

Riverbend School offers its grade 8 and 9 students a more comprehensive schedule of course choices. Our students' studies are personalized to support both their academic success, and to offer them a complement of desired courses of interest, either as continued from previous years or newly explored. The elective courses available in our upcoming school year, and the respective details of each course, are itemized below [■].

In addition to the Core subject areas of English Language Arts, Social Studies, Science and Math, joined by the mandatory Physical Education component, we also offer grade 8 & 9 students expansive choices: Three available second languages[◆]; and a wide range of additional areas of study within the fine & practical arts, in technology, business, service & leadership, travel & history, sport & physical health, each available[★] for their elective course selections.

- [■] All offered courses remain subject to AHS and EPSB COVID protocols; to enrollment capacity; and to Riverbend School and EPSB Superintendent Approval
- [◆] Grade 9 inaugural course available 2021-22
- [★] Students accepted & enrolled within Riverbend's *Sports Performance Program* (SP) are not eligible for these courses

SECOND LANGUAGES

Riverbend offers three Second Language classes from which students select one language to maintain as a sole language study. The chosen language will be their committed second language over all your Riverbend years, and changing languages is not permitted[^]. Grade 7 students and those new to the school year will identify their second language for their Riverbend years.

[^]For continuing Riverbend students (those already attending Riverbend, who next-year are going into either grades 8 or 9) an exception is temporarily in place for 2021-2022 following COVID changes. These students may choose to either: Return to their originally-desired second language of either Spanish or Mandarin (where they would then remain while at Riverbend); or they may decide to stay in their alternatively-placed French study for their Riverbend years (FSL, where they were alternatively placed for this current 2020-2021 year).

Studying an additional second language (two second languages simultaneously, taking the place of an option course) may be explored in consultation with the school's Administration.

Some families may wish to consider that if for your later years, the high school *Old Scona Academy* (OSA) may become a school objective, that OSA currently requires all applicants to have French as a second language.

● **FRENCH as a Second Language 8, 9**

Through guided examples, students identify and apply language-learning strategies to improve their reading comprehension, written production, listening comprehension and oral production. Various cultural components are explored throughout the school year. Continuing students are required to remain in the same language as already studied at Riverbend (except[^]).

Prerequisite: None. *Cost:* None.

● **MANDARIN as a Second Language 8, 9** [◆]Grade 9 inaugural course available 2021-22, no prerequisite

Our studied Mandarin language units will focus on fundamental aspects of conversation and writing, such as the use of verbs. Continuing students are required to remain in the same language as already studied at Riverbend (except[^]).

Prerequisite: None. *Cost:* None.

● **SPANISH as a Second Language 8, 9**

Through guided examples, students identify and apply language learning strategies to acquire the fundamentals of reading comprehension, written production, listening comprehension and oral production. Various cultural components are explored throughout the school year. Continuing students are required to remain in the same language as already studied at Riverbend (except[^]).

Prerequisite: None. *Cost:* None.

FINE ARTS

• **ART 8, 9**

Our Art course focuses upon three major components: Drawings- all the ways people record, communicate and evaluate visual information; Compositions- all the ways images are put together to create meaning; and Encounters with Art- where all forms of art, past and present, are examined. Our varied and exciting art program provides many opportunities to learn the skills involved in creating explorative, amazing art works in both expected and in unique mediums.

Prerequisite: None. *Cost:* approx. \$40.00

• **DRAMA 8, 9**

There are three levels in the drama program: beginning, intermediate and advanced that focus on personal, interpersonal and classroom behavior skills. Students will progress gradually from performing before small groups and performing for their drama class, to potential performances in fine arts shows before larger audiences. Units and concepts include Movement, Speech, Improvisation/Acting, Technical Theatre, and Theatre Studies.

