



Our Vision

Students learn to use their minds well, engage creatively and act compassionately.

Our Mission

Riverdale develops inquisitive, imaginative and eager learners. Our students demonstrate academic mastery through exhibition to become effective communicators and responsible leaders.

“We provide a unique educational option for teenagers. In these days of national concerns over the way our young people are being prepared for their adult lives, it is a privilege to be able to provide with integrity something we believe in.

“By providing an atmosphere of intellectual, artistic and physical challenge within the warmth of a nurturing community, we develop in our students the confidence and the skills required for meeting the complexities of the future.”

Paula Robinson
Riverdale High School Principal

Key factors for student success

Responsibility

Riverdale High School operates on a trimester schedule. Each trimester is 12 weeks long, with five-period days. Classes meet daily for 70-minute periods (with the exception of 50-minute classes on early-release Wednesdays). Students focus their attention on five subjects at a time, allowing for better retention and management of rigorous content. Attendance is crucial and participation is vital. Students know they need to be prepared every day, in every subject. Teachers interact with each student on a daily basis – creating continuity and providing individual attention and feedback to students regarding their needs and progress.

Curiosity

Fostering curiosity includes providing access for students to try new things. By requiring four credits each in the arts, humanities, math and science, and three-and-a-half credits of electives, students are provided with the opportunity for exposure to new material and methodologies. Annual field studies and co-curricular activities open doors to new experiences even further.

Participation

Student participation and personal motivation are requirements for success. In every class, students demonstrate their ability to exchange ideas, engage in discussion, debate opinions and effectively contribute through oral presentation, individual and group projects, and perhaps even teaching a lesson. The culmination of student participation and engagement is the capstone project, or Senior Exhibition, which combines research, writing and presentation skills with firsthand learning and service.

Cooperation

Riverdale fosters a collegial and cooperative atmosphere where students treat one another with respect – as colleagues and friends. Teachers function as supportive coaches and mentors, setting high expectations and establishing an environment of trust.

Service

The idea of service at Riverdale is more than just community service or volunteerism. It links education to service, and service to learning. Our students contribute locally and globally in meaningful and memorable ways through their 90-hour service graduation requirement. This happens through individual service and service learning projects in the classroom. Participating in service projects prepares our students to be effective leaders, community members and citizens.

Our simple but powerful goal is to produce students who know how to use their minds well.



Exceptional education

Riverdale High School is committed to providing an exceptional education for all students that is **personalized, learner-centered and academically rigorous**. We offer small classes and a challenging college preparatory curriculum in which core academic disciplines marry with art, music and experiential learning.

Demonstrated learning

Here, students receive personal attention from a talented, enthusiastic faculty. Riverdale High School focuses first and foremost on the relationship between teacher and student, and the academic disciplines that bring them together. **Students are required to demonstrate their deep understanding of fundamental subject matter** through classroom work as well as demonstrations called “exhibitions.” These exhibitions provide a basis for accountability by asking students to show what they know.

Personal interests

We encourage participation in the arts and athletics, and we nurture a passion for personal interests, a habit of critical thinking and a comprehensive understanding of civic virtue. **Students learn how to think for themselves**, and when they graduate, they go on to a **wide variety of selective colleges**.

Unique program

Riverdale offers the best aspects of independent schooling in a public school setting. We welcome students both from our district and the surrounding communities who join us as transfer or tuition students. **Guided by the principles of the Coalition of Essential Schools**, Riverdale students experience a collaborative, small-school learning environment imbued with a climate of trust, decency and high expectations.

Family involvement

We strongly believe that **behind every outstanding student is an excellent education and an encouraging family**. Riverdale parents are actively engaged as key collaborators and vital members of the school community. The breadth of our programs and the size of our school create many ways for students and parents to get involved, and these opportunities lead families to choose Riverdale High School.

Welcoming environment

At Riverdale, you’ll discover an exciting, energetic place where your child will be challenged intellectually and welcomed for who they are.

We invite you to explore the Riverdale *difference*.

