

2025 CURRICULUM OPTIONS HANDBOOK GRADE 7



"That which is true is mine"



INTRODUCTION

The curriculum offered to students in Grade 7 at Riverside High School is aligned to the Australian Curriculum. All students study a common core of Mathematics, English, Science, Health and Physical Education, and the HASS subjects of History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship and Business and Economics. They also select some optional subjects from a variety of Learning Areas.

All compulsory (core) subjects and most of the optional courses will run as full year courses. Additional courses will run for half a year to provide more variety and to allow for special interests and talents.

Full year option courses are covered by two lessons (each of 75 minutes) per week for the whole year. Students will study two of these.

Half year courses are covered by two lessons per week for half the year. When making a choice it is important to keep in mind that:

- the learning intentions and content of the subjects offered should be clearly understood. Please read carefully then approach teachers for information, clarification and advice.
- the choices at this stage are unlikely to limit future opportunities. The compulsory curriculum is broad in scope and will provide the necessary background for ongoing study in all but very specific areas. There will be further opportunities to choose or change options at the end of Grades 8 and 9 and beyond.
- you make choices based on your own learning preferences, rather than those of your friends

While every effort will be made to place students in their **two** favoured year long and **two** preferred half year courses, the choices made **may not** be available due to insufficient numbers opting for a subject or unexpected changes to our school's staffing or timetable arrangements. This is the reason you are asked to nominate additional **reserve** selections.

It is most important that preferences are ranked carefully in each full year and half year section.

CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

CORE	Maths	Science	English	Health & PE	HASS
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OPTIONS	FULL YEAR	HALF YEAR
	2 full year options	2 half year options
	Line 1	Terms 1 & 2
	Line 2	Terms 3 & 4

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Specific information about individual subjects is available from:

Design Tech: Foods	Mrs T Pederson
Digital Tech: Info Tech	Mr L Curro
Design Tech: Wood	Mr L Bonney
Drama	Ms E McMahon
English	Mr B Gadsby
Health and Physical Education	Mr T Elliott
HASS	Mr B Gadsby
Languages	Mrs C Coleman-Cox
Mathematics	Ms K Jago
Music	Mr S Rainbird
Science	Ms K Jago
STEM	Mr R Gregory
Visual Arts	Mrs C Saunders

Full Year Courses - GRADE 7	Half Year Courses - GRADE 7
Arts: Drama	Arts: Drama in Action
Arts: Music	Arts: Music
Arts: Visual Arts	Arts: Visual Arts
Design Tech: Applied Design MDT	Design Tech: Woodwork
Design Tech: Foods	Design Tech: Foods
Digital Tech: Info Tech	Digital Tech: Info Tech
Languages: Japanese	Languages: Japanese
Science: STEM	Science: STEM

FULL YEAR COURSES

Students will study two of these full year courses

ARTS: DRAMA

This course will provide students with the opportunity to develop their performance skills through a range of performance opportunities. Students will work mainly in pairs and groups to perform on stage in improvised, devised, and scripted works.

Through this course students will:

- be introduced to the elements of Drama
- learn to develop their characterisation skills
- create their own performance works
- be introduced to the technical elements of Theatre
- develop their confidence and creative thinking skills
- develop their group work and communication skills
- reflect on their own work and the work of others

Students may also be provided with the opportunity to participate in the Launceston Competitions.

ARTS: MUSIC

This full-year course deepens students' understanding of key musical elements: rhythm, pitch, dynamics, and texture. Over the year, students will explore a broader range of music styles, from traditional Indigenous Australian music to contemporary global genres. They will build skills in both individual and group performance, learning to play simple melodies using a variety of instruments.

Initially, students will focus on foundational skills such as reading notations, composing simple rhythms, and developing listening skills to identify musical elements. After this, students will expand on these skills, introducing more complex compositions and performance opportunities, including small ensemble work.

The course encourages creativity through composition and improvisation projects while enhancing their understanding of music theory.

