



# The Parents' Association

proudly presents

# Meet the Seniors

## Class of 2017

April 18, 2017







**Kennedy B**

**UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO**

**Hometown:** Boise, Idaho  
**Years at Riverstone:** 13 years

**Extended Essay:** *How does Markus Zusak use the theme of self-expression in The Book Thief to illustrate how the individual can overcome traumatic events and adopt successful coping mechanisms?*

**Something that people may not know about me...** I love conspiracy theories and collecting mugs.

**Tell us a little about your CAS experience...** My CAS activities varied from founding committees at Riverstone to playing on national sports teams. What I've learned from it is that both on and off campus, it is vital to apply yourself in various fields of interest to better not only yourself, but the community through your involvement.

**The challenge at Riverstone have been...** Dealing with constant change.

**The highlights at Riverstone have been...** Gaining a personalized experience/education through the small class sizes.

**Words of advice to younger students...** Stick with this place because while it may seem ever-changing, it's held together by the people that care most about you and your success.

**Three words...** Home no. 2.



**Jialin (Colin) C**

**RENSELAEER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE**

**Hometown:** Zhuhai, China  
**Years at Riverstone:** 2

**Extended Essay:** *The Effect of Rotational speed on the Braking Time of Eddy Current Brake*

**Something that people may not know about me...** I am bad at astrophysics and quantum mechanics.

**Tell us a little about your CAS experience...** I competed in the Vex U international robotics championship and placed second in the final. I also loved the Riverstone rock climbing club. Lastly, I worked as an assistant to the Vice President of the Zhuhai Huitong-yan Electronic Equipment Corporation and examined equipment at two local power stations.

**The challenges at Riverstone have been...** Organizing my time and trying not to procrastinate.

**The highlights at Riverstone have been...** Working on the robotics competition.

**What gives you confidence for the next steps...** I have learned how to survive in the wilderness, how to handle pressure, and how to study independently.

**Words of advice to younger students...** Enjoy yourself whenever you can but put all your effort in when it's time to work.

**Three words...** Accepted, engaged, graduated/survived



**Naomi C**

**GRINNELL COLLEGE**

**Hometown:** Boise, Idaho  
**Years at Riverstone:** 4

**Extended Essay:** *To what extent should the government, ranchers, and hunters manage wolf populations in the Northwest United States?*

**Something that people may not know about me...** I hope to be a wildlife photographer someday.

**Tell us a little about your CAS experience...** I created the Sustainability Council because I shared a similar desire as other students and faculty to make a "greener" campus. In addition to working with existing clubs to start a garden and plant native species, I am currently helping plan Earth Week activities to raise awareness of our impact on this planet.

**The challenges at Riverstone have been...** Finding people that shared interests with me. Once I pushed myself to break out of my quiet shell, I found many people who also shared interests in sports, academics, and the outdoors!

**The highlights at Riverstone have been...** Figuring out how to effectively balance work and fun.

**What gives you confidence for the next steps...** I learned how rewarding it is to challenge myself inside and outside the classroom.

**Three words...** Rigorous, rewarding, memorable



**Sam C**

**ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF CALIFORNIA**

**Hometown:** Boise, Idaho  
**Years at Riverstone:** 6

**Extended Essay:** *Should the United States Soccer Federation under FIFA adapt their policies regarding how they pay female players for their success in the FIFA World Cup?*

**Something that people may not know about me...** I'm afraid to cut my toe and finger nails after being traumatized by my mom because she cut one too short and it started bleeding when I was a little kid.

**The challenges at Riverstone have been...** Staying up to date on homework and long term assignments that you need to organize and plan to complete and not procrastinating. Knowing you can always ask teachers for help and knowing that you will not be judged. Working around the challenges of friendships and the balance between school and sports.

**The highlights at Riverstone have been...** Backpacking and building snow caves. Teachers always being supportive and helpful with whatever you need. Friends always supporting each other to create the best quality of work.

**Words of advice for younger students...** Keep on pursuing your dreams; with hard work and dedication you will reach them.

