

**Riverview Elementary
Program Description**
Durango School District
August 2018

Mission Statement

To inspire lifelong passionate learners, thinkers and doers by building a sense of community nurturing creative and diverse learners, and promoting student growth through high quality, differentiated instruction.



Student who Own It, Think It, Solve It, Prove It

Riverview's academic program is grounded in 'Personalized Competency Based Learning'. Each and every student is working at an individual level toward 'competency', or proficiency, on critical academic (Durango Schools [Performance Indicators](#)) and social skills. Student learning at Riverview is built on **Thinking**... students develop, understand and apply thinking strategies to face challenges and **Solve** problems. The [Thinking Strategies](#) students are actively developing at Riverview....

- Monitoring for Meaning
- Activating Schema (yes, Riverview students can explain what Schema means!)
- Asking Questions
- Drawing Inferences
- Determining Importance
- Visualizing
- Synthesizing

Students are asked to use their thinking strategies to help them learn new information, ideas, and skills. They are given challenges and problems to solve, then asked to prove it in a variety of manners...

- Writing
 - Standard form (ie,,sentence, paragraph, essay)
 - Presentations (ie...poster, prezi, etc)
 - Using numbers and symbols to represent math thinking... with a written or oral explanation
- Orally
 - One on One conferring with a teacher
 - Presentation to others
 - Socratic Seminar or Discussion Groups
- Visually
 - Artistic representation of thinking with an oral or written explanation
 - Graphic Organizer..again with an oral or written explanation of thinking

Riverview believes in moving students toward high levels of achievement in a 'personalized' environment, such that a key Riverview learning philosophy is a **Growth Mindset: It's ok to be where you are in your learning, it's not ok to stay there.** [Research](#) has shown that students with a 'growth' mindset versus a 'fixed' mindset (I am only as smart as I am and can be no more), achieve higher levels of academic success. Each Riverview student **Owns** his/her learning. Students individually track learning growth in a variety of areas and are responsible, with the facilitation of staff, to provide evidence of learning through classroom experiences and opportunities..they **Prove It!**

English Language Arts

(Reading, Writing, Oral Expression)

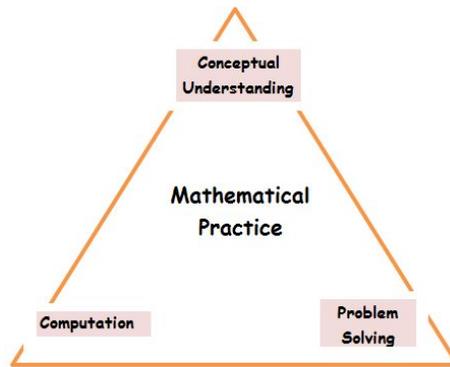
The focus of ELA learning at Riverview is to make meaning of information (written/oral/visuals) and communicate (written/oral/visually) that meaning.

Developing readers in elementary school effectively has two phases: learning to read and reading to learn. The shift from 'learning to read' to 'reading to learn' starts happening in 2nd grade and is solidified in 3rd grade, though the timing of the transition varies for each and every student. While students are learning to read, they are also engaged in comprehending text from the start. At younger grades, students receive much of their reading instruction in small groups and are expected to practice their developing skills throughout the day and at home (the most important home practice we request of students). As skills grow, students read and respond to increasingly more complex text.

Students begin expressing their thinking in writing in preschool. Of course, this starts by drawing pictures telling stories growing toward writing essays responding to informational text, defending opinions, and articulating their own life experiences through narrative writing. Writing in Riverview classrooms generally follows a workshop model that encourages self pacing and individual generation of ideas within their writing. Starting in grade 4, students predominantly do their writing via technology, using GoogleDocs. Students share their work with teachers via this platform and are encouraged to share their work with parents as well.

Math

Mathematical Practice is complex and goes well beyond developing computational skills. At Riverview, students engage in learning experiences that balance math computation development, deep forays into conceptual understanding, and problem solving while developing habits in Mathematical Practices ([8 Math Practices](#)). The goal at Riverview is to foster in students all the math practice tools necessary to become productive, real world problem solvers. We are growing Mathematicians!



To support personalized education, Riverview runs advanced math classes for students at grades 3-5 who have demonstrated high mathematical aptitude. As well, Riverview runs an after school Math Lab to provide additional learning time for students needing this to master math concepts and skills.

Science/Engineering

Riverview believes in the power of children's curious nature to inspire their own learning. Scientific exploration provides excellent opportunities to explore the world and our individual place in it through wondering, questioning, thinking, discovering and applying. In 5th grade, students have science class daily and as well as a week long engineering class every 3rd week. Both are designed to develop our students habits to question, think, and problem solve. In grades K-3, students have a week long science lab every 4 weeks; 4th grade will have science lab every 3 weeks. Whether working in the lab, heading to our school garden, or doing other field work, the main focus is hands on exploration of scientific concepts and application through engineering challenges.

Social Studies

Much of our students' engagement with social studies is embedded in reading and writing. Social Studies learning facilitates development of a student's understanding of his/her place in our world and developing their individual world citizenship identity. At 4th grade, Riverview provides a more focused experience with a daily social studies class focused on developing students understanding of their place in our social world. This perspective development is largely done within the context of how student's local world has grown from early Colorado civilizations to the underpinnings of today's societal, economic and governmental structure. In 5th grade these concepts are then applied and develop at a national level to build understand of American and world citizenship.

Specials

Specials at Riverview is an intricate part of the growth of our students. Our specials program is designed to build a full grown person: one who is master of their health and developing their bodies, one who actively develops creative problem solving through art, and one who combines logic and emotion to express life through music.

More Specific Learning Supports:

Please refer to our website for detailed information about additional learning supports for students:

- *Student Learning Supports (SLS)* for students with significant needs.
- *Academic Learning Supports and Multi Tiered System of Support (MTSS)* for struggling students, students supported with Individual Education Plans, and students who are second language learners.
- *Gifted and Talented (GT)* supports
- Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Programming

August 15, 2018