

**RAPID CITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #51-4
2013-2014 Middle School
Registration Book
8th Grade**



**EAST MIDDLE SCHOOL
4860 Homestead Street**

**NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL
1501 North Maple Avenue**

**SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL
2 Indiana Street**

**SOUTHWEST MIDDLE SCHOOL
4501 Park Drive**

**WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL
1003 Soo San Drive**

Adopted by the Board of Education, January 17, 2013

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WELCOME TO RAPID CITY MIDDLE SCHOOL

In addition to the selection of course offerings listed in this booklet, the Middle Schools offer opportunities in many co-curricular activities such as sports, clubs, student government, and competitive speech. Each student is encouraged to consider participation in these activities in addition to the courses of the required program.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR REGISTRATION

Student registration is extremely important and parental involvement is necessary. Please keep in mind that the classes signed up for are the classes the student will take. This includes alternatives when necessary. The only changes that will be made once school starts will be those deemed necessary by the building principal.

Students are to select their classes from the list of course offerings in this booklet during pre-registration. This will be done during the second semester of the school year and provides the information needed to develop the school's master schedule for the following year. Students are required by policy to enroll in seven classes each semester. The student's schedule will be developed by computer assignment on a random basis.

MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Each student will enroll in math, science, social studies, English, and physical education. Students must select electives to complete their schedule.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVE COURSES

Elective courses not having sufficient enrollees to justify offering will be discontinued. Course placement will be made on the basis of students' alternative selections.

SPECIAL SERVICES

This department is for students in need of special assistance. Students entering this program will need to be certified as needing special assistance by an appropriate evaluation. An Individual Educational Plan (IEP) will be developed by a placement committee consisting of parents, students, and teachers. Students may be enrolled for all or part of the school day.

GIFTED / ENRICHMENT SERVICES

(Formerly known as Gifted Education Services or TAG)

Our **Vision** is to develop the capacity to provide enriching educational opportunities to prepare high ability and gifted students for the 21st Century to ensure students reach their full potential.

Our **mission** is to provide high ability and gifted students with authentic learning opportunities and a variety of options for academic growth. Students, families and staff will collaborate in order to help students expand their knowledge and begin to think of themselves as leaders, empowering them to become lifelong scholars, innovators, critical thinkers, and global citizens.

***A High ability student** is defined as any student, who demonstrates through performance or assessments, a need for enriching or extended learning opportunities.

- Early identification of the gifted child shall be accomplished through a multifaceted approach.
- The program should emphasize a differentiated curriculum and instruction as appropriate to the needs and abilities of the students.
- The primary objective of the education program shall be the development of the high ability and gifted child's abilities.
- Active parental involvement is viewed as an integral and crucial ingredient of a quality program. Every effort should be made to foster parental involvement in all aspects of their child's educational program.

The placement and progress of the identified gifted child will be continually evaluated and documented.

TEST OUT (CREDIT BY EXAM) PROGRAM

DISTRICT CODE: IHH-P1

(There is no cost to students who participate in the Test Out (Credit By Exam) Program.)

RCAS District Code IHH allows any student enrolled in RCAS in grades 9-12 to challenge courses specifically identified by the Board of Education including Integrated Math 1, Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Geometry, Physical Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Civics, World History, Geography, U.S. History, U.S. Government, Information and Communication Technology 1, English 9 & 10, Personal Finance, Spanish 1, German 1, and German 2.

Testing is coordinated through the District Test Out Coordinator located at Rapid City High School at 394-4048. Examinations are comprehensive and assess factual knowledge as well as process and performance skills.

- I. Students may petition to challenge courses specifically identified by the board of education. The following conditions apply:
 - A. Student will be allowed to test out of and receive up to eight (8) credits toward high school graduation for specific courses approved by the board of education. (see District code: IHH-E2)

- B. South Dakota Department of Education approved End-of-Course Exams will be used for the test-out programs.
 - C. The tests will be comprehensive and will assess factual knowledge as well as process and performance skills appropriate to the subject. Traditional evaluation methods, such as multiple choice, as well as alternative methods of assessment, such as essays, laboratory, activities, and oral presentation may be used.
 - D. Students will be allowed to test out of courses on pre-established test dates. Additional testing needs may be accommodated following the process detailed in District Code IHH-P2.
 - E. A student will be allowed to challenge a specific course only once.
 - F. Performance based tests (i.e., speech, computer, science lab, and research papers) must be scored by district teachers who currently teach the content tested.
 - G. Credit will be awarded only for the course(s) successfully challenged. Students must earn a score of 85 percent or better to successfully challenge a course.
 - H. Credit for successfully challenged course will be recorded as PASS on official student transcripts and will not affect the student's official Grade Point Average (GPA) and Class Rank.
- II. If a transcribed letter grade is required for scholarship eligibility or college admissions, the student must submit a written request to the appropriate Guidance Office requesting a letter grade. Students' requests should be received in the Guidance Office no later than the last of the day of the first semester of the student's senior year. When a Test Out credit letter grade is assigned, the resulting letter grade may not be calculated in the high school GPA and Class Rank.
- III. The Test Out Program cannot be used to raise a non-failing grade. Students who are currently enrolled in a class but who have a failing grade or students who have failed a class may only take advantage of the Course Test Out offered on pre-established dates.

