

THE ANNUAL



Niche.com Ranks Riverdale as a
Top Oregon School District

Riverdale Past to Present

One Community School

“What were the circumstances that led to the birth of Riverdale School?”

School District #51 came into existence one hundred years ago on April 24th, 1888, by authority of Charles H Gove, Superintendent of Schools for Multnomah County. Legal voters of School District #13, representing “fifteen scholars of school age,” presented him with a petition which stated that “on the account of the distance to the schoolhouse it is impracticable for the children of the petitioners to attend school.” They therefore asked that a new district be formed out of a portion of the existing District #13—a “large” district with 52 students...

Since then the district expanded significantly, adding a high school in 1996 in accordance with Senate Bill 917 that required all Oregon School Districts to offer K-12 education, making Riverdale a two-school district.

Individualized Care

“Since all grades were in one room, each class moved up near the teacher’s desk to have ‘recitation.’ It really was interesting; I’m sure we learned a lot from hearing the other lessons. Because of the few pupils in each class, this was really individualized instruction, and we moved along at our own speed.” - Taken from Riverdale School 1888-1988 by Helen Wieman Bledsoe

RHS & RGS Accolades

Top 2%

BEST ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOLS IN OREGON - NICHE.COM

2022 Scholastic Art Awards

- Senior Oscar L. won a Silver Key Award for his piece Entertainer
- Sophomore Grace H. won an Honorable Mention Key Award for her piece Spectator
- 8th grader Sy J. won a Silver Key Award for her poem submission

2022 Jakob and Sala Kryszek Art & Writing Competition Awards

- Annie D. - History Repeats Itself - Second Prize in the writing category
- Everly M. - To the Moon and Stars and Back - Grand Prize winner in the art category
- Kate V. - Reflection - First Prize in the writing category
- Matt M. - No Escape - Second Prize in the art category
- Stella G. - The Art of Repetition - Third Prize in the writing category

Top 3%

BEST COLLEGE PREP PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS IN OREGON - NICHE.COM

Top 5%

BEST COLLEGE PREP PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS IN AMERICA - NICHE.COM

SUPERINTENDENT RUSSO'S MESSAGE

Those parts of our life journey that challenge us the most make us more resilient. It's not the load we carry but how. Like much of the world, Riverdale weathered the most recent challenges of the pandemic with resilience and determination. A testament to its character. A tribute to the children, family, and professionals that comprise its community.

Though not behind us completely, this post-pandemic next chapter is one of opportunity, growth, potential, hope, and sustainability. We will take Riverdale's history, strength, broad community interest and support, exceptional caliber of instruction, and staff dedication to help guide the district's future for its next leg in the journey.

Please enjoy our Annual highlighting the many brilliant and exceptional components that genuinely make Riverdale the unique, high-quality institution it is.

In service,

Christopher Russo
Superintendent



Small Class Size

"Our parents were concerned about sending us into the big city to high school as we were not used to large classes or to going into Portland alone. So they voted to add ninth grade and have a Jr. High School. Two rooms were added to the building."

- From Riverdale School 1888-1988 by Helen Wieman Bledsoe

EQUITY & INCLUSION

Our Equity and Inclusion vision is: We want Riverdale to be a place where everyone feels like they belong as their most authentic, unique selves.

Grade School

- There are four lessons in each grade level, K-8, about the themes of identity and diversity. These lessons align with required state standards for each grade.
- There are Heritage Month Slideshows for grades K-8 that celebrate and honor each national heritage month.
- The Grade School Equity Team meets monthly and is comprised of staff from a variety of roles in the building.
- For 7th and 8th Graders, there is a Gender & Sexualities Alliance for interested students that meets once a month.
- Students in grades 5th-8th learned about disabilities and attended an assembly with Karen Gaffney, the first person with Down Syndrome to ever give a TEDtalk.
- Students in 8th Grade Leadership collected over 3,000 pounds of food for LiftUp Portland. All that food went to people in need.

High School

No Place for Hate (NPFH)

- NPFH is a student-leadership group that focuses on improving school culture
- There were 17 students at Riverdale High School who participated in NPFH in the 2021-22 school year
- They led three school-wide events, including raising over \$6,000 for Lines for Life, a local non-profit focused on suicide prevention.
- Their hard work earned our school a special designation from the Anti-Defamation League.
- In the spring, RHS students could take the elective "Equity and Identity: Gender Studies." The course was facilitated by two students with support from staff. This is the 6th time the course has run, and it cycles through the topics of Race Studies, LBGTQIA2S+ Studies, and Gender Studies.



