



# RIVERMONT COLLEGIATE

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[www.rivermontcollegiate.org](http://www.rivermontcollegiate.org)

May 15, 2009

## Headlines

Dear Rivermont Community,

One of our proud accomplishments at Rivermont is the 100% acceptance of our senior class to 4-year colleges and universities. Our college counseling begins in the freshman year and continues through the senior year when applications are submitted. In some cases, we continue with appeals and clarification to the college admission officers. The time and care independent schools like Rivermont place on college counseling is beyond compare. Families would need to hire a private consultant to receive comparable guidance and support.

We are pleased to announce that the Class of 2009 has been accepted at the following colleges and universities:

*Augustana College*  
*Boston University*  
*Bradley University*  
*California Polytechnic Institute*  
*Case Western Reserve University*  
*Cornell College*  
*Drake University*  
*Drew University*  
*Iowa State University*  
*Knox College*  
*NEOUCOM-Kent State University*  
*New Jersey Institute of Tech*  
*Northwestern University*  
*Purdue University*  
*Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute*  
*Rice University*  
*Richard Stockton College of NJ*  
*Rutgers The State University*  
*Siena College*  
*Southern Illinois University*  
*St. Ambrose University*  
*Stevens Institute of Technology*  
*The College of New Jersey*  
*The George Washington University*

*Trine University*  
*Tulane University*  
*Union College*  
*University of Chicago*  
*University of Illinois at Chicago*  
*University of Iowa*  
*University of Miami*  
*University of Michigan*  
*University of Missouri-Columbia*  
*University of Missouri-Kansas City*  
*University of Rochester*  
*Virginia Commonwealth University*  
*Washington University at St. Louis*

Additionally, 90% of the Class of 2009 has been awarded college merit scholarships from \$2,500 to \$38,000 renewable for four years. The class received a grand total in scholarship offers over five years of \$1,356,000. Now that's a return on your investment!

Today is the last regular class day for our seniors. Beginning next week, each senior will be on their Senior Project. This is an opportunity to become intensely involved in an activity or profession that is of particular interest to the senior. The experience provides our students with valuable insights into themselves as well as into the "real" world of business and service.

Rick St. Laurent, Headmaster

Oh The Places We'll Grow!

Thank You!

Thank You!

Thank You!

\$100, 719.25

We are still collecting for Fund A Need!



## Preparing for College

By Patrick F. Bassett, NAIS President

The first and most important premise of sending a child to an independent school is to recognize that there are no guaranteed "outcomes" (such as admission to the Ivy League colleges) but rather guaranteed processes (such as "stretching" young people in every way: intellectually, socially, athletically, and spiritually and also offering effective counseling on appropriate colleges). The very good "college-counseling" that occurs at independent schools is effective in matching students with schools in which they will thrive. No college counselor or school "gets" a student into a particular college or university. The student's record does that.

The measure of the effectiveness of a school and its college counseling is not how many students are accepted by the Ivy Leagues but rather how many students are accepted by their first or second choice colleges. The advantage of an independent school in the whole enterprise is that it is more likely in the communities that independent schools create that students are pushed harder and farther academically and are expected to participate more fully in extracurricular activities, both of which do count very much in the record of achievement a matriculating senior presents to colleges.

The eighth grade is not too early in the game to begin planning a four-year sequence of high school courses and activities to make one's record attractive to colleges and universities. In a 1993 pamphlet published by Harvard University, "Choosing Courses To Prepare for College," the president of the college recommended that the preferred transcript for the most competitive of American colleges and universities would include the following:

- 4 years of English language and literature, including frequent practice in the writing of expository prose
- 4 years of math
- 4 years of science (including biology, chemistry or physics, preferably at least one at an advanced level)

- 3 years of history (including U.S. History, European History and one additional advanced history course)
- 4 years of a single foreign language.

Typically, college admissions officers look most favorably on those transcripts that reveal five or more courses per year, heavily weighted towards traditional, rigorous, year-long courses: i.e., year-long physics "counts more" than an elective such as "Physics for Poets."

Also, extracurricular involvement and leadership are key to competitive college admissions: sustained commitment to one or two activities (sports, music, the arts, publications, community service, etc.) count more than a dilettantish approach to trying a different club every semester.

Scores on the S.A.T. still count very heavily for the most competitive colleges. The best way to have high scores is to read voluminously, to engage in provocative and serious discussion, and to take advanced mathematics courses.

Finally, there are around 4,000 colleges and universities in the United States, all but 300 or so far less competitive in terms of admissions than the 13% everyone reads about. Since only about 1/2 of students who go to college actually finish within six years of beginning, it is worth commenting that the most important factor is a good "fit" between the student and the college (not between the parent's aspirations and the college). To assure that good fit, rely heavily on good college counseling: if you do not have it at your current school, seek it elsewhere, professionally.

"Prep" schools come in many colors and stripes (see the School Search portion of the NAIS website), but all are committed via their missions to help young people to grow significantly, so that their graduates are "prepared for college and for life thereafter."

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## KUDOS

## **Lion Pride!**



### National Honor Society

Congratulations to the new officers:

President- Victor Mbakwe

Vice-President- Roshan Babu

Treasurer- Pavane Gorrepati

Secretary- Christine Mbakwe

NHS members volunteered their time on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> to help spruce up for spring at The Center for Active Seniors (CASI) in Davenport. Students spread mulch and pulled weeds to prep for flowers and scoured the grounds for trash. They also washed windows, providing a great view of all their hard work! CASI encourages seniors in the community to stay active by offering fitness activities, bingo, cards, dance, outings, and special events, as well as educational opportunities and health information sessions. Thanks to a little help from NHS, CASI activities are surrounded by spring beauty!

