

Welcome to Riverside School

School History

Riverside school was founded in 1974. It is a non-sectarian, non-profit, private coeducational day school, approved by the state of Virginia as a proprietary school. Riverside School provides a private elementary and intermediate education for 75 children with language-based learning differences. The school serves children in the Richmond area and surrounding counties within commuting distance.

Mission

The mission of Riverside School is to help children who, in spite of intelligence in the average or above average range, a good home environment, and normally adequate teaching, have encountered difficulty in school learning. The school seeks to provide dyslexic students with an environment in which pressures are removed, the failure pattern is eradicated, and self-concept is improved. Less emphasis is placed on props and frills and more on basic educational problems, particularly on remediation of academic problems in specific skill areas. Following the philosophical tenets of Dr. Samuel Orton, a systematic and sequential, multisensory, success oriented approach is used; and a supportive, caring, and nurturing atmosphere is provided.

Philosophy & Goals

Primary emphasis is placed on building a foundation of basic skills in language arts and arithmetic. This is supplemented by a curriculum including social studies, science, the arts, physical education and socialization skills. The school provides a community in which the academic, physical, social and emotional needs of each child are considered. In short, each child is assisted in reaching toward realistic goals commensurate with his/her own specific abilities and potential. Finally, it is our belief that these students, given appropriate skills, can be successful in the standard academic environment. Riverside School is committed to the provision of those skills for the eventual return of its students to that mainstream environment.

Faculty

We offer experienced, state certified classroom teachers with an unequalled commitment to creatively teaching and nurturing each child to his/her fullest potential. In addition, our language fundamental tutors are Orton-Gillingham trained. Riverside School's Orton-Gillingham training program has been accepted as Formal Candidates for Accreditation by the Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators.

The Orton-Gillingham Approach

Accredited Instructional
Program



Academy of
Orton-Gillingham
Practitioners
and Educators

Incorporated Under New York State Education Law

Riverside School is proud to be accredited by the Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators. The Academy accredits training programs for persons aspiring to become Orton-Gillingham practitioners. It also accredits, in schools, clinics and camps, Orton-Gillingham instruction that meets Academy standards. The Orton-Gillingham Approach is intended primarily for use with persons who have difficulty with reading, spelling, and writing of the sort associated with dyslexia.

History

The approach is so named because of the foundational and seminal contributions of Samuel T. Orton and Anna Gillingham. Samuel Torrey Orton (1879-1948) was a neuropsychiatrist and pathologist. He was a pioneer in focusing attention on reading failure and related language processing difficulties. As early as 1925 he had identified the syndrome of dyslexia as an educational problem. Anna Gillingham (1878-1963) was a gifted educator and psychologist with a superb mastery of the language. Encouraged by Dr. Orton, she compiled and published instructional materials as early as the 1930s which provided the foundation for student instruction and teacher training in what became known as the Orton-Gillingham Approach.

At Riverside School

Riverside School utilizes the Orton-Gillingham Approach in the classroom and through one-on-one Language Fundamentals Instruction that is provided to each student for 30 - 45 minutes a day, four days a week. Our Language Fundamentals Program is staffed by teachers who are trained in the Orton-Gillingham Approach and certified by the Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners & Educators.

The Approach

Personalized: Teachers recognize that each student has an individual set of strengths and weaknesses. Instruction is designed to enhance each child's strengths and to use the strengths to remediate the weaknesses.

Diagnostic & Prescriptive: Teachers always assess each student's understanding of concepts and error patterns. Student success dictates the pacing and content of the next lesson instead of a mandated curriculum or pacing guide.

Multisensory: Instruction uses all of the learning pathways: seeing, hearing, feeling, moving, and thinking.

Direct Instruction: Instruction is presented in a manner that directly teaches concepts so students understand what, why, and how they are learning.

Cognitive Approach: Teachers design instruction that allows students to see patterns and create concepts through reasoning and discovery.

Systematic, Structured, Sequential, Incremental, and Cumulative Instruction: Instruction is presented in a logical manner that shows the relationship between the current content and previous learning. Explicit, incremental steps ensure success and mastery.

Systematic Phonics and Linguistic Competence: Instruction is presented at the sound-symbol level that stresses the alphabetic principle of English. Instruction also focuses on the language patterns that determine word order, sentence structure, and the meaning of words and phrases.

Emotionally Sound: Instruction is designed to provide success, building increased self-confidence and motivation.

