

# 2026 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 the compulsory subjects 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 variety of Learning Areas.

All compulsory 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 in Year 7 will study two of these.
- Half year courses are covered by two lessons per week for half the year.

The Year 7 option courses are designed to introduce students to a variety of learning environments, spark curiosity, and build a strong sense of connection to Riverside High School and learning.

Through engaging experiences and structured support, students begin to explore their interests, understand subject pathways, and develop confidence in new settings.

These goals guide the program's structure and ensure students are set up for success as they progress through secondary school.

Program Goals:

- Develop understanding of routines, safety, and expectations - Students learn the procedures and safety requirements specific to each Learning Area (e.g. kitchens, workshops, studios), helping them feel confident and responsible in diverse learning environments.
- Build understandings of subject content and possible progression (Years 7–12) - Students gain insight into how elective subjects evolve over time, including future learning opportunities and career pathways, fostering long-term engagement.
- Encourage exploration of interests and emerging passions - Students are given opportunities to try new subjects, reflect on their experiences, and identify areas of personal interest through hands-on projects, creative tasks and performances.
- Strengthen engagement and connection to school - Students build relationships with peers who share similar interests, participate in collaborative projects, and feel a sense of belonging through meaningful learning experiences.

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.

## CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

|             |              |                |                |                        |             |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------|-------------|
| <b>CORE</b> | <b>Maths</b> | <b>Science</b> | <b>English</b> | <b>Health &amp; PE</b> | <b>HASS</b> |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------|-------------|

|                |                     |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>OPTIONS</b> | <b>FULL YEAR</b>    | <b>HALF YEAR</b>    |
|                | 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:

|                                      |                   |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Design Tech: Foods</b>            | Mr T Pederson     |
| <b>Digital Tech: Info Tech</b>       | Mr L Curro        |
| <b>Design Tech: Wood</b>             | Mr L Bonney       |
| <b>Drama</b>                         | Ms E McMahon      |
| <b>English</b>                       | Mr B Gadsby       |
| <b>Health and Physical Education</b> | Miss J Hall       |
| <b>HASS</b>                          | Mr B Gadsby       |
| <b>Languages</b>                     | Mrs C Coleman-Cox |
| <b>Mathematics</b>                   | Mrs E Peterson    |
| <b>Music</b>                         | Mr S Rainbird     |
| <b>STEM</b>                          | Mr A Smith        |
| <b>Visual Arts</b>                   | Mrs C Saunders    |

| Full Year Courses - GRADE 7 | Half Year Courses - GRADE 7 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|

**Arts:** Drama

**Arts:** Music

**Arts:** Visual Arts

**Design Tech:** Applied Design MDT

**Design Tech:** Foods

**Digital Tech:** ICT

**English:** Creative Text Design

**Languages:** Japanese

**Maths:** 7 Maths Extension

**Science:** STEM

**Arts:** Drama in Action

**Arts:** Music

**Arts:** Visual Arts

**Design Tech:** Woodwork

**Design Tech:** Foods

**Design Tech:** Textiles

**Digital Tech:** ICT

**Languages:** Japanese

**Maths:** 7 Maths Extension

**Science:** STEM

## Riverside Extra Curriculum Sporting Option

Grade 7 students throughout the year have the opportunity to participate in extra curriculum sporting options. There are a range of sporting competitions and sports include Thursday Basketball, Saturday Morning Netball, Touch Football Tournament and many more.

## **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.

Students will:

- Develop foundational skills in reading musical notation.
- Compose simple rhythms and melodies.
- Build listening skills to identify musical elements.
- Explore a variety of musical genres and cultural styles.
- Learn to perform individually and in small ensembles.
- Engage in creative composition and improvisation projects.
- Strengthen their understanding of music theory.
- Participate in practical activities using instruments such as keyboards and guitars.
- Reflect on their musical growth through performance and feedback.

This course encourages creativity, collaboration, and confidence in musical expression.

## ARTS: VISUAL ARTS

Grade 7 Visual Arts is designed for students who enjoy experimenting with materials and expressing their creativity. Students will work with a variety of mediums to communicate ideas through both **2D and 3D artworks**, including drawing, painting, and printmaking.

The course also introduces students to a range of past and contemporary artists and styles, with a particular focus on the art of **First Nations Australians**. Students will be encouraged to reflect on their own work and the work of others through critique and exhibition.

