



# River City Academy

## Discover the benefits of Mentoring:

Our teachers are passionate about guiding students towards success. With a personalized approach and dedicated time in the schedule for mentoring, they'll help unlock your full potential and foster a love for learning that lasts a lifetime.



RCA benefits students who prefer personalized instruction, self-paced learning, and opportunities for demonstrating their knowledge and skills in practical ways.



## Now Enrolling!

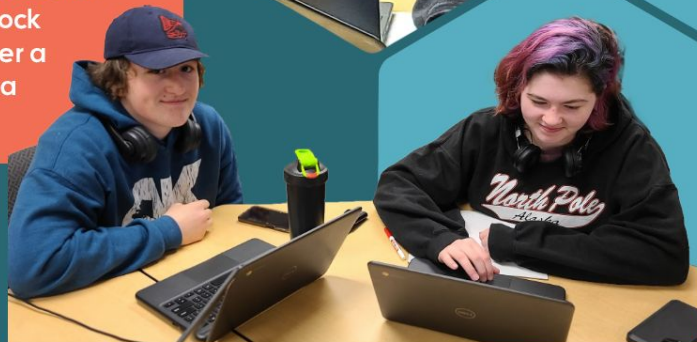
Email For more info:  
Principal Shea Nash  
snash@kpbsd.k12.ak.us

Call:  
907-714-6400



## Small Class Sizes, Big Impact:

With ~80 students 7th-12th, our class sizes are small, ensuring every student receives the personalized support they need to excel.



## Competency-Based Schooling!

Students progress based on evidence of mastery of the standards, not seat time. Students are encouraged and supported to develop meaningful academic growth at a pace that is right for them. Students have input into how and when they will complete these standards, making RCA a unique school choice for KPBSD.

# SKYVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL



# What is RCA

- A school of choice for KPBSD
  - Standards-based
- 7-12 grade
- ~80 students
- 3.5 general ed teachers



Mentor Pod Capture the flag day!



# How does RCA Work?

- Mastery-based, must get an A or a B
  - The setbacks of the past should not weigh down a student's success in the future
- Feedback cycle
- Focus on Mentoring
- Project Based learning
  - Block schedule
- Culture of Respect for everyone
- Success over seat time
- Student Input
- Continuum of support
- Exploration Weeks

A promotional graphic for River City Academy. It features a young boy in a red puffer jacket and a black cap with a pink and blue logo, giving a thumbs-up. The background is a light blue gradient with a faint mountain range. Two white-bordered boxes with blue text list school features: 'POSITIVE SCHOOL CLIMATE!' (Mentoring, Small School Size, Grades 7-12+, Culture of Respect) and 'PERFORMANCE BASED GRADING' (Minimum Grade of B, Teacher Feedback, Guided Revision). The River City Academy logo, featuring a black orca head, is in the top right. A red banner at the bottom contains the text 'NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR GRADES 7-12' and the website URL 'HTTPS://KPBSD.ORG/SCHOOLS/RIVER-CITY-ACADEMY/'. A circular seal for 'KENT WENSHULA & BROTHERS SCHOOL DISTRICT' is in the bottom right corner.

**POSITIVE SCHOOL CLIMATE!**  
MENTORING  
SMALL SCHOOL SIZE  
GRADES 7-12+  
CULTURE OF RESPECT

**PERFORMANCE BASED GRADING**  
MINIMUM GRADE OF B  
TEACHER FEEDBACK  
GUIDED REVISION

**River City Academy**

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR GRADES 7-12

[HTTPS://KPBSD.ORG/SCHOOLS/RIVER-CITY-ACADEMY/](https://kpbsd.org/schools/river-city-academy/)

KENT WENSHULA & BROTHERS  
SCHOOL DISTRICT



# EXPLORE

## WHY EXPLORATORY CLASSES?

RCA does not have traditional Elective courses, however students still need to meet **Personal Expression and Community Connection (PECC)** standards. Exploratories are student interest driven courses that give students a direct say in how they meet these needed standards.

Exploratory classes ensure high school students will receive **P.E., Health, Art, and Elective credits** that they need to graduate. Credits are also gained during Exploration Weeks. These are not just FUN classes, they are important classes that are FUN!

# THE 36 COGNITIVE SKILLS

Teachers at River City Academy assess Student Competency based on each student's use of these cognitive skills during real world, student-driven projects. Cognitive skills refer to a set of mental abilities that enable individuals to process, understand, and apply information. By prioritizing the cultivation of cognitive skills, students are equipped with the necessary tools to become lifelong learners who can confidently acquire knowledge in both career and college settings, while also advocating for their own success in life.

## Using Sources

- Selecting Relevant Sources
- Contextualizing Sources
- Synthesizing Multiple Sources

## Products & Presentations

- Oral Presentation
- Multimedia in Communication
- Communicating Accurately and Precisely

## Inquiry

- Asking Questions
- Predicting/Hypothesizing
- Defining a Design Problem
- Planning & Carrying Out Investigations

## Analysis & Synthesis

- Identifying Patterns & Relationships
- Comparing/Contrasting
- Modeling
- Interpreting Data/Info to Make Valid Claims
- Making Connections & Inferences
- Organizing & Representing Information
- Evaluating Competing Design Solutions
- Evaluating Arguments
- Designing a Solution
- Constructing an Evidence-Based Explanation

## Listening & Speaking

- Contributing to Evidence-Based Discussions
- Norms/Active Listening

## Textual Analysis (close reading)

- Theme/Central Idea
- Point of View/Purpose
- Development
- Structure
- Word Choice

## Composing / Writing

- Argumentative Claim
- Informational/Explanatory Thesis
- Narrative
- Counterclaims
- Selection of Evidence
- Explanation of Evidence
- Integration of Evidence
- Organization (Transitions, Cohesion, Structure)
- Introduction & Conclusion



# The 16 Habits of Success



## Self-DIREction

Driving forward the actions needed to achieve goals, with or without help

## CURiOSiTY

Being interested in lots of things & wanting to understand more, even if it is challenging

## SeNse of PuRpoSE

Charting a course for life that is meaningful and will have an impact on the world

## REsiLIEncE

Bouncing back and dealing with challenging or harmful situations

## AGeNcY

Making my own decisions and acting upon them

## ACaDEMiC TeNaCity

Overcoming distractions and persevering toward longer-term goals

## GROWth MInDset

Believing that I can grow my intelligence

## Self-EFFiCaCY

Believing that my actions can impact my success

## SenSe of BeLONging

Feeling like I belong in my School Community

## RELeVanCe of ScHOOL

Believing that school is valuable and interesting

## Self-AwarENesS

Being aware of what I think, feel, do; my strengths and weaknesses; the impact I have on other people

## RELAtIONSHiP SKILLs

Understanding how others might feel and having skills to maintain strong relationships

## EXEcUTiVe FuNctiON

Concentrating, staying organized, juggling lots of things happening at once, and planning for the future

## AtTACHMent

Having a strong bond with an adult who cares about me

## StREsS MAnAgEMEnt

Figuring out how to become calm and balanced when situations get stressful

## ACaDEMiC TeNaCity

Directing and maintaining my attention and emotions

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