Prerequisite: None. *Cost:* approx. \$25.00

• **FILM / MOVIE EXPLORATION 8, 9**

This course examines film as both an art and as a means of communication, with an emphasis on examining the various techniques used by filmmakers to convey meaning. Students examine how films often reflect the times and conditions in which they are made, and conversely, how motion pictures sometimes help shape attitudes and values in society. At the higher level, students are taught to "read" a film, analyzing its narrative structure, genre conventions, subtext, technical and artistic factors, and its purpose.

Prerequisite: None. *Cost:* None.

• **GUITAR / GENERAL MUSIC 8, 9**

This music option class provides students the opportunity to learn to play guitar as its main focus. Additional band instruments such as keyboards, drums & percussion, bass and vocals may also be explored. Students will develop technical skills, learning basic music theory and learning to play pieces in a variety of musical styles. Students will be required to have an approved guitar for this course. If a student does not own an approved guitar, they will have the opportunity to easily rent one at the school.

Prerequisite: None. *Cost:* optional Instrument Rental, approx. \$10.00

• **BAND / INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC 8, 9**

The instrumental Music option gives students the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument in our Concert Band, and even the Jazz Band! Students will develop technical skills, learning basic music theory and learning to play pieces in a variety of musical styles. Students will be required to have an approved band instrument for this course. If a student does not own an approved band instrument, they will have the opportunity to easily rent one at the school.

Prerequisite: Music 6 (or equivalent at Director's approval) *Cost:* optional Instrument Rental, approx. \$100.00

TECHNOLOGY AND PRACTICAL ARTS

• **COMPUTER STUDIES 8, 9**

While technology is consistently integrated throughout all Riverbend's subjects and classes, the computer studies program at Riverbend is designed to give students a solid foundation in a wide range of computing skills. The grade 8 Computer Studies focuses on advancing a more detailed exploration of LEGO Robotics through projects, web design with HTML and a higher level of programming in Scratch. Grade 9 Computer Studies will further students' skills in computer technology by exposing them to new areas of learning. These students will learn to make digital animation with ActionScript controls through Adobe Aniamte CC and programming language in Python.

Prerequisite: None. *Cost:* None.

• **CONSTRUCTION 8, 9**

The Construction program provide males and females with the opportunity to build several practical and unique projects utilizing wood and other materials. Students will have experience with both

hand and power tools. An emphasis is placed on proper and safe work habits as well as on an ability to plan effectively and to work independently and responsibly.

Prerequisite: None. *Cost:* approx. \$45.00

- **FOOD STUDIES 8, 9**

The Food Studies option allows students of all ability levels to learn the fundamentals of cooking and baking such as recipe reading, measurement, and preparation techniques. The course also teaches lifelong skills like teamwork and time management in a fun and fast-paced environment.

Prerequisite: None. *Cost:* approx. \$45.00

- **VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS 8, 9**

Students become familiar with the elements and principles of design, as well as the expressive qualities of various materials by using a range of media, processes, techniques, and styles. Students will also develop areas of critical thinking, creativity, inquiry-based discovery, and their own communication skills by exploring the visual and verbal relationship of two-dimensional design. Elements of photography and publication are integral in various projects throughout the year, and will incorporate the use of software platforms and tools such as Adobe Photoshop Elements, web-based software, and additional ever-emerging technologies.

Prerequisite: None. *Cost:* Students must make available a personal SD data card of required size.

MOVEMENT AND PERSONAL HEALTH

- **ENVIRONMENTAL OUTDOOR EDUCATION 8, 9**

Environmental Outdoor Education (EOE) is an outdoor, activity-based course which appeals to all students, particularly those who want to develop an appreciation for the outdoors through various activities. Students will be active in the outdoors in a variety of activities which may include: Orienteering, Map Reading, Compass Use, Climbing, Snowshoeing, Skiing/Snowboarding, Cross Country Skiing, SCUBA Diving, Kayaking, Long-Boarding, Seasonal and Situational Survival Scenarios, Cooperative Games, and other alternative games.

