

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 <sup>■</sup>.

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<sup>★</sup> 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 listed courses remain subject to Riverbend School enrollment and to 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<sup>♦</sup> from which all students<sup>▲</sup> 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:* Mandarin 7 or equivalent. *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:* Spanish 7 or equivalent. *Cost:* None.

## **FINE ARTS**

- **ART 8 *Semestered Course***

Students explore a variety of media, techniques, and creative processes while building foundational skills in artmaking. Through projects in areas such as drawing, painting, and design, students are encouraged to experiment, take risks, and develop confidence in their ideas. A key focus of the course is helping students recognize their own growth as artists - learning to reflect on their work; think critically about their choices; and identify clear next-steps for improvement. Students also begin to develop the language to discuss and analyze art, fostering both technical development and a deeper understanding of the creative process.

*Prerequisite:* No previous art experience necessary. *Cost:* \$25.00 approx.

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

This fine arts course is for those students ready to further develop their skills and confidence through sustained practice and increasing independence. Building on a range of media and techniques, students take on more complex and self-directed projects, exploring personal ideas while strengthening their technical abilities. A strong emphasis is placed on grow - students learn to reflect critically on their work, recognize their progress, and identify meaningful next steps for improvement. Through discussion, feedback, and experimentation, they continue to build the language of art while developing a more thoughtful, intentional, and independent approach to their creative process.

*Prerequisite:* No previous art experience or advanced skill necessary. Students of *Advanced Art & Design* need to have a strong interest in pursuing a full year of expansive and in-depth artistic 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.

- **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** *Semestered 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 with Director's approval. *Cost:* If-needed Instrument Rental, \$135.50 approx., including all supplies

## **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 of *Vis Comm 8* 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 their own personal SD data card of required memory 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, 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 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. Acceptance into the SP8 program is by application (please see our [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:* \$1500.00 approx., excluding optional tour travel, an additional participation fee.

# 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, \$4850 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.

- **BUSINESS & MARKETING 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.

