

2025 CURRICULUM OPTIONS HANDBOOK GRADE 8



"That which is true is mine"



INTRODUCTION

The curriculum offered to students in Grade 8 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 optional subjects from a wide 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	{including Thursday PM sports} 2 half year options
	Line 1	Terms 1 & 4
	Line 2	Terms 2 & 3

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Specific information about individual subjects is available from:

Creative Writing	Mr B Gadsby
Design Tech: Foods	Mrs T Pederson
Digital Tech: Computing	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 OPTION COURSES	HALF YEAR OPTIONAL COURSES Thursday Block 3 & Block 4
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Arts: Drama
 Arts: Music
 Arts: Visual Arts
 Design Tech: Applied Design
 Design Tech: Foods
 Digital Tech: Computing
 English: Creative Text Design
 HPE: Health, Wellbeing and Recreational Studies
 Languages: Japanese
 Science: STEM

Arts: Music
 Arts: Visual Arts
 Design Tech: Café Style Foods
 Design Tech: Woodwork
 English: Text Talk
 HPE: Active Girls
 HPE: Games & Sport
 Maths: Maths Extension
 Science: STEM

Winter Sport:

Football (Boys)
 Football (Girls)
 Hockey
 Netball
 Soccer

FULL YEAR COURSES

Students will study two of these full year courses

ARTS: DRAMA

This course is designed to cater for students of all ability levels who have a desire to learn more about the study of Drama and expand and improve on the skills they developed during Grade 7.

Through the study of Drama students will learn to:

- use the tools of the actor: voice, body language and facial expression to communicate character for an audience
- cooperate and work with others to produce dramatic work
- develop their skills in creative thinking
- problem solve and develop their team building skills while creating/performing dramatic works
- reflect on their own work and critique the work of others

There will be opportunities to perform at the Launceston Competitions as well as for a Primary School audience at the end of the year. Students will work both individually and in groups. The opportunities provided will help students to increase their confidence, self-esteem and understanding/empathy for others as well as learning about the elements of theatre performance.

ARTS: MUSIC

This course provides students with the opportunity to increase their overall competence as musicians.

Students will learn to develop several important musical skills. These include how to read and write intermediate music notation, how to identify different musical genres and how to become an independent learner.

This course focuses on the acquisition of notation and aural skills, and the analysis of some musical forms and styles. These styles can include reggae, blues, classical and contemporary music. By exposing students to these different styles their overall musical appreciation and understandings are developed. Our Music course is designed to enhance students' development as performers (solo and ensemble), listeners and composers. We encourage our Music students to take part in performances in an environment where they feel safe and confident.

ARTS: VISUAL ARTS

This course is designed to develop and extend students' practical skills, knowledge and the language of visual expression. It incorporates aspects of drawing, painting, print making, collage, clay and sculpture. Students are exposed to a range of different artists including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. Students are encouraged to explore and evolve ideas from the real and imagined world and present them in a variety of creative ways.

DESIGN TECH: APPLIED DESIGN

This course will encourage students to develop practical skills and craftsmanship using a variety of materials including wood, metal 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. Students, working from a design brief, will have the opportunity to develop their own solutions through a problem-solving process which includes graphics and models.

The aim is to produce interesting and worthwhile projects, while raising the awareness of possible pathways to a future career in a trade related field.

This course is underpinned by the National 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.

This can lead to further studies in woodwork and metalwork in Years 9 and 10. All students will need safety glasses, and an apron to participate in the workshop.

DESIGN TECH: FOODS

Everything you eat and drink can have a major effect on your health and wellbeing. This course, while practical in nature, will also help students gain the knowledge to make informed decisions about the food they consume.

Students will be learning to:

- extend their skills in food preparation
- understand the impact that food has on health and wellbeing
- develop an awareness of sustainable food practises
- prepare food in a safe and hygienic manner
- read and interpret instructions to complete tasks
- understand food labels
- work co-operatively in a group setting

DIGITAL TECH: COMPUTING

Grade 8 Digital Technologies is a subject for those who wish to progress their knowledge and skills in computer coding, data manipulation and to better understand computers and computer networks.

The subject expands upon what is taught in the Year 7 full year Info Tech course. In this course, students explore how computers read information and explore the physical components of computers. Students solve problems using computational thinking, expand their understanding of both block coding and the python language by developing programming techniques to achieve intended outcomes, and understand how to implement and enhance the user experience. To enhance this experience, students will code devices like the BBC Micro:bits, Tinkergen GameGo and explore the Minecraft Education environment and by creating their own simple computer games.