Students will:

- Explore a variety of artistic mediums including drawing, painting, and printmaking.
- Create both 2D and 3D artworks.
- Study the work of past and contemporary artists.
- Engage with First Nations Australian art and culture.
- Develop skills in visual communication and creative expression.
- Reflect on their own artistic practice and participate in peer critique.
- Present their work through classroom exhibitions.

This course is ideal for students who enjoy hands-on creative learning and want to build confidence in visual storytelling.

## DESIGN TECH: MDT

Grade 7 MDT, students focus on building confidence in practical skills through sequentially challenging projects. These include measuring, marking, cutting, construction, manufacturing, and finishing techniques. Students are introduced to workshop skills, processes, and problem-solving through individual design solutions.

This is a hands-on subject where students gain a basic understanding of working with timber, metals, and plastics. The course encourages safe work practices, cooperation, and personal growth as active learners.

Students will:

- Learn to measure, mark, cut, and assemble materials accurately.
- Develop workshop safety and tool-handling skills.
- Explore design thinking and problem-solving through practical tasks.
- Work with timber, metals, and plastics to create functional projects.
- Understand and apply sustainable design principles.
- Collaborate with peers and reflect on their learning process.
- Create, adapt, and refine design ideas based on criteria including sustainability.

### Important:

All students must always wear safety glasses and an apron 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:

- Introduction to food hygiene, safe use of kitchen tools and safety procedures.
- Basic nutrition and the importance of balanced meals from scratch.
- Practical cooking techniques and recipe interpretation.
- Exploring the cultural significance and sustainable food practices.

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: ICT**

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:

- 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.
- Explore game development and create 2D games using MakeCode Arcade software.
- Explore robotics using Lego Spike and Arduino circuit construction with breadboards.

## **LANGUAGES: JAPANESE**

This course is ideal for students keen to explore Japanese language and culture in depth. Starting with basic introductions, students will learn to communicate in everyday settings and begin reading and writing in **hiragana** and **katakana**.

Cultural studies and statewide competitions enrich the learning experience; all aligned with the Australian Curriculum.

Students will:

- Communicate in basic Japanese (introductions, family, pets, routines, food).
- Read and write using hiragana and katakana.
- Explore Japanese culture through film analysis and festival activities
- Build language skills aligned with curriculum standards.

Perfect for curious learners interested in language, culture, and global communication.

## **MATHS: 7 MATHS EXTENSION Full Year**

The Year 7 Maths Extension full year option is for students who want to excel at mathematics and are performing well above the standard in Year 6 Maths. Students will be significantly challenged by the content of this course.

Students will be learning to understand:

- Primes and composites
- Clock arithmetic
- Linear algebra
- Linear graphs
- Logic puzzles
- Counting techniques
- Other mathematical concepts

## SCIENCE: STEM

The Grade 7 STEM class is a practical, hands-on course designed to build student skills in using modern technologies available in our STEM room. Students will gain experience in designing and preparing files for **3D printing** and **laser cutting**, applying their creativity and technical understanding to a range of individual and group challenges.

A core focus of this course is not only technological skill development but also fostering collaboration, communication, and reflective thinking.

Students will:

- Learn to design and prepare files for 3D printing and laser cutting.
- Apply creative thinking to solve design challenges.
- Work both independently and in teams on practical projects.
- Participate in individual and group tasks that encourage innovation.
- Build skills relevant to the **F1 in Schools** competition.
- Develop collaboration and communication skills.
- Reflect on their designs and refine them for improvement.
- Engage with modern technologies in a safe and supportive environment.

This course is ideal for students who enjoy hands-on learning and want to explore the intersection of creativity and technology.

## 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 a range of musical styles—from classical to contemporary—while developing their ability to listen, analyse, and create music. Practical activities focus on performing simple rhythms and melodies using instruments such as keyboards and guitars.

Students will also engage with music theory and showcase their learning through a short performance at the end of the semester. The course is guided by the Australian Curriculum, with a focus on musical skills, critical thinking, and creativity.

Students will:

- Explore musical styles and genres.
- Develop listening and analytical skills.
- Perform simple rhythms and melodies.
- Use instruments like keyboards and guitars.
- Learn basic music theory concepts.
- Present a short performance to demonstrate progress.

## **ARTS: VISUAL ARTS**

Grade 7 Visual Arts (half year) is designed for students who want to explore their creativity through hands-on learning. Students will discover the work of contemporary artists and experiment with a variety of mediums to create both 2D and 3D artworks.

