Riverfield Country Day

School 4th and 5th grade students become more independent in the Middle School, a natural step for this age group. Students are supported by a caring faculty who foster this new level of responsibility. Small classes allow for personal attention and assessment of each student's progress.

A significant difference between the Primary School and 4th and 5th grade is that students rotate to their core courses. The rigorous curriculum is taught by specialists in all subjects. Teachers employ many teaching methods including real life applications and hands-on activities. Additionally, students in 4th and 5th grade receive grade cards, which is a new experience for most 4th graders and another adjustment to Middle School.

Organizational skills are emphasized as students use a daily agenda and a binder with sections for each subject area, notes to be taken home, and papers to be returned to school. Homework requires 60-90 minutes per night on average. Reading and mathematics continue to be a part of the nightly routine. Weekly assignments can include spelling/word study, Shurley English, vocabulary, math fact practice, and world languages. Long-term assignments generally focus on book reports, science projects, and social studies projects. Major assignments, projects, and other information are posted on RenWeb.

A strong sense of community is encouraged with students having the opportunity to serve as role models for younger students through the Reading Buddies program. All 4th and 5th grade students read weekly with Pre-School and Kindergarten-1st grade students as they develop friendships. Two to three times a year, 4th and 5th grade students have the opportunity to complete service projects on campus and throughout the Tulsa community. Riverfield is committed to educating students both inside and outside the classroom.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Riverfield Country Day School is to provide an excellent education in a family-oriented atmosphere. Students are motivated and encouraged to learn, develop, and mature in a respectful, secure, and diverse environment. A caring, creative faculty and a challenging, integrated, and personalized curriculum promote the development of the whole student as a confident and responsible learner prepared for real world success.
General Information
Established in 1984, Riverfield has been enriching students through innovation, small class sizes, and positive collaborative relationships. Serving children from 8 weeks through Upper School, Riverfield helps students reach their full potential in a family-oriented atmosphere. The 120-acre campus with its barnyard animals, hiking trails, woods, ponds, and outdoor classrooms, is an inviting introduction to the array of learning opportunities the school offers its students. The challenging, personalized curriculum is presented as an integrated process, blending many subjects and activities.

Faculty
With an average of 16 years of teaching, our experienced faculty encourages students to achieve their potential in all aspects of development: intellectual, social, emotional, physical, and moral. They promote the development of mutual goals and responsibilities. A trusting, respectful, positive school environment leads to genuine dialogue between faculty and students.

Curriculum
Some core courses are offered on a grade level basis, while others benefit from a two-year multi-age rotation. Students write a documented research paper in conjunction with science coursework. Language Arts and Shurley English are integrated through this cross-curricular project. Small class sizes allow Riverfield the opportunity to personalize curriculum for each student.

Multi-Age Classrooms
Children typically spend two years in the same classroom, allowing for continuity, strong relationships, and development of leadership skills. The mixed age groupings in each class invite and enable mentoring and cooperative relationships and allow teachers to personalize curriculum and support appropriate developmental growth.

Homework
Class assignments are posted to RenWeb to assist students with access to homework requirements.

Organizational Skills
The learning and consistent application of research, study, and organizational skills are integral parts of the Middle School program. Students are given an assignment planner and binder at the start of the year. Teachers encourage students to use this system and expect students to take responsibility for their own organization.

Course Descriptions

LANGUAGE ARTS

4th Grade
Students in 4th grade are learning to retell events and to summarize events and activities with main ideas and details. In addition to writing recount reports, students learn to write procedures, and write and recognize a variety of poetry forms. To master these skills, students participate in genre studies, comprehension strategies, and independent and shared reading. Students also focus on vocabulary development and monthly book report presentations. Additionally, the 4th grade language arts curriculum contains word study of spelling features in three stages: within word, syllables and affixes, and derivational.

5th Grade
5th grade students work to write narrative, persuasive, and expository forms of written genres. 5th graders concentrate on inferring and analyzing a subject both in reading others’ works and in their own written works. Students participate in genre studies, comprehension strategies, and independent and shared reading to analyze and make inferences. The 5th grade curriculum also includes word study of spelling features in three stages: within word, syllables and affixes, and derivational. Through individual and class reading, students learn vocabulary and participate in monthly book report presentations.

WORLD LANGUAGES

4th and 5th Grade
4th and 5th grade students study German and Spanish in grade level-specific classes. Focus is on vocabulary, fluency, stories, and speaking. Units are thematic in nature and include colors, numbers, months, family members, and the like. Both languages utilize the Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling (TPRS) method, a theory that encourages language acquisition, not just language learning. The 5th grade program is more rigorous and in-depth as the students acquire greater language skill and ability.

MATHEMATICS

4th Grade
Students apply their knowledge of basic mathematics facts such as addition, subtraction, and multiplication and use these tools as a foundation for higher mathematics concepts. 4th graders learn to multiply multi-digit numbers and practice long division as well as exploring new concepts such as geometry, fractions, and decimals. Reasoning and problem solving skills are also emphasized.

5th Grade
Students refine their knowledge of basic mathematics facts such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division by practicing these concepts with whole numbers, fractions, and decimals. 5th graders use these skills as a foundation for higher mathematical concepts like data analysis, probability, and algebraic reasoning through practical everyday usage as well as applying them to real world situations through story problems. Reasoning and problem solving skills continue to be a main focus.

ALEKS
Students in 3rd - 12th have a subscription to ALEKS. ALEKS.com is a web-based supplement aligned with student textbooks that gives an individualized snapshot of all relative concepts. At any time students may access ALEKS via the internet at home or school and progress is monitored and assessed by math teachers.