**Three words...** Untraditional, authentic, quirky



**Carl D**

**UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO**

**Hometown:** Boise, Idaho  
**Years at Riverstone:** 5

**Extended Essay:** *The influence of Native American ceramics on modern ceramics?*

**Something that people may not know about me...** I can paint landscapes.

**Tell us a little about your CAS experience...** I am carving, but am not finished, with a wooden bust. I did it because i enjoyed the wooden coin that we did as an auction project in 10th grade, and wanted to do more wood carving. I wasn't too familiar with it, so it was a learning experience and fit perfectly with a CAS project. I learned through it, how to carve more effectively. I also learned some things about anatomy and sculpture.

**The challenges at Riverstone have been...** Adjusting my organization. I still have trouble with this.

**The highlights at Riverstone have been...** All the outdoor trips. No better way to get to know people in the school.

**What gives you confidence for the next steps...** I've learned how to be a critical thinker. Honestly, it's something that the public school system doesn't provide you with.

**Words of advice for younger students...** Procrastination is a real thing that will hurt you in the long run.



**Ana E**

**MCGILL UNIVERSITY**

**Hometown:** Cobham, United Kingdom  
**Years at Riverstone:** 1

**Extended Essay:** *Humanitarian aid response to female genital mutilation as a human rights violation.*

**Something that people may not know about me...** I lived in Azerbaijan for 3 years.

**Tell us a little about your CAS experience...** I fundraised and joined a Habitat for Humanity team and went to Malawi to build houses for widowed families.

**The challenges at Riverstone was...** The hardest part about Riverstone was transitioning in my senior year. It was challenging academically to move in the middle of the IB program, but also hard to move into a small community.

**The highlights at Riverstone have been...** the community of teachers and students. I was welcomed from day one, especially by my teachers who created a specialized schedule so I could earn the diploma. The other great thing about my time here were my peers that accepted and included me as the new kid.

**What gives you confidence for the next steps...** I can adapt to a new environment. The IB taught me to persevere and pushed me academically.

**Words of advice for younger students...** High school seems really long, but the last two years fly by.

**Three words...** Adventure, surprising, challenging



**Nina E**

**WESTMINSTER COLLEGE**

**Hometown:** Boise, Idaho  
**Years at Riverstone:** 10

**Extended Essay:** *The Cultural Significance of Māori Tattoos*

**Something that people may not know about me...** I want to live in a giant treehouse.

**Tell us a little about your CAS experience...** I helped create and lead musical groups during my time at Riverstone. I chose to do this in order to develop leadership and teamwork skills and also to be able to have a creative outlet. I learned how to work better with other students to produce something fun and artistic.

**The challenges at Riverstone have been...** Overcoming procrastination and needing to develop and improve my studying skills.

**The highlights at Riverstone have been...** Bonding with my classmates, especially on outdoor trips.

**What gives you confidence for the next steps...** I learned to challenge myself and to work hard even when things felt overwhelming. I feel able to handle the challenges and obstacles I may face in college.

**Words of advice to younger students...** Don't procrastinate.

**Three words...** Challenging, rewarding, important



**Andres G**

**UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER**

**Hometown:** Sevilla, Spain  
**Years at Riverstone:** 2

**Extended Essay:** *What is the effect of mass and diameter of a cylinder on rolling resistance?*

**Something that people may not know about me...** I am very nerdy about rubik cubes and I have around 12 different types of them.

**Tell us a little about your CAS experience...** I helped in Riverstone House by being a Resident Assistant. I organized group activities and had to check that everyone was following the rules and no one was having trouble. I organized multiple activities that got everyone closer to each other, like movie nights, bowling, hiking and playing soccer.

**The challenges at Riverstone have been...** Integrating into a smaller academic community and embracing its quirky customs and unorthodox culture.

**The highlights at Riverstone have been...** Being one of the first Riverstone House residents and live with other 15 amazing international students. Going on my first camping trip and learning how to cook pre-made burritos, that somehow taste better than homemade burritos.

**Words of advice to younger students...** Be nervous about the unknown but don't be scared.

**Three words...** Adventurous, rewarding, community



**Jack G**

**UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT HONORS PROGRAM**

**Hometown:** Boise, Idaho  
**Years at Riverstone:** 9

**Extended Essay:** *The Ethical Comparison of Epigenetic Modification and Standard Genetic Modification*

**Something that people may not know about me...** I am a food enthusiast. Except for mushrooms. I hate those. Also, one of my passions in life is helping people that need it and feeling that sense of satisfaction after that goal is accomplished.