### Physicals for Rivermont Collegiate Student-Athletes

Drs. James and Anne Petre will be at Rivermont on Monday, May 18 to conduct physicals for students who plan to participate in sport programs at Rivermont in the coming year. To reduce the wait time, please plan to arrive at the following times:

Entering Grade	Time
4 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 p.m.
7 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 p.m.
9 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 p.m.
11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	8:30 p.m.

If you have more than one child in need of a physical, please bring them at a time that is convenient for you.

## **Parents' Council**

### **WANTED:**

An energetic, organized, and fun parent to volunteer for next year's Magazine Drive! Grades PK, 6 & 7 are responsible for this fundraiser, and we need your help. The dates for the fall Magazine Drive are August 31-September 11. Please contact Beth Heaney at 309 797-3253 or [heaney@rvmt.org](mailto:heaney@rvmt.org) if

you can spare some time for the first Parent Council fundraiser of the 2009-2010 school year!

### **REMINDER:**

The final Scrip order will be placed on May 21<sup>st</sup> to ensure delivery by the end of the school year. Forms are available in the mansion, Becherer Hall, on the Rivermont website, and can be turned in to the business office. Going on vacation this summer, or having a 'staycation' where you could use gift cards? Any questions, please call Beth Heaney at 309 797-3253 or send an e-mail to [heaney@rvmt.org](mailto:heaney@rvmt.org). Thanks for your support in the Scrip program this year!

## **Lower School**

### **From the West Coast to the Central Coast**

Rivermont Second Graders have been penpals with the Second Grade at New Roads School in Los Angeles all year. We sent Rivermont keychains to our penpals. They sent us New Roads hats.



### **Writer's Conference**

Ten students from the Lower School represented Rivermont at the St. Ambrose Young Writer's Conference on Wednesday. After participating in a group writing share with another school, the students participated in workshops that included



making a story from an island map and making their own picture books.

## Upcoming Events Mark Your Calendar!

### May

- 17 Strings Recital, 2:00 PM in Auditorium**
- 18-29 Senior Projects
- 18 Athletics Physicals, 6:30-9:00 PM
- 20 Grades 4 & 5 Track Meet at Augustan
- 25 Memorial Day – NO SCHOOL
- 28 K-Grade 5 Party, 3:30 – 4:30 PM
- 28-29 Grade 6 Chicago Trip
- 29 Upper School Finals Begin

### June

- 1-2 Upper School Finals
  - 2 Lower School **Imp-Tiger** Day**  
**Open Tour, 8:30 – 10:00 AM**  
**Young Scholars Open House, 10-11 AM**  
Computer Club Party, 3:30 – 6:00 PM
  - 3 Lower School Promotion, 9:00 AM**  
**Middle & Upper Schools Awards & Recognition Ceremony, 10:30 AM**  
**Senior Dinner, 6:00 PM**
  - 4 MS & US Day Trips
  - 5 Senior Project Presentations, 9:30 AM**  
**122<sup>nd</sup> Commencement, 4:00 PM**
  - 6 Class Reunions for 1987-1991**
- Parent events are in bold & Early Dismissals are underlined.

## A Preview of the 2009-10 School Calendar

### August 2009

- 17 First Day of School (K-12)– Dismiss 11:30 AM
- 18 Middle & Upper School Orientation Retreat  
First Day Junior Kindergarten & 2-Day PreSchool
- 19 First Day 3-Day PreSchool
- 27 Back to School Night & BBQ**

### September 2009

- 7 Labor Day – NO SCHOOL
- 22-23 School Picture Days
- 24 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### October 2009

- 9 First Quarter Ends - Early Dismissal at 11:30 AM
- 22 Early Dismissal, 11:30 AM  
**Parent-Teacher Conferences, 3-8 PM**
- 23 Parent-Teacher Conferences, 8 AM – 12 PM**

### November 2009

- 25 Grandparents' & Special Friends' Day  
Early Dismissal 11:30 AM
- 26-29 Thanksgiving Break

### December 2009

- 16-18 Upper School Exams
- 18 Second Quarter Ends
- 19-1/3 Holiday Break

### January 2010

- 4 Classes Resume
- 18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – NO SCHOOL

### February 2010

- 11 Academic Fair, 6:00 PM**
- 12 Ski/Bowl Day
- 13-21 Winter Break
- 22 Classes Resume

### March 2010

- 12 Third Quarter Ends - Early Dismissal, 11:30 AM
- 25 Early Dismissal, 11:30 AM  
**Parent-Teacher Conferences, 3-8 PM**
- 26 Parent-Teacher Conferences, 8 AM – 12 PM**

### April 2010

- 3-11 Spring Break
- 12 Classes resume

### May 2010

- 1 Annual Auction**
- 27-6/1 Upper School Exams
- 31 Memorial Day – NO SCHOOL

### June 2010

- 5/27-1 Upper School Exams
- 2 LS Promotion, MS/US Award Ceremony**
- 3 Middle & Upper School Trips
- 4 123<sup>rd</sup> Commencement, 4:00 PM**



**RIVERMONT COLLEGIATE**

*where there are no spectators,  
only participants!*

**Contact Admission Director  
Cindy Murray  
(563) 359-1366, ext. 302  
[murray@rvmt.org](mailto:murray@rvmt.org)**