Academics

Instruction at Riverside is highly specialized. Our classroom teachers are state certified teachers. Language Fundamental instructors receive extensive training and mentoring in the Orton-Gillingham approach and are required to receive certification from the Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators. Our staff has an unequalled commitment to creatively teaching and nurturing each child to his or her fullest potential. Teachers at Riverside School stress the direct teaching of basic skills. Consultation with outside experts in the field of learning differences helps the staff to provide current, research-based education. Riverside School's teachers attend regular in-service workshops and annual conferences to maintain effective knowledge and enthusiasm in subject matter.

Language Fundamental (LF) - Riverside School students receive individual Orton-Gillingham language instruction for 30 to 45 minutes four days per week. Riverside School's language fundamental sessions are remedial sessions in which reading, reading comprehension, handwriting, vocabulary, and spelling skills are taught.

Language Arts - In addition to the one-to-one language fundamental sessions, elementary students receive three additional language arts classes daily, and intermediate students have two. These classes focus on oral language, reading, and writing skills. In oral language, students cover a variety of skills including following directions, vocabulary development, and public speaking. As students progress, their focus in reading class transitions from decoding words to comprehending increasingly more complex narrative and expository texts. In writing classes, students cover spelling, grammar, and composition skills. Students begin at the word or phrase level and progress to writing essays and research papers.

Mathematics - The concepts of math, the language of math, and calculation are an important part of our curriculum. Following the tenets of the Orton-Gillingham approach, Riverside School uses manipulatives and technology to present new concepts in a visual, auditory, and kinesthetic/tactile manner. This hands-on, multisensory instruction helps students understand and retain the underlying mathematical concepts. Topics are presented incrementally and reinforced with continual review.

Study Skills – Study skills are an integral part of all curriculum areas but especially in social studies and science. Students learn a range of skills to locate information, discuss ideas, answer a range of question types, and write about content.

Social Studies - Riverside School social studies curriculum includes the fundamentals of geography, history, economics, civics, and current events. Classroom learning is enhanced by hands-on experiences and field trips.

Science – Students study topics from the major realms of science (physical, life, and earth science). Riverside school uses technology to complement a multisensory approach to the experimental model, promoting effective science literacy.

Athletics - Riverside School is committed to developing the physical and mental well being of each student. All students participate in physical education classes four to five days a week. In addition to these regular activities, students participate in special programs and the Presidential Physical Fitness Award testing each spring.

Expressive Arts – Lead by a Certified Art Therapist, Riverside School's Expressive Arts Therapy program is not only designed to refine artistic skills, but also to cultivate personal growth. Once each week, students have an opportunity to explore visual arts, music and/or dance.

Social Skills – Along with building a strong academic foundation for our students, Riverside is committed to fostering positive social growth and developing the self-confidence of each pupil. Once each week, students participate in a 30-minute Social Skills class. Class activities are designed to reinforce social, ethical, and academic skills in areas such as critical and creative thinking, ethical decision making, interpersonal relationships, practical living skills, building self-esteem, and practicing citizenship. Learning techniques incorporated into the class include role playing, small-group discussions, reflective and moral dilemma exercises, and hands-on activities.

Classroom Ratios - (1 to 10/11) Classroom
One-to-one language instruction, 30-45 minutes, 4 times per week

Financial Information

2010-2011 School Year

TUITION... Tuition is paid in two installments.

Tuition Payment Schedule:

Re-Enrollment (Returning Students)	Annual Tuition:	\$19,550
Reservation Deposit due June 10, 2010		<u>- 1,000</u> (Applied Against Tuition)
	Balance	\$18,550
First Semester Installment due August 15, 2010		\$ 9,275 (50% of Tuition Balance)
Second Semester Installment due January 15, 2011		\$ 9,275 (Remaining Tuition Balance)

Enrollment (New Students)	Annual Tuition:	\$19,550
	Maintenance Fee	300
	Testing Fee	<u>150</u>
	Total	\$20,000
Reservation Deposit due by June 10, 2010		<u>- 1,000</u> (Applied Against Tuition)
	Balance	\$19,000

First Semester Installment due August 15, 2010		\$ 9,500 (50% of Tuition Balance)
Second Semester Installment due January 15, 2011		\$ 9,500 (Remaining Tuition Balance)

Additional Fees:

Technology Fee (Intermediate School)		\$ 350 (separate invoice will be sent in August with class assignments)
Parent Involvement Program Opt-Out Fee		\$ 300

_____ In lieu of volunteering 10 hours, I elect to submit the attached check for \$300 payable to Riverside School.

Financial aid is available on a limited and confidential basis. All aid is awarded on the basis of need. This need is determined by a completed parent's financial statement.