ENGLISH: CREATIVE TEXT DESIGN

This course is for students who enjoy writing and creating imaginative texts and is designed to meet the needs of students wishing to explore the craft of writing and illustrating for personal, imaginative, and informational purposes.

In this course, students will learn to:

- recognise the importance of audience and purpose when creating texts
- create texts that demonstrate language, visual, and structural choices made in response to the audience and purpose
- develop skills in planning and editing texts
- be introduced to modern, popular text types such as webcomics, anime, manga, and video games
- participate in character design tutorials
- plan, write, and illustrate (either digitally or physically) a variety of different texts.

They will have the opportunity to work both individually and in groups to build a folio of a range of different text types, developing skills in editing, word processing, and proofreading their own texts. Students will

have the opportunity to enter young writers' competitions such as the Red Room Poetry Competition and the Launceston Competitions and attend workshops with visiting creators when the opportunity arises.

You don't have to be the best artist or writer to participate in this class - just a passion for creativity and the drive to try something new.

HPE: HEALTH, WELLBEING AND RECREATIONAL STUDIES

The Health, Wellbeing and Recreational Studies course will extend students' understanding of wellbeing related topics.

In this course, which involves one theory lesson and one practical lesson, students will be learning to

- investigate strategies and practices that enhance their own and others' health and wellbeing
- investigate and apply movement concepts and strategies to achieve movement and fitness outcomes

During this course students will undertake learning opportunities that will explore the different movement concepts in different sporting activities, in both a practical and theoretical setting.

There will be practical based activities, roles and experiences, with the aim to build awareness of the lifelong health benefits gained through regular involvement in fitness, recreational, and sporting activities.

LANGUAGES: JAPANESE

Study Japanese in 2025 and engage in a language that is growing in global popularity. Students learning Japanese will explore the connections between their own culture and Japanese culture through a variety of tasks and cultural experiences. Students may have the opportunity to connect with students studying English in Japan and make lifelong, international friendships. Through the year, students will extend on their learning from Grade 7 and cover hiragana writing, self-introductions, friendship, family, our town, hobbies, and food. Cultural activities include kimono wearing, calligraphy, tea ceremonies, Japanese cooking and more! Learn Japanese and extend yourself to communicate in a foreign language and see the benefits an additional language could have across all learning areas. Full year Japanese is aligned to the Australian Curriculum standards.

SCIENCE: STEM

Grade 8 Full Year STEM is aimed towards students building skills in the engineering design process. Many of the activities are designed to increase students' creative problem-solving skills, effective communication, time management and teamwork.

In the STEM full year course, students will be learning to develop skills in the use of CAD software, Laser Cutting and 3D printing. Through these skills students will apply the technologies in order to solve diverse challenges. During the year, there will be opportunities for students to pursue individual interests which use these technologies. These can be as diverse as jewellery design to spinning tops.

Students will use the Lego Spike platform to design and code, to meet design challenges, and will be introduced to basic electronic circuits. Students will apply the design process to complete many challenges, some of which will be reflective of the Grade 9/10 Science and Engineering competition. Challenges vary from designing high flying water rockets through to cantilevered bridges which can support the most weight. Students will work in a team-based environment and enhance their 21st Century skills of communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity.

The core focus within this course is to build a stronger link between scientific concepts and the design and evaluation of the challenges undertaken. There is a strong emphasis on their ability to research, design, construct and evaluate their concepts.

For students who are wanting to compete in the F1 in Schools competition, this course allows them to have dedicated time where they can focus on creating their portfolios and cars along with participating in class challenges and learning to use the laser cutter and 3D printers.

HALF YEAR COURSES

Students will study two of these half year courses

Half Year Course 1: Terms 1 & 4

Half Year Course 2: Terms 2 & 3

ARTS: MUSIC

This course involves students participating in activities that increase their overall competence as musicians with an emphasis on individual development.

Students will learn how to develop several important musical skills. These include identifying the learning areas that they need to focus on as musicians, and how to improve their rehearsal and performance techniques.

Students will have the opportunity to identify their individual learning plans in the half year course. This will allow them to focus on their specific needs as a musician, concentrating on areas they need to develop with the guidance of their teacher. This individual learning plan can range from practical work, a composition focus, theory work or even music history. This course is a great opportunity for students to develop their creative skills and self-expression.