**Tell us a little about your CAS experience?** I coach for the local Special Olympics basketball team. We have weekly practices and regional and state tournaments every May. I really enjoy it because being with those awesome people, I can always count on my mood being lifted immediately.

**The challenges at Riverstone have been...** Balancing the rigor of the IB curriculum with varsity sports and a life outside of school.

**The highlights at Riverstone have been...** the outdoor program and connections with my teachers.

**What gives you confidence for the next steps...** One big thing that I learned at Riverstone is that if I be myself, I can't go wrong. I also learned how to approach challenges.

**Three words...** Exciting, challenging, rewarding



**Sophie G**

**BELMONT UNIVERSITY**

**Hometown:** Nashville, TN  
**Years at Riverstone:** 2

**Extended Essay:** *The Impacts of Consumption of Animal Products on Greenhouse Gas Levels in the US*

**Something that people may not know about me...** I wanted to be an Olympic swimmer and I don't like goat cheese.

**The challenges at Riverstone have been...** Navigating the social scene and finding my place.

**The highlights at Riverstone have been...** The musical opportunities.

**What gives you confidence for the next steps...** I never would have grown as much as a person had I not attended Riverstone. I feel that the lessons I learned here are priceless and that I will be able to carry them with me wherever I go. I am incredibly grateful for the people that have come into my life because every one of them made a difference and no one will be easy forgotten. I know that moving on and going off to college will be difficult, but Riverstone has encouraged growth that will push me forward.

**Words of advice to younger students...** For goodness sake, do your EE and IA's before it's too late and suddenly it's the night before it's due and you're crying over your computer because it's not done.

**Three words...** Inspirational, memorable, educational



**Jack J**

**BROWN UNIVERSITY**

**Hometown:** Boise, Idaho  
**Years at Riverstone:** 9

**Extended Essay:** *To what extent has education reform affected gender equality in Saudi Arabia?*

**Something that people may not know about me...** I was almost married once.

**Tell us a little about your CAS experience?** I helped create a music program for refugees in Boise.

**The challenges at Riverstone have been...** The most challenging thing at Riverstone was doing a lot of homework almost all the time. But otherwise, Riverstone has been fantastic, and when there are obstacles to overcome, there are so many people here willing to help that they don't really seem like obstacles.

**The highlights at Riverstone have been...** Playing a Central Asian folk song with Gerardo and Lan at the senior music recital. Grand Gulch with my dad.

**What gives you confidence for the next steps...** Learning independence by taking charge of my own learning, exploring the outdoors, and traveling with the school and by myself.

**Words of advice to younger students...** Do what you love as much as you can, not what you think will get you into college, you'll be happier, and more successful.

**Three words...** Home



**Lan L**

**UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**Hometown:** Shantou, China  
**Years at Riverstone:** 2

**Extended Essay:** *To What Extent did the Chinese Stock Market Crash In August, 2015 Impact the B.R.I.C. countries?*

**Something that people may not know about me...** I worked for Central Intelligence Agency in Djibouti for one week.

**Tell us a little about your CAS experience...** I performed in the play *The Bad Seed* with the last class senior. First time participated in the play. It was fun!

**The challenges at Riverstone have been...** People are way too nice to let me face any challenge.

**The highlights at Riverstone have been...** The friends I have made and the outdoor trips.

**What gives you confidence for the next steps...** I learned how to write papers.

**Words of advice to younger students...** Enjoy su vida and don't study too hard.

**Three words...** Close-knit, chill, and different



**Alex M**

**UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO**

**Hometown:** Boise, Idaho  
**Years at Riverstone:** 13

**Extended Essay:** *Colonization in Brazil and its Effects on the Nations Modern Day Social Problems*

**Something that people may not know about me...** When I was in the third grade I almost lost my right eye when I ran into a foosball table. I'm good at geography.

**Tell us a little about your CAS experience?** My favorite CAS experience was being a part of Plant Club as well as my CAS project, making a mason bee home. I wanted to learn about conservation and plant management. I also constructed a mason bee home to help pollination of the plant life at Riverstone.

