

Riverbend School offers grade 8 students a comprehensive schedule of available 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 students more choices of: three available second languages; and a very wide range of additional rich areas of study within the fine & practical arts, in technology, business, service & leadership, travel & history, sport & physical health, each available [★] as personalized elective course selections.

The courses described within are being planned as potentially being either an identified *Full-Year Course* or as a *Semestered Course*, pending availability and scheduling. Timetables are confirmed in late August.

■ All offered courses remain subject to Riverbend School and EPSB Approval

★ Students accepted & enrolled within Riverbend's *Sports Performance Program* (SP) are ineligible for these courses

SECOND LANGUAGES

Riverbend offers three Second Language classes [♦] from which all students [▲] must select one language to maintain as a main second language study. The chosen language will be their committed second language over all your Riverbend years, and changing languages is not permitted. All students will identify a committed second language for all their Riverbend years.

Studying an additional second language (two second languages simultaneously, taking the place of an option course) may be explored only 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.

[▲] Students within Riverbend's EAL Program are not required to initially select a compulsory second language.

- **FRENCH 8 Second Language *Full-Year Course***

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.

Prerequisite: None. *Cost:* None.

- **MANDARIN 8 as a Second Language *Full-Year Course***

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.

Prerequisite: None. *Cost:* None.

- **SPANISH 8 as a Second Language *Full-Year Course***

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.

Prerequisite: None. *Cost:* None.

FINE ARTS

- **ART & DESIGN 8 *Semestered Course***

The Art & Design 8 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: No previous art experience necessary. *Cost:* \$25.00 approx.

- **ADVANCED ART & DESIGN 8 *Full-Year Course***

This art 8 class, intended for advanced students as a deeper, full-year art option provides students with greater depth and breadth of the artistic experience. Individual personal project exploration as well as group projects will be utilized to expand student's skill development. Digital graphic art, 3D multi-media sculpture, and functional product design will be areas of study. Incorporating authentic and industry-based design skills will be emphasized, to broaden student understanding of future artistic career paths.

Prerequisite: No previous art experience or advanced skill necessary. Students simply need to have a strong interest in pursuing a full year of expansive and in-depth learning. *Cost:* \$40.00 approx.

- **THEATRE & PERFORMANCE 8 *Full-Year Course***

The show is about to begin. The seats are filled with family & friends, while the lights dim and the intro music fades. The curtain then opens and the stage lights shine. Are you the star of the show- or perhaps in a secondary or supportive role? Or possibly you are backstage, handling the show's many props, costumes and scene-set items. Or up in the audio booth, running all the sound effects and music? Maybe at the light controller, setting the mood for each scene? If you aspire to any of these important roles, then welcome to Theatre & Performance! This intermediate course emphasizes show productions for the school and its community. There will be one musical production during the year. Students will be assessed in-class during rehearsals. Midterms will generally be done on the stage, as actual performance is the most real-life assessment. Worried about not nailing your audition for the feature play? Theatre 8 is designed for students who want to gain experience to take the next step in their theatrical journey. Join us for Theatre & Performance, where the stage becomes your classroom.

Prerequisite: None. *Cost:* \$35.00 approx.

- **FILM & MOVIE EXPLORATION 8 *Semestered Course***

This visual arts course examines the movie or motion picture as both an art form, 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.

Prerequisite: None. *Cost:* None.

- **GUITAR & MUSIC 8 *Full-Year Course***

This music 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. No previous experience necessary.

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

- **BAND & INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC 8 *Full-Year Course***

The Instrumental Music Band course 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, there is an opportunity to easily rent one at the school.

Prerequisite: Music 7 or at Director's approval. *Cost:* Optional if-needed Instrument Rental, \$100.00 approx.

- **SPORTS IN FILM 8 *Semestered Course***

Students will explore the intersection of sports and film, analyzing iconic sports movies, and their depiction of themes such as adversity, unity, identity, family dynamics, personal relationships, and of course, challenges. Through examining these films from various genres and time periods, students will learn how filmmakers use sport as a metaphors for life's broader struggles and our societal issues. The course offers a unique approach to film study, emphasizing perseverance, loyalty, and self-discovery while also celebrating the human spirit and the powerful stories sports can tell beyond the game. Sport in Film 8 is a cinematic journey celebrating the human spirit, where sport is not just a game - it's a lens through which we explore life's most-meaningful stories.