Students will:

- Explore contemporary art and artists.
- Work with a range of mediums such as drawing, painting, and sculpture.
- Create both 2D and 3D artworks.
- Engage in practical, hands-on learning tasks.
- Express their creativity through personal and collaborative projects.

This course is ideal for students who enjoy visual storytelling and artistic experimentation.

## **DESIGN TECH: WOODWORK**

This course focuses on developing wood fabrication skills through hands-on projects. Students will learn basic joining techniques using both manual and portable power tools to create small, multi-part items such as furniture pieces, games, and creative projects.

An emphasis is placed on design thinking, quality finishes, and safety. Students are encouraged to personalise their work by designing with purpose and using a variety of materials.

Students will:

- Learn basic wood joining techniques.
- Use manual and power tools safely and effectively.
- Create functional and creative wood-based projects.
- Explore design principles including creativity, resourcefulness, and sustainability.
- Add personal touches to projects with a specific need in mind.
- Focus on quality finishes and workshop safety.

Important:

All students must wear safety glasses and an apron at all times in the workshop.

## **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 basic recipe design. 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 recipe design 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 from scratch and apply what they've learned to support a healthy lifestyle.

## **DESIGN TECH: TEXTILES**

In Year 7 Textiles Technology, students will explore the world of fibres, fabrics, and design. This course introduces students to the foundations of textile safety, production and sustainability, while developing practical skills in sewing, stitching, and embellishment. Students will engage in hands-on activities that encourage innovation, problem-solving, and an appreciation for the materials that shape our everyday lives.

Key areas of study include:

- Safety in the Textiles environment.
- Investigation of natural and synthetic fibres and their properties.
- Basic sewing techniques and decorative embellishments.
- Designing and creating simple textile items for function and aesthetics.

Through this course, students will build confidence in working with textiles and develop lifelong skills in design and making. This foundation will prepare them for further study in textile technology and inspire a deeper understanding of the role textiles play in culture, identity, and sustainability.

## **DIGITAL TECH: ICT**

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 will be learning to:

- Explore block coding through a range of different platforms such as the websites Scratch and Makecode.
- Design computer games that can be played on the TinkerCad GameGo, a variation of the Nintendo Gameboy.
- Explore electronics and use short programming scripts to code devices such as the Arduino and Microbit.

## **ENGLISH: CREATIVE TEXT DESIGN**

This course is for students who enjoy creating imaginative texts and is designed to meet the needs of those 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.
- participate in character design tutorials.
- plan, write, and illustrate (either digitally or physically) a variety of different texts. including comics, board games, computer games, and picture books.

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.

## **LANGUAGES: JAPANESE**

This half-year course is perfect for students interested in a short introduction to Japanese language and culture. Starting with basic introductions, students will learn to communicate in everyday settings such as talking about family and food. They will also begin reading and writing in **hiragana**.

Cultural studies enrich the experience, and the condensed format offers valuable learning in a shorter timeframe.

Students will:

- Learn basic Japanese greetings and vocabulary.
- Communicate about family, food, and daily life.
- Begin reading and writing in hiragana.
- Explore Japanese culture through:
  - Movie study
  - Festival activities
  - Country comparisons
  - A unit on iconic Japanese food

This course offers a fun and engaging taster for students curious about learning a new language.

## **MATHS: 7 MATHS EXTENSION Half Year**

Year 7 Maths Extension is for students who are performing very well in mathematics and would like to extend themselves. Students should expect to be significantly challenged.

Students will be learning to:

- Understand unfamiliar mathematical notation.
- Interpret mathematical problems.
- Use a variety of strategies to solve mathematical problems.

Topics covered in Year 7 Maths Extension include logic, number theory (including prime numbers and counting techniques), patterns and algebra, tessellations, and more.

## **SCIENCE: STEM**

This half-year STEM course introduces students to key technologies available in the STEM room, with a focus on 3D printing, laser cutting, and the software used to operate them. Students will learn to design and construct solutions to real-world problems, often refining their ideas through trial and error.

This course lays the foundation for further STEM learning in Grade 8 and beyond.

Students will:

- Learn to use 3D printing and laser cutting technologies.
- Explore design software to create functional prototypes.
- Solve problems through creative design and construction.
- Reflect on failures and refine designs for improvement.
- Build foundational skills for future STEM challenges.
- Prepare for the option to continue with full-year STEM in Grade 8.

This course is ideal for students who enjoy hands-on learning and problem-solving through technology.