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RIVERDALE FOUNDATION

Contributions to the Riverdale Foundation make our small school environment possible and provide funds for delivering the high quality education our unique community expects. Donations augment public funding sources and are used to provide our children an exceptional Riverdale education.

In 2021, **The Foundation raised nearly \$1,100,000 for district-selected initiatives** at both schools. These funds were raised to support a variety of initiatives including music, art, a librarian and a student laptop program at the Grade School. At the High School, money raised during the Annual Campaign was allocated for electives, a college counselor and counseling services. District wide, funds were applied toward student wellness, financial aid and an athletic director.

Each year, donations made by families, staff and community members during the **Annual Campaign account for up to 10% of Riverdale School District's overall operating budget**. As a small district, Riverdale depends upon family contributions to maintain our current educational standards.

We value our sense of community and we ask that each family participate in the Annual Campaign and donate at a personally meaningful level so that we can continue to build upon our foundation of excellence.

- Allison Williams, Foundation President

EQUITY & INCLUSION continued...

- The following student Affinity Groups meet weekly at the high school: Gender & Sexualities Alliance, Trans Student Union, Multicultural Student Union, and Jewish Student Union. The clubs ran events, such as a Holocaust Remembrance Day Assembly and a Valentine's Day card writing campaign where each student and staff member in the school received a personal card from another person in the community.
- The High School Equity Team meets monthly and is comprised of staff from a variety of roles in the building.
- Students at the high school learned about disabilities and attended an assembly with Karen Gaffney, the first person with Down Syndrome to ever give a TEDtalk.

23% of RSD students identify as **a person of color, biracial, or multiracial** according to state records

District

- Bi-weekly Equity and Inclusion Corner in the RSD enews and district website sharing resources, events, holidays, and learning.
- Affinity Groups for community members from historically marginalized populations.
 - Current groups: Caregivers of Students of Color, Caregivers of LBGQTQIA2S+ students, Caregivers of Students with Disabilities/Neurodiverse Students
 - Each group meets at least two times a school year
- Affinity Groups for staff members from historically marginalized populations.
 - Current groups: Staff of Color, LBGQTQIA2S+ Staff
 - Each group meets bi-monthly
- Staff districtwide attended six to eight professional development sessions about diversity, equity, and inclusion topics.



EXTRA CURRICULARS

RHS ROBOTICS

Our large 2915 Pandamonium Robotics Team came in 4th place out of 28 teams at the PNW District Clackamas Academy Event in Oregon City last year.

RGS ROBOTICS

New this year, students in grades 5th-8th can join the First Lego League (FLL) Robotics Team where they will build lego robotics and tackle real-world scientific challenges.

RHS students compete yearly in Mock Trial, Model United Nations and Science Bowl.

RHS FAST FACTS

Middle 50% GPA for the Class of 2022: 3.21–3.765

Average 4-year college/university

acceptance rate

85%

Student: Teacher Ratio

10:1

Average Honors Classes taken per year per student

7

**Class of 2022 Merit Scholar Finalist:
Senior Gabe S.**

**Class of 2023 Merit Scholar Semifinalists:
Seniors Aeneas W. and Zinnia P.**

Average class size:

20



STEM

The middle school science team put together maker's space carts that house materials which support a variety of hands-on engineering lessons. They are for k through 12 students and have age appropriate supplies per cart. Each wing can check one out and complete an engineering project with the materials. We can't wait to see what our students make with them! We're also looking forward to doing a professional development day and giving staff ideas on connecting how they can utilize these makerspace carts with their current curriculum.

The fifth grade class completed several STEM engineering activities last school year. A highlight was the rocket unit. Students used a CAD program to design rocket fins which would allow their experimental rockets to fly high and with maximum stability. This year, we will be piloting the use of a 2D cutter and 3D machine to more precisely cut rocket fin shapes & 3D print a nose cone.

The sixth grade class designed and built models of what a new salmon fish ladder might look like on the Lake Merwin Dam. This timely STEM project was to address a real-world future engineering need due to a recent decision to return Salmon to the Mt. St. Helens area. Additionally, the sixth graders experimented with constructing solar vehicles as part of their natural resource unit of study.



Eighth graders in Ms. Hall's science class creating synthetic products, such as gummy worms.

PADDLE RAISE

Through the generosity of our community and the PTC Annual Paddle Raise, the Technology Department was able to make significant updates to critical technology infrastructure over the Summer of 2022. In addition to replacing outdated telephones, we were able to upgrade the wireless access points in every classroom and learning area creating stronger signals and faster speeds for everyone. We were also able to purchase new projectors and AppleTVs for each classroom.

