



# Rockford Public Schools

Quality Community – Quality Schools  
*Together Building a Tradition of Excellence*

## 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade ROCK Program

*(Rockford's Opportunities to Challenge Kids)*

### Course Descriptions

# 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade ROCK Science

Students who achieve success in R.O.C.K. Science typically demonstrate the following traits/skills:

- Strong interest in scientific concepts
- Deal with intricate problems and apply logic
- Strong willingness to experiment and make predictions
- Ability to comprehend abstract concepts
- Proficient use of critical and creative thinking skills
- Implement algebraic and graphing skills
- Advanced reading and writing skills
- Self-motivated learner
- Capable of working effectively in groups and independently
- Active involvement in class discussions, activities, and projects

## 7th Grade R.O.C.K Science

This course is designed to meet the unique needs of the advanced learner by offering the integrated science curriculum in a challenging manner. Students participate in investigation, experimentation, and problem solving. The advanced curriculum, products and experiments will allow students to take content to a more sophisticated level. This course offers varied learning opportunities beyond the grade level science experience and requires a greater depth of thinking, participation and independence. Successful R.O.C.K. Science students can provide abstract interpretations of scientific content, relate it to new situations, and predict future scientific endeavors with logical thought. Participating R.O.C.K. students must also be enrolled in pre-algebra of higher.

## 8th Grade R.O.C.K Science

This course is designed to meet the unique needs of the advanced learner by offering the integrated science curriculum in a challenging manner. Students participate in investigation, experimentation, problem solving and the utilization of the scientific method. The advanced curriculum, products and experiments will allow students to take content to a more sophisticated level. This course offers varied learning opportunities beyond the grade level science experience and requires a greater depth of thinking and participation. Successful R.O.C.K. Science students can ask testable or measurable questions, provide abstract interpretations of scientific content, relate it to new situations, and predict future scientific endeavors with logical thought.

# 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade ROCK English Language Arts

Students who achieve success in R.O.C.K. Language Arts consistently demonstrate the following traits/skills:

- Sophisticated level of cognitive processing and linguistic interaction
- Heightened capacity for recognizing unusual and diverse relationships within text
- Frequently seek out advanced reading materials
- Incorporate critical and creative thinking skills into classroom activities and projects
- Identify and analyze mature story themes and concepts within text
- Ability to recognize and incorporate advanced vocabulary in text, in written work and in speaking
- Shares unique and thought-provoking ideas that enhance class discussions
- Self-regulated and self-motivated learner
- Strong desire for learning and task commitment
- Maturity to handle the demands of an advanced curriculum
- Ability to work both independently and collaboratively
- Responsibility to manage their time effectively inside and outside the classroom
- Ability to meet the demands of higher readings outside the classroom

## 7th and 8th Grade R.O.C.K. Language Arts

These courses are intended for students who excel in reading, writing, and communication skills. Participants work at an accelerated pace and enhancement of grade level language arts requirements. This allows for various opportunities with reading advanced and classic literature, exposure to and application of rich vocabulary, extensions in writing, and various experiences with public speaking. Successful R.O.C.K. English students will apply higher-level questioning and inferential thinking in both discussions and in writing. They succeed in pattern recognition, making inter-textual connections, and using advanced interpretive skills with literature. Students respond to literary experiences through synthesis, evaluation, and originality.

## 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade ROCK Social Studies

Students who achieve success in R.O.C.K. Social Studies typically demonstrate the following traits/skills:

- Strong interest, curiosity, and depth of knowledge in world affairs, politics, and culture
- Grasp abstract concepts
- Proficient use of critical thinking, creative thinking and problem-solving skills
- Pose clever and unusual ideas and how they relate to the world
- Share unique and thought-provoking ideas to support opinions and views
- Advanced reading, writing, and speaking skills
- Willingness to take risks to effectively meet goals
- Self-motivated learner
- Strong time management skills
- Capable of working effectively in groups and independently
- Active involvement in class discussions, activities, and projects

### 7th Grade R.O.C.K Social Studies

This curriculum explores the history, geography, and culture of the Ancient World. R.O.C.K. Social Studies offers learning opportunities beyond the grade level experience. This course exceeds depth of thought, participation and pacing of the regular social studies class. The activities and products will challenge students to think with complexity about content. Students make interrelated, holistic interpretations of content as they recognize and develop patterns within the content strands.

### 8th Grade R.O.C.K Social Studies

This course explores the history of the United States from the Revolutionary Era to 1900. R.O.C.K. Social Studies students will explore this curriculum at a faster pace and greater depth than regular 8th grade American History classes. The activities and products will challenge students to think with complexity about content. This course offers learning opportunities that require active participation and higher-level thought. Students provide abstract interpretations of historical content and relate it to new situations.