Prerequisite: None. *Cost:* approx. \$140.00

- **FITNESS 8, 9**

While physical fitness and awareness are the goal of this course, our Fitness course is not at all a mere extra Physical Education class. Fitness can be classified into three parts: health-related fitness; skill-related fitness; and medical-related fitness. Fitness 8 focuses primarily with health-related fitness, focusing on the role fitness plays in living a healthy, active, and rewarding life. It aims to teach lifelong skills that will contribute to students' knowledge of fitness and to support their ability to make positive and informed health related decisions. Fitness 9 attends to skill-related fitness, and provides students with an introduction to medical-related fitness. This is largely a project-based course that enables students to explore personal fitness interests and goals; to form potential career connections; and improve personal understanding of how to set and reach personal fitness goals. Students at this senior level will also explore the basics of sports injury, injury prevention and rehabilitation.

Prerequisite: None. *Cost:* approx. \$80.00

- **SPORTS PERFORMANCE 8, 9**

Riverbend maintains its unique, one-of-a-kind Sports Performance program (SP) which focuses on physical literacy, available to students who have a real passion for athletics and physical well-being. Riverbend holds an educational partnership with the University of Alberta, exposing our students to their exceptional instructors and facilities. Students who are enrolled in SP will travel to the U of A every second school day as a part of their normal timetable. This program focuses on fundamental movement skills, Olympic weightlifting, nutrition, sports psychology, and in sports leadership. Students will also have an optional opportunity for a unique, programmed travel experience to the United States. Acceptance to the SP program is by application (please see School website); and active SP students are eligible for only one second language and SP participation as a complement to their core subjects, where they become ineligible for any other option courses.

Prerequisite: None. *Cost:* approx. \$1300.00

DISCOVER AND EXPLORE

• **INQUIRY 8, 9**

The Discovery option at both grade levels presents an opportunity to extend students' studies well beyond the scope of the regular school curriculum. Our Inquiry Option supports students in the development of a range of competencies, including fostering the ability to think critically; to know how to learn; to engage within an environment of cultural change; and to manage information precisely. The presented content enables students to participate and to innovate in active learning, within in-depth research into such areas as philanthropy and of service to others, the unique economics of Canadian and of other cultures, significant history, world art and architecture, and more. There is the potential for local, national and/or international tour components within this course. Extended field trips and/or travel would be communicated in advance, for which a cost may exist.

Prerequisite: None.

• **BUSINESS & MARKETING 8**

This course offers interested students exposure to the fundamental concepts of business and marketing, making this class of unique interest. The focus is upon the specific skills of several basic business concepts, organizational communications, finance, leadership, and entrepreneurship. Students will receive experience directly facilitating and operating the Riverbend's "Snack Shack" school store, operating special events' sales and marketing, running event concessions upon various school events, and more. The invaluable direct student creativity and involvement in menu development & input, in design and display, in advertising, and in fundraising are supportive elements of the very skills necessary in small business planning and within entrepreneurial endeavors.

Prerequisite: None. *Cost:* None.

• **LEADERSHIP 9**

Many facets of leadership impact students in junior high school, especially as they gain an increasing awareness of the immense impact of local and global leaders. The course provides opportunities for students to better understand the concept of leadership in preparation for their future career and life roles. Student leaders will develop an understanding of the importance of service and contributing to their communities, and encourages students to consider their personal role in becoming capable, collaborative and contributing members of society.

Prerequisite: None. *Cost:* None.

• **WORLD HISTORY 8, 9**

This unique and invaluable course provides opportunities for students to investigate the development, contributions and interactions of world civilizations. Students in this course will examine the origins of modern cultural, political and ethnic diversity. World History is intended to provide opportunities for students to deeply study history and develop historical thinking skills through historical inquiry. This approach fosters critical thinking, discovery, reflection, and exploration. World History 8 will focus on history starting around 1200ce and continuing to 1899ce. World History 9 focuses on 20th century history.

Prerequisite: None. *Cost:* approx. \$10