ARTS: VISUAL ARTS

Grade 7 Visual Arts is a subject for those who wish to experiment with materials and explore their creativity. Students use a variety of mediums to communicate their ideas by producing both 2D and 3D artworks incorporating drawing, painting and print making. Students are exposed to a range of past and contemporary artists and styles with a particular focus on the art of First Nations Australians. Students respond and reflect on their own practice as well as those around them through critique and exhibition.

DESIGN TECH: MDT

In Grade 7 MDT, students focus on building confidence in practical skills through undertaking projects that are sequentially challenging including measuring, marking and cutting, construction and manufacture as well as finishing techniques. Students are introduced to workshop skills and processes and problem solving through individual design solutions. This is a hands-on subject where the students are encouraged to gain a basic understanding of a range of skills using timber, metals and plastics. This course requires students to adopt common work practices such as being safe, co-operating with fellow students and personally challenging themselves to be active learners. This course is underpinned by the Australian Curriculum, therefore an emphasis on enterprise, design and sustainability are key factors.

Students create, adapt and refine design ideas, processes and solutions and justify their decisions against developed design criteria that include sustainability.

All students will need safety glasses, and an apron to participate in the workshop.

DESIGN TECH: FOODS

In Year 7 Foods Technology, students embark on an exciting journey to explore the foundations of cooking and food preparation. This course focuses on developing practical skills in using kitchen equipment safely and effectively, as well as understanding basic food hygiene and safety practices. Students will engage in hands-on activities that encourage creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving as they learn to prepare simple, nutritious meals.

Key areas of study include:

- Safe and correct use of kitchen tools and equipment
- Introduction to food hygiene and safety procedures
- Basic nutrition and the importance of balanced meals
- Practical cooking techniques and recipe interpretation
- Exploring the cultural significance of food

Through this course, students will build confidence in the kitchen and develop lifelong skills in food preparation and healthy eating. This foundation will prepare them for further study in food technology and inspire a deeper understanding of the role food plays in daily life and well-being.

DIGITAL TECH: INFO TECH

The full year course of Grade 7 Information Technology gives students the opportunity to explore a wide range of knowledge and skills in the computer science industry. The full year course is a blended approach to learning that encourages students to explore the theoretical knowledge behind the computer system and then apply that knowledge to solve practical tasks.

In this subject, students will be learning to:

- Investigate computer networks and address how data is transmitted and secured in wired, wireless and mobile networks, and how the specifications affect performance.
- Explore how digital systems represent text, image and audio data in binary
- Design and develop spreadsheets applying functions and formulas to create data visualisations involving graphs, lists, and calculations.
- Explore programming by engaging in block coding tasks and challenges that teach computational thinking and application.

LANGUAGES: JAPANESE

Year 7 Japanese: full year is suitable for those who are interested in diving deep and learning a new language. Starting from self-introductions, students will learn to use Japanese in a variety of settings including talking about family, pets, weekly routines, and food. Students will also start reading and writing in Japanese using hiragana and some katakana. Year 7 students participate in cultural studies as well including a movie study, country comparison, festival activities, and a unit on an iconic Japanese food! Those who choose full year Japanese will also have the opportunity to participate in statewide competitions such as the Japanese speech competition, poster competition, and calligraphy competition. Full year Japanese is aligned to the Australian Curriculum Standards and students will develop skills and complete tasks that meet curriculum standards.

SCIENCE: STEM

The Grade 7 STEM class is a practical oriented course designed to build student skills in the use of the modern technologies which are available in our STEM room. Most specifically students will gain skills in designing and setting up files suitable for 3D printing and Laser Cutting. Over the course of the year, students will be able to incorporate their creative designs and technological understanding to a range of individual and group challenges.

Students who have an interest in the F1 in Schools challenge can build their skills in this class and use some of their time to develop competition elements.

A core focus of this course outside of the technological aspect is building student collaboration and communication skills along with their ability to reflect on their designs and modify them to improve on their original concepts.

HALF YEAR COURSES

Students will study two of these half year courses

Half Year Course 1: Terms 1 & 2

Half Year Course 2: Terms 3 & 4

ARTS: DRAMA IN ACTION

This course will provide students with the opportunity to experience what Drama has to offer through playing games, participating in improvisations and having the opportunity to perform in short, scripted scenes.

