

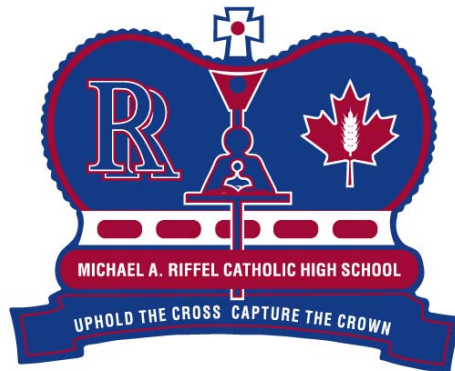
Welcome to

Michael A. Riffel Catholic High School

Grade 9



2016 - 2017



HOME OF THE ROYALS

## School Mission Statement

Michael A. Riffel Catholic High School is a Catholic, student-centered school which focuses on developing respectful, responsible and knowledgeable citizens firmly grounded in the values of our Christian Faith.

With this as our mission, our hope is that our school community will always reflect in our actions and words the following correlates of effective, Catholic schools:

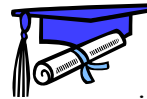
**Nurturing Gospel Ethos:** The distinctiveness of living gospel values permeates school activities.



**Safe and Orderly Environment:** There is an orderly, purposeful, atmosphere conducive to teaching and learning.



➤ **Climate of High Expectations for Success:** Staff believe and demonstrate that students can attain relative mastery of the essential skills. A plan for renewal and continual improvement is evident.



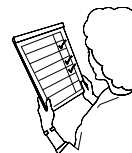
➤ **Instructional Leadership:** Staff are instructional leaders, applying the characteristics of instructional effectiveness, as outlined by Core Curriculum, in the management of the instructional program.

➤ **Clear and Focused Mission:** Our school mission is clear, and stakeholders share an understanding of and a commitment to instructional goals, assessment procedures, and accountability.



➤ **Opportunity to Learn and Student Time On Task:** Staff allocate a significant amount of classroom time to instruction.

➤ **Frequent Monitoring of Student Progress:** Student progress is measured frequently through a variety of assessment procedures applying principles of quality student evaluation as outlined in Core Curriculum. Results of assessments are used to improve student performance and program delivery.



➤ **Quality Relations:** Parents support our schools and are given the opportunity to play an important role as outlined in the “Parental Involvement in Regina Catholic Schools: A Framework for Our Beliefs and Practices” document. Quality partnerships are evident with the parish and local community.

## What Does a Grade Nine Student Need to Know?

You'll find your concerns about Grade 9 will disappear after the first day or two in classes. We operate a bit differently than your Grade 8 system, but the adjustment will be **much** easier than you think.

Our greatest concern is that you get involved. We want you to feel at home at Riffel, and we'll help to make that happen.

### Catholic Education

- † Catholic schools are unique; they foster the religious and spiritual life of students. For this reason, students and teachers participate in prayer throughout the day, scheduled liturgies, masses and retreats. We respect the right of others to worship in a prayerful environment.
- † As members of a Catholic school, we are called on to be a community that strives toward Christ-like values including respect, care, and concern for others.

### Highlights

- The academic year is divided into semesters. The first semester operates from September to January while the second semester operates from February to June. Each spring, students register for a full year of classes for the following academic year. These classes are timetabled, as equally as possible, into the two semesters. Each semester ends with a final assessment in all subjects. The format of the assessment will vary depending on the subject. Final marks are issued at the end of each semester for all classes taken during that semester.
- Classes run every day from 8:45 am to 3:20 pm. Students get a 15 minute break in the morning and fifty-four minutes for lunch. Students may decide to eat lunch at school. If so, they bring their own lunch or buy lunch from the canteen at reasonable prices. The large Commons Area has plenty of seating.
- Each semester consists of five classes. Each class is sixty-four minutes in length. Students have the same five classes each day in a semester. In addition students may also take Band and/or Choral and/or Vocal Jazz. Band and Choral are scheduled either during early bird, or at noon.
- The canteen is located on the main floor. The goal of the canteen is to provide an assortment of nutritious drinks, snacks and lunches for our students. The canteen operates before school, at break and at lunch.
- The "Royal Mart" is located in the first floor main hallway. All school and spirit wear (t-shirts, sweat suits, shorts, caps, etc.) can be purchased at the store. Spirit wear is an important feature for students (there are 'spirit days' organized by our SRC on many occasions). Students are encouraged to dress in spirit wear and to participate in the variety of SRC organized activities that occur throughout the year.
- The main office hours are from 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Monday through Friday). Adult supervision of students is provided from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. daily. Please coordinate transportation arrangements in accordance with our supervision hours.

