

# Entering Riverside Secondary for Grade 9

## Parent & Student Monthly Guide for students with Sept 2025 entry

<b>Jan 2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discover our <a href="#">Course Information website!</a></li> <li>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).</li> <li>Attend the Grade 8 Parent Info Evening &amp; Innovation Open House – Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup></li> <li>Riverside counsellors visit grade 8 students at Citadel, Pitt River, and Kwayhquitlum Middle Schools on January 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> to share information about the Grade 9 program and the course selection process at Riverside</li> <li>Grade 8’s who have Riverside as a catchment school (<a href="#">check here</a> for your catchment school) are invited to our tour of Riverside and course electives: The “Grade 8 Walkabout” – morning of Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>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 8<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>). Applicants are selected based on recommendation and test results. The tests will be written on Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup> in the morning.</li> <li>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:  <b>Surnames A-Gn: Curt Dewolff, Counsellor – Greg Schellenberg, VP</b>  <b>Surnames Go-Ne: Jackie Young, Counsellor – Tanya Dissegna, VP</b>  <b>Surnames Ng-Z: Bindy Johal, Counsellor – Jeremy Baerg, VP</b> </li> </ul>
<b>Feb 2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Cross Catchment applications</a> open Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 9 am and close Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm.</li> <li>SD43 Secondary Programs of Choice (Talons at Gleneagle, IB at Port Moody Secondary) decisions are made by the district and Riverside will be notified who has accepted offers for placement.</li> <li><b>The course selection portal will open on Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup> and close on Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>.</b> Students, with help from their families, choose and electronically request courses for Grade 9 using the MyEd online portal. <u>Students must use their MyEd login and complete the course selection online.</u> Instructions will be posted on the Riverside Course Information website when the portal is open. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>English Program</u>: students can select 3 courses as “electives”. The rest (required courses: Science, Math, Socials, PE, COL – Applications of Digital Learning 10) are automatically assigned.</li> <li><u>French Immersion</u>: the course selection process is slightly different. See the <a href="#">French Immersion webpage</a> on the Course Information site for details.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Riverside counsellors visit students at Pitt River on February 5<sup>th</sup> to assist with using the MyEd online portal for course selection. Students at Citadel and Kwayhquitlum Middle School will be supported by middle school staff for course selection on the MyEd portal.</li> <li>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, Kwayhquitlum) to ensure they have the information needed to select courses.</li> </ul>
<b>Mar 2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Second Honours Exam sitting for interested cross-catchment students scheduled for Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup> between 12 – 3 pm</li> <li>Successful applicants for Honours 9 classes are emailed one or more offers for course(s): Science, Math, and/or English.</li> </ul>

<b>Apr 2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Honours placements continue. Successful applicants for Honours 9 classes are emailed one or more offers for course(s): Science, Math, and/or English.</li> <li>Articulation conversations between Riverside staff and feeder middle school staff occur (includes planning for students who may require a more substantial transition plan)</li> <li>Recommendations from Grade 8 counsellors for specialized course placements are considered (i.e. Math 9 Adapted, Math 9 Support, Learning Center, etc.).</li> <li>International students who have not yet arrived are contacted (wherever possible) with options for courses at Riverside.</li> </ul>
<b>May</b>	
<b>June</b>	
<b>July</b>	
<b>Aug 2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students should use their MyEd account to check their timetable after the start of the third week of August (i.e. from August 18<sup>th</sup> onwards)</li> <li>Any errors or omissions in timetables can be looked at starting with an email to the school counsellor.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Riverside Staff will process course placement issues following school reopening on Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup></i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>To Be Confirmed</b> - Historically, Grade 9 students are invited to attend an end of summer orientation day to high school on the Thursday morning before the Labour Day weekend. Incoming grade 9 students spend the morning with Riverside staff members and Leadership students reviewing their timetable, finding their classrooms, practicing finding and opening a locker (optional), and meeting some of their fellow classmates!</li> <li><u>International Students</u> are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>invited to write an English test to validate their predicted English level and to ensure selected courses are appropriate for language ability level, and</li> <li>attend a scheduled counselling appointment for finalization of course selection.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Sep 2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>September 2<sup>nd</sup> is the first day of school</b> <b>Grade 9s are invited to attend Grade 9 Boot Camp and Registration Day.</b> Incoming grade 9 students will spend approximately 2 hours 45 minutes during the morning with Riverside staff members learning how to be a successful student at Riverside.</li> <li><b>September 3<sup>rd</sup></b> – first day of Semester 1! Students go to all their classes listed on their timetable for “Semester 1”.</li> <li>Required fees are due - Riverside uses the <a href="#">Student Cash Online</a> system for payments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student activity fee (TBC : was \$45 for the 2024-2025 school year).</li> <li>Some students will have optional costs such as special fees for some elective courses, field trips planned ahead of time by specific teachers, etc.</li> <li>School yearbook will be available for purchase towards the end of September if all required fees have been paid. Students will have a second opportunity to purchase a yearbook in January 2026.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Oct 2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Parent/teacher conferences follow soon after the Interim Report. No appointment is necessary. We hold a ‘conference style fair’ in the gym with all teachers available for 3.5 hours in the late afternoon/early evening for a 5–8-minuconversation for each student/family.</li> <li>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 2026.</li> </ul>

