



The Parents' Association

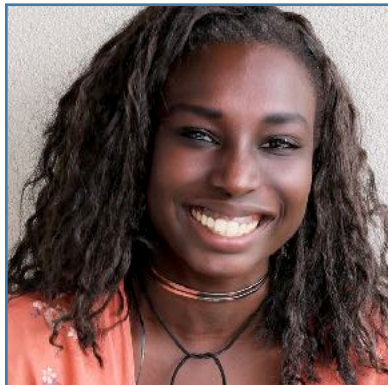
proudly presents

Meet the Seniors

Class of 2018

April 17, 2018





Jessica A
BATES COLLEGE

Hometown: Cairo, Egypt
Years at Riverstone: 4 years

Extended Essay: *To what extent does the structure of Adele's "Rolling in the Deep" compare to the first movement of Beethoven's "5th symphony"?*

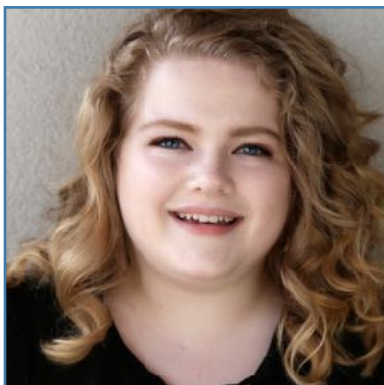
Something that people may not know about me... I am a pretty open book so whatever people do not know about me is either because I will never tell anyone or it'll be news to me as well.

The challenges at Riverstone have been... Time management has been a struggle because there were too many things to accomplish but not enough time.

The highlights at Riverstone have been... All of the backpacking trips have been my favorite part about Riverstone. I have found a new, lifelong passion and no matter where I go in the future, I will always remember hiking out in the middle of the night in Grand Gulch or seeing a snake in Sheep Creek or sleeping underneath the stars in Alpine Lake.

Words of advice to younger students... If you're tired, go to sleep! You'll be much more awake and ready to go in the morning.... Also, say yes as often as possible! There is no telling what opportunities will arise just by giving something a chance.

Three words... Adventurous, mind-blowing, focused



Eleanor C
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY
CHICAGO

Hometown: Highland Park, Illinois
Years at Riverstone: 5

Extended Essay: *To what extent do racial oppression, anger and violence, highlighted through the use of multiple genres within Claudia Rankine's Citizen reveal flaws within the American perception of race?*

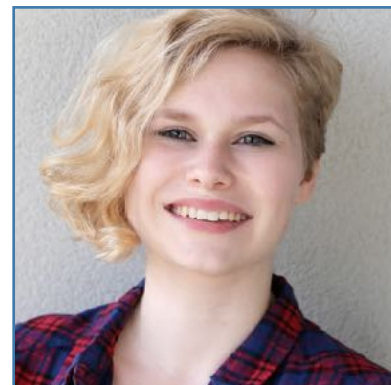
Something that people may not know about me... I have my own online clothing store with over 200 sales and 170,000 followers.

Tell us a little about your CAS experience... I co-founded the *Emergency Magazine* and Magazine Club. I created this to help establish a community of artists and writers at Riverstone, as well as provide them with a platform to share their work.

The highlights at Riverstone have been... Coming from public school, I love that Riverstone is an open-minded intellectual community where we can speak freely about what we think. I value that there are no restrictions on what we can learn or talk about. I have also enjoyed being a part of a tight-knit community where I have gotten to personally know my teachers.

What gives you confidence for the next steps... Before I came to Riverstone, I was very shy and silent. Being at the school has taught me to share my opinion and speak my mind.

Three words... Enlightening, inspiring, moving



Aela D
GAP YEAR

Hometown: Grenoble, France
Years at Riverstone: 5

Extended Essay: *To what extent do Ovid's "Myrrha" and Shakespeare's King Lear use love as a tool for self-hatred and transformation?*

Something that people may not know about me... Despite popular belief, I am actually over five feet tall. My first pet was a forty-year-old tortoise named Booby. And I'd rather starve on a 12-hour flight than even consider eating airplane food.

