



Entering Riverside Secondary for Grade 9

Parent & Student Monthly Guide for 2024

<p>Jan 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discover our Course Information website! Orient to our system of course naming. Many electives have “10” in the title and are introductory courses. Students in grade 9 can take these courses and will join a mix of other students from grade 10 in these classes. Students earn Graduation credits for any courses at the grade 10 level (and above). Attend the Grade 8 Parent Info Evening & Innovation Open House – NOW ON Wednesday, January 24th ... Details on the Riverside website! Riverside counsellors visit grade 8 students at Citadel, Pitt River, and Kwayhquitlam Middle Schools on January 24th or 25th to share information about the Grade 9 program and the course selection process at Riverside Grade 8’s who have Riverside as a catchment school (check here for your catchment school) are invited to our tour of Riverside and course electives: The “Grade 8 Walkabout” – morning of Friday, January 26th. Lunch provided! Grade 8’s can apply and take any of the three Honours 9 Program tests: Science, Math and/or English. Students <u>must apply in advance</u> (between January 9th and January 23rd). Applicants are selected based on recommendation and test results. The tests will be written on Friday, January 26th in the afternoon. Parents and students can learn who will be their child’s Counsellor and Vice-Principal at Riverside. Counsellor and VP caseloads are organized by last name – currently: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Surnames A-Gn:</i> Alina Birsan, Counsellor – Jill Della Vedova, VP <i>Surnames Go-Ne:</i> Jackie Young, Counsellor – Tanya Dissegna, VP <i>Surnames Ng-Z:</i> Bindy Johal, Counsellor – Dave Jones, VP
<p>Feb 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cross Catchment applications open Friday, February 9th at 9 am and close Wednesday, February 14th at 4 pm. SD43 Secondary Programs of Choice (Talons at Gleneagle, IB at Port Moody Secondary) decision are made by the district and Riverside will be notified who has accepted offers for placement. The course selection portal will open on Monday, January 29th and close on Monday, February 12th. Students, with help from their families, choose and electronically request courses for Grade 9 using the MyEd online portal. Students must use their MyEd login and complete the course selection online. Instructions will be posted on the Riverside Course Information website when the portal is open. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>English program:</i> students can select 3 courses as “electives”. The rest (required courses: Science, Math, Socials, PE, Digital Literacy) are automatically assigned. - <i>French immersion:</i> the selection system is slightly different. See the French Immersion webpage on the Course Information site for more information. Riverside counsellors visit students at Citadel, Pitt River, and Kwayhquitlam Middle Schools on February 5th or 6th to assist with using the MyEd online portal for course selection. Non SD43 students must contact their assigned counsellor directly. Riverside counsellors reach out to students who are not currently attending one of our three main feeder middle schools (Citadel, Pitt River, Kwayhquitlam) to ensure they have the information needed to select courses.
<p>Mar 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cross-catchment students are selected by the district and Riverside is notified. Should you find out you are now going to be a Riverside student, you will be able to select courses at this time. Course selection information will be emailed to families/students from out of catchment who have been accepted at Riverside. Successful applicants for Honours 9 classes are emailed one or more offers for course(s): Science, Math, and/or English.

Apr 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articulation conversations between Riverside staff and feeder middle school staff (includes planning for students who may require a more substantial transition plan) • Recommendations from Grade 8 counsellors for specialized course placements are considered (i.e. Learning Center, etc.). • International students who have not yet arrived are contacted (where possible) with options for courses at Riverside.
May 2024	
June 2024	
July 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer vacation
Aug 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 29th is the first of two Grade 9 orientation days to high school. Incoming grade 9 students spend the morning with Riverside staff members and Leadership students receiving their timetable, finding their classrooms, getting a locker, and meeting some of their fellow classmates! • Any errors or omissions in a timetable can be looked at starting with an email to the school counsellor. ** Riverside Staff will process course placement issues following school reopening on Monday, August 26th • International students are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - invited to write an English test to validate their predicted English level and to ensure selected courses are appropriate for language ability level, and - attend a scheduled counselling appointment for finalization of course selection.
Sep 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 3rd is the first day of school, with Grade 9 Boot Camp and Registration Day. Incoming grade 9 students will spend approximately 2 hours 45 minutes with Riverside staff members, learning how to be a successful student at Riverside. • September 4 – first day of Semester 1! Students go to all their classes listed on their timetable for “Semester 1”. Required fees are due by September 16th - Riverside uses the Student Cash Online system for payments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Student activity fee is \$45. - Some students will have optional costs such as special fees for some elective courses, field trips planned ahead of time by specific teachers, etc. - School yearbook will be available for purchase after September 25th if all required fees are paid by September 16th. Students will have a second opportunity to purchase a yearbook in January of 2025.
Oct 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are issued their first Interim Report card around the second week of October. The interim will provide general comments about work habits to-date. • Parent/teacher conferences follow soon after the Interim Report. No appointment is necessary. We hold a ‘conference fair’ in the gym with all teachers available for 3.5 hours in the late afternoon/early evening for a 5-8 minute conversation for each student/family. • Mid-term report cards with Proficiency Scale (for Grade 9 courses) and Percentages (for courses numbered Grade 10) follow in November. The first semester concludes at the end of January 2025.

Frequently-Asked Questions

<p><i>How do students contact their counsellor?</i></p>	<p>We use email at Riverside. Students can email their counsellor, and if needed they can request an in-person meeting.</p>
<p><i>If there is any kind of problem with the schedule received on Aug 29, who should a student tell?</i></p>	<p>Students can listen for announced instructions on whether to go directly to the counselling office or to email.</p>
<p><i>What are the school hours next year?</i></p>	<p>Classes start at either 7:36am or 9am, depending on whether or not the student has an early morning Block Zero/X class. 60% of Grade 9's do not have an early class, but certain electives do occur only in Block Zero/X.</p> <p>For most students, dismissal will be at 3:10pm.</p>
<p><i>I had learning center block in Grade 8. Will I get it again in Grade 9?</i></p>	<p>Choices of specialized courses are made in consultation with Middle School counsellors on a case-by-case basis.</p>
<p><i>I was an EPIC student. The SD43-EPIC program is discontinued but I still have 20+ hours of high-level coaching and I compete provincially or nationally. What can I do?</i></p>	<p>These cases are considered individually by the Principal of Riverside. We don't refer to High-Performance activities as EPIC anymore. If approved as High-Performance according to the criteria, a meeting is organized with Counsellor and/or Principal to consider options. Start by notifying your middle school counsellor and speaking with your coach. Note: High school programs are a lot less flexible than Middle School programs.</p>
<p><i>I would like to choose which students I have in the same class as me, or which ones not to be with.</i></p>	<p>At Riverside we don't allow classmate or teacher selection. You are assigned classes based on the complex system of balancing class sizes and the combination of courses you selected. Everything is randomized. Issues with students are handled by our staff using our Code of Conduct.</p>