“At Riverdale, every teacher and staff member knows my child’s name. We never worry about him falling through the cracks. In part because of this and the quality of the teaching staff, he is getting a first-class education.”

Parent of student in Class of 2017

“I love Riverdale, because I get to form relationships with my teachers and they want to work with me to ensure that I succeed in my classes.”

Student Class of 2017

“As a parent of a recent graduate from Riverdale High School, I am impressed by the level of preparation [my son] had for college. While at RHS, he had the opportunity to take three college level courses, two of which were offered at the high school through PSU. There is no doubt that the opportunity to take Western Civilizations with RHS faculty taught him how to write college-level research papers. The level of support and feedback enabled him to study complex ideas with confidence.”

Parent of students in Classes of 2014 and 2016

“It’s very ‘hands-on’ learning.”

Student Class of 2016

Riverdale academics

Graduation requirements

By completing the following **28 credit graduation requirements**, all students exceed Oregon state graduation requirements by four credits. Many students graduate with 30 credits. Each class is .5 credits.

English - 4 credits

Literacy is developed through an emphasis on reading, writing and literature analysis.

Social Science - 4 credits

Students complete an integrated social science curriculum that emphasizes 20th century history. U.S. History is included.

Science - 4 credits

Students complete a science sequence including Physics, Chemistry, Ecology and Biology, with a Geology course in the senior year.

Mathematics - 4 credits

Students complete a math sequence that integrates Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Probability, Statistics, Discrete Math and Calculus. Emphasis is placed on mathematical thinking within the context of problem solving.

Art (visual and performing) - 4 credits

Students are provided with a foundation in the critical, intellectual and aesthetic skills necessary for the creative process. In addition, students come to understand the historical and cultural contexts in which art is created. Art includes visual art (from cartooning to paint to sculpture and beyond), music, dance, technology and cinema.

Foreign Language - 2 credits

We offer French and Spanish levels 1-5. Additional credit can be earned by students who demonstrate proficiency in other world languages, as determined by assessments.

Electives - 3.5 credits

Elective courses are one, two or three terms, and available to all students. Examples of electives include Band, Choir, Computer Art, Drama, Advanced Experimental Science, Leadership, Movement, Mock Trial, Newspaper and Yearbook Publishing.

Physical Education - 1 credit

Health - 1 credit

Senior Exhibition - .5 credits

This capstone project combines research, writing and presentation skills with experiential learning and service. A major component of the project is service learning, specifically service as research. This service is designed to help students more fully understand the topic they have decided to explore and to give them hands-on, real world experience. This year-long project results in a comprehensive thesis and oral presentation to the community.

.....
a passion for *personal interests*
a habit of *critical thinking*
a deep *understanding of civic virtue*

College preparation

The college-going culture at Riverdale begins freshman year, when students envision their post-high school futures. We offer comprehensive college counseling services, and our college acceptance rate is outstanding. Equally important, our students are happy with their college choices. Teachers instill the skills and habits necessary to succeed in a college environment, while advisors help shape the academic and enrichment path students take to get into the right colleges for them.

Honors curriculum

Unlike most other high schools, Riverdale students can complete honors level work in any core subject, starting any term. Each core subject teacher offers a specific Honors Curriculum that deepens and extends the regular course plan, essentially creating a “class within a class.” Honors Curriculum provides greater challenge for students who are interested in and capable of such work. Students who wish to pursue honors must be self-directed, able to meet deadlines and work independently. Honors work might include research, reading and writing, leadership and presentation, problem solving, scientific experimentation and investigation, community service or independent projects.

The teacher, student and parents all sign a formal contract for the Honors Curriculum. Students who complete the Honors Curriculum and receive a grade in the A or B range have an “H” designation added to their transcript for that course.

Learning beyond the classroom

Field Studies

At Riverdale, learning isn’t confined to the classroom. Students are encouraged to spread their wings and expand their minds through a variety of field studies. Each spring, students, faculty and staff participate in our annual week-long field studies. These excursions provide the opportunity to use classroom knowledge in real-world, experiential settings.

