



Handbook and Student Agreement

Table of Contents

Handbook and Student Agreement	1
Welcome to the RCS Virtual Academy	2
RCS Virtual Academy Courses	3
Technology Requirements	10
RCSVA Frequently Asked Questions	11
Advice From Former RCSVA Students	13
RCS Virtual Academy Student Agreement	14

Welcome to the RCS Virtual Academy

Welcome to the Rockingham County Schools Virtual Academy. We are excited to offer this innovative learning opportunity for our high school students and look forward to helping you achieve success in our program. The RCSVA is available to all students in grades 10 - 12 who want to experience online courses through 21st century technology. By creating well-developed, student-centered courses that focus on rigorous instruction for independent learners, the RCSVA provides flexibility to students and their individual needs.

Through offering online courses that are in high demand for today's driven independent learners, the RCSVA supports core courses and electives that will allow students to explore distance learning at both the high school and college levels.

This handbook will provide program information and answers to questions that you may have. Our goal is to provide you with the skills and the support needed to be successful in this environment.

Please contact me anytime you have a question or concern.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Covell
Director of Digital Learning and Media
Rockingham County Schools
ecovell@rock.k12.nc.us
336.634.3209

RCS Virtual Academy Courses

The RCSVA courses are completely online. The majority of courses are taught by RCS teachers; however, we have also partnered with Rockingham Community College who will be offering several online college courses.

The courses being offered for the 2020-2021 school year are listed below. Courses are open to students in grades 10-12 who meet the course prerequisites at any of our high schools.

The Virtual Academy is open to students in grades 10 - 12 at all schools. Each class will be capped at a maximum of 35 students.

Course Structure

These courses are not tied to a block schedule. Students could work on the course at any time of the day or night. RCS courses will use CANVAS. RCS teachers would be responsible for having 2 times each day where they could respond to questions from students. In addition, there are at least 2 required live meetings each semester.

Courses Available for 2020-2021

Courses available for High School credit (taught by RCS Teachers):

English III Honors (Pending)	Credit: 1 Grades: 11 Weight: H Prerequisite: English II Honors recommended	Further development of critical skills in reading, writing, thinking, and viewing through the study of American literature. Learn research and documentation techniques by completing a research paper.
American History: The Founding Principles, Civics, and Economics Honors	Credit: 1 Grades: 10-12 Weight: H Prerequisite: World History or AM I or II Honors with recommendation from Teacher	As informed decision-makers, students will apply acquired knowledge to real-life experiences. When studying the legal and political systems, students will become aware of their rights and responsibilities and put this information into practice. The economic, legal, and political systems will be expanded on through selected readings, projects, and written research essays, one major project per grading period.

American History II Honors	Credit: 1 Grades: 10-12 Weight: H Prerequisite: AM I Honors with recommendation from Teacher	Study the important historic events from the institution of the emerging republic to the present. Participate in extensive reading and special projects. Learn critical thinking skills, analysis of primary documents, and written research essays.
Math III Honors (Pending)	Credit: 1 Grade: 10-12 Weight: H Prerequisite: Math II Honors	Cover the Math III curriculum and extend concepts to include higher levels of critical thinking, problem analysis, and enrichment activities.
Pre-Calculus Honors	Credit: 1 Grade: 11-12 Weight: H Prerequisite: Math III Honors or teacher recommendation	Study trigonometry, as well as advanced algebra topics, analytic Math II, sequences and series, and data analysis. Included also is an introduction to limits and elementary derivatives.
Spanish I	Credit: 1 Grade: 10-12 Weight: S Prerequisite: None	Acquire basic knowledge of the Spanish language through an emphasis on listening and speaking skills. Study vocabulary and acquire a basic understanding of parts of speech and sentence structure. Learn about the Hispanic culture.
Spanish II	Credit: 1 Grade: 10-12 Weight: S Prerequisite: Spanish I	Continue your emphasis on listening and speaking skills with the addition of reading and writing. Study grammatical structure and major verb tenses, along with essential sentence structure necessary to use Spanish in everyday life. Continue vocabulary building and Spanish cultural activities.

