



Rockford Public Schools

Quality Community – Quality Schools
Together Building a Tradition of Excellence

Rockford Freshman Center

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Rockford Freshman Center offers accelerated learning opportunities for ninth-grade students who seek a challenging high school program and may enjoy these courses. The accelerated options are described on page 2 of this communication. None are prerequisites to future honors or Advanced Placement courses, but are an opportunity for high-willed students to challenge themselves through courses that focus on deep thinking and effort.

Students with a strong work ethic and commitment tend to enjoy and find success in the more rigorous courses, whereas those with inconsistent academic behaviors (i.e. work completion, problem-solving, study habits, time) are more likely to struggle and/or perform less well. We ask students and families to consider the interest and work habits of their student when determining the best placement for ninth grade.

Google form requests (<https://bit.ly/HonorsApplication2026>) for Honors Earth Science and AP World History are **due no later than Friday, March 13, 2026**. Please note that neither incomplete nor late requests will be considered. If you have any questions regarding the application or offerings, feel free to contact me anytime.

Sincerely,

Kelly Amshey, *Principal*
Rockford Freshman Center

Honors Earth Science

- Before or on March 13, interested students will complete the request form <https://bit.ly/HonorsApplication2026>
- The application requires students to report NWEA scores in reading, language and science, which are good indicators of ability to successfully complete requirements of the course. Your student's NWEA score is provided by the middle school after the winter test window. Please contact your student's school if you do not have the accurate record.
- The application requires students to report course grades, which provide an indication of the work habits that are necessary to perform well in the course.
- RFC will reach out if we have questions or concerns about the request. If there are no questions from RFC, parent(s)/guardian(s) will receive confirmation of the honors placement in May.

Honors Mathematics

- Students need not take any action.
- Middle school math teachers recommend students for Honors Geometry or Honors Algebra 2.
- Students who are recommended but prefer the traditional math course may request that change by messaging the RFC counselor.

Advanced Placement World History

- Before or on March 13, interested students will complete the request form <https://bit.ly/HonorsApplication2026>
- Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.
- AP stands for Advanced Placement. AP courses are very rigorous and require a great deal of time and effort. Additionally, AP courses will require students to think critically and analyze in a way that will challenge even very strong students, particularly at the ninth-grade level.
- More details about AP World History can be found here: <https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-world-history-modern>. Please review the information carefully before completing the application.
- AP students are expected to participate in the College Board AP Examination in May 2027. There is a fee for this exam (\$99 in 2025-26 school year). Students who achieve a score of 3 or greater will earn college credit at most colleges and universities.
- The application requires students to report NWEA scores in reading and language as literacy skills are key to successfully completing an AP course. Your student's NWEA score is provided by the middle school after the winter test window. Please contact your student's school if you do not have the accurate record.
- The application also requires students to report course grades, which provide an indication of the work habits that are necessary to perform well in an Advanced Placement course.
- Please note, the application includes a written response. This must be completed by the student.
- RFC will carefully consider the merits of each application, including the student's written response, to determine enrollment for this year.