Student Agreement information regarding enrollment, final grades, and how my child’s high school transcript and GPA will be impacted.
- I understand that if an End of Course (EOC) assessment is mandated by the state of Georgia, the student will be required to participate in the assessment to earn the Carnegie credit.
- I understand that *per state legislation, high school courses taken in middle school do not count toward the HOPE scholarship GPA. Visit Georgia Student Finance Commission’s website <https://www.gafutures.org/> to learn more about the HOPE Scholarship and eligibility.*

(Print) Parent/Guardian’s Name	Signature	Date
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If the school receives more interested students than they have space for in the desired course, the school will hold a blind lottery to determine which students will be enrolled in the Carnegie course. The school will keep records of all interested students, the blind lottery procedure, and the outcome of the lottery. Parents will be notified with a public post of the outcome of the lottery as it pertains to their child.

2024-2025 Parent/Student Agreement for High School Carnegie Credit Courses

Student Name: _____ Current Grade: _____ School: _____

Course(s) Enrolled: _____

You and your child have elected to enroll in one or more high school courses for Carnegie credit. Please review the information below regarding final grade requirements and how your child's high school transcript will be impacted by the completion of the course(s). Please complete this form no later than **ENTER DEADLINE TO RETURN**. A copy for your records is available via Parent Portal.

1. Students are classified as a high school student only after the official entry date for the ninth grade.
2. Students must earn a final grade of 70% or higher both semesters to receive Carnegie credit for the course at the end of the year.
3. Both semester 1 and semester 2 numerical grades will appear as separate grades on the high school transcript. The grades are not averaged to yield a final grade.
4. Carnegie units in middle school will be recorded on the high school transcript as the numerical grade earned and will NOT be calculated in the high school GPA, which determines class rank, valedictorian, honor graduate, etc.
5. If the student fails first semester, the student will be placed in the regular grade level course. The first semester grade will appear on the middle school report card but will not be posted on the student's high school transcript and will not be calculated into the student's high school Grade Point Average (GPA).
6. As mandated by state law, students enrolled in Enhanced Algebra: Concepts and Connections will take both the Grade 8 Milestone End of Grade (EOG) and the Enhanced Algebra: Concepts and Connections End of Course (EOC) assessment which will count as 20% of the final grade for second semester.
7. Students cannot earn $\frac{1}{2}$ credit for courses. Students who do not successfully complete a Carnegie unit course (minimum 70% both first and second semesters) may need to repeat the entire course in high school in order to receive Carnegie unit credit where necessary to meet RCPS graduation requirements.
8. Students who earn credit unit in middle school with a grade of 70% or higher cannot retake the same course in high school.
9. Parents/students who wish to decline credit must submit a signed waiver at the end of the year indicating that the final grade will count for middle school course completion only.

Please check the boxes below to indicate you have read and understand the requirements for your child to earn Carnegie Credit for a high school course taken while in middle school.

I understand the course requirements for my child's promotion into the year-ahead high school course for the upcoming school year.

I have read and understand the Parent/Student Agreement information regarding enrollment, final grades, and how my child's high school transcript and GPA will be impacted.

I understand that if a Milestones End of Course (EOC) assessment is mandated by the state of Georgia, my child is required to participate in the assessment to earn the Carnegie credit.

I understand that ***per state legislation, high school courses taken in middle school do not count toward the HOPE scholarship GPA***. Visit Georgia Student Finance Commission's website <https://www.gafutures.org/> to learn more about the HOPE Scholarship and eligibility.

(Print) Parent/Guardian's Name

Signature

Date