

# **Advanced Scholars Academy at Riverbend**

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The Advanced Scholars Academy at Riverbend Elementary is an innovative program of choice that seeks self-motivated, passionate students and their families who are ready for a rigorous, personalized and authentic learning experience that has been carefully and deliberately created to meet the needs of the individual learner. The faculty and staff of Riverbend recognize that all children come to school with different levels of prior knowledge, skills, interests and needs and are eager to design customized schedules and instruction to better serve the unique needs of each student. The Academy will honor learner differences by providing instruction that will be organized in a way to allow students to be challenged at both an accelerated pace and an appropriate academic level. The program will have a nurturing environment with high expectations and will offer fluidity within and between grade levels in the school. With approval of the state, the Academy is willing to provide flexible enrollment for home schooled individuals.

Teachers and staff will work together to develop learning experiences that use the Georgia Performance Standards as the core knowledge for integrated thematic units of study which promote, inquiry, creativity, critical thinking and problem solving. Project based learning will utilize a personalized learning platform that will reflect both a student's interests and learning style as they research, explore and discover. Students will have enrichment activities that will remove traditional classroom barriers and open learning opportunities and field experiences into the community and beyond. Training for the latest technology tools will be provided for teachers and students so that conceptual learning and product based assessments can take place. Assignments will require students to use the latest digital technology, information management skills and media literacy. Effective communication, both oral and written, will be emphasized as well as communication in second languages. Students will be given many opportunities to showcase their work and will be required to articulate an understanding to a variety of real world audiences.

In addition to a curriculum with high expectations, it is the desire of the Advanced Scholars Academy to develop the whole child. The staff is committed to producing well rounded individuals who also exhibit exemplary character and citizenship. All students will be a part of training that will equip them to be successful in future work experiences and personal relationships. Character development will be purposeful and practiced daily with high standards of respect and manners. Students will be expected to become more effective in independent, responsible, and collaborative learning. All students will be a part of community service learning. One of the most essential components of the Academy will be a commitment from parents to be engaged in the entire learning process as valued partners and volunteers. The Advanced Scholars Academy will also seek partnerships with local universities and businesses.

Ultimately, our goal is to create a learning environment that will help every child reach his or her maximum potential as they become productive and contributing citizens of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.