

# Questions for Info Night 2022

## COURSES/CURRICULUM

### **Q: How many classes taken at the honors level help prepare students for an AP exam?**

A: Riverdale does not offer courses titled “AP”, however we do have students regularly take AP exams, and they are generally quite successful. Many of our higher level courses, including Physics, Biology, and Calculus, have components that prepare students for the AP exams in those areas. In addition, most courses at Riverdale have an option to be taken with “Honors”, in which students dive deeper into the course and meet a more rigorous standard, often preparing themselves for AP exams in the process.

### **Q: Science and math curriculum details?**

A: Students have a lot of options in our science and math courses. In math, students often start in Algebra I or Geometry as freshman, or in Algebra II if they have taken advanced coursework. We then also offer Calculus, Advanced Calculus, and Advanced Statistics. For students that are highly advanced and complete our available math coursework, we also have partnerships with local colleges so that students can begin college coursework in math. Specifically, some of our students are able to take courses at Lewis and Clark College, a very short distance from us, through the Templeton Scholars program. In science, we have a lot of offerings as well, including standard courses like geology, biology, chemistry, and physics, as well as advanced or more focused offering such as Advanced Physics (a course that dives deep into the intersection of Calculus and Physics), Environmental Ethics, Environmental Science, and neuro-biology and anatomy. Once again, with the option to take most of these courses with “Honors”, students can push themselves as far as they are willing to go, with the support of their teacher in reaching a higher standard.

For more information, please see the course catalog at <https://www.riverdaleschool.com/domain/357>.

### **Q: What electives are available to students?**

A: Please see the course catalog at <https://www.riverdaleschool.com/domain/357>.

### **Q: What is the computer science curriculum like?**

A: Please see the course catalog at <https://www.riverdaleschool.com/domain/357>.

### **Q: What is the classroom environment and teaching style that best characterizes Riverdale?**

A: We are a CES School, so we ascribe to their ten principles. See those here: [CES Principles](#).

**Q: Class breadth and depth?**

Please see the course catalog at <https://www.riverdaleschool.com/domain/357>.

**Q: Daily Schedule and Homework?**

A: Homework depends on the day and the classes the student is enrolled in. Our teachers are encouraged to limit homework, but can ask for up to 30 minutes per class per night. In many cases, students who utilize class time well have very little homework.

Students spend 70 minutes per day in each class, and take 5 courses at a time. Our school day is from 9:00 AM to 3:55 PM, and 9:00 AM to 2:55 on Wednesdays.

**Q: What are the options for classes and extracurricular activities involving music at Riverdale? Is there any discussion of increasing the offerings? We are especially interested in singing opportunities.**

A: We currently offer choir and hope to get back to regular choir instruction and practice soon. This will depend on the state of the pandemic, but currently we are hoping that by next year we are able to offer full, regular choir instruction.

For more information, please see the course catalog at <https://www.riverdaleschool.com/domain/357>.

## CLUBS/ATHLETICS

**Q: What kinds of enhancement and sports programs are offered to 9-12 graders?**

A: Sports at Riverdale are “no cut,” meaning that students are able to participate in any of our sports. We offer soccer, volleyball, basketball, skiing, swimming, golf, tennis, track and field, and cross country. Our teams are regularly competitive in our district and the state, with our girls soccer team making the state semifinals in the fall of 2021. We also regularly have students go on to play competitive sports in college. On February 24 this year, we will have a signing ceremony for three of our graduating athletes as they sign letters of intent to play for their chosen colleges. We even have a former Maverick that just competed in skiing at the Beijing Olympics.

## ENROLLMENT

**Q: How does out-of-district transferring work? The lottery?**

A: Please contact [Hilary Chandler](#), enrollment coordinator, at the district office to discuss all things enrollment and lottery related. Each student’s situation tends to be unique in this regard.

Our waitlist is very fluid the first few weeks after the lottery pull. Students may be waitlisted at first and then offered a spot within a week. We keep our waitlist through the summer.

You will need to work directly with your home district and follow the steps in their request process. You'll want to start doing this right away, as each district has different transfer

processes. A transfer from your home district does not guarantee entrance to Riverdale. You must still earn a place in our enrollment lottery.

**Q: Will prospective students have an opportunity to visit during school hours between January and April 2022?**

A: We are still not allowing any students to come into the school from outside our district. 8th graders from RGS were given this opportunity through a summit held in January. Due to the pandemic, it is hard to offer this opportunity outside of our own district students.

## POLICIES

**Q: What are your cell phone policies?**

A: Students are expected to use cell phones in a respectful and appropriate manner. Teachers expect them to adhere to their policies in each class, including having them put away as directed. Students who violate that policy may have their phone taken for the day, and they or their guardian may be asked to come pick it up.

## SUPPORT

**Q: What type of advisory system do you offer?**

A: We have a weekly advisory period for students to work with advisors and use that time for a variety of instruction and student-centered activities. Beyond that, our guidance counselor and college counselor work closely with students to ensure that they are taking coursework that is relevant and appropriate to their needs and goals.

**Q: Does Riverdale offer any special learning services?**

A: We have an instructional specialist (special education teacher) and work with all IEP's and 504 plans, and offer any support that is determined necessary through the IEP or 504 program. Students may be able to take study skills courses as deemed necessary, and have opportunities for completing homework with guidance most days after school.

**Q: What support does Riverdale offer for kids with Dyslexia?**

A: Riverdale works with all students to meet their specific needs. In cases of individual conditions or diverse learning needs, it would be best to speak directly with our learning specialist, Beth Johnston, who can answer questions about specific situations. Please email her at [bjohnston@riverdale.k12.or.us](mailto:bjohnston@riverdale.k12.or.us) to request a discussion.

## WHY RIVERDALE?

**Q: Why Riverdale? How is it different from other schools?**

A:

1. Challenging academic atmosphere that will help your students achieve their best possible outcomes in high school and beyond.
2. Very personalized education with the opportunity to tailor every class to every learner with regular and honors options available in all coursework.

3. A proven track record of supporting students to reach their post high school goals. Every year we send students to the Ivy League, we have sent students to Stanford for the last 4 years straight, and our halls are lined with the banners of elite colleges and universities across the nation that our students have attended.
4. The opportunity to belong somewhere. Our student culture is fantastic, and our students support each other through their academic and extra-curricular challenges. Students can find their niche in activities from sports to robotics, and mock trial to dance club. There is something for everyone to enjoy, and with no-cut sports, all are welcome.
5. Late start time (9:00 AM, proven better for HS students), trimester schedule (chance to take 15 distinct courses per year), fantastic college guidance, academic guidance, and mental health support (up to 5 counselors at a time at our school), and a group of teachers dedicated to helping students reach their potential.

**Q: Do students feel connected/have a strong sense of community?**

A: Students have a lot of opportunities for connection, from everyday coursework in fairly small classes and teachers that know them well to all of our clubs and activities. Riverdale has a strong commitment to diversity, inclusion, and equity and we continue to build our community in a way that welcomes and supports all learners. For more info on clubs and other offerings, please go to: <https://www.riverdaleschool.com/domain/357>.