<p>Latin I</p>	<p>Credit: 1</p> <p>Grade: 10-12</p> <p>Weight: S</p> <p>Prerequisite: None</p>	<p>Acquire a basic knowledge of Latin language with an emphasis on vocabulary, grammar, skills, and syntax. Study Roman culture, mythology, history, and the connection of English to Latin with derivatives form Latin words.</p>
<p>Latin II</p>	<p>Credit: 1</p> <p>Grade: 10-12</p> <p>Weight: S</p> <p>Prerequisite: Latin I</p>	<p>Continue to explore the language and customs of ancient Roman society. Learn the importance of the Latin language as a means of building a greater English vocabulary. Read and translate the works of Roman</p>
<p>Latin III</p>	<p>Credit: 1</p> <p>Grade: 10-12</p> <p>Weight: S</p> <p>Prerequisite: Latin II</p>	<p>Read Latin literature, Cicero and a wide range of other authors to acquire a proficiency in Latin as a language. Learn about the history, culture, and mythology of the Romans.</p>
<p>ACT Preparation</p>	<p>Credit: 1</p> <p>Grades: 10-11</p> <p>Weight: S</p> <p>Prerequisite: None</p>	<p>Prepare for the ACT. Receive help in all areas for college including resumes, application essays, recommendations, application forms, and financial aid procedures.</p>
<p>Microsoft ITA: Word and PowerPoint Honors</p>	<p>Credit: 1</p> <p>Grades: 10-12</p> <p>Weight: H</p> <p>Prerequisite: None</p> <p>Special Requirement: Requires Word and Powerpoint software that can be accessed from school CTE lab or student can use</p>	<p>Honors students in Microsoft IT Academies benefit from world class Microsoft curriculum and cutting edge software tools to tackle real world challenges in the classroom environment. The first part of the class is a supplemental section where students will learn to create, edit, organize, and share a virtual notebook. In the second part, students will learn to use the newest version of Microsoft Word interface, commands and features to create, enhance, customize and deliver presentations.</p>

	<p>their own personal device with free software. Chromebooks do <u>not</u> support this software.</p>	
<p>Microsoft ITA: Excel and Access Honors</p>	<p>Credit: 1</p> <p>Grades: 10-12</p> <p>Weight: H</p> <p>Prerequisite: Word and PowerPoint Honors Suggested</p> <p>Special Requirement: Requires Excel and Access software that can be accessed from school CTE lab or student can use their own personal device with free software.</p> <p>Chromebooks do <u>not</u> support this software.</p>	<p>Honors students in Microsoft IT Academies benefit from world-class Microsoft curriculum and cutting edge software tools to tackle real world challenges in the classroom environment. The first part of the class is designed to help you use the newest version of Microsoft Excel interface commands, and features to present, analyze, and manipulate various types of data. Students will learn to manage workbooks as well as how to manage, manipulate, and format data. In the second part of the class, students will learn how to create and work with databases and its objects by using the new and improved features in the newest version of Microsoft Access. Students will learn how to create, modify, and locate information as well as how to create programmable elements and share and distribute database information.</p>
<p>Pharmacy Technician</p>	<p>Credit: 1</p> <p>Grades: 10-12</p> <p>Weight: H</p> <p>Prerequisite: HU 42 Health Science II</p> <p>Slots are limited to only 10 students per semester.</p>	<p>This course has self-paced, on-line instruction designed to prepare high school seniors for a pharmacy technician career. Topics included in this course are federal law, medication used in major body systems, calculations, and pharmacy operations. Mathematics is reinforced in this course. Work-based learning strategies appropriate for this course include an apprenticeship, cooperative education, internship, or mentorship. Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) competitive events, community service, and leadership activities provide the opportunity to apply essential standards and workplace readiness skills through authentic experiences. This course is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (APCE). Upon successful completion of this course and after graduation, the student is eligible to take the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) exam.</p>

Courses available for College Credit through [RCC's Career & College Promise](#): (Students must meet the College & Career Promise program requirements to be eligible for these courses.) Click [HERE for RCC's CCP Website](#) for the most up to date course changes and information.