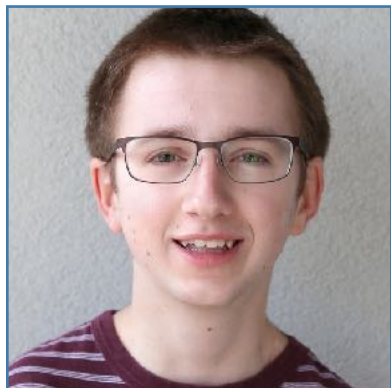
The challenges at Riverstone have been... Juggling multiple projects and avoiding procrastination, whilst maintaining a good level of sanity. Always feeling overwhelmed with work and never feeling like I have enough time.

The highlights at Riverstone have been... Teachers who truly want me to succeed and put in a tremendous amount of effort to see me do as well as they believe I can do. Shout-out to all my teachers for never hesitating to go above and beyond.

What gives you confidence for the next steps... I've survived! If I can do this, I can do anything.

Words of advice to younger students... Separate work and leisure time.

Three words... Keep some perspective



James E

TUFTS UNIVERSITY

Hometown: Boise, Idaho
Years at Riverstone: 12

Extended Essay: *The Effect of Normal Mapping vs. 3D Modeling on CPU Usage*

Something that people may not know about me... I am too tall to be legally classified as a midget.

Tell us a little about your CAS experience... After a lot of researching and planning, I built my own water-cooled computer out of individual parts. To be completely honest, I did this just so that I could play video games at a consistent 144 FPS.

The challenges at Riverstone have been... Not stressing enough. Seriously. I take things way too casually even when I probably shouldn't.

What gives you confidence for the next steps... I have gained confidence in my ability to work hard, whether that be overcoming a week of continuous deadlines or summiting a mountain. I've proven to myself that no matter my goals in life, I will not be afraid to put in the effort necessary to achieve them.

Three words... Fun, collaborative, rigorous



Rose E

BENNINGTON COLLEGE

Hometown: Albany, New York
Years at Riverstone: 5

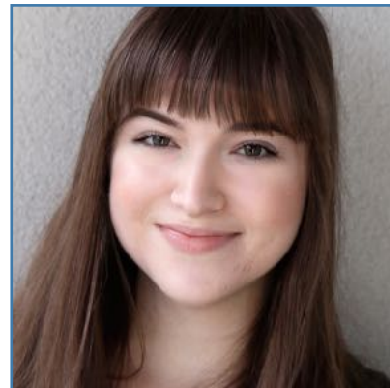
Extended Essay: *To what extent has Frank Zappa influenced mashup music in the modern day?*

Something that people may not know about me... I work for the Boise Hawks as the official scorekeeper, play keyboard in a rock band, and play on a semi-pro Overwatch team, the Boise Paladins.

Tell us a little about your CAS experience... I took a leading role in our school's Sexuality and Gender Alliance. The LGBT community at Riverstone is small and was previously unorganized, so I thought that creating a club to promote issues relevant to and acceptance of members of the LGBT community would help people feel more at home here.

The highlights at Riverstone have been... Even though we're a small school, there have been tons of extracurricular opportunities I've been able to take advantage of. Robotics has been one of the most memorable due to our two trips to Moscow, ID, to compete in FTC tournaments. The shows I've done through our music at the Hub and the District have been great experiences for me as well and have helped me improve as a musician.

Three words... Challenging, fast, unique



Emilie E

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

Hometown: Palmer, Alaska
Years at Riverstone: 2

Extended Essay: *How does Marina Raskova's rise as a public figure represent evolving Soviet ideals of womanhood in the 1930s and 1940s?*

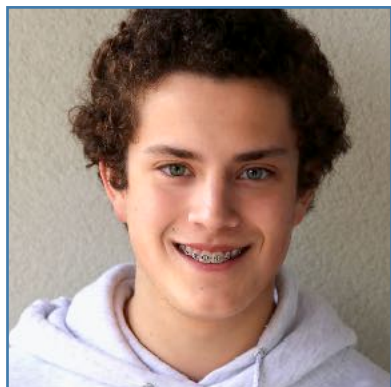
Something that people may not know about me... When I was a toddler, I could understand the Dutch language because both of my best friends spoke it fluently.

