



UPPER SCHOOL

9th - 12th Grades



Riverfield's commitment to developing lifelong learners is evident in the quality of the curriculum, the expertise of the faculty, and the atmosphere of positive communication throughout the school. A trusting and respectful environment leads to genuine dialogue among faculty and students. Small classes with an average of fewer than 15 students emphasize effective communication with peers and faculty, foster self-confidence and give a sense of purpose in academic and personal goals.

Riverfield Country Day School

is growing! In May 2007, Riverfield celebrated its first Upper School graduation. In the past four years, 9th - 12th grade enrollment has increased four-fold. The Upper School is the only nonsectarian independent high school in the Tulsa area. Riverfield provides a rigorous and personalized academic program focused on preparing graduates for college and beyond. Accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Southwest (ISAS), the school will work closely with ISAS as the Upper School advances.

The primary academic goal of the Upper School is to encourage sound scholarship, independent learning and critical thinking. Riverfield provides challenge and support to all students so that they will graduate ready to meet the demands of college, a competitive workforce, and a complex life.

Riverfield was the first school in Oklahoma to offer a Tablet PC program. Upper School students purchase a Tablet PC that is integrated into all aspects of their Upper School experience. The Tablet functions as a traditional laptop and as a tablet to use as a writing surface.

The Rogers Upper School building is wireless, allowing Tablet access from any point. The Tablet is a unique tool to enhance the students' communication, as well as presentation and research capabilities. As they leave high school, Riverfield students will have the competitive advantage of being adept and ready to thrive in a technologically advanced world.

Riverfield is growing and is poised to become one of the premier schools in Tulsa. Small classes and an experienced faculty give each student the best possible opportunity for success.

General Information

"The family atmosphere and more one-on-one interactions between faculty and students has helped me academically"

Robby May '08

It is Riverfield's mission to provide a respectful setting for students of all religious, cultural, racial, and ethnic backgrounds.

In small classes, students are encouraged and expected to prepare thoroughly for every assignment and to interact with their teachers and their peers. The school fosters in each of its students the development of self-confidence and a sense of purpose in academic and personal goals.

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 Foreign Language) in addition to the non-core offerings in Fine Art, Performing Arts, and Physical Education. A student must take at least four core courses, one non-core course, and PE each semester. Our graduation requirements meet minimum requirements for Oklahoma 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 (2 credits) including 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 (3 credits) from any of the subjects listed above or from computer science or Foreign Language. At least two years of a Foreign Language is strongly recommended.

Total 15 credits

Also required:

Service - Required each semester.

Awareness - Required each semester.

Elective offerings - 2 credits with each non-core worth .25 credits per semester.

Athletics - 2 credits for four-year students or .5 credits for each year at RCDS and/or participation on athletic teams.

The Riverfield experience incorporates rigorous academic training, extracurricular options, and an emphasis on developing well rounded and healthy individuals.

Recommended Upper School Course Schedule

Freshman

English I

History

Algebra I or Geometry

Biology

Foreign Language

Awareness

Service

Athletics

Elective

Sophomore

English II

History

Algebra II or Geometry

Chemistry

Foreign Language

Awareness

Service

Athletics

Elective

Junior

English III

History

Algebra II or Pre-Calculus

Physics

Foreign Language

SAT/ACT Prep

Awareness

Service

Athletics

Electives

Senior

English IV

History

Pre-Calculus or Calculus

Advanced Science

Foreign Language

Awareness

Service

Athletics

Electives

Concurrent TCC

enrollment

(for seniors who have completed course requirements)

Course Descriptions

English

9th Grade

Focuses on developing writing and critical reading skills. Study of literary techniques through different genres; most selections come from American Literature. Composition instruction includes academic, personal, and creative writing. Vocabulary study includes working with English words derived from Greek and Latin. Required summer readings.

10th Grade

Focuses on composition and vocabulary skills as well as reading and thinking about literature. Composition work includes expository, narrative-descriptive, persuasive, and creative writing. Literature study is organized around the universal search for identity, including readings about and discussion of value systems, loss of innocence, conflicts between the individual and society, and the challenges of the search for fulfillment. Genres studied include fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama with readings from American, British, and world literature. Individual, independent reading, and/or projects plus summer reading required.

11th Grade

Focuses on a study of world literature from the ancient Sumerians to modern writers. This study will highlight not only the literature but also the history and geography behind each piece. Writing will include responses to literature as well as other expository writing, emphasizing extended development and support of ideas and opinions. Editing skills and vocabulary development will also be emphasized.

12th Grade

Focuses on a study of British literature from the Anglo-Saxon period to modern writing. The goal is to build cultural literacy as well as independent reading, writing, and thinking skills. Students will write multi-paragraph compositions with an emphasis on expository writing and close attention to effective development of ideas, organization, word choice, sentence fluency, voice, and conventions.

