



Riverview School District

The Riverview School District serves the communities of Oakmont and Verona through its mission to promote the achievement of all students.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT NEWS

Student Achievement /Customized Services Newsletter

Winter/Spring 2015

English Language Arts Curriculum Review

Throughout the first semester, our English Language Arts Teachers in Grades K-6 have been working together as grade level teams to analyze and map our curricula in alignment with the new PA Core Standards using OnHand Schools Curriculum Mapping Technology. In February, our teachers met as a K-6 group to establish greater vertical alignment across the English Language Arts Curriculum.

The well-articulated curriculum that will result from this collaborative mapping work will be used to inform our selection of new curricular resources in English/Language Arts at the Elementary Level. We anticipate selecting resource(s) that align with the State Standards and the Riverview School District Curriculum later this Spring.

Academics. Arts. Athletics. Opportunities

**SERIOUS
SUCCESS**
RIVERVIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT

“Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence.”

— Abigail Adams



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2015 ASSESSMENT WINDOWS

PSSA ADMINISTRATION

English Language Arts

April 13-17, 2015

Grades 3-8

Mathematics

April 20-24, 2015

Grades 3-8

Science

April 27-May 1, 2015

Grades 4 & 8

Make-Up Tests

May 4-8, 2015

KEYSTONE EXAM

ADMINISTRATION

Spring 2015

Algebra I, Biology,
Literature

May 13-27, 2015

Riverview's New Junior High-Update

Our Junior High Students engaged in service and school spirit activities as they work to strengthen their sense of community at the Junior High. Our students worked to fight hunger through a canned goods food drive at the end of the first semester.

The Junior High also held a spirit week beginning on February 9th. Students participated in various themes for each day of the week that included themes such as "Dress for Success", "Superhero Day", and "Support the Troops".

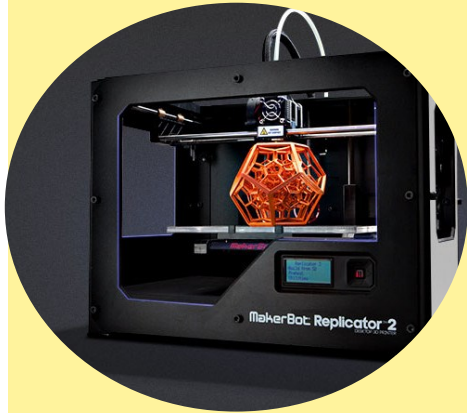
As our students get to know one another and develop new friendships, they participate in various groups/clubs to learn new things and socialize with their peers. Students are able to explore personal interests including: video production, theater, team sports, art, drawing, photography, and more! Students are also exploring the arts and the process of creating a website in their 21st Century classes.

As we know, the PSSA exams are both an important and challenging time for students. With this in mind, the junior high team plans to help students with these assessments in several different ways. Teachers, counselors, and administrators are working together to kick off the PSSAs with spirit days, snacks and prizes!

Key Shifts of the ELA PA Core

Dr. Biancaniello, Curriculum Specialist from OnHand Schools, visited Riverview on January 19th and February 17th to provide professional development for our teachers. Dr. Biancaniello shared detailed presentations with our Elementary and Junior High English Language Arts and Social Studies Teachers, highlighting important instructional implications of standards-aligned teaching for the new writing component of the English Language Arts Standards. Teachers had training on the writing rubrics designed by the State, in order to better understand how our students will be assessed in the Spring. This training will support our students in being successful and demonstrating growth in their writing ability.

Technology Education: 3D Printing Applications at Riverview



Our newest edition to the technology education program at Riverview is a 3D printer from Makerbot. Students from the computer graphics and design II class and technology I class are learning the process of how to produce three dimensional parts from the printer.

In the computer graphics and design II class, students are extensively engaged in designing an Oakmont/Verona monopoly game board that will involve students producing three dimensional game pieces printed by the Makerbot. Students may

use various software programs such as Tinkercad, Autodesk Inventor or Sketchup to produce these game pieces. Students will also be involved in a possible game case to protect the board and all the necessary game pieces. In the technology I course, students are learning about manufacturing and the design process of how parts are made and produced. Students begin with learning mechanical drawing in producing multi-view and isometric parts. Students then transition to understanding that these mechanical drawings can be produced with a three dimensional software program, which will ultimately enable them to design, develop and empower them to turn their ideas into a physical product using our 3D printer.