The challenges at Riverstone have been... Fulfilling all the requirements of the IB program. It was very difficult to maintain a school/life balance while writing countless essays and studying for very difficult tests. However, I believe that the challenges I faced at Riverstone have prepared me well for my college life and future career.

The highlights at Riverstone have been... I have loved being part of such a tight-knit community that is comprised of people from so many countries and cultures.

What gives you confidence for the next steps... The sheer amount of essays I've had to write as part of the IB program, coupled with a limited amount of writing time, has given me the ability to write quickly, succinctly, and effectively. Considering I plan to write professionally in the future, I am certain this skill will serve me well.

Three words... Surprising, transformative, enriching



Joshua HK

CARLETON COLLEGE

Hometown: Boise, Idaho
Years at Riverstone: 6

Extended Essay: *How can we come to understand human predisposition to religion?*

Something that people may not know about me... I lived the first three years of my life on an island.

Tell us a little about your CAS experience... I helped a group of five fourth graders on a three day canoeing trip in the Eau Claire Lakes. I learned how to manage a group of kids and mitigate disagreements.

The challenges at Riverstone have been... Learning to manage my time properly and improving my handwriting from a Kindergarten to second grade level.

The highlights at Riverstone have been... Participating in the basketball program and making it to state two times in a row. Playing on the soccer team has been a great time the last four years.

What gives you confidence for the next steps... To work efficiently and effectively.

Words of advice to younger students... Take advantage of all Riverstone has to offer outside of the classroom, from outdoor trips to sports to Model UN, etc. Don't have your lives consumed by being a student.

Three words... Rewarding, collaboration, community



Anna IV

GAP YEAR

Hometown: Canals, Spain
Years at Riverstone: 2

Extended Essay: *How does R.L. Stevenson represent his own understanding of the duality of human nature in Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde?*

Something that people may not know about me... I only stutter when I speak Spanish.

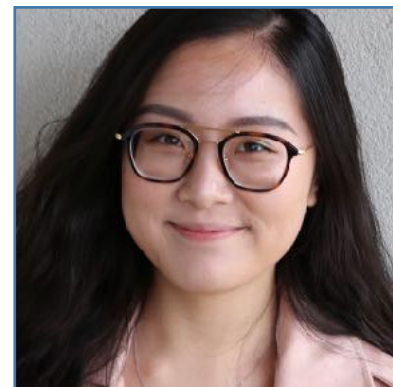
Tell us a little about your CAS experience... I created a music group along with other seniors and juniors. I also volunteered at the Veteran's Center and joined the Social Change Club. I played soccer and basketball for Riverstone and skied.

The challenges at Riverstone have been... Coming to a new school where I didn't know anyone or the language.

The highlights at Riverstone have been... Having the chance to meet people from all over the world and learn from their lives, their countries and their cultures. The camping trips have been another highlight as well as the sports and the community built around them.

Words of advice to younger students... Take time to get to know your classmates and teachers it is helpful at school and it's great to know the people you are around.

Three words... Challenging, inspiring, engaging



Zibo "Rebekah" J

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

Hometown: Jiamusi, Heilongjiang, China
Years at Riverstone: 2

Extended Essay: *What are main factors that have allowed ISIS to continue to thrive in the Middle East and Europe from 2003 to the present?*

Something that people may not know about me... I had several English names before – Spring, Lucy, Jasper – until I chose the name Rebekah when I was 16.

Tell us a little about your CAS experience? A few of my friends and I started a band called (In)valid and we will be performing at Brookdale Boise Center.

The highlights at Riverstone have been... I didn't expect that there are so many opportunities for me to sing and perform in public, especially for such a small-sized high school. I learned so much in music class and I got to know so many people who have passion for music - RIS gave me the experience and some great friends that I'll never forget in the future.

What gives you confidence for the next steps... RIS didn't only give me all those great academic experience, but also so many opportunities to let me find my place in this big community. I learned how important it is to keep myself moving forwards by taking challenges and not giving up in the middle.

Three words... Adventure, decisions, grow



Julia K
GERMANY

Hometown: Staats, district Stendal, Germany
Years at Riverstone: 2

Extended Essay: *To what extent does Bilbo's characterization add to the success of the journey in J.R. Tolkien's The Hobbit?*

Something that people may not know about me... I like skiing.