<p>ECON 251 Principles of Microeconomics</p>	<p>Credit: 1 Grade: 11-12 Weight: AP/IB/College Prerequisite: CCP requirements</p>	<p>This course introduces economic analysis of individual, business, and industry in the market economy. Topics include the price mechanism, supply and demand, optimizing economic behavior, costs and revenue, market structures, factor markets, income distribution, market failure, and government intervention. Upon completion, students should be able to identify and evaluate consumer and business alternatives in order to efficiently achieve economic objectives.</p>
<p>ECON 252 Principles of Macroeconomics</p>	<p>Credit: 1 Grade: 11-12 Weight: AP/IB/College Prerequisite: CCP requirements</p>	<p>This course introduces economic analysis of aggregate employment, income, and prices. Topics include major schools of economic thought; aggregate supply and demand; economic measures, fluctuations, and growth; money and banking; stabilization techniques; and international trade. Upon completion, students should be able to evaluate national economic components, conditions, and alternatives for achieving socio economic goals. This course has been approved for transfer under the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement (CAA). See the College Transfer section of the catalog for information about the CAA and the transfer designation of this course.</p>
<p>HIST 132 American History II (Spring semester only)</p>	<p>Credit: 1 Grade: 11-12 Weight: AP/IB/College Prerequisite: CCP requirements</p>	<p>This course is a survey of American history from the Civil War era to the present. Topics include industrialization, immigration, the Great Depression, the major American wars, the Cold War, and social conflict. Upon completion, students should be able to analyze significant political, socioeconomic, and cultural developments in American history since the Civil War.</p>
<p>MAT 143 Quantitative Literacy</p>	<p>Credit: 1 Grade: 11-12 Weight: AP/IB/College Prerequisite: CCP requirements</p>	<p>This course is designed to engage students in complex and realistic situations involving the mathematical phenomena of quantity, change and relationship, and uncertainty through project- and activity-based assessment. Emphasis is placed on authentic contexts which will introduce the concepts of numeracy, proportional reasoning, dimensional analysis, rates of growth, personal finance, consumer statistics, practical probabilities, and mathematics for citizenship. Upon completion, students should be able to utilize quantitative information as consumers and to make personal, professional, and civic decisions by decoding, interpreting, using, and communicating quantitative information found in modern media and encountered in everyday life.</p>

<p>MAT 152 Statistical Methods I</p>	<p>Credit: 1 Grade: 11-12 Weight: AP/IB/College Prerequisite: CCP requirements</p>	<p>This course provides a project-based approach to introductory statistics with an emphasis on using real-world data and statistical literacy. Topics include descriptive statistics, correlation and regression, basic probability, discrete and continuous probability distributions, confidence intervals and hypothesis testing. Upon completion, students should be able to use appropriate technology to describe important characteristics of a data set, draw inferences about a population from sample data, and interpret and communicate results. This course has been approved for transfer under the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement (CAA). See the College Transfer section of the catalog for information about the CAA and the transfer designation of this course.</p>
<p>SOC 210 Introduction to Sociology</p> <p>(Spring semester only)</p>	<p>Credit: 1 Grade: 11-12 Weight: AP/IB/College Prerequisite: CCP requirements</p>	<p>This course introduces the scientific study of human society, culture, and social interactions. Topics include socialization, research methods, diversity and inequality, cooperation and conflict, social change, social institutions, and organizations. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate knowledge of sociological concepts as they apply to the interplay among individuals, groups, and societies.</p>
<p>SPAN 111</p> <p>Elementary Spanish I</p>	<p>Credit: 1 Grade: 11-12 Weight: AP/IB/College Prerequisite: CCP requirements</p>	<p>This course introduces the fundamental elements of the Spanish language within a cultural context. Emphasis is placed on the development of basic listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Upon completion, students should be able to comprehend and respond with grammatical accuracy to spoken and written Spanish and demonstrate cultural awareness. This course has been approved for transfer under the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement (CAA). See the College Transfer section of the catalog for information about the CAA and the transfer designation of this course.</p>
<p>GER 111</p> <p>Elementary German I</p>	<p>Credit: 1 Grade: 11-12 Weight: AP/IB/College Prerequisite: CCP requirements</p>	<p>This course introduces the fundamental elements of the German language within a cultural context. Emphasis is placed on the development of basic listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Upon completion, students should be able to comprehend and respond with grammatical accuracy to spoken and written German and demonstrate cultural awareness. This course has been approved for transfer under the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement (CAA). See the College Transfer section of the catalog 7 for information about the CAA and the transfer designation of this course.</p>