Prerequisite: None. *Cost:* None.

TECHNOLOGY AND PRACTICAL ARTS

- **COMPUTER STUDIES 8 *Semestered Course***

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.

Prerequisite: None. *Cost:* None.

- **CONSTRUCTION 8 *Semestered Course***

The Construction program provides students 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. No previous experience necessary.

Prerequisite: None. *Cost:* \$27.25 approx.

- **FOOD STUDIES 8 *Semestered Course***

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. Due to the volume of students in Food Studies, accommodations for allergies or dietary restrictions cannot be made.

Prerequisite: None. *Cost:* \$52.50 approx.

- **VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS 8** *Full-Year Course*

Do digital art and photography intrigue you? Do you want to challenge yourself and explore your creative side through a project-based course? 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 Adobe Photoshop Elements, Creative Suite, web-based software, and emerging technologies.

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

MOVEMENT AND PERSONAL HEALTH

- **ENVIRONMENTAL OUTDOOR EDUCATION (EOE) 8** *Semestered Course*

Environmental Outdoor Education 8 (EOE8) is an outdoor, activity-based course which appeals to all students at either grade level, 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:* \$140.00 in potential field trip participation

- **FITNESS 8** *Semestered Course*

While physical fitness and individual growth are the goal of this course, our Fitness 8 course is not at all just another “extra Physical Education” class. Fitness 8 focuses primarily upon health-related fitness, focusing on the role fitness plays in living a healthy, active, and rewarding life. This is largely a project-based course with classroom instruction complemented with some activities, which 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.

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

SPORTS PERFORMANCE (SP) 8 *Full-Year Course*

Riverbend maintains its unique, one-of-a-kind Sports Performance program (SP8) 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 (UofA), exposing our students to their exceptional instructors and facilities. Students who are enrolled in SP at either grade level 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. Accepted students will additionally have the optional opportunity of a unique and programmed travel experience to the United States, for which an additional fee would exist. Acceptance to the SP8 program is by application (please see Riverbend School website for details). Accepted SP students are eligible only for a second language course, where they become ineligible for any other available option courses.

Prerequisite: None. *Cost:* \$1300.00 approx., excluding optional USA tour travel

DISCOVER AND EXPLORE

- **INQUIRY & RESEARCH 8** *Full-Year Course*

The Inquiry 8 course creates opportunities for students that surpass any typical grade 8 experience. Developed with the spirit of serving others, students will work together within their school, in their community and in a global context, to connect with and to support others. Students will be challenged to create and to participate in activities which “give back” in a meaningful way. Course content will include cultural awareness, social understanding, and environmental exploration. A spring service trip to the southern country Belize will additionally present opportunities to volunteer in community improvement projects; to partner with a local school and its community; and to spend time with the country’s youth, playing organized games, crafting and reading. Exploring local attractions such as the Belize Mayan Ruins would be part of the tour experience.

Prerequisite: None. *Cost:* Pending tour travel, \$3300 approx.

WORLD HISTORY 8 *Full-Year Course*

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 8 is intended to provide opportunities for students to study a more-detailed and analyzed history, and to develop historical thinking skills through historical inquiry. This approach fosters critical thinking, discovery, reflection, and exploration. World History 8 will focus primarily upon history beginning around 1200ce and continuing to 1899ce.

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

- **INDIGENOUS STUDIES 8** *Semestered Course*

This course looks into Canada's and the world's Indigenous, First Nations, Métis and Inuit cultures but with exploration and beyond the Social Studies curriculum. Students will be challenged to create positive conversations, to grow emotionally, intellectually, socially, and to apply new understandings of indigenous perspectives to their learning.

Prerequisite: None. *Cost:* None.

- **BUSINESS VENTURES 8** *Semestered Course*

This course offers interested students an 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.