The challenges at Riverstone have been... Staying calm and not procrastinating

The highlights at Riverstone have been... The college trip we had in 11th grade and definitely the basketball games (and I don't even like basketball).

What gives you confidence for the next steps... When I started taking the IB Music Program in 11th grade I barely knew anything about music. Over the course of the two years, I learned about the unique history of music from different countries, how to compose music and analyze scores. This class didn't just teach me how to do all of this, but also how to get work done more efficiently and how to be more confident in myself when we had to perform in front of an audience.

Three words... Stressful, sleepless, eventful



Ana "Sofi" LG
UNDECIDED

Hometown: Mexico City, Mexico
Years at Riverstone: 2

Extended Essay: *How the theme of oppression in the graphic novel Persepolis is used to communicate the importance of resistance.*

Something that people may not know about me... One of the reasons I came to Riverstone was because students weren't forced to wear uniforms (I heavily dislike uniforms).

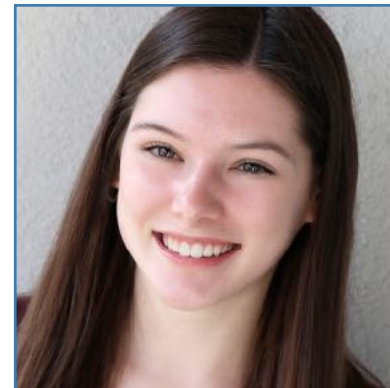
Tell us a little about your CAS experience? My project consisted of collecting bikes that weren't being used by Riverstone families and donating them to the Boise Bicycle Project.

The challenges at Riverstone have been... Getting organized and learning to manage my stress; although very rewarding, the IB is consuming.

The highlights at Riverstone have been... The people. My classmates, faculty, parents, and of course the people I live with in the dorm.

What gives you confidence for the next steps... I have learned that when it comes to improvement, it is useless to compare yourself to other people with much different journeys than yours: the only way to measure growth is within yourself.

Three words... Enriching, enlightening, exciting



Olivia L
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Hometown: Boise, Idaho
Years at Riverstone: 8

Extended Essay: *How female Olympic athletes are portrayed through the use of language by the U.S. media.*

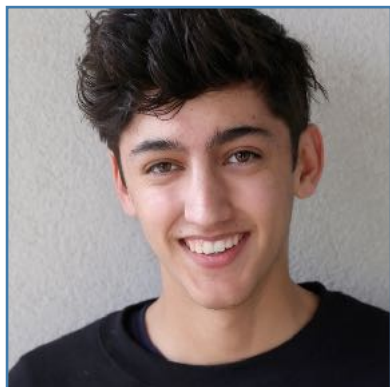
Something that people may not know about me... In first grade, my parents took me to DisneyWorld. I cried because I had to miss a day of school.

The challenges at Riverstone have been... Managing my time between academics and extracurriculars.

The highlights at Riverstone have been... Some of my most memorable highlights at Riverstone have been the outdoor trips. I've loved every single trip I've gone on, and I honestly can't choose a favorite. Not only are the trips just *fun*, but the connections we make and the trust we build with other students and teachers directly transfers back to the classroom.

Words of advice to younger students... I'm not going to pretend like high school (especially at Riverstone) is easy, but what I can tell you is that you'll make it through. Everyone at Riverstone is in your corner and wants to help you succeed.

Three words... Challenging, rewarding, unforgettable



Javin S

DUKE UNIVERSITY

Hometown: Seattle, Washington
Years at Riverstone: 8

Extended Essay: *In what ways did Rome's dominance of Britain from 43-410 AD shape Britain's linguistic, religious, and artistic identity?*

Something that people may not know about me... I'm going to do Zion Williamson's homework.

Tell us a little about your CAS experience? I interned at the local NPR station. I did research of reporters and eventually wrote my own article which was published on air and on their website. I did this because I love writing.

The challenges at Riverstone have been... Not let myself be overwhelmed by work. Sometimes it felt like I had too much work to reasonably be expected to complete but in the end it always works out.

The highlights at Riverstone have been... Growing old with my buddies. I started as a skinny 10 year old. Now I'm a skinny 17 year old but smarter.

