

Riverbend School presents its grade 9 students a very 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 9 students more expansive choices of: three available second languages; and a much greater 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 *Half-Year Semestered Course*, pending availability and scheduling. Timetables are confirmed in late August.

<sup>■</sup> All listed courses remain subject to Riverbend School enrollment and to EPSB Approval.

<sup>★</sup> 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.

<sup>♦</sup> 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.

<sup>▲</sup> Students within Riverbend's EAL Program are not required to initially select a compulsory second language.

- **FRENCH 9 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 9 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 8 or equivalent. *Cost:* None.

- **SPANISH 9 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 8 or equivalent. *Cost:* None.

## **FINE ARTS**

- **ART 9 *Semestered Course***

Art 9 is a dynamic course where students explore a wide range of media, techniques, and creative processes. From drawing and painting to sculpture and design, students experiment with materials while developing technical skills and personal style. Alongside creating, they learn how to observe, analyze, and talk about art using appropriate vocabulary, building confidence in discussing both their own work and the work of others. Emphasis is placed on creative decision-making, encouraging students to take risks, solve visual problems, and reflect on their artistic choices as they become thoughtful, independent creators.

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

- **ADVANCED ART 9 *Full-Year Course***

This course is designed for students who are ready to deepen their creative practice through greater independence and choice. While continuing to refine skills across a variety of media and techniques, students take on more self-directed projects, exploring personal themes, interests, and artistic voice. Emphasis is placed on creative problem-solving, planning, and reflection, as students make intentional decisions throughout their process. Students also build confidence in analyzing and discussing art using appropriate vocabulary, and by engaging thoughtfully with both their own work and in the work of others.

This course encourages initiative, experimentation, and the development of a more personal and sustained approach to artmaking.

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

- **THEATRE & PERFORMANCE 9** *Full-Year Course*

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 you are up in the audio booth, running all the sound effects and music. Maybe at the light controller, setting the mood for each scene with dimmers and lighting textures. If you aspire to any of these important roles, then welcome to Theatre & Performance! Similar to the basics of a drama option, this intermediate course emphasizes show productions, where 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. Theatre 9 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 9** *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. Students will develop skills to "read" and sub-divide a film, analyzing its narrative structure, genre conventions, subtext, technical and artistic factors, and its purpose.

*Prerequisite:* None. *Cost:* None.

- **SPORT IN THE MOVIES 9** *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 9 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.

- **GUITAR & MUSIC 9** *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 9** *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 8 or with Director's approval. *Cost:* If-needed Instrument Rental, \$135.50 approx., including all supplies

## **TECHNOLOGY AND PRACTICAL ARTS**

- **COMPUTER STUDIES 9** *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. 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 9** *Semestered Course*

The Construction 9 course provides students opportunities to build several practical and unique projects utilizing wood and other materials. Students will have experience with both hand and power tools, more specifically at the grade 9 level. An emphasis is always placed on proper and safe work habits, as well as on the ability to plan effectively and to work independently and responsibly. No previous experience necessary.

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

- **FOOD STUDIES 9** *Semestered Course*

The Food Studies 9 option allows students of all ability levels to develop further 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 9, accommodations for allergies or dietary restrictions cannot be made.  
*Prerequisite:* None. *Cost:* \$52.50 approx.

- **VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS 9** *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 in *Vis Comm 9* 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) 9** *Semestered Course*

Environmental Outdoor Education 9 (EOE 9) is an outdoor, activity-based course which appeals to many 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, Kayaking, Long-Boarding, Seasonal and Situational Survival Scenarios, Cooperative Games, and other alternative games.

*Prerequisite:* None. *Cost:* \$140.00 in potential field trip participation.

- **FOUNDATIONS of Personal Wellness 9** *Semestered Course*

Foundations of Personal Wellness is a classroom-based option which will explore the science and strategy behind human performance. This project-driven course bridges the gap between biological knowledge and personal health. Students will dive into the areas of Anatomy and Physiology, to understand the body's "engine." We learn the mechanics of sports injury & recovery, and we even learn psychological strategies - such as visualization and stress management - that strengthen our own mental resilience. Students will use a variety of methods to design and track their own customized fitness and nutrition plans. By examining modern wellness challenges like proper sleep, hygiene and digital balance, students will develop a better understanding of their long-term improved physical and mental well-being.

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

- **SPORTS PERFORMANCE (SP) 9** *Full-Year Course*

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 (UofA), exposing our students to exceptional instructors and facilities. Students who are enrolled in SP9 will travel to the U of A every second school day of their normal timetable. This program focuses on fundamental movement skills, Olympic weightlifting, nutrition, sports psychology, and in sports leadership. Acceptance into the SP program is by application (please see our [Riverbend School website](#) for details). SP9 students will additionally have the optional opportunity of a unique, programmed travel experience for which an additional fee would exist. Participating SP9 students are eligible only for a second language course, where they become ineligible for any other available Riverbend option courses.

*Prerequisite:* None. *Cost:* \$1500.00 approx., excluding optional tour travel, an additional participation fee.

- **RECREATION & LEISURE 9** *Semestered Course*

*Rec & Leisure* is really a "social science" class, which focuses primarily upon how recreational activities guide and impact individuals and our communities. Recreational activities are those activities and events done to have people unwind and find enjoyment. Components of the course are aimed at discovering how to enhance our quality of life by improving physical, social and mental health. The explored topics may include personal recreation preferences, stress management, sport & physical activity, arts & entertainment, tourism, outdoor recreation, home-based leisure connections, nutrition, and more!

*Prerequisite:* None. *Cost:* None.

## **DISCOVER AND EXPLORE**

- **LEADERSHIP 9** *Semestered Course*

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:* \$15 approx.

- **WORLD HISTORY 9** *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 9 is intended to provide opportunities for students to deeply study history and particularly develop historical thinking skills through historical inquiry. This approach fosters critical thinking, discovery, reflection, and exploration. World History 9 focuses primarily upon 20th century history.

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

- **INQUIRY & RESEARCH 9** *Full-Year Course*

This course is an opportunity to extend a student's studies well beyond the scope of the regular curriculum, and it involves travel. Through active learning and in-depth research, students explore the culture, economics, and history of a foreign country. Collaboration is also key, as students work together to plan for a successful group adventure. There is an international travel component with this class, for which a cost and parent meetings are required. Students typically travel during or near-to Spring Break.

*Prerequisite:* None. *Cost for travel:* \$5500-7000 depending upon the to-be-determined destination.