# F.A.Q.

<b><i>How do students contact their counsellor?</i></b>	<p>We use email at Riverside. Students can email their counsellor, and, if needed from September 2025 onwards, they can request an in-person meeting.</p> <p>Counsellor emails are:</p> <p><b><i>Surnames A-Gn:</i></b> Mr. Curt Dewolff <a href="mailto:cudewolff@sd43.bc.ca">cudewolff@sd43.bc.ca</a></p> <p><b><i>Surnames Go-Ne:</i></b> Ms. Jackie Young <a href="mailto:jayoung@sd43.bc.ca">jayoung@sd43.bc.ca</a></p> <p><b><i>Surnames Ng-Z:</i></b> Bindy Johal <a href="mailto:bjohal@sd43.bc.ca">bjohal@sd43.bc.ca</a></p>																								
<b><i>If there is any kind of problem with a timetable (available in August), who should a student inform?</i></b>	<p>Listen to the school announcements for instructions on whether to go directly to the counselling office or to email their counsellor first.</p>																								
<b><i>What are the school hours next year?</i></b>	<p>Riverside has a five-block schedule. The final bell schedule timing is still to be determined for 2025-2026, but will be similar to this year's schedule:</p> <table border="1"><thead><tr><th colspan="3">Riverside Schedule 2024-2025</th></tr><tr><th>Period</th><th>Start Time</th><th>Class Ends</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>1</td><td>7:35 am</td><td>8:55 am</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>9:00 am</td><td>10:20 am</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>10:25 am</td><td>11:45 am</td></tr><tr><td>Lunch</td><td>11:45 am</td><td>12:20 pm</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>12:25 pm</td><td>1:45 pm</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>1:50 pm</td><td>3:10 pm</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>Most grade 9s will be scheduled into classes in periods 2-5. Some specialty courses (i.e. Competitive Robotics, Band/Choir) are scheduled in period 1.</p>	Riverside Schedule 2024-2025			Period	Start Time	Class Ends	1	7:35 am	8:55 am	2	9:00 am	10:20 am	3	10:25 am	11:45 am	Lunch	11:45 am	12:20 pm	4	12:25 pm	1:45 pm	5	1:50 pm	3:10 pm
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<b><i>I had learning center block in Grade 8. Will I get one in Grade 9?</i></b>	<p>Choices of specialized courses (i.e. Math 9 Adapted, Math 9 Support, Learning Centre, etc.) are made in consultation with Middle School counsellors on a case-by-case basis.</p>																								
<b><i>I would like to choose which students I have in the same class as me, or which ones not to be with.</i></b>	<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.</p> <p>Issues with students are handled by our staff using the Riverside <a href="#">Code of Conduct</a>.</p>																								
<b><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></b>	<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>																								