What gives you confidence for the next steps... I learned that I'm good at some things and bad at others. I learned to focus on the things I am excited about to ensure my happiness in the career I choose.

Three words... Unconventional, exciting, happy



Qianyi "Astoria" S

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Hometown: Chengdu, Sichuan, China
Years at Riverstone: 2

Extended Essay: *How did artistic expression in the Cold War Era respond to McCarthyism?*

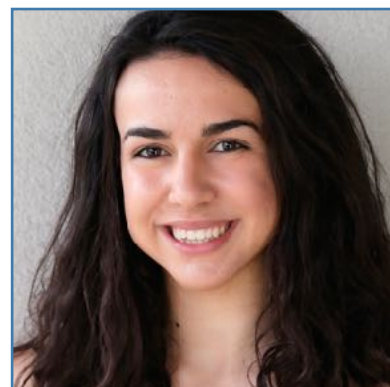
Something that people may not know about me... I am allergic to grass and I am a rapper.

Tell us a little about your CAS experience? I worked with two of my classmates to make videos for Riverstone House. I have always been passionate about recording moments with my camera. I also thought that it would be a great opportunity for the dorm students to share their opinions and experiences. From this project, I got to know the people that I lived with better and learned about a lot of new perspectives and new cultures.

What gives you confidence for the next steps... The biggest thing that I learned from my Riverstone experience was to stand up and speak for myself. With a small, but supportive community, I was often encouraged to speak my own voice — 100% honest and genuine.

Words of advice to younger students... Pursue what you love, make smart decisions, and surround yourself with people who support and love you.

Three words... Stressful, educational, memorable



Elvira T

SPAIN

Hometown: Zaragoza, Spain
Years at Riverstone: 2

Extended Essay: *How did world events inspire the uprisings of May 1968 in Paris?*

Something that people may not know about me... I wrote a 300 page novel when I was 11! Before coming to the US, I practiced my English by binge watching *Friends*.

Tell us a little about your CAS experience... I represented Libya in the Model UN conference at UC Berkeley, I joined the basketball and soccer teams, and I was part of Student Council. I learned that high school goes way beyond the classroom.

The challenges at Riverstone have been... Adapting to constant change, and of course Math HL.

The highlights at Riverstone have been... Being part of such a supportive and welcoming community full of intelligent, unique people that made me feel like home so far away from my actual home.

Words of advice to younger students... Do the things you love, get to know your classmates, don't be afraid to ask questions, do work you are proud of, and dream big!

Three words... Filled with opportunities



Payton T

COLLEGE OF MOUNT SAINT VINCENT

Hometown: Pahoehoe, Hawaii
Years at Riverstone: 3

Extended Essay: *How have the advertising techniques of McDonald's attempted to manipulate and motivate audiences from the 1960's to today?*

Something that people may not know about me... In seventh and eighth grade, I learned how to surf as an elective. I took dance lessons for almost nine years, starting at the age of four.

The challenges at Riverstone have been... To remember the fact that I am a capable individual whose efforts are enough; as I am surrounded by highly intelligent individuals who are all reaching towards the stars, I often find myself ignoring or belittling my own achievements.

The highlights at Riverstone have been... The constant stream of opportunities to push myself. Riverstone has allowed me to become a better, more confident, and outspoken version of myself, and has taught me to think about the world in a broader and more inclusive way.

Words of advice to younger students... Always believe in yourself, even when it may seem too difficult – you can conquer any and every obstacle that challenges you! Don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it!

Three words... Comfortable, illuminating, unparalleled



Christina U

TUFTS UNIVERSITY

Hometown: Boise, Idaho
Years at Riverstone: 6

Extended Essay: *The Effect of Atomic Number on Bond Strength in a Tetraphenylporphyrin*

Something that people may not know about me... I am a huge *Doctor Who* fan.

Tell us a little about your CAS experience... For CAS, I swam, competed with our school's high school Science Bowl team, coached the middle school Science Bowl team, and volunteered at Chip Camp. I also organized a swim clinic for the new swimmers on my high school swim team to help them prepare for our districts swim meet.

The challenges at Riverstone have been... In the classroom I was always challenged and engaged by the rigorous academics. This has truly pushed me out of my comfort zone.