**The challenges at Riverstone have been...** Balancing my time between homework, sports, and other interests. Procrastination is not the answer!

**The highlights at Riverstone have been...** Amazing teachers, outdoor education, and the athletics.

**The challenges at Riverstone have been...** The workload and the IB system.

**What gives you confidence for the next steps...** Riverstone definitely has prepared me to take on college in the quality of work that is demanded from us.

**Three words...** Laborious but fun



**Nathan M**

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**Hometown:** Denver, Colorado  
**Years at Riverstone:** 10

**Extended Essay:** *The extent to which media is responsible for influencing mass killings in the United States?*

**Something that people may not know about me...** I own a hairless cat.

**Tell us a little about your CAS experience...** I've built several community-inspired websites, logged my running experiences in track and cross country, and additionally volunteered at a local cat shelter.

**The challenges at Riverstone have been...** While the work load may be stressful at times, Riverstone challenges students with a purpose of diversifying their skills in and outside of the classroom. Often times assignments in a science or creative class require looking for answers beyond your classroom textbooks (and Google).

**The highlights at Riverstone have been...** The spring trips with my class.

**What gives you confidence for the next steps...** I've learned that you need to work with people you have no common interests with. I graduate with the confidence of knowing how to work with people who think differently from myself.

**Words of advice to younger students...** Reach out to teachers.

**Three words...** Casual, constructive, enriching



**Aggie M**

**UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO**

**Hometown:** Boise, Idaho  
**Years at Riverstone:** 3

**Extended Essay:** *To what extent did the sociopolitical outcomes of the Iranian Islamic Revolution of 1979 have an effect on the Kurds in Iran?*

**Something that people may not know about me...** To fall asleep when I was a child, I used to count dictators jumping over the iron curtain, rather than sheep jumping over the moon.

**Tell us a little about your CAS experience...** I volunteered with the Agency for New Americans. I worked at the front desk, moved furniture into new apartments, filled out housing and employment applications and worked in childcare. I really loved working there because all the clients were really nice and full of hope, even though some of them had spent more than a decade in refugee camps or in unsafe conditions.

**The challenges at Riverstone have been...** Balancing schoolwork with sleep, sports, etc.

**The highlights at Riverstone have been...** musical ensembles, really cool teachers, fall trips, getting to be a part of the residential program.

**Words of advice to younger students...** Early to bed, early to rise, work like heck and organize.

**Three words...** Hands on learning



**Ben M**

**VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY**

**Hometown:** Boise, Idaho

**Years at Riverstone:** 13

**Extended Essay:** *To what extent did the works of Ludwig Van Beethoven influence new developments in the sonata allegro form? (With a study of Berlioz's Fantastique and Brahms's Sarabande in A minor).*

**Something that people may not know about me...** I love animals and own a dog, bird, cat, and a chinchilla. I have even entered my chinchilla in a pet show contest, where he won first place!

**The challenges at Riverstone have been...** Extended essay and Physics have been the two most challenging things for me at Riverstone. Both require extreme dedication and hard work in order to complete.

**The highlights at Riverstone have been...** Fall backpacking trips and playing basketball and going to the state tournament.

**What gives you confidence for the next steps...** Riverstone has greatly increased my essay writing abilities. What Riverstone does that many other schools don't do is emphasize writing and personal statements. Many tests are free response, thus requiring the student to be more creative with their answers.

**Three words...** Powerful, unique, insightful



**Katie O**

**CLAREMONT MCKENNA COLLEGE**

**Hometown:** Dover, Delaware

**Years at Riverstone:** 7

**Extended Essay:** *The Impact of the Franco regime on the development of Basque Music between 1939 and 1979*

**Something that people may not know about me...** I love whitewater rafting and baking.

**Tell us a little about your CAS experience...** I worked with Riverstone's Social Change Club to complete the Syria Pinwheel Project for the Students Rebuild organization. Over the course of two weeks we mobilized Riverstone high school students to create over 600 pinwheels, raising more than \$2000 to build schools for internally displaced Syrian children.