## **Our Supportive Royal Community**

### **◆ STUDENT SERVICES AND COUNSELLING**

Student Services personnel are available to assist and counsel students regarding academic, social, vocational and personal problems. Student Services offers support to assist students in the following: developing an educational plan for post-secondary or career choices; maintaining a positive self-concept; improving organizational, decision-making and problem-solving skills; and coping with high school life. Student Services directs parents and students for referrals to outside agencies when requests are made.

### **◆ LEARNING RESOURCE PROGRAM (LRP)**

LRP assists students who require academic support and remediation. The daily, scheduled LRP tutorials provide students with an opportunity to focus on academics, organizational skills and study skills. Our Learning Resource Teachers work with students based on their unique academic needs and will coordinate support with classroom teachers. For students who are from a non-English speaking country, our LRT's will do the best they can to help develop reading, writing, and speaking skills, however, students requiring intensive support will need to consider EAL.

### **◆ ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM (EAL)**

The EAL program supports students from non-English speaking countries in developing their reading, writing and speaking skills. Students requiring EAL support may be scheduled in an EAL class.

### **◆ CHAPLAIN**

The chaplain serves as a resource person for the faith-life of the school community. The chaplain is available as a resource to students who require support in their spiritual lives or who need direction. This includes working personally with students as well as co-ordinating morning prayers, Eucharistic celebrations, scripture services and student retreats. The chaplain is prepared to make referrals to professional caregivers, when appropriate.

### **◆ SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO)**

The SRO is available to assist staff and students with police matters. Please contact our main office (306-791-7260) to arrange an appointment time with our school resource officer.

# Technology at Riffel

*Technology is evident in our school as we train students for the future.*

- All of our computers are connected to a system wide-area network which gives students access to a large number of software applications.
- Riffel has three computer labs and one MAC lab with Internet access. They are used for computer science, communications media, and photography classes as well as for activities in all other classes as opportunities arise.
- Regina Catholic Schools has provided each staff member and each student with a Microsoft Office 365 account. This “cloud-based” environment will allow all students to access their school documents anywhere, anytime, and from any device. Office 365 also provides all students with automatic access to important Microsoft Office programs such as Word, Powerpoint, Excel, Lync, and Outlook (email and calendar options). The web-based site can be accessed by connecting to <https://login.microsoftonline.com>. Each student then utilizes his/her RCS email account ([legalfirstname.lastname@rcsd.ca](mailto:legalfirstname.lastname@rcsd.ca)) and his/her established school password.
- The Resource Centre has many computers for student use, and is open before school, during the noon hour and after school.
- With a signed Acceptable User Policy Form, students are trained to use the Internet, and are instructed on how to use research tools widely used in post-secondary institutions.
- Students also have opportunities to use digital cameras, scanners, and video cameras for their class projects.
- All students and parents/guardians have access to a program called Homelogic (<https://tlxe.rcsd.ca/homelogic/>). This web-based program can be accessed from any computer and it allows an individual to track on a daily basis (24/7) attendance, upcoming assignments/exams, current grades, and other pertinent information. Students access the program by using their standard username and password. Parents/guardians must complete an initial registration process. This registration will require a son's/daughter's student number (which can be found at the top of a student timetable in brackets beside the student's name).
- Each of our RCS schools support Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT). This initiative allows students to utilize their own portable electronic wireless equipment in a variety of ways (and always with appropriate teacher permission) through access to a division wireless network (RCSStudent). Such wireless access will require students to agree to a Personal Electronic Technology Student Agreement before logging on to the RCS wireless network and, of course, to always utilize any technology according to sound digital citizenship guidelines. In order to access the RCS wireless network, each student needs to utilize his/her RCS email account ([legalfirstname.lastname@rcsd.ca](mailto:legalfirstname.lastname@rcsd.ca)) and his/her established school password.