SHURLEY ENGLISH

The Shurley English Method uses grammar to teach students the structure and design of written language. Each part of speech is analyzed within the context of the whole sentence. Students are constantly exposed to “see it, hear it, say it, do it” activities that meet the visual, auditory, and kinesthetic learning styles of students.

4th Grade
4th grade students begin the year by learning and singing/reciting the eight parts of speech jingles. Then they learn how to recognize the parts of speech in sentences and how to use them in different patterns of sentences. Students learn sentence patterns 1-4, which start with a basic subject-verb, adding a direct object, then an indirect object, and finally a predicate noun.

5th Grade
5th grade students review what they learned in the previous year and learn sentence pattern five which adds a predicate adjective. In addition, the students learn how to correctly use and spell possessive forms of words, the proper use of antonyms, synonyms, and homonyms, and verb tenses. The 5th graders learn all verb tenses. In the writing process, the children are taught to write for different purposes: to persuade, to describe, to narrate, and to write letters. They are also taught how to use research materials and how to write an outline. The 5th grade written work is expected to be longer with a more mature writing style than the 4th grade work in all areas of the writing process.

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Middle School Parent

“We’ve been at RCDS a long time and I can honestly say we’ve been pleased in each Wing.”

Multi-Age
Science is taught in a two-year rotation. Ongoing studies include the scientific method, lab techniques and safety, and care and concern for the environment.

Year One emphasis is on Earth and Space Science. Topics covered include rocks and minerals, oceans, weather and climate, dinosaurs and fossils, astronomy, and the solar system. Research projects focus on famous scientists and the Science Fair.

Year Two emphasis is on Life and Physical Science. Topics covered include biomes, animal behavior, the human body and senses, magnets and electricity, and motion and design. Research projects focus on an inventor or invention and the Egg Drop.

Social Studies

Multi-Age
The Social Studies curriculum is built on a two-year rotation. Current events are an important part of class discussion and are investigated throughout both years of the rotation.

Year One is based on a “Global to Local” format with the students gaining a comprehensive worldwide perspective. This includes the study of oceans and continents/countries, latitude and longitude, and an exploration of our physical, social, and political world. The year concludes with an analysis of the Revolutionary War and westward expansion.

Year Two is based on a “Local to Global” format with students studying the growth of our nation including the Civil War, states and capitals, government, and Oklahoma/Tulsa history. The year concludes with explorers, colonization, and world cultures.

Non-Core Courses

AES
In Academic Enrichment and Support (AES), students meet once per week in both math and language arts for enrichment or support activities. The subject-specific teacher oversees this class.

Music
Music class is a part of all students’ curriculum. Singing and dancing, reading music and playing instruments, attending the opera, and performing in the Green Country Orff Festival are among the musical opportunities offered in 4th and 5th grades.

Visual Arts
Students in 4th and 5th grade work with a wide variety of materials and techniques to help them develop their own creativity. Media include paint, pastels, clay, and other mixed media.

Physical Education
The 4th and 5th grade physical education curriculum expands on skills learned throughout Primary School years and applies them toward new games as well as sports preparation and development. Fitness strategies are taught and practiced which aid students in making healthy lifestyle choices and develop habits in an effort to be “fit for life.”

In all physical education classes at Riverfield, a variety of games and activities are introduced throughout the year in an effort for each child to become successful.

Technology
Technology focuses on the appropriate use of computers, including computer safety, correct-keyboarding techniques, and overall computer literacy. The students use the “Type to Learn 3” program, which teaches students the basics of typing in a sequential skills-building manner. The program’s 25 keyboarding lessons are wrapped in an integrated presentation of demonstration, review, practice, and testing. The students also explore the use of different Microsoft Office programs.

Enrichment Clusters
Students meet weekly with either a faculty member or parent volunteer to complete a project based on student interest. Examples include Orff ensemble, cooking, computer programming, and various craft projects.

Rock Band
Riverfield is home to Oklahoma’s only comprehensive in-school Rock Music program. Students play a variety of instruments and perform at several large concerts on campus and at such off-campus locations as Cain’s Ballroom, the Riverparks Amphitheater, Mayfest, and the Tulsa PAC.

Course Schedule by Grade

4th Grade
Math
Language Arts
Shurley English
Science
Social Studies
Spanish
German
Music
AES
Art
Physical Education
Technology
Enrichment Clusters

5th Grade
Math
Language Arts
Shurley English
Science
Social Studies
Spanish
German
Music
AES
Art
Physical Education
Technology
Enrichment Clusters
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Admissions Criteria
Admission is based on a combination of criteria including the student’s educational history, personal interview, visit during a school day, and our intuition that the individual is genuinely motivated to succeed and will benefit from the Riverfield experience. No one factor is more important than another. Our main concern is success for the student.

After an initial tour and interview, students spend a day visiting Riverfield in the regular classroom environment. The parents sign a Transcript Release Form to request transcripts and records from the candidate’s current school. Once students are accepted, Riverfield may ask that a placement test be taken for certain courses.

Financial Aid
Admission decisions are made prior to and separate from decisions about financial aid. A student must be accepted before the financial aid decision can be made. No family should refrain from making application for admission because of limited finances.

Parents obtain the School and Student Service for Financial Aid (SSS) packet from the Riverfield Admissions or Business Office and submit completed forms to SSS by March 1 of each year.

Financial aid will not be awarded until information is received from SSS and the Riverfield Financial Aid Committee makes its recommendation.

CONTACTS

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Admissions

RIVERFIELD ADMISSIONS

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