The highlights at Riverstone have been... The diversity that Riverstone's international program has brought into our class has been one of my favorite parts of my Riverstone experience. I also have many great memories from the outdoor trips, such as hiking out of Grand Gulch in the middle of the night.

Three words... Rewarding, curious, diverse



Carrissa "Caca" W

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA, CANADA

Hometown: Yogyakarta, Indonesia
Years at Riverstone: 2

Extended Essay: *To what extent do family connections affect the characters in If I Stay written by Gayle Forman?*

Something that people may not know about me... I like to do my own nails (nail art) and I was a badminton athlete in my hometown. I was planning to compete in a state/province badminton competition in order to join the national team.

Tell us a little about your CAS experience... I created an International Week in order to celebrate the International Mother Language Day. The international week contained 3 activities which were an international performance, an international lunch, and an international dinner for dorm students.

What gives you confidence for the next steps... Better English in terms of speaking, writing, and reading. English is one of the most important languages in the world. Therefore, I believe that my ability to speak, write, and read in English is improving every day and gives me confidence for my journey in college.

Three words... IB is hard



Anders W

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

Hometown: Twin Falls, Idaho
Years at Riverstone: 1.5

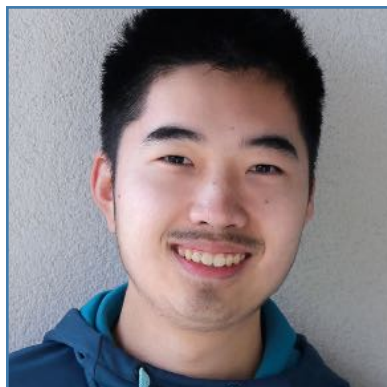
Something that people may not know about me... I am in the process of writing, recording, and producing an EP for a record label based in Nashville, Tennessee.

The highlights at Riverstone have been... The international community that exists within Riverstone has been a great resource for broadening my understanding of both my own culture and the culture of those that originate in foreign lands.

Words of advice to younger students... Communicate with your teachers, and it will pay dividends in the future. It may be scary at first, but truly, they are here to aid you in your journey through the IB curriculum. Enjoy this luxury while you have, as I suspect that college professors are not quite as interested in each individual student's success as the wonderful teachers at Riverstone are.

What gives you confidence for the next steps... In an environment that encourages growth, I learned the value of carefully constructed academic inquiry and subsequently honed my ability to be expressive and logical in my formal writing.

Three words... Wholesome, empowering, rigorous



Peiheng "Leo" W

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

Hometown: Fuzhou, Fujian, China
Years at Riverstone: 2

Extended Essay: *To what extent does the music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart affect the growth of Mimosa Nuttallii and the growth of Calochortus Nuttallii respectively?*

Something that people may not know about me... I was almost kidnapped by an Uber driver in the Middle East. I am left-handed.

Tell us a little about your CAS experience? I shot videos in the dorms to record lives of students who live there and tutorials about some daily supplies.

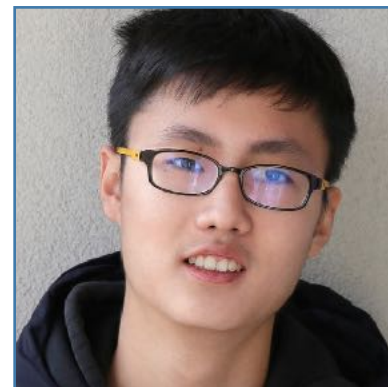
The challenges at Riverstone have been... Getting homework done on time with quality.

The highlights at Riverstone have been... Fall trips.

What gives you confidence for the next steps... I learned cultures from different countries. Living in a dorm with students from almost everywhere in the world helps me increase my global understanding.

Words of advice to younger students... Turn in homework on time and try to figure out what your passion is.

Three words... Study, study, study



Haobo "Jay" X

RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

Hometown: Chengdu, China
Years at Riverstone: 2

Extended Essay: *To what extent did Jay Gatsby achieve his American dream in F. Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby?*

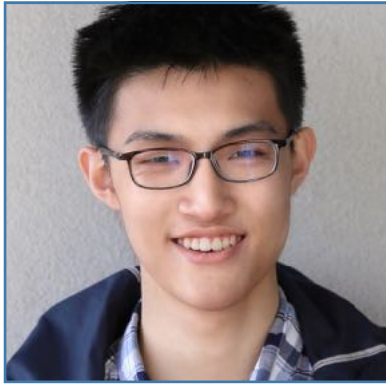
Something that people may not know about me... I have been really interested in geography, especially areas related to the capitals of every country around the world and where the countries are. I have memorized all of them.

