



Upper School

9th -12th Grades

Innovative Education Since 1984



Riverfield Country Day School is committed to developing lifelong learners. This is evident in the quality of the curriculum and expertise of the faculty. The goals of the Upper School are to encourage sound scholarship, independent learning, and critical thinking. The Upper School is the only non-sectarian independent high school in the Tulsa area and is accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Southwest (ISAS).

Riverfield continues to grow, with approximately 130 Upper School students. Small classes, with an average of less than 15 students per class, provide a rigorous and personalized academic program that emphasizes effective communication and application of knowledge, fosters self-confidence, and gives a sense of purpose. A trusting and respectful environment leads to genuine dialogue among faculty and students.

The Upper School curriculum is intentionally not "AP driven," as depth of subject matter is emphasized rather than breadth. Riverfield does not teach to the test, thereby encouraging students to think critically, not just memorize. The school develops innovative, relevant, and rigorous academic content and projects while cultivating dispositions, mindsets, and skills for success in the 21st century.

All Upper School students are required to have a laptop (Mac or PC). This tool, paired with our wireless campus, enhances student communication, presentation, and research capabilities.

Riverfield's Upper School provides challenge and support to all students so that they will graduate ready to meet the demands of college, a competitive innovative workforce, and a complex life.





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 20 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.

Graduation Requirements

The primary purpose of our academic program is to challenge and support students so they will graduate from RCDS ready to meet the demands of a competitive college and of life.

Most students take five core courses (English, Math, Science, History, and World Languages) in addition to the non-core offerings. A student must take at least four core courses, and one non-core course each semester. Riverfield's graduation requirements meet those required by Oklahoma's state colleges and universities. Some colleges and universities have more stringent requirements that may also be met at Riverfield.

English (4 credits)

Math (3 credits) including Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Pre-Calculus, Trigonometry, and/or Calculus.

Science (3 credits) including Anatomy and Physiology, Biology, Chemistry, and/or Physics.

History (3 credits) including 1 year of American History and 2 years from subjects of History, Economics, Geography, Government, Civics, and/or non-Western culture.

Other (7 credits) from any of the subjects listed above or from computer science or World Languages. At least two years of a World Language is strongly recommended.

Minimum Core Total: 20 credits

Also required:
Service - 25 hours per year.
Awareness - Required each semester.
Elective offerings - 2 credits, with each non-core course worth .25 credits per semester.

ENGLISH

9th Grade

Focuses on developing writing and critical reading skills. Literary techniques are studied through different genres with most selections coming from American Literature. Composition instruction includes academic, creative, and personal writing. Vocabulary study includes working with English words derived from Greek and Latin. Independent and summer readings are required.

10th Grade

Focuses on developing writing and critical reading skills. Literary techniques are studied through different genres with most selections coming from American Literature. Composition instruction includes academic, creative, and personal writing. Research skills and vocabulary study are also developed. Independent and summer readings are required.

11th Grade

Focuses on a survey of world literature from the ancient Sumerians to modern writers, highlighting not only the literature but also the history and culture behind each piece. Writing assignments involve personal responses to literature as well as multi-paragraph essays discussing various aspects of literary pieces. Writing assignments emphasize extended development and support of ideas and opinions as well as attention to organization, word choice, sentence fluency, voice, and conventions.

12th Grade

Focuses on a study of British literature through novels, critical theory, poetry, and essays that exemplify the historical, cultural, and linguistic changes surrounding British literature. The study of British literature begins with Chaucer and ends with contemporary works, all of which contribute to an understanding of British literature, its essential nature, and characteristics. The goal is to build cultural literacy as well as independent reading, writing, and critical thinking skills. Students will write multi-page compositions that require scholarly analysis. Students will pay close attention to the effective development of their ideas, organization, word choice, sentence fluency, voice, and MLA formatting conventions.