Co-curricular activities

A wide range of activities is offered as part of a well-rounded high school experience, including athletics, theater and music, academic competitions and a host of clubs. Participating in the annual musical, choirs and jazz band gives students the opportunity to demonstrate their many talents to the school community and beyond. More than 35 percent of high school students participate in drama, band and choir and more than 80 percent of the student body participates in athletics. A key advantage of Riverdale High School is that those who want to participate have the opportunity to do so.

- Academic Decathlon Team
- Bella Voce
- Chess Club
- Drama Club
- Film Club
- Gay Straight Alliance
- Green Club
- Jewish Culture Club
- LINK - Leaders in Nurturing Kindness
- Mock Trial
- Model United Nations
- National Honor Society
- Oregon Battle of the Books
- Robotics Team
- Science Club
- Science Olympiad/Science Bowl



Riverdale High School at-a-glance

- Approximately 250 students
- 99 percent graduation rate
- 95 percent of faculty has advanced degrees
- Four credits of art, math, science and humanities required
- Trimester system, with five 70-minute classes daily
- Regular classroom hours: 9 a.m. to 3:50 p.m.
- Week-long field studies annually
- Senior exhibition/capstone project
- Majority of students take Honors Curriculum
- More than 80 percent of students participate in athletics
- More than 35 percent participate in drama, band and choir
- Dedicated media specialist/librarian to support curriculum through instruction in organized scholarly research and to encourage reading for enjoyment
- Riverdale students help govern the school, participating in all-school meetings, interviewing teacher candidates and reviewing policy issues
- Active Parent Teacher Club gives families a chance to connect and contribute to the school community
- A member of the Coalition for Essential Schools

2014-2015 Overview

Advanced Placement

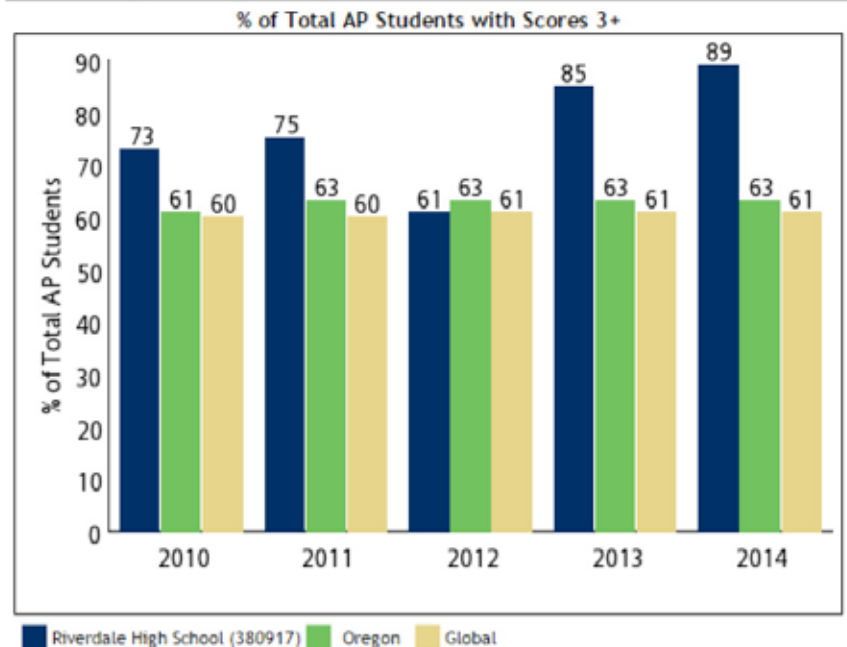
While the high school offers no specific AP classes, our rigorous academic curriculum prepares students to succeed in the exams. We encourage our students to take AP exams and we proctor the tests at the high school.