This new tech will allow teachers, and eventually students, to wirelessly project and collaborate from their devices. The high school computer lab also received a set of industry-standard drawing and engineering peripherals to support new art and CTE offerings in the lab. We are grateful to the RSD community for helping us facilitate the exploration and learning of our students and staff and give them the experience they need for the digital workplace.



"Technology is integral to each of our classrooms and having the support of our two-team tech department makes all the difference"

PRINCIPAL MCDONALD

FIELD STUDIES

RGS 4th Grade Field Trip

4th graders traveled to Aurora, Oregon where they learned more about the history of the Aurora Colony and what life was like more than a hundred years ago. Students made their own candles, designed their own quilts, chopped wood and made bread in a wooden stove, all to show how pioneers shared their labor and worked together. This field trip emphasized a sense of community and the importance of teamwork, which has been a goal in 4th grade throughout the entire year.

RGS Outdoor School

Every spring, 6th graders participate in MESD's Outdoor School program that teaches children about natural sciences. Over a few days, students learned new facts about the forest, visited a hydro dam created reservoir, hiked to see a waterfall, and explored under the surface of the earth in a 1900 year-old lava tube cave (the longest cave of its kind in the contiguous 48 states).



RGS 7/8 Field Trip

With a trip to the Oregon Coast to kickoff Field Study week, 7th and 8th grade students got to test the pH of the water and discuss what trends we might see as climate change continues to acidify large bodies of water, and what that means for marine life. They explored the importance of nursing logs in the ecosystem and learned about native species that grow on and around nursing logs. Later in the week, 7th grade students were at Camp Namanu for team-building, orienteering, geocaching, and aboriginal skills. They also joined one guild in the morning and one guild in the afternoon followed by a Medieval tournament and Medieval dinner.

Both grade levels also toured and completed a workshop on the topic of resistance and the Oregon Jewish Center for Holocaust Education and visited to the Lan Su Chinese Gardens to discover and explore the importance of the gardens to Portland and those who visit. 8th graders also enjoyed a day of exploration at OMSI, with a special stop at the da Vinci exhibit. At the end of the week, 8th graders gathered for the day at Grand Central Bowling for games, lunch, and community.

RHS Global City Field Trip

After studying agriculture in urban spaces during Global City class, seniors explored Zenger Farms to experience and see what they've been reading and discussing in the classroom. Over the course of their term, the paper students wrote focuses on the development and efficacy of agriculture within urban settings, with a specific emphasis on food sovereignty and the critical role residents within the space play in making decisions about what to grow, who has access to it.

Zenger Farms, in the Lents neighborhood (SE Portland) is an example of what they've studied, and in addition to touring and tasting, the students also engaged in a stewardship project. Not only do students learn about these local farms but they also examine what's happening in other cities, such as Detroit, Orlando and New Orleans.

RHS & RGS Testing Info

State summative assessments are designed to identify differences in student group outcomes and help improve the education system over time. Students in grades 3-8 and 11 take standardized tests every year, and with a 2-year hiatus from testing because of the pandemic, our students fared well. Pamplin Media reported that, "Notable standouts include Portland's Riverdale School District, which boasts more than 70% proficiency across all grades in English, math and science. Statewide, students in sixth, seventh and eighth grade dropped about 10 percentage points in mathematics since 2019."

AP TESTING INFO

28 students took at least one AP exam

56 AP tests taken in 2022

82% of students scored a 3 or higher

ACT SCORES

28 Average ACT score

PSAT SCORES

1149 Average PSAT score

85th percentile for average total score

RGS STATE TESTING

87% of 3rd-8th graders met or exceeded expectations in ELA

70% of 3rd-8th graders met or exceeded expectations in math

77% of 5th & 8th graders met or exceeded expectations in science

RHS STATE TESTING

91% of 11th graders were proficient in ELA

79% of 11th graders were proficient in math

View SAT scores on page 8

RSD SPORTS

The Riverdale School District continues to offer a variety of athletic opportunities for students from grades 6-12. The athletic department is committed to providing opportunities for healthy competition and skill development for all interested students.

Middle school students participate against schools as part of the Metro Christian League. Current sports offerings include soccer, volleyball, cross country, basketball, track and field, and e-sports. Middle school sports are designed to teach important skills as well as provide life lessons through a healthy competitive environment.