<p>ENG 111 Writing & Inquiry</p>	<p>Credit: 1 Grade: 11-12 Weight: AP/IB/College Prerequisite: CCP requirements</p>	<p>This course is designed to develop the ability to produce clear writing in a variety of genres and formats using a recursive process. Emphasis includes inquiry, analysis, effective use of rhetorical strategies, thesis development, audience awareness, and revision. Upon completion, students should be able to produce unified, coherent, well-developed essays using standard written English. This course has been approved for transfer under the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement (CAA). See the College Transfer section of the catalog for information about the CAA and the transfer designation of this course.</p>
<p>ENG 112 Writing/Research in the Disciplines</p>	<p>Credit: 1 Grade: 11-12 Weight: AP/IB/College Prerequisite: CCP requirements ENG 111</p>	<p>This course, the second in a series of two, introduces research techniques, documentation styles, and writing strategies. Emphasis is placed on analyzing information and ideas and incorporating research findings into documented writing and research projects. Upon completion, students should be able to evaluate and synthesize information from primary and secondary sources using documentation appropriate to various disciplines. This course has been approved for transfer under the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement (CAA). See the College Transfer section of the catalog for information about the CAA and the transfer designation of this course.</p>
<p>PSY 150 General Psychology (Fall semester only)</p>	<p>Credit: 1 Grade: 11-12 Weight: AP/IB/College Prerequisite: CCP requirements</p>	<p>This course provides an overview of the scientific study of human behavior. Topics include history, methodology, biopsychology, sensation, perception, learning, motivation, cognition, abnormal behavior, personality theory, social psychology, and other relevant topics. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate a basic knowledge of the science of psychology. This course has been approved for transfer under the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement (CAA). See the College Transfer section of the catalog for information about the CAA and the transfer designation of this course.</p>
<p>EDU 119 Early Childhood Education</p>	<p>Credit: 1 Grade: 11-12 Weight: S Prerequisite: CCP requirements</p>	<p>This course introduces the foundations of early childhood education, the diverse educational settings for young children, professionalism and planning intentional developmentally appropriate experiences for each child. Topics include theoretical foundations, national early learning standards, NC Foundations for Early Learning and Development, state regulations, program types, career options, professionalism, ethical conduct, quality inclusive environments, and curriculum responsive to the needs of each child/family. Upon completion, students should be able to design a career/professional development plan, appropriate environments, schedules, and activity plans.</p>

EDU 145 Child Development II	Credit: 1 Grade: 11-12 Weight: S Prerequisite: CCP requirements and EDU 144	This course includes the theories of child development, needs, milestones, and factors that influence development, from preschool through middle childhood. Emphasis is placed on developmental sequences in physical/motor, emotional/social, cognitive, and language domains and the impact of multiple influences on development and learning.
CJC 111 Introduction to Criminal Justice	Credit: 1 Grade: 11-12 Weight: S Prerequisite: CCP Requirements and DRE 097	This course introduces the components and processes of the criminal justice system Topics include history, structure, functions and philosophy of the criminal justice system and their relationship to life in our society.

[Click HERE to view RCC Course offered on RCS Campuses](#)

Student Responsibilities

- Log into your course daily.
- Read the announcements posted by your teacher.
- Check your To-Do List for all upcoming assignments.
- Complete all assignments by the posted due date.
- Review all course materials and resources, including presentations and videos provided by your teacher.
- Make contact with your teacher via email or telephone if you have any questions or experience any difficulties.
- Maintain academic integrity. Avoid all dishonesty including cheating and plagiarizing.
- Be courteous and polite in your online exchanges with classmates.
- Complete all assessments associated with your course, including both state and certification exams.
- Participate in two live classes each semester. The dates, times, and locations for these classes will be provided by your teacher at the start of each course.

Technology Requirements

Students enrolled in RCSVA classes must have daily access to a computer or tablet and internet access. School-issued Chromebooks are appropriate for most courses; however, students enrolled in Microsoft courses need to have access to a computer that has the appropriate Microsoft software installed. Some college courses may also require a computer that allows software to be installed.

Students experiencing technical difficulties should contact their teacher immediately. They can also contact the RCS Technology Help Desk by email helpdesk@rock.k12.nc.us or calling 336.627.2700. Problems with Canvas can be reported by submitting a Help Ticket within Canvas or by contacting Elizabeth Covell, ecovell@rock.k12.nc.us.

RCSVA Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How will the face-to-face meetings be conducted/scheduled?

A: These meetings may be synchronous online meetings or they may be face-to-face in one physical location.

Q: If students are already scheduled for face-to-face courses, can they switch to the virtual courses?

A: This is a site-based decision, but not recommended.

