



RIVERSTONE
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Riverstone International School Profile



Contact Information

- Address: 5521 E Warm Springs Ave, Boise, ID 83716
- Web address: <https://www.riverstoneschool.org/>
- Main office: (208) 424-5000
- Head of School: John Gasparini (jgasparini@riverstoneschool.org)
- High School Principal: Stacey Walker (swalker@riverstoneschool.org)
- College Counselor: John Scripps (jscripps@riverstoneschool.org)
- CEEB code: 130060



Community and School Information

- Founded in 1997 and located in Boise, Idaho, Riverstone International School is a private independent school whose mission is to “inspire courageous journeys of academic and personal exploration that enable students to lead purposeful lives.”
- Riverstone’s educational philosophy is based on five pillars: Academic Excellence, International Understanding, Community and Service, Leadership by Example, and Outdoor Education.
- Riverstone is one of only 37 schools in the United States that offers the full International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum, including the Primary Years Programme (PYP), Middle Years Programme (MYP), and Diploma Programme (DP) and the first school in Idaho authorized to offer the Diploma Programme.
- Riverstone is accredited by the International Baccalaureate (IB), the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), the Northwest Association of Independent Schools (NWAIS), and Cognia/AdvancED.
- Riverstone was named as “One of America’s Most Challenging Schools” by Jay Matthews of the Washington Post in 2022.
- Riverstone is one of 50 Malone Scholars Schools in the US and the only Malone school in Idaho. Malone schools are chosen “on the basis of their academic caliber; the quality of their staff; excellent accommodations for gifted and talented students; strong AP / IB and enrichment programs; attention to the individual student’s needs, interests and talents; financial strength and stability; a commitment to financial aid; and an economically, culturally, ethnically, and socially diverse population” (Malone Family Foundation).
- Riverstone offers over \$1 million in financial aid every year.
- Riverstone currently enrolls 403 students. 35% of them have international backgrounds, representing six continents and 38 different nationalities.
- Riverstone provides both a day and boarding program for its secondary students. On average, 16% of high school students are boarders.
- Riverstone features small class sizes, averaging 15 in the high school and 12 in the elementary, and a 1:15 teacher-to-student ratio. There is one college counselor at the school who is currently serving 68 11th and 12th graders and 124 high schoolers total. The current 12th grade class size is 26.





Standardized Test Score Information for the Past Four Years

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Exams

	c/o 2023	c/o 2022	c/o 2021	c/o 2020
Total Class Size (students)	30	24	35	24
Number of IB Diploma Candidates	27	20	32	20
Number of IB Diploma Recipients	23	16	28	20
IB Exam Pass Rate	85%	80%	87.5%	100%

SAT and ACT

21% of Riverstone Graduates over the Past Four Years Took the SAT	33% of Riverstone Graduates over the Past Four Years Took the ACT
Results <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25th Percentile: 1300 • 50th Percentile: 1375 • 7th Percentile: 1445 • Middle 50%: 1300-1445 	Results <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25th Percentile: 24 • 50th Percentile: 29 • 75th Percentile: 32 • Middle 50%: 24-32

Colleges attended by Riverstone Graduates in the Past Four Years

American College of Thessaloniki (Greece)
American University
University of Arizona
Arizona State University
University of Arkansas
Belmont University
Boise State University
Bowdoin College
University of British Columbia
California Polytechnic State University
California Institute of the Arts
University of California–Davis
University of California–Los Angeles
University of California–San Diego
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Chapman University
Colby College
Colgate University
University of Colorado, Boulder
Colorado College
Colorado School of Mines
Colorado State University
University of Denver
DePaul University
Duke University
Elon University
Georgetown University
University of Georgia
University of Hawaii
High Point University
Howard University
The College of Idaho
John Cabot University
Lafayette College

Lewis and Clark College
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Middlebury College
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Montana State University
University of Nevada–Las Vegas
University of New Hampshire
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
(Honors College)
Northeastern University
Oberlin College
Oregon State University
Penn State University
University of Portland
University of Puget Sound
Purdue University
Reed College
University of Rochester
University of San Diego
Santa Clara University
Savannah College of Art and Design
Seattle University
Smith College
University of South Dakota
University of Southern California
University of Texas, Austin
University of Toronto
University of Amsterdam
University College Twente (The Netherlands)
University of St. Andrews (United Kingdom)
University Utah
University of Virginia
Whitman College
Whitworth University
Willamette University



Grading Scale & Class Ranking

- Riverstone does not report class ranking.
- Each course at Riverstone is weighted the same toward GPA, and GPA is unweighted.
- Assignment grades are all criteria-referenced based on the IB’s rubrics.
- Grade boundaries for term grades (see chart below) are norm referenced using the IB’s yearly subject reports.
- The distinction between border grades (i.e. A- and B+) is determined by the upper and lower range of the boundaries established annually by the IB.

IB Grade	Letter Grade	GPA Points	Grade Descriptor
7	A	4.0	Consistently produces innovative work demonstrating insight into the task beyond what was addressed in class. The work exemplifies a high degree of accuracy without the assistance of the teacher. Consistently demonstrates novel and creative ideas to transfer knowledge and skills to complex classroom topics as well as real-world situations.
6	A	4.0	Sometimes produces innovative work demonstrating insight into the task beyond what was addressed in class. The work is satisfactory to the task representative of a thorough understanding of the knowledge and skill necessary to carry out similar work that might be unfamiliar.
5	A-/B+	3.75/3.5	Produces generally high quality work representative of attempts to apply critical thinking. Demonstrates a sound knowledge and understanding of the subject using subject-specific terminology. When introduced to unfamiliar concepts, knowledge and skills are attempted to be used in application, but requires some assistance.