Riverview School District K-12 Writing Framework Update

Throughout the last semester, a group of teachers, across grade levels and content areas, have worked together to examine the new English Language Arts Writing Standards and develop a framework, scope and sequence for writing in the Riverview School District. To date, the Committee has developed a Stop and Think Visual Aid to help students frame their thinking prior to writing. The Committee has also develop truncated versions of the Standards for teacher access and utility, that will be enlarged into classroom size posters. A Parent Outreach Resource for supporting writing at home was also developed. Targeted approaches to writing are now being implemented at each of the three school levels that align with the PA Standards for clear and concise writing.

RIVERVIEW – Still “STEAM”ing Ahead



While some other school districts are emphasizing expensive and unproven high tech equipment, bells and whistles, or gimmicky specialty STEAM rooms, Riverview continues to lead the way in science and technology education by focusing on substance over style and ensuring learning opportunities

that are deep, challenging, and meaningful. Instead of one-time, drive-by initiatives, Riverview’s emphasis is on rigor and high-level accelerated curricula with extensive opportunities to use cutting-edge, authentic technology and scientific exploration. This philosophy may be a bit old-school, but that does not make it out-of-date or obsolete.

CURRICULUM – STILL THE FOUNDATION

MATH - High achieving Riverview students have the opportunity to take an accelerated course of studies with two full years of Calculus – perhaps the single biggest advantage a student could have moving forward toward a STEAM degree in college. Furthermore, Riverview has consistently shown flexibility in meeting student needs, allowing students to take double math and promoting dual enrollment and other methods of giving students an education that is customized to their needs.

PROGRAMMING & TECHNOLOGY – Riverview’s technology teachers have worked tirelessly with school administration, gifted, and guidance departments to put together a concentration in programming and technology that promotes elite levels of achievement and practical, authentic understanding of technological applications. As a leader in robotics, design and engineering, and computer programming curricula, Riverview students can schedule a comprehensive concentration of courses across their high school experience, with courses in robotics, CAD drawing and design, Visual Basic, and AP Programming in Java.

RSD Technology Plan 2015-2021

An incremental plan and corresponding budget to increase our technology infrastructure and replace/upgrade technology on a yearly basis through 2021 is being developed in alignment with our Strategic Plan. We are exploring a range of technology options to meet teachers’ instructional needs. Included in this plan is the ongoing replacement/upgrade of Student Accessible Technology supplemented with the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Program as appropriate.



THIS YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS IN ENRICHMENT



Don't forget about the "M" in STEAM. Riverview understands that the M, or math, is still the foundation of all achievement in science and technology. Without elite math skills, kids are unlikely to be able to pursue STEAM degrees in college. That is why, in addition to our accelerated math curricula, we offer our students the opportunity to extend their abilities through high level critical thinking and problem solving competitions and events. Research shows that top students do not end their learning when school stops - they go to camps, they are in academic clubs, they play academic games, and they compete.

EQUATIONS:

Riverview students in grades 7 – 12 competed in the Academic Games League of America's Equations competition against top local schools including Mt. Lebanon, Moon, and Seneca Valley. Equations requires students to use critical thinking to use mathematical techniques and concepts like exponents, reciprocals, and factors, and creatively devise solutions for complicated equations. Top scorers included Cassy DeBacco and Sean Abraham, and 8th grader Grace Ison had one of the competition's highest scores and qualified for the national competition in Nashville.

CYBERPATRIOTS:

This year, Riverview is the only school in Allegheny County, and one of only a few schools in the state, to have a team in the nationally recognized CyberPatriot competition. CyberPatriot teaches students fundamentals and higher level skills in cyber-security – the fastest growing technology market in the world today. Riverview gifted teacher Dr. McNally continues to seek partnerships with community members and local businesses to make these opportunities affordable and sustainable, and we are fortunate to have PacketViper LLC, a local cyber-security firm, as our lead sponsor and mentor for this program. Winning teams, schools, and students can earn scholarships, a fully paid trip to Washington DC, and other awards through their participation.



Contact Us

If you have any questions or comments, please visit our website for more information:

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