Creative Writing Workshop

Offers students the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of poetry, fiction, and non-fiction writing through consideration of both published and student work. Students will be both reader and writer. Students will learn how to "workshop" classmates' poems and stories in an informal group discussion while also learning the protocol and vocabulary that will help with creative writing after the semester is over. There will be a focus on the basics of certain traditional forms and genres as well as certain aesthetic concepts about reading, writing, and life itself.



Juniors and Seniors have the opportunity to earn college credit and experience college coursework through concurrent enrollment at Tulsa Community College. Additionally, many graduates have earned college credits by testing out of courses at their respective universities.

HISTORY

9th Grade

A survey course of United States history from the Early Colonial period to the end of World War II. Major topics and themes include Colonial foundations of America, the era of American Revolution, U.S. Constitutional government, Westward Expansion, the Civil War, the era of Reconstruction, Industrialization, the Progressive Era, World War I, economic expansion and depression, and World War II. Topics discussed will include references to the concept of civics as well as brief study of Oklahoma history.

10th Grade

An in-depth study of the history of major world cultures. Students are introduced to cultural, economic, political, and social developments that played a fundamental role in shaping the world in which they now live. Special focus will be paid to the ancient cultures of the world and their contributions to the development of modern societies.

11th Grade

A survey course of American history from the end of World War II to the present. Focus is on the Cold War, expansion of Civil Rights, unfolding of social movements in the U.S., the Vietnam War, political and economic changes as a result of national/international issues, and some discussion of current events.

12th Grade

Seniors have their choice of two of the following: History of Supreme Court Decisions, Philosophy, or Art History. English and Italian Renaissance History are offered on alternating years. Students may also consider history options offered at Tulsa Community College.

MATHEMATICS

Algebra I

Concepts include solving equations with one variable, working with polynomials and fractions, factoring, solving equations with two variables, graphing, working with inequalities, rational and irrational numbers, and quadratic equations. Word problems related to real life applications are emphasized throughout the course.

Geometry

(Algebra I is a prerequisite.) Teaches students to draw, visualize, and follow algorithms; understand properties, mathematical relationships, and proofs; use geometric ideas in real situations; and represent geometric concepts with coordinates, networks, or other diagrams.

Algebra II

(Algebra I is a prerequisite.) Focuses on functions, graphs, and matrices; systems of equations using graphing, substitution, and addition; quadratic functions and relations; and an introduction to trigonometry, analytical geometry, and calculus.

Algebra III

(Algebra II is a prerequisite.) Focuses on comprehensive review of concepts from Algebra II, followed by an introduction to topics from college courses such as College Algebra, Statistics, and Finite Math.

Pre-Calculus

(Algebra II is a prerequisite.) Includes a review of algebra and geometry concepts, as well as an introduction to exponential, logarithmic and trigonometric functions, vectors, complex numbers, conic sections, and analytic geometry.

Calculus

(Pre-Calculus is a prerequisite.) Calculus focuses on the study of limits, derivatives, integrals, and infinite series. Differentiation and integration techniques are used to solve complex problems not covered in previous courses. Such topics include, but are not limited to, bodies in motion, optimization, volume of solids, and logistic growth.

Advanced Math at TCC

(Pre-Calculus is a prerequisite.) Courses for college credit through TCC Concurrent Enrollment Program include Calculus I, Calculus II, Calculus III, Quantitative Reasoning, Finite Math, Statistics, and Elementary Differential Equations.

SCIENCE

Biology

A comprehensive overview of the central concepts of biology: cell structure and functions, genetics, human physiology, ecology, and the diversity of life. Presentation of new concepts accomplished through student investigation of real world problems within the discipline. Evaluation of concept understanding and mastery occurs through presentation of student-driven projects. Laboratory safety and skills are assessed through periodic practical exams.

Chemistry

A study of the composition, structure and properties of matter and the changes it undergoes. Topics include atomic structure, scientific measurement, periodicity, mass-mole relations, chemical reactions, gas laws, acid-base reactions, and fundamentals of organic chemistry. A minimum of one research or practical application project is assigned per semester.