DISTRICT CODE: IHH-P3 (CREDIT BEFORE GRADE 9)

- I. Students may petition to challenge courses specifically identified by the board of education. The following conditions apply:
 - A. Students taking a course for high school credit prior to entering grade 9 must pass a state-approved Credit Before Grade 9 exam upon completion of the course. Students must pass the exam with a score of 80% or higher. The student may take the exam up to two times prior to July 1 before the student enters high school. The unit of credit and course grade will then be recorded on official student transcript and calculated into the student's official Grade Point Average (GPA) and Class Rank. This section applies to students taking a high school credit granting course prior to entering grade 9 only.

Students are advised to visit with their middle school counselor or administrator or high school counselor with any questions or concerns regarding the Test Out Program.

GRADE 8
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
REQUIRED COURSES

LANGUAGE ARTS 8

1 Year

The language arts curriculum for grade 8 consists of oral communication and speech, written communication (including capitalization, punctuation, paragraphs, and compositions), grammar, vocabulary, study skills, and literature.

SOCIAL STUDIES 8

1 Year

The eighth grade social studies curriculum investigates the history of the United States from the Revolutionary War to World War 1. Students will discover the relationships and patterns in history, the impact of government in domestic and world affairs, and how individuals and groups of people have influenced our development.

MATH 8 (Inquiry-based)

1 Year

Students will use variables and expressions to perform the four basic operations with whole numbers and common and decimal fractions. Students will solve simple equations involving fractions and integers. Rational numbers, problem solving, and higher level thinking skills are stressed.

Students who demonstrate exemplary skills and qualifications in Math 7 or Accelerated Math 7 may be grouped for Integrated Math 1. Students successfully earning credit for Integrated Math I (taught during the eighth grade year) will be awarded high school credit upon passing the Integrated Math 1 End of Course exam with a score of 80% or higher.

INTEGRATED MATH 1 (inquiry-based)

1 Year

The fundamental purpose of Integrated Math 1 is to formalize and extend the mathematics that students learned in the middle grades. Students will deepen and extend understanding of linear relationships. Student will also study linear and exponential relationships, equations, descriptive statistics, congruence of geometric figures, and algebra and geometry through coordinates. The Mathematical Practice Standards, which entails students using their abilities to make sense of problem situations, also apply to this course.

Students successfully earning credit for Integrated Math I will be awarded high school credit upon passing the Integrated Math 1 End of Course exam with a score of 80% or higher.

SCIENCE 8

1 Year

Students will gather information through activity labs and a variety of inquiry-based resources.

Areas of study may include chemistry, simple machines, genetics, physiology, astronomy, forces, motion, and creative problem-solving. The scientific method and science skills are emphasized.

READING 8

1 Year

► ***Based on specific building needs, reading may be offered for one semester.***

The eighth grade reading curriculum is a continuation of the elementary school reading program. This course gives students the opportunity to refine and master reading skills. The course of study includes vocabulary building, study skill improvement, reference material work, reading comprehension development, and listening skill improvement.

HEALTH / PHYSICAL EDUCATION / RECREATION

1 Semester

The program will offer health education and physical education. Health topics taught will include personal hygiene, fitness, tobacco and drug abuse, contagious diseases, and first aid practices. The physical education program will offer beginning and intermediate skills in a wide variety of activities. Activities include lifetime sports, recreational games, individual, and dual games. Weather permitting, outdoor activities will be held both in the fall and spring. Some of the activities may include archery, aerobics, basketball, body conditioning, golf, gymnastics, soccer, softball, track, volleyball, football, and wrestling.

Students will repeat fundamentals of each activity while having the opportunity to progress further with their skills. Class instruction will include study sheets and written evaluation for most units. Students must provide suitable physical education attire including gym shoes.

ELECTIVE COURSES

Taught by Elective Area Specialists

School designed elective offerings enrich and extend the academic subjects. Specific information on the school designed electives offered at your building will be distributed separately.

ART

1 Semester

This semester elective course is designed for students with a particular interest in art. Projects will be designed to reinforce and advance what is taught in sixth and seventh grade while allowing more freedom of expression and personal creativity. New concepts will be introduced with a higher priority placed on skill development and craftsmanship.

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE

1 Semester

This course will use computer modules with various hands-on projects to provide students with the opportunity to gain skills in food preparation, sewing, human development, personal development, child care, and consumer education.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

1 Semester

The emphasis of this class is the practical application of computers. Applicable software will be used to teach integrated applications (word processing, databases, spreadsheets, paint and draw), desktop publishing, multimedia, information access (Internet), and technology tools.

MUSIC

BAND

1 Year

The band consists of a balanced instrumentation group. Good musicianship and conduct are required with this performing group. Performances are scheduled each semester and participation in performances is required.

ORCHESTRA

1 Year

The group is comprised of group and individual work on orchestral instruments. Students must have previous instrumental experience. Grades 7 and 8 may be combined. Performances are scheduled each semester and participation in performances is required.

CHORUS

1 Semester/1 Year

► ***Based on specific building needs, chorus may be offered for one year.***

Chorus is open to both boys and girls. The most important objectives are learning to sight-read, singing in parts, and working together in a group to reach common musical goals. Attitude, enthusiasm, and cooperation play an important role in chorus. Some time is spent in music appreciation which involves reading, study time, and testing. Performances are scheduled each semester and participation in performances is required.

ELECTIVE COURSES (Cont.)

SCHOOL DESIGNED ELECTIVES*

School designed elective offerings enrich and extend the academic subjects. The following are examples of courses:

Video Production	Leadership	Drama
Literature	Literature, Advanced	Current Events
Environment	Digital Photography	Piano Keyboarding
Wolakota (language, culture, and history)	Health/PE/Recreation	Technology Education
	Reading, Advanced	Science Experience

*Not all the above are taught at all middle schools. They are designed to meet the needs of individual buildings.