Admission Packet

Admissions Guidelines

1. A completed Riverside School Application form accompanied by a \$100.00 application and assessment fee must be submitted.
2. The Admissions Coordinator, Founding Director and Head of School will review all applications. Riverside School accepts students in the average, above average and superior range of cognitive ability. Riverside accepts children with learning differences without regard to race, creed, color, or national origin. Riverside School is not designed to meet the needs of students with emotional disabilities.
3. Upon review of the application and supporting documents (psychological and educational testing), the Admissions Committee will decide to continue or terminate the admissions process:
 - * If the process is terminated, all records and supporting documents will be returned along with the \$100.00 application fee.
 - * If the process is continued, the \$100.00 application and assessment fee is non-refundable.
4. Upon continuation of the application process, the office staff will contact prospective parents and arrange for an interview with the Founding Director and Admissions Coordinator. During this interview process, the parent(s) will be introduced to the school's philosophy and tour the school.
5. Prospective students will be required to visit the school. Office staff will contact parents to assign a visitation date. Children may stay all day or leave at lunch time. Children will be placed in a classroom to be observed by the classroom teacher, and meet with our Testing Coordinator or designee for further screening/assessment.
6. After the parent interview, student visitation, and the child's recent educational and psychological test results are received, the Admissions Committee will reconvene and determine if Riverside is or is not an appropriate placement for the child. At this time, parents will be notified of the Admissions Committee's decision.
7. When the Riverside Admissions Committee approves the child for placement at Riverside, the child's admission packet will be placed in the active files. Once an opening occurs, the parent(s) will be notified by phone and in writing that the child has been accepted.
8. When a child is accepted at Riverside School prompt payment of tuition is expected.
 - a. A reservation deposit of \$1,000 is due two weeks after notification of acceptance. The deposit will be applied towards tuition fees.
 - b. Tuition is due and payable in two installments. The first installment of 50% of tuition is due on or before August 15. The second installment of 50% of tuition is due on or before January 15. The student will not be allowed to begin classes until the first tuition installment has been paid.
 - c. A late charge of 1-1/2% per month applies to all charges paid after January 31. Such interest to be prorated daily. All accounts must be paid in full by May 31. A \$15 late fee will be charged for each returned check. Records and grades will not be released until all payments are made in full.
9. The Riverside Admissions Committee may, at its discretion, accept children on a conditional basis. Upon withdrawal of students who are accepted conditionally, all monies paid beyond the current month, exclusive of capital fund, will be refunded, provided the parent(s) paid in advance.
10. During the school year, all parents of newly admitted students will be expected to attend a Fall parent orientation and three new parent workshops.

Admission Application Checklist

- School Records – Attach copies of report cards and progress reports for the last two marking periods. Include scores of standardized achievement tests given at school if available.
- Current Individual Educational Plan, if the student has an IEP.
- Give your child's current teacher the Teacher Evaluation Form and ask him/her to complete it and mail directly to the school. If other teacher references are available, please include them.
- Cognitive Testing administered in the last two years.
 - Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children IV (WISC-IV). If child is very young, a Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence (WPPSI) may be given.
or
 - Woodcock-Johnson Tests of Cognitive Ability Report should include overall cognitive ability as well as subtest scores and narrative written by tester.
- Standardized Achievement Testing (usually administered at time of Cognitive Testing)
 - Wechsler Individual Achievement Test (WIAT II)
or
 - Woodcock-Johnson III Tests of Achievement
- Any other diagnostic evaluation reports prepared within the last three years. May include scores of other testing given at the time of cognitive testing, or may be individual speech/language testing, neuropsychological testing, occupational therapy testing, or testing in any other area that impacts a child's ability to learn.
- Complete and return Parents Perceptions/Evaluation Form.
- Complete and return Release Form Information.
- Complete and send copies of the Release of Information Form to current school of attendance and other applicable service providers (speech & language therapist, psychologist, occupational therapist, physicians, etc.).
- Copy of Medical Health Record and Immunization Record.
- Submit completed application with attached assessments and the application fee of \$100 (check made payable to Riverside School).
- Student's photograph (optional).