4	B/B-	3.25/3.0	Produces good quality work representative of a basic understanding of concepts addressed within the context of class. Demonstrates an adequate usage of subject specific terminology limited to items discussed within the class setting. Application to real-world settings requires significant assistance.
3	C+/C/C-	2.75/2.25/2.0	Produces work of acceptable quality. Inability to use subject specific terminology reveals gaps in understanding or misunderstandings. There are some attempts at creative and critical thinking with support, but ultimately unable to make conceptual leaps in the real-world.
2	D	1.0	Produces work of limited quality. Infrequent demonstration of understanding with very little to no use of subject specific terminology. Even with support provided, there is little effort to think critically.
1	F	0.0	Insufficient evidence to assess student work.

Graduation Requirements

Subject Group	Credit Requirements	Explanation of Requirements
Group 1: Language & Literature	8 credits	English B for ESL students fulfills the requirement for graduation.





Group 2: World Languages	4 credits	Must take two full years in grades 11 and 12 for DP requirements
Group 3: Individuals & Society	8 credits	Two consecutive credits are required to be U.S. History
Group 4: Science	6 credits	Must have two credits from different experimental science courses
Group 5: Mathematics	8 credits	2 credits must come from one of the IB math courses (AI or AA)
Group 6: Fine Arts	2 credits	Must take at least one full year of fine arts.
Electives	10 credits	Most courses in the catalog will meet the elective requirement. Electives should be chosen with the student's future goals in mind.
Extended Essay	1 credit	Must receive a passing score on a 4,000 word essay written according to the IB rubric. Will be notated in the second semester of senior year.
Theory of Knowledge (TOK)	2 credits*	Completion of 4 semesters of TOK.
Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS)	2 credits	Must demonstrate growth (through recorded reflections) in all the learning outcomes with a balance across creativity, activity, and service (CAS). Evaluated during 3 interviews with CAS coordinator and must span 18 months of continual involvement. 140 hours required.

Physical Education	4 credits	To include elements of Health classroom education.
Outdoor Education	1 credit	Students will be evaluated through participation and attendance of various outdoor education opportunities.

*Minimum Credit Requirement for Graduation: 56 Credits

*1 credit = 1 semester

*TOK - 1 credit = 2 semesters

Grade Distribution

Grade Quartiles for Class of 2023

Upper Quartile	3.955
Median Quartile	3.825
Third Quartile	3.495

Discipline Reporting Policy

- Riverstone reports to colleges disciplinary infractions that involve malicious conduct, academic dishonesty, or other forms of integrity violation.





Curricular Offerings

- All Grade 11 and Grade 12 students at Riverstone are expected to be IB Diploma Program (DP) candidates. Students with extenuating circumstances are required to sit for a minimum of two exams.
- As per IB policy, DP students are advised to take three courses at standard level (SL) and three courses at higher level (HL) in at least five of the six subject groups, possibly substituting the arts for an additional science or humanities subject.
- Some students may go beyond the six subjects required by the IB and take examinations in up to two additional subjects.

Diploma Programme Courses offered at Riversone

Group 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English Language & Literature HL • Self-Taught Literature A for non-native English speakers
Group 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandarin HL/SL • Spanish Ab Initio SL • Spanish B HL/SL
Group 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Politics HL/SL • Psychology HL/SL • World Religions SL
Group 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biology HL/SL • Chemistry HL/SL • Physics HL/SL
Group 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathematics Applications and Interpretations SL • Mathematics Analysis and Approaches HL/SL
Group 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual Arts HL/SL • Music HL/SL
DP Core	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theory of Knowledge

What It Means to Be a Riverstone Student

- Engaging, rigorous academics:
 - Independent labs with reports in the sciences
 - Independent explorations in math
 - Independent research essays in the humanities
 - Independent 4,000 word Extended Essay in the student's choice of IB subject with a research question and methodology designed by the student
 - Rotating 80 minute block schedule:
 - Monday/Thursday - A days
 - Tuesday/Friday - B days
 - Wednesday - Experiential education within each subject group to include service as action and interdisciplinary studies led on a rotating schedule with subject area teachers and school leaders and counselors.
- Outdoor education:
 - Riverstone students participate in increasingly challenging excursions into the outdoors from grades pre-K-12, spending a total of 144 days on outdoor trips from preschool through high school.
 - In high school, students complete eight major backpacking trips, as well as monthly outdoor activities like climbing, hiking, and skiing, to learn resilience, collaboration, and leadership skills, as well as develop their appreciation of nature, the environment, and an active lifestyle.
- Global citizenship:
 - Riverstone fosters international understanding through the IB curriculum, the diverse make-up of the student body, and the students' engagement with multiple perspectives in and out of class.
 - Riverstone fosters leadership and community engagement through the IB's Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS) component

Riverstone's Response to COVID-19

- In March of 2020, Riverstone transitioned to virtual learning. Students attended all of their classes on Zoom and were assessed according to our established standards.
- For the 2020-2021 school year, Riverstone implemented blended learning. Students attended classes on Zoom half of the time and in person the other half of the time. Riverstone maintained established contact hours and curricular expectations.
- Riverstone started the 2021-2022 academic year fully in-person with a COVID plan and the flexibility to address environmental changes.
- Since the 2021-2022 year, Riverstone has been fully in-person and has not experienced any COVID disruptions involving the whole school.