Physics

Covers conceptual physics and an introduction to theoretical physics. Topics include vectors, laws of rectilinear and curvilinear motion, waves, thermodynamics, optics, DC electricity, radioactivity, and electronics. Practical labs and projects are assigned.

Anatomy and Physiology

Provides an overview of the central concepts of human anatomy and physiology: cells, tissues, skin, skeletal system, muscular system, nervous system, endocrine system, blood, cardiovascular system, lymphatic system, respiratory system, and digestive system. Student labs, tests, quizzes, and participation in discussion demonstrate students' understanding and mastery of concepts.

Advanced Environmental Science

Consists of lecture, investigations, fieldwork, laboratory components, and research into environmental issues. Biological and physical sciences, as well as, mathematics, and social sciences will be studied and applied to enhance the understanding of the students' environment locally, regionally, and globally. The major general topics that will be discussed are human-environmental interactions, sustainability, biodiversity, resources, and problem solving emphasizing on economics and ethics. There will be interactions with professionals from all facets of current environmental concerns.

Astronomy

A lab science offering with units including: Designing the Sky and History of Astronomy; Light and Technology; Members of the Sun's Solar System; The Sun, Stars, and their Life Cycles; The Milky Way and Other Galaxies; and Cosmology.

WORLD LANGUAGES

Students may select German or Spanish for their world languages requirement. Reading, writing, and speaking are emphasized. The Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling (TPRS) method is used, which encourages language acquisition, not just language learning.

SPECIAL INTEREST CORE COURSES

Musical Theatre

An overview of musical theatre, including musical theatre history, acting, singing, choreography, and theatrical productions. Students will learn choreography, memorize and perform musical theatre excerpts, and learn how to analyze musical theatre productions. The course will culminate with the production of a musical that will be performed in the spring semester.

Film Studies

A serious, analytical class, students will study a number of cinematically important works, analyzing the art but also the relevance to culture and history.

Design

Utilizing a design-doing method developed with consultants from SAP and the Stanford d-school, students solve problems and create solutions for the Riverfield community. During the first nine weeks of the semester, the instructors frame a problem for the students to learn the process. In the second nine weeks, a design challenge is implemented as students work individually or in small teams to address a challenge important to them.

Fundamentals of Music Theory

This is a basic-level course in music theory and ear training designed to mirror the material covered in collegiate music theory classes. Topics covered include basic pitch notation, rhythm and meter, basic partwriting, modulation, and study of musical periods. The overall goal for the course is to gain knowledge and develop a deeper understanding of many styles and periods of music.

Music Production

This course is designed to help the student musician learn the ins and outs of computer and live music production. Each student will work on projects in various styles and software programs. Furthermore students will mix, track, midi sequence, loop, and create both group and individual complete music compositions.

Song Writing I & II

This course will be a creative outlet for the serious musician, budding composer, and music technology enthusiast. Over the year, the student will study compositional forms based on their personal interest and educational background and will complete pieces/songs according to the topics covered in class.

Psychology

In Introduction to Psychology, students discover the complex links between brain, body, emotions, and behavior. By researching the methods psychologists have used to decipher these interrelated facets of a person, students will gain a keener awareness of their own thoughts and their reactions to others.

Philosophy

A look at some of the most important questions mankind has ever contemplated and a whirlwind tour of the thinkers who tried to answer them. Some of the questions tackled are as follows: What's the logical fallacy in the foregoing sentence? Is it knowledge or just belief to say that the sun will rise tomorrow? First semester study will cover Greeks to the Age of Enlightenment. Second semester begins with the Age of Reason and includes study of Marxism, feminism, and post-modernism. (Generally a senior course.)

English History: Tudor/Regency

(Year 1 of 2-year rotation) This course begins with Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine and ends with Richard III and the Wars of the Roses. There were many cultural and political innovations, like courtly love, the Magna Carta, and Chaucer. Second semester will explore Elizabethan England. The brief Tudor dynasty is full of adventure, criminal activity, romance, and intrigue. This course will delve into the complexities of the people, the politics of this time, as well as the immense cultural legacy of this age.