In 2014, 28 students from the junior and senior classes took an AP exam – approximately one in five students. Of those, 89 percent earned a score of three or greater, the requirement to earn college credit. And 37 percent earned a five, the highest score possible. The state of Oregon's overall average for AP success that year was 63 percent and the global average was 61 percent.

In 2014, students took and passed AP exams in Biology, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Environmental Science and French Language and Culture. More than twice the number of students participated in AP in 2014 compared to previous years. Over the past five years, 77 percent of Riverdale students taking AP exams earned a score of three or higher.

✓ Data Updated Jun 27, 2014, Report Run Oct 28, 2014

Riverdale High School (380917)



“Everyone here is very committed to their future.”

Student
Class of 2018

Student Achievement

Class of 2014 composite SAT and ACT scores:

	Riverdale	State	Nation
SAT	1785	1538	1498
ACT*	24	21.5	21

Class of 2015 composite SAT score has increased to 1911 and the ACT score has increased to 27.

(State and national scores are not yet available.)

*All Riverdale students take the ACT.

2009: One Presidential Scholar, three National Merit Finalists and one Commended Scholar

2010: Three National Merit Scholars

2011: Three National Merit Semifinalists and two Commended Scholars

2012: Two National Merit Semifinalists

2013: One National Merit Scholar and two Commended Scholars

2014: One National Merit Semifinalist and seven Commended Scholars

Earning college credit

Riverdale High School's Class of 2014 graduated with 320 college credits, many of which were provided via our staff through partnerships with Portland State University and Portland Community College. These included Western Civilizations A and B through PSU and Writing 121 through PCC, totaling 244 college credits. Additionally, many of our students earned off-campus credits through Templeton Scholars at Lewis & Clark or other schools, totaling 76 college credits.

For 2014-2015, we have added PSU Geology, which is being taught by one of our instructors on our campus. We are also discussing an additional partnership with PCC to add another writing course.

College attendance

Class of 2014

- 99 percent graduation rate
- 61 graduates
- \$8.0 million in merit- and need-based aid over four years has been offered to the Class of 2014
- 97 percent are attending college or university:
 - 56 graduates are attending four-year schools
 - Three graduates are attending community college
 - One graduate joined the military
 - One graduate is completing a professional apprenticeship

"Small classes, attentive teachers, caring faculty

are three reasons why I chose Riverdale High School for my children. RHS provides a solid foundation of academics with room for students to explore their interests, develop confidence as a learner and find their intellectual passion."

Parent of students in Classes of 2014 and 2016



Our Philosophy

Our school's guiding philosophy is based on the Ten Common Principles of the Coalition for Essential Schools:

1. Learning to use one's mind well
2. Less is more, depth over coverage
3. Goals apply to all students
4. Personalization
5. Student-as-worker, teacher-as-coach
6. Demonstration of mastery
7. A tone of decency and trust, unanxious expectation
8. Commitment to the entire school
9. Resources dedicated to teaching and learning
10. Democracy and equity

4-year course sequence

Grade 9

Trimester 1	Trimester 2	Trimester 3	Credits
English History Math World Language Art 9 Survey 2.5 credits	Chemistry 9 History Math World Language PE or Health or Elective 2.5 credits	English Genetics Math World Language PE or Health or Elective 2.5 credits	7.5 credits

Grade 10

Trimester 1	Trimester 2	Trimester 3	Credits
English Microbiology Math or Elective World Language PE or Health or Elective 2.5 credits	Physics 10 History Math or Elective World Language PE or Health or Elective 2.5 credits	English History Math or Elective World Language PE or Health or Elective 2.5 credits	7.5 credits

Grade 11

Trimester 1	Trimester 2	Trimester 3	Credits
English 11/12 Chemistry 11 Math or Elective PE or Health or Elective World Language or Elective 2.5 credits	American Literature History Math or Elective Zoology World Language or Elective 2.5 credits	History Math or Elective PE or Health or Elective World Language or Elective Elective 2.5 credits	7.5 credits

Grade 12

Trimester 1	Trimester 2	Trimester 3	Credits
English 11/12 Math or Elective Geology World Language or Elective Elective 2.5 credits	English 12B or Elective Math or Elective History World Language or Elective Elective 2.5 credits	English 12B or Elective Math or Elective History Physics 12 Senior Exhibition 2.5 credits	7.5 credits

“The teachers are very dedicated to our education.”