## What Classes Do I Take?

Name of Class	Number of class periods
English Language Arts 9 (A & B) ➤ Regular ➤ Learning Resource ➤ Pre-Advance Placement	One class <b>each</b> semester
Math 9 (A & B) ➤ Regular ➤ Learning Resource ➤ Pre-Advance Placement	One class <b>each</b> semester
Social Studies 9	One period in one semester
Science 9	One period in one semester
Christian Ethics 9	One period in one semester
Arts Education 9	One period in one semester
Health/Physical Education 9	One period in one semester
<b>Total: Nine classes</b>	<b>Total: Nine periods</b>

### One Elective

In Grade 9 you fill one “free” period by taking one elective (see descriptions on page 8).

- 📖 French 9
- 📖 Practical and Applied Arts Survey 9 Design/Applied Technology

### Additional Courses (offered during before school or at noon)

- 🎵 Choral 9
- 🎵 Band 9
- 🎵 Vocal Jazz 9
- These courses are an excellent way to meet other students and have fun.

## HOW WILL MY SCHEDULE LOOK?

You will get five classes in semester one and five in semester two. An example of a possible schedule is as follows:

#### Semester One

ELA A 9  
Social Studies 9  
Arts Education 9  
Math A 9  
Elective class (see above)

#### Semester Two

ELA B 9  
Christian Ethics 9  
Science 9  
Math B 9  
Health/Physical Education

# EXTRA-CURRICULAR

We provide opportunities for students to try out for a variety of athletic teams or to be involved in a number of different clubs throughout the school year. Some teams compete at junior (grades 9 & 10) and senior (grades 11 & 12) levels. Those successful in making the team represent the school in league and tournament play. Participants are expected to be involved fully in the practice and game schedules, and/or to attend all meetings involved with a particular sport/club activity.



## SPORTS



Badminton

Basketball

Cross Country

Curling

Football

Golf

Hockey

Soccer

Track & Field

Volleyball



## CLUBS



Best Buddies

Book Club

Canteen

Drama

Improv

Honour Choir

Lighting and Sound

Liturgical – God Squad

One Acts

Peer Tutoring

Praise and Worship

SADD

SRC

Team Manager/Athletic Trainer

“That’s Possible” Theatre



## COMPULSORY SUBJECT DESCRIPTIONS

### Arts Education 9

Divided into three sections, the class includes:

Art Explores the fundamentals of art and art appreciation. Class projects are directed toward developing the students' shift toward right-mode thinking. Students work on 2-dimensional pieces, primarily in pencil.

Music Intended to introduce the students to the basics of sound and the elements of music. Students study and experiment with sound by focusing on the environment and the sounds around them. They learn basic elements of music theory and apply that to sound by composing their own pieces. The course culminates with hands-on activities.

Drama Introduces the basic elements of drama. Students learn skills in the areas of improvisation, speech and rudimentary acting. Imagination and the development of self-esteem and confidence are emphasized.

### Christian Ethics 9

Christian Ethics 9 is based on Part 3 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church - "Life in Christ." It is designed to assist adolescents in understanding both the joy and the demands of following the way of Christ and living the faith that our community professes in the Creed. Using the Beatitudes as a touchstone, young people are invited to examine the virtues, attitudes and actions that characterize the Christian life.

### English Language Arts 9 (2 semesters)

English Language Arts is taken in both semesters. It provides students with the opportunity to study literature and develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills with emphasis on the following four themes: A9: *All That I Am – Search for Self; Conflicts and Decisions – Do the Right Thing; Norse and Indigenous Narratives*; B9: *Imagining the Future – Exploring New Worlds; Surviving and Conquering; Exploring Love and Loyalty; and Our Shared Linguistic Roots*. Literature is combined with specially designed tasks to allow students to use language as a means of discovery, communication, and learning.

### English Language Arts 9 (\*Pre-AP)

This course has the same curriculum as the non Pre-AP course, but is geared towards students who have a keen interest in English and would like an additional challenge. Pre-AP courses are intended to provide extra rigor and prepare students who are considering taking AP English Literature.



### **English Language Arts Learning Resource 9 (2 semesters)**

This course follows the regular English Language Arts 9 curriculum, but has much of the enrichment and extra activities removed. Instead, time is spent on key concepts and skills with which students often may struggle. Students can request this option after discussion with their Grade 8 teachers and MUST indicate this choice on the subject selection sheet. This course also has a component which focuses on topics such as organization, effective homework strategies and study skills.