Italian Renaissance History: Medici/Borgia

(Year 2 of 2-year rotation) This history class will be a two-part study of two pivotal families that helped promote Renaissance ideals throughout Italy and the world. The first semester will be spent exploring the great Medici family and their rise and fall from power. Second semester will be spent learning about the infamous Borgia family.

REQUIRED NON-CORE COURSES

IXL

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

Awareness (9th/10th)

Students meet once a week in a grade level class with a school counselor to create a sense of community. Topics include team building, relevant teen issues, and career interests. Students also set academic goals, and plan course selections.

Awareness/College Prep (11th/12th)

Students meet once a week in a grade level class with a college counselor as they research colleges that best match their abilities, interests, and personal and school achievements.

SAT/ACT Prep

Students take the PLAN test in 10th grade and the PSAT in the 10th and 11th grades. In their sophomore and junior years, students take a prep course as part of their preparation for the ACT and SAT tests, which are commonly taken in the 11th and/or 12th grades.

Community Service

Upper School students are required to complete 25 hours of service each year as part of Riverfield's graduation requirements. They can enroll in a service learning elective, which provides enough hours to meet the requirement. Alternatively, students can work with the Service Learning Coordinator to complete their hours through off-campus service projects.

Leadership and Ethics

12TH GRADE (ONE SEMESTER): Provides an opportunity for students to learn leadership principles and practices. Goals for the class include developing leadership skills, preparing students for leadership roles in the school and community, and understanding ethics.

Financial Literacy

12TH GRADE (ONE SEMESTER): Focuses on a variety of financial topics including investment and the math behind investment; compound interest; early and consistent savings; stocks, bonds, and mutual funds; spread sheets; budgeting (career starting salaries); business vocabulary; college planning, debt, scholarships, and work/study; federal, state, property, and sales tax; tax returns and tax laws; social security; credit cards and credit scores; auto, home, health, life, and real estate insurance; mortgages and loans; the US Monetary System, budget, deficit, currency system, banking, international currencies, and Crypto-currencies.

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 success today and tomorrow.

ELECTIVE NON-CORE COURSES

Electives are selected each semester based on student

Performing Arts	Practical Arts	Visual Arts
Debate	Business	Advanced Studio Art
Drama	Home Economics	Art
Advanced Drama	Industrial Arts	Film Production 1 & 2
Rock Band	Study Hall	Newspaper
Speech	Urban Issues Studio	Photoshop
	Yoga (non-credit)	Yearbook

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Athletics

Students are encouraged, though not required, to participate in sports that include:

Fall: cheer, cross country

Winter: basketball, cheer

Spring: golf, soccer, tennis, track

Social Events

Each year, Upper School students organize many social activities for their peers. These include, but are not limited to, music performances, game nights, sporting events, and dances including Homecoming, and a formal prom in the spring.

Extracurricular Activities

National Honor Society, Student Council, Speech & Debate, Academic Bowl, Social Committee, Drumline, Diversity Committee, Photography Club, Chess Club, Ultimate Frisbee and Rock Climbing.

Campout

Each fall, the Upper School students and faculty go on a three-day campout that combines teamwork, leadership training, and fun and relaxation. Campout activities include floating the Illinois River, playing instruments, fishing, hiking, sports, and dramatic presentations.

RIVERFIELD ADMISSIONS

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 FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment for Financial Aid packet from the Riverfield Admissions or Business Office and submit completed forms by March 1 of each year.

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

CONTACTS

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COLLEGE PREPARATION

Riverfield 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students meet weekly with College Counselor Melissa Bogle to explore and prepare for college and career choices. Students research their college and career choices, scholarship opportunities, and summer internships and programs. Financial aid and money management in college are also covered. University recruiters from schools like Vanderbilt, NYU, SCAD, and TU come to campus and meet directly with our students and any interested parents.