The challenges at Riverstone have been... Since I was much less familiar with listening and having conversation with American people, classes like English and World Religions became huge challenges for me.

The highlights at Riverstone have been... When I got the Five Pillar Academics Award last year. It was totally a surprise for me because I had only thought I was getting an award in Physics.

Words of advice to younger students... A. Be clear about reasons of what you do. B. Have a schedule. C. Concentrate on what you are doing. This is important because it improves your efficiency of doing anything to a large extent.

Three words... Unforgettable, meaningful, enjoyable



Xiaochen "Neo" Z

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Hometown: China
Years at Riverstone: 2

Extended Essay: *To what extent does The Old Man and the Sea show a theme of concentrated desperation of human being instead of praising Santiago's struggle and persistence?*

Something that people may not know about me... I used to be a hacker. When I was in high school back in China, I hacked into our school's broadcast system to play the song I like, *Payphone* from Maroon 5.

The challenges at Riverstone have been... Language barrier: this is a common thing for all international students.

The highlights at Riverstone have been... Build up friendships with not only my classmates, but also my teachers. As far as I am concerned, studying in an international school provides me with the chance to know about the world. I enjoy the experience talking to my friends and teachers who are from an entirely different culture, and I also learn from them.

What gives you confidence for the next steps... I learnt how to adapt to new environment.

Words of advice to younger students... Be brave.

Three words... Serendipity, refinery, union

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES FOR THE CLASS OF 2018

Bates College*	Pennsylvania State University
Baylor University	Portland State University (2)
Beloit College	Purdue University
Bennington College (2)*	Reed College (2)
Boise State University (5)	Regis University
Boston College	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute*
Boston University (2)*	Saint Martin's University
Brandeis University	Sarah Lawrence College
Bridgewater State University	School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Carleton College*	Seattle University (3)
Carroll College (2)	Shaw University
Case Western Reserve University (2)	St. John's College*
Chapman University	Syracuse University
Colgate University	The College of Idaho
College of Mount Saint Vincent*	Tufts University (2)*
Colorado School of Mines	Tulane University
Colorado State University	Universidad del Nuevo Mundo
Corban University	University of Alberta*
DePaul University (2)	University of Arizona (2)
Drake University	University of Brighton
Drexel University	University of British Columbia
Duke University*	University of California, Berkeley
Emerson College (3)	University of California, Davis (2)
Emory University	University of California, Los Angeles*
Georgia Institute of Technology	University of California, San Diego (2)
Grand Valley State University (2)	University of California, Santa Barbara
Hamilton College	University of Denver (4)
Hampshire College	University of Edinburgh (2)*
Hilbert College	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (3)
Iona College	University of La Verne
Ithaca College (2)	University of Liverpool
James Madison University	University of Manchester
Kenyon College (2)	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Lehigh University	University of Missouri Kansas City
Lewis & Clark College (2)	University of Montana, Missoula
Long Island University, Brooklyn	University of Oregon (2)
Loyola Marymount University	University of Pittsburgh
Loyola University Chicago*	University of Portland
Loyola University Maryland	University of Puget Sound
Manhattanville College	University of Richmond
Marymount Manhattan College	University of Rochester (4)*
McGill University	University of San Diego
Montana State University, Bozeman (2)	University of San Francisco (3)
New York University	University of Southern California
Northeastern University	University of Sussex
Northern Arizona University (2)	University of Utah (2)
Northwest Christian University	University of Virginia*
Northwestern University in Qatar	University of Washington (2)
Occidental College (2)	University of Wisconsin, Madison (2)*
Pace University (3)	Washington University in St. Louis (2)
Pacific University	Whitworth University
	Willamette University

*Attending

OUR MISSION

Riverstone International School inspires courageous journeys
of academic and personal exploration that enable our students to leave purposeful lives.

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