Student
Class of 2018

2013-2014 Athletics

Basketball

Boys' Varsity, JV, JV2

- 1st Team All-League (one athlete)
- Honorable Mention All-League (one athlete)
- State Tournament Qualifier
- Team GPA 3.66

Girls' Varsity

- 1st Team All-League (one athlete)
- Honorable Mentions All-League (three athletes)
- Team GPA 3.72

Riverdale graduates have gone on to play basketball at George Fox, Oberlin, Occidental and Willamette University.

Cross Country

Boys' and Girls' teams

- 2nd Team All-District (Boys' - one athlete)
- NWL Champions 2013 (Boys' and Girls')
- State qualifier (Boys') - 11th overall
- Team GPA 3.91 (first in State)

Golf

Varsity and JV

- 1st Team All-League
- State Qualifier
- Team GPA 3.5



Lacrosse*

Boys' Varsity and JV

- 2nd Team All-League Midfield (one athlete)
- Honorable Mention All-League Attack (one athlete)
- Honorable Mention All-State (one athlete)

Girls' Varsity

Riverdale graduates have gone on to play lacrosse at Claremont-Mckenna, Kenyon, Oberlin, Oregon State University, Southern Oregon University, University of Puget Sound and Willamette University.

Skiing* & Snowboarding*

Skiing: Boys' and Girls' Varsity

- Two State Qualifiers
- 17th place in boys' slalom
- 35th place in giant slalom
- Move-up winner

Snowboarding: Boys' and Girls' Varsity

- Two State Qualifiers: 15th place in banked slalom
- 3rd place Girls' Snowboarding Team - 2013
- Girls' State Championship - SATO Cup 2012

** Denotes club sports*



Soccer

Boys' Varsity and JV

- League Title (undefeated season)
- Player of the Year
- All-League (six athletes)
- Coach of the Year
- Team GPA 3.7 (second highest GPA)
- State Title 2012

Girls' Varsity and JV

- Team GPA 3.67

Riverdale graduates have gone on to play soccer at Chapman, Cornell College, Haverford, Linfield, Occidental, Pomona, Ursinus and Warner Pacific.

Swimming

District

- 2nd place in 100 breaststroke
- 2nd place in 100 butterfly
- 6th place in 100 breaststroke
- 6th place in 200 IM
- 8th place in 500 freestyle
- 8th place in medley relay
- 11th place in 200 freestyle
- 14th place in 200 freestyle

State

- One student qualified
- 3rd place in 100 fly
- 4th place in 100 breaststroke

Tennis

Boys' Varsity and JV

- Team GPA 3.57

Girls' Varsity and JV

- 1st Team All-League (one athlete)
- State Semifinalist
- Team GPA 3.92



Track & Field

Girls'

- All-League (four athletes)
- State Meet Qualifier (four athletes in four events)
- 14th place in State - Team
- 1st place - discus
- 5th place in 3000m
- 7th place in 800m
- 10th place in 300m hurdles
- Team GPA 3.89

Boys'

- All-League (seven athletes)
- State Meet Qualifier (seven athletes in four events)
- 9th place in State - Team
- 3rd place in 400m
- 3rd place in 3000m
- 5th place in 4 x 100m relay
- 5th place in 4 x 400m relay
- GPA 3.73

Riverdale graduates have participated in track & field at Claremont-McKenna, Idaho State, Oberlin and University of Puget Sound.

Volleyball

Girls' Varsity

- NW League Sportsmanship Award
- 2nd Team All-League (one athlete)
- Team GPA 3.83 (second highest GPA)



2010-2011 Winner of the
OSAA Oregonian Cup
2A Division for excellence in
academics, athletics, activities
and sportsmanship.