**The challenges at Riverstone have been...** Learning to work collaboratively.

**The highlights at Riverstone have been...** The outdoor trips.

**Three words...** Enlightening, challenging, character-building



**Lah Thaw P**

**BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Hometown:** Ratchaburi, Thailand

**Years at Riverstone:** 6

**Something that people may not know about me...** I am a refugee from Myanmar now called Burma, due to the civil war. The Civil War with the Government from all state provinces that want to gain independence, mainly due to ethnicity. The Conflict is still ongoing and has lasted for 69 years.

**The challenges at Riverstone have been...** The IB is very difficult if you don't truly focus on it.

**The highlights at Riverstone have been...** The outdoor trips throughout the years. Finding people who are kind and make friends with you the very first week.

**What gives you confidence for the next steps...** Being able to go into college with great preparation and great confidence.

**Words of advice to younger students...** A lot of the teachers are there for you, ready to support the ship that you may think is going down. Go to them and ask for help before it is too late in the ship. Repair the ship inch by inch and bounce back next year and do your best.

**Three words...** Exciting, encouraging, bonds



**Giovanna P**

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA**

**Hometown:** Farmington, Missouri  
**Years at Riverstone:** 2

**Extended Essay:** *To what Extent is Culture Lost When a British Columbian First Nation Language Goes Extinct?*

**Something that people may not know about me...** I have a passion for running and writing.

**The challenges at Riverstone have been...** Really good preparation for college, as well as the world. When I started attending school at Riverstone I noticed two unique things: 1) they truly care about your future as a student and 2) they expect the most out of your education at Riverstone. I found that the responsibility that you adopt with things like CAS and the Extended Essay pushed me to take charge with my own interests and help me with my leadership skills.

**The highlights at Riverstone have been...** School trips and the Riverstone community.

**What gives you confidence for the next steps...** I've learned how to think and make my own decisions as a young adult. With many of our assignments, we get to explore learning wherever or however is best suited for ourselves.

**Three words...** Supportive, preparatory, rewarding



**Olivia P**

**MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE**

**Hometown:** London, Rome, Boise  
**Years at Riverstone:** 4

**Extended Essay:** *To what extent was religion a crucial element of Leopold II's justification for colonization of the Congo River Basin?*

**Something that people may not know about me...** I am a competitive fencer, and have been fencing for 6 years, but I am also passionate about lacrosse and skiing.

**Tell us a little about your CAS experience?** I believe in promoting kindness and community awareness. In the spring of my junior year, I found a way to combine this belief with my passion for sustainability by founding 'Plant Club', a school based club to promote environmental awareness and appreciation in our school community as well as plant and label Idaho native trees around campus. Our First project was to build a self-sufficient "Three Sisters" garden.

**The challenges at Riverstone have been...** Balancing my time effectively between schoolwork and fencing.

**The highlights at Riverstone have been...** Being readily accepted into a tight-knit community.

**What gives you confidence for the next steps...** That I have the ability to take charge of my learning by exploring what I'm passionate about.

**Three words...** Inspiring, supportive, challenging



**Rowan P**

**PRINCETON UNIVERSITY**

**Hometown:** Denver, Colorado  
**Years at Riverstone:** 6

**Extended Essay:** *To what extent do the positive implications of the application of the CRISPR-Cas9 technology in humans outweigh the ethical concerns and lack of regulations surrounding genetic editing of the human germline?*

**Something that people may not know about me...** My dream/life goal is to win a Nobel Peace prize.

**Tell us a little about your CAS experience?** I play competitive club soccer and volunteered for One Stone.

**The challenges at Riverstone have been...** The IB is a lot of work and there are what feels like countless requirements and assessments to complete!

**The highlights at Riverstone have been...** It has been a pleasure to be surrounded by so many other thoughtful, intelligent, and driven people and I am so thankful to have made friends here that I know I will have for the rest of my life.

**Words of advice to younger students...** Take advantage of all the amazing opportunities here both inside and outside the classroom because at the end of the day you will end up with work, accomplishments, and experiences that you are really proud of!

**Three words...** Empowering, extraordinary, unforgettable



**Carlos S-M**

**PACE UNIVERSITY**

**Hometown:** Boise, Idaho

**Years at Riverstone:** 5

**Extended Essay:** *Enlightenment and the Eight Fold Path?*

**Something that people may not know about me...** I love milk and traveling.

**Tell us a little about your CAS experience...**My CAS experiences consisted of experiences like Plant Club where your volunteer work wasn't only beneficial to the community, but became a personal learning experience. I learned about the importance of a healthy outside in making a healthy inside.