Through this course students will:

- develop their self-confidence
- develop their creative thinking and problem-solving skills
- develop their cooperation skills through group work
- experience performing in a fun and supportive environment

ARTS: MUSIC

This half-year course introduces students to core elements of music. They will explore various musical styles, from classical to contemporary, developing their ability to listen, analyse, and create music. Practical activities will focus on performing simple rhythms, melodies, using instruments like keyboards and guitars.

Students will engage with the elements of music theory. By the end of the course, students will perform a short piece, showcasing their skills and knowledge gained throughout the semester.

The course is informed by Australian Curriculum by focusing on the development of musical skills, critical thinking, and creativity.

ARTS: VISUAL ARTS

Grade 7 Visual Arts (half year) is a subject for those who wish to explore their creativity. Students will discover the works of contemporary artists. Students experiment with a variety of mediums and are given the opportunity to create both 2D and 3D artworks. The course provides students with the opportunity to engage in hands on learning tasks and express their creativity through a variety of mediums.

DESIGN TECH: WOODWORK

This half year course specialises in developing wood fabrication skills. Basic joining techniques (using both manual and portable power tools) are incorporated to make small multiple part projects. These may include functional small pieces of furniture, games and projects that explore creativity, resourcefulness and sustainability. Students will be encouraged to add a personalised touch to their designs by making projects with a need in mind and using multiple materials. An emphasis is placed on designing, quality finishes and safety. All students will need safety glasses, a beret and an apron.

DESIGN TECH: FOODS

In this half-year Foods Technology course, Year 7 students will be introduced to essential skills and knowledge related to food preparation, safety, and nutrition. The course emphasizes practical, hands-on learning where students will develop confidence in the kitchen while understanding how to make healthy food choices.

Students will explore the following key areas:

- Safe use of kitchen tools and equipment
- Fundamental food hygiene and safety practices
- Understanding basic nutrition and creating balanced meals
- Preparing simple and delicious recipes
- An introduction to food-related cultures and traditions

This course is perfect for students interested in developing basic cooking skills and learning more about the role of food in everyday life. With a strong focus on safety and creativity, students will leave with the ability to prepare nutritious meals and apply what they've learned to support a healthy lifestyle.

DIGITAL TECH: INFO TECH

The half year course of Grade 7 Information Technology focuses on the creativity and production component of the Australian Curriculum. This is a hands on approach to learning about technology and for students who prefer to learn this way it will create a fun practical environment to delve into the world of computing and digital technologies.

In this subject, students explore block coding through a range of different platforms such as the websites Scratch and Makecode. Students use this knowledge to design computer games that can be played on the Tinkergen GameGo, a variation of the Nintendo Gameboy. Students will also have the opportunity to delve into electronics and use short programming scripts to code devices such as the Arduino and Micro:Bit to solve problems. Students design different circuits using a range of components such as LEDs, breadboards, resistors, and wires.

LANGUAGES: JAPANESE

Year 7 Japanese: half year is suitable for those who are interested in having an introduction to Japanese and having a taster of learning a new language. Starting from self-introductions, students will learn to use Japanese in a several settings including talking about family and food. Students will also start reading and writing in Japanese using hiragana. Year 7 students participate in cultural studies as well including a movie study, country comparison, festival activities, and a unit on an iconic Japanese food! Half year Japanese is perfect for those who would like to try learning a language over a shorter timeframe. The content will be shorter and more condensed than the full-year option but still full of valuable learning.

SCIENCE: STEM

The Grade 7 half year STEM course is designed to give students an introduction to the technologies available in the STEM room, primarily 3D printing and laser cutting, along with the software required to use these technologies. The main focus is building the students ability to identify varying solutions to a problem and to then design and construct solutions. Often this will require reflection on failures in order to refine their designs in order to create an improved final product. Students who enjoy the application of the skills learnt within this course have the opportunity to select the full year STEM class in Grade 8 in order to continue to build their skills within these modern technologies.