Q: Can the course be completed at home if it is scheduled as the student's 1st or 4th period?

A: Yes. Please communicate with your school administration regarding check-in and check-out procedures.

Q: When is the deadline for signing up?

A: The deadline for signing up for the RCC Spring courses is mid-November. The deadline for signing up for the RCS teacher-led spring courses is 1/8/21 (RECHS) and 1/24/21 (traditional).

Q: Is the ACT Prep course honors or standard weight?

A: This course carries a standard weight.

Q: Can 10th grade students who complete English II in the fall take English III in the spring?

A: Yes.

Q: Can students complete 5th period coursework at any time in the evening?

A: Yes.

Q: How do we sign up?

A: Contact your guidance counselor via email.

Q: Can students use iPads to complete these courses?

A: Students should be able to access most course content with an iPad, but there may be some components that require software unavailable on a tablet. Please consider library availability to complete those components.

Q: Do the 5th classes count towards the GPA?

A: Yes.

Q: Where will students be stationed in the school building?

A: That will be a school-based decision.

Q: When will students take the exams?

A: Students will take their exams at their home schools during the school's regularly scheduled exam days.

Q: Are students guaranteed the ability to continue to take courses online?

A: As long as the students remain in good academic standing, they will be able to take available online courses.

Q: There are currently no science classes being offered. Are there plans to expand to incorporate that area?

A: This is being discussed; however, the lab requirements may make these courses difficult to complete virtually.

Q: Can students work at their own pace?

A: Teachers have been advised to allow for some flexibility in pacing, but to provide weekly updates and checklists for assignments.

Q: Are there prerequisites for courses?

A: Yes, for most of the courses there are prerequisite requirements. Please see this link:

<https://www.rock.k12.nc.us/curriculum>

Q: Can you take these courses additional to IB?

A: Yes.

Q: Are there penalties if you drop the course?

A: Yes. Dropping the college courses will result in a grade of F.

Q: Can I take college sociology after taking APEX sociology?

A: Yes. The college course is a different course.

Q: Is there an enrollment cap on these courses?

A: Yes, these courses are capped at 25 students per semester. Additional enrollments must be approved by the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction.

Advice From Former RCSVA Students

Always check your Canvas and email and if you do have any questions about assignments, do not hesitate to email your instructor.

Learn to make time for the online course throughout the week.

Stay on top of your work and keep up with due dates.

TURN IN WORK ON TIME and communicate with your instructor if there is a problem or you just aren't understanding the material

Do not fall behind. Do your assignments on time, study for your quizzes and tests, and you will be fine. Don't be afraid to ask the instructor for help if you need it.

Do not let the freedom of having an online class distract you from doing the work because you can fall behind quickly.

Take this course!!! You learn so much and in such a fun way. Plus, you are practically learning how to teach yourself and learning some time management skills as well. The Virtual Academy teaches you to not have to rely on a teacher and have more responsibility for yourself.

At least take one online class in your high school career.

Check your work at the beginning of the week, so you know if you have any questions instead of waiting until the last day to submit it to email your teacher with a question.

Just be prepared to work hard and know its all worth it.

Make sure you have due dates written down because there is no one there to remind you in person, and asks lots of questions.

Check into Canvas every day to make sure you are not missing any assignments.

Do not procrastinate and respect the deadlines because it is a class with real grades so treat it like a real class. If you are a person that procrastinates, online classes are not for you. Even if it is online, you can ask for help from your teacher and classmates.

RCS Virtual Academy Student Agreement

Student's Name: _____

By signing below, you accept the following:

1. I have read and understand the student responsibilities and technology requirements outlined in the RCS Virtual Academy Handbook.
2. I understand that it is my responsibility to log into my online course daily and complete all assignments.
3. I understand that I am responsible for the necessary computer equipment and internet access for RCSVA and college courses.
4. I will do all work myself and refrain from plagiarizing.
5. I will email or call my teacher if I have questions or need assistance.
6. I will attend the two live classes required each semester.
7. I will take all required assessments and certification exams in person at my home school on the day assigned.
8. I understand that all grades earned through the RCSVA will appear on my transcript and will be calculated into my GPA.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian email address _____

Student email address _____

Please print, complete, sign, and return this Student Agreement to:

Elizabeth Covell
Rockingham County Schools
401 Moss Street
Reidsville, NC 27320