Foreign Language

Students may select German or Spanish for their foreign language requirement. Reading, writing and speaking are emphasized. The Total Physical Response Storytelling (TPRS) method is used. It encourages language acquisition, not just language learning.



History 9th Grade

A survey of United States history from the 1850s to the present. Western expansion, the Civil War and the postwar era of Reconstruction, immigration, urbanization, industrialization, and the Progressive Era are covered in the first semester. Topics include social, economic, and political aspects of American life and the development of the United States as a world power. Second semester focuses on Oklahoma and 20th Century history. Course is periodically integrated with the English course.

10th Grade

Surveys modern Western civilization from the Renaissance through the 20th Century. Students explore significant economic, social, and cultural trends, study the development of Western democratic philosophies, and evaluate causes and effects of World Wars I and II as well as contemporary global events.

11th Grade

A survey course dealing with 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 US, globalism, and current events.

12th Grade

The primary focus of the senior level history course is world affairs in the post World War II era. The class will explore many topics such as the Cold War and its short and long term impact, the collapse of the former Soviet Union, and the expansion of democracy and capitalism. Current global trends and events will be examined.

Mathematics

Algebra I

Focuses on various algorithms, development and use of mathematical properties, application of mathematics in realistic situations, and representation of mathematical concepts.

Geometry

(Algebra I is a prerequisite.) Geometry 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.

Pre-Calculus

(Algebra II is a prerequisite.) Pre-calculus includes a review of algebra and geometry, 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 builds on algebra, trigonometry, and analytic geometry and includes two major branches, differential calculus and integral calculus, that are related by the fundamental theorem of calculus.

"I am a firm believer that Riverfield is positioned to become one of the premier schools in Tulsa. The quality and experience of the faculty are impressive and teachers are motivated to take Riverfield to new heights."

Toby Clark, Upper School
Division Head

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 laboratory 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 project per semester is assigned as a practical application or for research.

Physics

Covers classical physics and an introduction to quantum 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: orientation, 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.

Non-Core Courses

Awareness

Each grade level meets once per week to discuss teen issues (e.g. drug use, nutrition) work on media literacy, and participate in community building activities.

SAT/ACT Prep

Students take the PLAN test in 10th grade and the PSAT in 10th and 11th grades. Eleventh grade students take an SAT/ACT prep course to prepare for the SAT and ACT tests that are taken in the 11th and/or 12th grade.

Service

Students in 9th-12th grades have one period each week for service to the Riverfield community. Volunteering in a Pre-School or Primary School class, being an aide to a teacher or staff member, or caring for the school's many animals are possible choices.



Electives

Electives are selected each semester based on student interests.

Fine Arts

Studio art, music, drama, and Oklahoma's only school Rock Band are offered.

Journalism

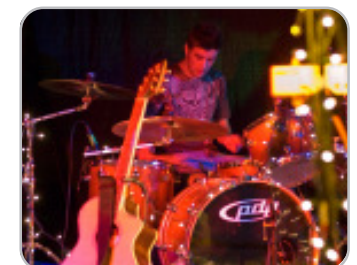
Yearbook and Newspaper electives available

Roots & Shoots

Improve our world through projects that promote care for animals, the environment, and the human community.

Technology

Classes vary to meet individual student needs. Topics include word processing, presentation skills, and webpage design.



Extra-Curricular Activities

Athletics

Monday through Thursday, 3:15-4:30pm, athletics are offered. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in these activities. Current sports include basketball, cheerleading, cross country, football, golf, softball, tennis, and girls volleyball. These offerings will continue to expand as the Upper School grows with the possible addition of soccer in 2009.



Campouts

Each fall, the Upper School students and faculty go on a three-day campout that combines academic studies, teamwork, leadership training, and some time to relax and have fun. Campout activities include drumming and instrument playing, fishing, hiking, animal observations, water coloring, sports games, bead making, science exploration in the water, ROPES course teamwork activities, and dramatic presentations.

Clubs and Activities

Time is allotted two mornings each week for clubs and activities including Academic Bowl, Chess Club, Drum Line, Gaming Club, Jazz Band, Knitting and Crafts Club, Poetry, Spanish Club, and Student Government. Student interests may lead to the development of other clubs.

College Admissions

Riverfield creates an environment where students grow on many different levels. One of our fundamental responsibilities is to assist students in the selection of colleges that best match their abilities, interests, and overall personal and school achievements. A college counselor works with students beginning in their sophomore year to determine where to apply to college and to provide assistance with applications. During this time, Riverfield will establish relationships with colleges to which students are interested in applying.

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

Cornell University
Johnson and Wales University
Oklahoma State University
Tulsa Community College
University of Tulsa
University of West Virginia

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.

Admissions Department

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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.

Notice of Nondiscriminatory Policy

Riverfield is a non-profit, independent school with no religious affiliation admitting applicants of any race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, financial aid and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.