College Connection, a vital component during the college preparation process, is offered the summer before senior year. College Connection students attend eight on-campus workshops that include topics like college inquiries, and interview skills. They also create essays to be used in the college application process. Admissions counselors from area universities participate in the program giving students real-world feedback. Critical in the success of the College Connection program are the two individual conferences held with students, parents, and Mrs. Bogle. While not required, given the competitive nature of admissions and scholarship process, it is strongly encouraged for all incoming 12th graders to take part in this program.

Through the support and guidance provided through the College Preparation program, our students are well-prepared for the college application process. They are, in turn, successful in their acceptances from desired colleges and universities but also in obtaining generous scholarship offers.

Riverfield students have been admitted to the following colleges and universities:

AMC at U. of Central Oklahoma	DePaul University	Kansas State University	Oklahoma Christian University	Stanford University	University of New Mexico
Arizona State University	Drexel University	Laboratory Institute of Merchandising-LIM	Oklahoma City University	Syracuse University	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Austin College	Drury University	La Salle University	Olin College of Engineering	Temple University	University of North Texas
Baylor University	Duke University	Louisiana State University	Oral Roberts University	Texas Christian University	University of Oklahoma
Belmont University	Emory University	Loyola University Chicago	Oklahoma State University	Trinity University	University of Oregon
Berklee College of Music	Evergreen College	Loyola University New Orleans	Oklahoma Wesleyan	Tulane University	University of the Pacific
Boston University	Fashion Institute of Technology-FIT	Lynchburg College	Olin College of Engineering	Tulsa Community College	University of Pittsburgh
Brigham Young University	Florida Southern College	Lynn College	Pennsylvania State University	University of Alabama	University of Redlands
Butler University	Fordham University	Macalester College	Regis University	University of Arizona	University of Rhode Island
CA State University, Northridge	Fort Lewis College	Manhattan College	Rhodes College	University of Arkansas	University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma
Calvin College	George Mason University	Marymount Manhattan College	Richmond, The American University in London	University of Bridgeport	University of Southern California
Chapman University	Grand Canyon University	MA College of Art & Design	Rockhurst University	University of California Santa Cruz	University of Tampa
City University of New York	Hampshire College	Metropolitan State University of Denver	Rogers State University	University of Central Oklahoma	University of Texas
Cleveland Institute of Music	Hawaii Pacific University	Missouri Southern State University	Rowan University	University of Colorado	University of Tulsa
Colorado College	Hendrix College	Montana State University	Royal Holloway University of London	University of Delaware	University of Washington
Colorado Mesa University	Highpoint University	Missouri Institute of Science & Technology	San Diego State University	University of Denver	University of Wisconsin
Colorado School of Mines	Houston Baptist University	Morehouse College	Salve Regina College	University of the Fine Arts of London	University of West Virginia
Colorado State University	Howard University	New York University	San Diego State University	University of Illinois	University of Vermont
Cornell University	Indiana University	New Haven College	SCAD-Savannah College of Art and Design	University of Illinois, Chicago	Utah State University
Cornish College of the Arts	Illinois Institute of Technology	North Carolina State University	Southern Methodist University	University of Jacksonville	Virginia Tech
Denison University	Jacksonville University	Northeastern State University	Southwestern University	University of Kansas	Western State Colorado University
Denver University	Johnson and Wales University	Ohio State University	Spelman College	University of Mississippi	Westminster College
Depauw University	Kansas City Art Institute	Oklahoma Baptist University	SUNY-ESF	University of Missouri	

NON-DISCRIMINATORY STATEMENT

Riverfield Country Day School is a non-profit, independent school with no religious affiliation. Riverfield is a welcoming community that strives to treat everyone fairly. All decisions regarding admissions, employment, administration, and student and faculty life are made without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, ethnicity, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation, marital or family status, or any other criteria prohibited by law. All rights, privileges, educational, athletic, school-administrated programs, and activities made available by the school are extended to all students, families, faculty, and staff.