Here are a few accolades from our RHS teams:
2021 Girls Soccer - OSAA Academic All-State
2021 Girls Soccer - 3rd Place (State Championships)
2021 Boys Soccer - State Quarterfinalists
2021 Girls Basketball - Lewis & Clark League Champions
2022 - Boys Golf - 6th Place Team (State Championships)
2022 - Boys Golf - 5th Place Individual (State Championships)



95% of 7th & 8th graders participated in at least one sport in 2021-22

High school students participated in the Lewis & Clark league in the 3A classification of the Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA). Current sports offerings include soccer, volleyball, cross country, basketball, swimming, golf, tennis, track and field, and esports. High School sports are designed to develop athletic skills as well as provide life lessons through a healthy competitive environment. Our coaches also work with students who look to play sports at the college level. We had three student-athletes sign letters of intent to play sports in college:

- Gabriel Stevens, Pomona College, Men's Soccer
- Hannah Conte, Claremont McKenna College, Women's Lacrosse
- Truly Martin, Kenyon College, Women's Soccer

We also have athletes who participate in activities outside the jurisdiction of the OSAA. Riverdale regularly has students participate on a ski team and lacrosse team. We also have students who thrive in non school sports, like roller derby. In fact, four of our students were members of the National Championship Roller Derby team in the summer of 2022!

Currently, the athletic department is in the process of looking to add additional opportunities for our students as early as the 2023-2024 school year. Some of these sports include football, wrestling, baseball, and softball.



80% of RHS students participated in at least one sport in 2021-22

COLLEGE-GOING

Even as acceptance rates plummeted across the country, Riverdale students continued to gain admittance to some of the most selective schools in the country. As with most classes, the Class of 2022 was divided equally between those looking for a small liberal arts college and those wanting a larger research university. GAP years have also proven to be popular, with several students deferring their enrollment for a year so that they can have meaningful experiences whether through travel or volunteer work. On the next page you'll find college acceptances from previous years.



RHS SAT INFO

93% Met Both SAT Benchmarks

650 Average SAT Math Score

660 Average SAT ERW Score

1310 Average SAT Score

Senior Exhibition



Senior Exhibition returned to its normal in-person format with seniors spread out across the building presenting their research to students, staff and the community. Requirements for the mandatory course involve a lengthy paper, interviewing outside experts and a 50-minute presentation. It was a pleasure to welcome RGS 7th graders at RHS this year so they could listen to some of their presentations, learning more about controversial topics and asking questions. Our seniors did an incredible job explaining the history of their topics, crafting their essential questions and engaging their audiences. Much like a college thesis, this course prepares our students well for university.

RIVERDALE HIGH SCHOOL

Selected List of College Acceptances 2019–2022

(Colleges/Universities the class of 2022 attend are in **bold**.)

American University	Gonzaga University	Purdue University (Engineering)
University of Arizona	Haverford College	Quest University Canada
Arizona State University	High Point University	Reed College
Bard College	Howard University	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Bates College	University of Idaho	Rice University
Boise State University	Johns Hopkins University	University of Richmond
Boston College	Kenyon College	University of Rochester
Boston University	Lehigh University	University of San Diego
University of British Columbia	Lewis & Clark College	University of San Francisco
Brown University	Loyola Marymount University (2)	Santa Clara University
Cal Poly, SLO (Engineering)	Macalester College	Sarah Lawrence College
University of California, Davis	Marquette University	Scripps College
University of California, Irvine	McGill University	Seattle University
University of California, San Diego	Miami University, Oxford	Skidmore College
University of California, Santa Barbara	University of Miami	Smith College
University of California, Santa Cruz	University of Michigan	St. John's College
Carleton College	Middlebury College	St. Olaf College
Carnegie Mellon University	Montana State University	Stanford University
Case Western University	University of New Mexico	Syracuse University
Chapman University	New York University	University of Toronto
Claremont McKenna College	Northeastern University	New School, Parsons School of Design
Clark University	Northwestern University	Ohio State University
Colgate University	University of Notre Dame	United States Air Force Academy
University of Colorado, Boulder	Oberlin College	University of Southern California
Colorado School of Mines	Occidental College	Vanderbilt University
Connecticut College	University of Oregon	Vassar College
Cornell University	U. of Oregon, Clark Honors College	Villanova University
Dartmouth College	Oregon State University	University of Washington
University of Denver	OSU Honors College	Western Washington University
Dickinson College	Pitzer College	Whitman College
Duke University	Pomona College	Willamette University
Fordham University	Portland State University	College of William and Mary
George Washington University	Princeton University	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Georgia Tech	University of Puget Sound	Yale University

RIVERDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Our Mission: *Riverdale develops inquisitive, imaginative and eager learners. Our students demonstrate academic mastery through exhibition to become effective communicators and responsible leaders.*