### **Health/Physical Education 9**

The health program provides students with knowledge in a variety of areas so they may make informed decisions. Topics include decision-making, chronic illness, ways to decrease or prevent illness, dating, and tragic death and suicide. The physical education program emphasizes student activity and participation through fitness development, motor skills improvement and recreational enjoyment. Examples of activities are outdoor sports (softball, football, soccer), gym activities (volleyball, basketball, badminton, team handball, indoor soccer, recreational games) as well as weight room training/circuits.

### **Mathematics 9 (2 semesters)**

This course covers Mathematics 9, but extends over two semesters. Concepts are introduced at a slower pace. This allows students more time to master their skills and provides for additional classroom help from the teacher. Many concepts are taught with the use of hands-on manipulatives such as fraction blocks, algebra tiles and measuring instruments. Applied Mathematics is incorporated into this course.

### **Mathematics 9 (\*Pre-AP)**

This course has the same curriculum as the non Pre-AP course, but is geared towards students who have a keen interest in mathematics and would like an additional challenge. Pre-AP courses are intended to provide extra rigor and prepare students who are considering taking AP Calculus.

### **Mathematics Learning Resource 9 (2 semesters)**

This course follows the regular Mathematics 9 curriculum, but has much of the enrichment and extra activities removed. Instead, time is spent on key concepts and skills with which students often may struggle. Students can request this option after discussion with their Grade 8 teachers and MUST indicate this choice on the subject selection sheet. This course also has a component which focuses on topics such as organization, effective homework strategies and study skills.

### **Science 9**

Science is a required area of study in Saskatchewan's Core Curriculum. This class consists of four units. In the area of Physical Science, there is a unit on electricity and another on Atoms and Elements. In the area of Life Science, there is a unit on Cellular and Human reproduction. Finally, in the area of Earth and Space Science, there is a unit entitled Exploring our Universe.

## **Social Studies 9**

Major units of study in the course are Time, Change, Causality, and Culture. This course fosters understanding of the origins of customs and beliefs existing within Canadian society, how these customs and beliefs have become engrained within cultures, and how customs and beliefs influence our behavioral patterns. This course examines cultural “roots” from the ancient Middle East and Europe, as well as from North America.

## **ELECTIVE SUBJECTS: SELECT ONE**

### **PAA Survey 9 Design/Applied Technology (Foods and Industrial Arts)**

This course allows Grade 9 students to spend half of a semester in the Industrial Arts Shop and the other half in our Foods kitchen.

The Industrial Arts section gives students the knowledge and skills based around basic hand/power tools used in trades and everyday life. They will work in areas such as woodworking, sheet metal and design where we will create display shelves, tote trays and advanced CO<sup>2</sup> dragsters. Students then wrap up their Industrial Arts section with a drafting short course using our industry-leading AutoCAD drafting and design software. At the Midterm point of the semester the students will transfer to our foods course where they will be guided through the tools of cooking, food safety, sanitation, measurement, recipe reading and etiquette. These topics are presented in conjunction with a variety of exciting food labs where the student will cook in our Riffel Foods Kitchen.

*These programs are NOT prerequisites for PAA B10 Industrial Arts or Foods 10.*

### **French 9**

The French 9 program is based on the communicative/experimental approach to learning, whereby the students will be exposed to as many real situations as possible. A variety of activities will be used to encourage spoken, auditory and written skills.

This is a prerequisite for French 10.

## **BOTH-SEMESTER EARLY BIRD AND/OR NOON CLASSES**

### **Choral 9**

This class combines friendship and teamwork with singing and performance. Students learn singing basics and musical theory. During the year, they participate in numerous events such as Christmas concerts and music festivals. The choir also takes a yearly tour to perform their spring show and visit local sites. Spanning the entire school year, the class is a popular subject choice for many students.

## **Band 9**

The preparation and performance of a variety of different styles of music will allow each student to learn several musical concepts and develop technical skills on his or her instrument. In addition to full band rehearsals, students will develop solo and ensemble skills and study the theory of music. All students are involved in several performances including school functions and activities, public concerts and festivals.

## **Vocal Jazz 9**

Vocal Jazz is a class that is an extension of the choral program therefore students must be enrolled in choral as well. Students should be able to read music. The class focuses on jazz repertoire. Students examine the techniques used by various musicians who have made outstanding contributions to jazz, and apply these techniques to their own vocal jazz training.

**All students may enroll in Choral and/or Band and/or Vocal Jazz (after auditioning), in addition to the subjects they are taking.**