ARTS: VISUAL ARTS

This course is designed to develop and extend students' practical skills, knowledge and the language of visual expression. It incorporates aspects of drawing, painting, printmaking, collage, clay and sculpture. Students are encouraged to explore and evolve ideas from the real and imagined world and present them in a variety of creative ways.

DESIGN TECH: CAFÉ STYLE FOODS

As part of our modern lifestyle, people are choosing to eat at cafes and restaurants more frequently. This course will give students the opportunity to explore a range of dishes such as: fusion foods, meat free foods, trendy foods as well as bakery style foods. This subject is largely practical, and the recipes presented will allow students to further extend their food knowledge, food preparation as well as presentation skills. A repertoire of garnishing, decorating and plating skills will be developed. Students will be learning to:

- demonstrate skills in food preparation and presentation
- understand how to prepare food in a safe and hygienic manner
- read and interpret recipe instructions to complete tasks
- apply nutritional knowledge when choosing ingredients for a healthy lifestyle
- work co-operatively in a group setting

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.

ENGLISH: TEXT TALK

In this course, you will explore a wide variety of texts, including short stories, poetry, films, and visual texts such as advertisements and artwork. Through these different types of texts, you will discover how language can be used in creative and powerful ways to communicate ideas and tell stories. You will have the opportunity to create your own texts, whether it's writing a short story, composing a poem, or designing a visual piece. Alongside this, you will participate in class discussions, where you can share your thoughts, respond to what others have said, and deepen your understanding of the material.

Text Talk is designed to help you develop your skills in reading, writing, and speaking. It encourages you to think critically, express your ideas clearly, and engage with the texts in a meaningful way. We look forward to seeing what you will create and contribute!

HPE: ACTIVE GIRLS

This course allows girls to participate in a range of activities designed to make them more aware of themselves and their capabilities and develop confidence.

In this course students will learn to:

- demonstrate skills to make informed decisions.
- propose and implement actions that promote their own and others' health, safety and wellbeing
- apply personal and social skills to establish and maintain respectful relationships and promote fair play and inclusivity

Being active is a great way to reduce stress and anxiety from everyday situations. Students will participate in a wide range of tasks and develop their strength, power, flexibility, coordination and fitness whilst having fun in a supportive environment.

HPE: GAMES AND SPORT

This course is designed for all students who enjoy being active or wish to be more active. In this course, students will learn to:

- investigate and apply movement concepts and strategies to achieve movement and fitness outcomes
- apply and refine movement concepts and strategies to suit different movement situations

Students can involve themselves in a wide variety of activities from traditional sports to non-traditional games. Whilst participating, they will have the opportunity to improve their skills, co-ordination and fitness.

MATHS: MATHS EXTENSION

This syllabus is designed to provide interested students with the opportunity for extension and enrichment in Mathematics. Through a variety of challenges, students will gain deeper insight into Mathematical structures and techniques outside of the normal Mathematics syllabus.

In this course, students are learning to:

- understand numeracy concepts and different number systems
- understand and apply mathematical notation, language and symbolic representation
- construct mathematical models
- work mathematically to solve problems
- generalise understanding with formulae

Topics include exploring number systems like binary and hexadecimal, learning set theory and set notation to solve problems, developing deeper understanding of geometry and learning about the mathematics of networks. This subject will assist students generally with how to work mathematically and extend students who like to be challenged and explore mathematical ideas.

SCIENCE: STEM

The Grade 8 half year STEM course is aimed towards students wanting to gain skills which involve the integration of modern technologies into more traditional science challenges, using an engineering design process. Many of these activities are designed to increase the student's creative problem-solving skills, effective communication, time management and teamwork.

Students will be learning to identify the basic engineering design principles and develop skills in using 3D printing, laser cutting and CAD software such as Tinkercad while participating in team challenges.

The core focus within this course is to build the students' ability to collaborate in order to complete the required tasks through creative thinking. Students will develop a stronger link between scientific concepts and the design and evaluation of the challenges undertaken, with a strong emphasis on their ability to research, design, construct and evaluate their concepts.

WINTER SPORTS TEAMS

Sports teams represent the school and players will be selected on their ability and merit. Players are therefore expected to play in the team determined by the coaches from selection training. Winter Sport will run across both Lessons 3 and 4 on a Thursday afternoon during Terms 2 and 3.

Riverside High is proposing to enter **the following teams** in the Winter Thursday roster:

- Football (Boys)
- Football (Girls)
- Hockey
- Netball
- Soccer

If you intend to do a winter sport ensure you make your preferred sport the first choice of half year courses.