**The challenges at Riverstone have been...** Time management! Organization.

**The highlights at Riverstone have been...** The pervasiveness of the teachers in always doing their best to make sure you don't give up on yourself.

**What gives you confidence for the next steps...** That as long as you put in as much effort as you have in you, you will not only succeed by thrive in the Riverstone experience.

**Words of advice to younger students...** Communicate with your teachers. They are more eager and willing to tend to your academic needs.

**Three words...** Unexpectedness, promising, full



**Nikita S**

**XAVIER UNIVERSITY**

**Hometown:** Boise, Idaho

**Years at Riverstone:** 7

**Extended Essay:** *Use of Hindu Religious text to justify the dichotomy between violent and non-violent actions?*

**Something that people may not know about me...** I was adopted from Mumbai, India.

**Tell us a little about your CAS experience...** My CAS project was helping my grandmother restore the family bridge at her church.

**The challenges at Riverstone have been...** The biggest challenge I faced during my time at Riverstone was balancing my workload with extracurriculars. Riverstone offers an education unparalleled to other schools in Boise, Idaho. However it is extremely demanding and it took a lot of hard work to find a healthy balance between homework and pastimes.

**The highlights at Riverstone have been...** My highlights at Riverstone have been participating in the outdoor program as well as having the opportunity to be taught by such well-rounded, intelligent faculty.

**What gives you confidence for the next steps...** I have learned to ask questions instead of just accept answers. This school has also given me the skill of problem-solving and I think that is critical at any time in life.

**Three words...** Valuable, empowering, worthwhile



**Dedi S**

**UNDECIDED**

**Hometown:** Boise, Idaho

**Years at Riverstone:** 7

**Extended Essay:** *To what extent does Kendrick Lamar's To Pimp a Butterfly focus on the many forces that shape an individual's identity?*

**Something that people may not know about me...** I can do a 360 windmill.

**Tell us a little about your CAS experience...** For my CAS experience, I completed projects related to basketball, mindfulness, and sustainability.

**The challenges at Riverstone have been...** Learning how to balance my time.

**The highlights at Riverstone have been...** Going on all the outdoor trips and interacting with the community. Making it to the state tournament for the first time in school history.

**What gives you confidence for the next steps...** I have learned to adapt and get used to unfamiliar situations.

**Words of advice to younger students...** Find a routine or schedule that helps you balance your time.

**Three words...** Unique, inspiring, challenging



**Marija S**

**COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS**

**Hometown:** Boise, Idaho  
**Years at Riverstone:** 5

**Extended Essay:** *Ustaše Croatia and the Perpetration of the Holocaust*

**Something that people may not know about me...** I was the only person in my family not born in California. I know how to surf and was in a documentary about surfing when I was younger.

**Tell us a little about your CAS experience?** I was the creator of the Plant Club, focused on educating the Riverstone community about our environment and helping to keep the campus beautiful. I learned more about leadership roles.

**The challenges at Riverstone have been...** Balancing sports and schoolwork, not procrastinating.

**The highlights at Riverstone have been...** My friends, close relationships with teachers, and trips.

**What gives you confidence for the next steps...** I learned to have confidence in myself and my ideas.

**Words of advice to younger students...** Don't hesitate to ask questions and talk in class. Don't procrastinate.

**Three words...** Fun, inquisitive, amazing



**JiaNing "Kaylin" T**

**HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY**

**Hometown:** Maoming City, China  
**Years at Riverstone:** 2.5 years

**Extended Essay:** *To what extent is Quinn's classification of human development and culture realistic?*

**Something that people may not know about me...** I joined the organization call AREAA (Asian Real Estate Association of America) to help Asian people find houses in America.

**Tell us a little about your CAS experience?** I travelled with an Idaho government group, including the governor of Idaho, to China as part of a formal trade mission. We went to Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, China for studies and trade exchange. I was the only student in the group.

**The challenges at Riverstone have been...** The school needs to work more on international understanding.

**The highlights at Riverstone have been...** Volunteering in kindergarten.

**What gives you confidence for the next steps...** I am much more independent.

**Words of advice to younger students...** Understand what is important and what isn't; don't waste time on doing what other people tell you to do. You need to plan on your future and just do it.

**Three words...** Challenging, independent, compromising



**Audrey T**

**WESTMINSTER COLLEGE HONORS PROGRAM**

**Hometown:** Boise, Idaho  
**Years at Riverstone:** 12

**Extended Essay:** *Which Criminal Theory from the 20th and 21st Centuries Best Analyses the Cause of Criminal Behavior?*

**Something that people may not know about me...** I thought "destute" was a word until a year ago.

**Tell us a little about your CAS experience?** I created and co-managed a new band Sloth Patrol. Our goal was to offer free performances of mostly original songs. I learned more about my particular style and the logistics of performing.

**The challenges at Riverstone have been...** Staying organized and taking the initial dive out of your comfort zone.

**The highlights at Riverstone have been...** Lifelong friends and supportive teachers who I will miss dearly.

**What gives you confidence for the next steps...** I've been pushed out of my comfort zone, and forced to think creatively which, while challenging in the moment, really prepared me for my next steps in life.

**Words of advice to younger students...** Don't wait to do the things you want to do, dream big and don't shy away from the unknown.

**Three words...** Eventful, indescribably, paradoxical



**Beatrice T**

**BOCCONI UNIVERSITY**

**Hometown:** Milan, Italy  
**Years at Riverstone:** 4

**Extended Essay:** *To What Extent has the decision to become a Life Science company impacted Bayer's: Science for a Better life structure and profitability positively?*

**Something that people may not know about me...** I have been to the westernmost point of continental Europe (Cabo da Roca) and the southernmost point in America (Key West, Florida).

**Tell us a little about your CAS experience?** I am a co-founder of the Social Change Leadership.

**The challenges at Riverstone have been...** Almost all of the classes I have taken have been challenging, especially science.

**The highlights at Riverstone have been...** Definitely the outdoor trips! I have learned so much from them, I have numerous memories from them that I will remember forever and these trips made my friendship with classmates stronger

**What gives you confidence for the next steps...** I learned how to handle stress pretty well throughout my experience at RIS.

**Words of advice to younger students...** Don't procrastinate.

**Three words...** Remarkable, outstanding, committed



**Ethan T**

**WHITMAN COLLEGE**

**Hometown:** Boise, Idaho  
**Years at Riverstone:** 11

**Extended Essay:** *To what extent does the systematic misogyny in western culture perpetuate subjugated female roles in comic books?*

**Something that people may not know about me...** I love succulents.

**Tell us a little about your CAS experience?** My CAS project was the leadership of the Climbing Club. I started this club because I felt that a climbing club was missing from Riverstone. I've been climbing for 14 years and have a lot of experience with the sport and I wanted to share that with anyone that was interested. We had a blast meeting new friends and building up our skill set.

**The challenges at Riverstone have been...** I honestly think you yourself are the biggest challenge at Riverstone; you'll at some point or another feel overwhelmed and think that you can't make it through, but I can assure you you will make it through. Don't listen to yourself in those cases, listen to the loving and caring family you have around you.

**The highlights at Riverstone have been...** The fact that Riverstone has become my family has to be the highlight.

**Words of advice to younger students...** Don't procrastinate and take every opportunity!

**Three words...** Don't wanna leave.



**Aleyna T**

**BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Hometown:** Turkey / Izmir  
**Years at Riverstone:** 1

**Something that people may not know about me...** I'm passionate about traveling, and I can tell I'm pretty brave about discovering new things in life. Also, I hate to argue with people. I would rather keep quiet than say something wrong or hurtful but I'm talkative when I'm feeling comfortable.

**College plans...** I always have dreamed about going to college in US and Riverstone helped me to make my dream come true. I wish to stay in Boise so - probably- I'll attend to Boise State University.

**The challenges at Riverstone have been...** It was hard for me to go to a different country for my high school education. It was also challenging for me to get used to an another school environment and culture.

**The highlights at Riverstone have been...** The Riverstone community was helpful, and they were great advisors for me to start a new life in Boise.

**What gives you confidence for the next steps...** Every end is not a beginning. Every end is just an end but every decision we make is a beginning so I learned to trust my decisions more.

**Three words...** Different, instructive, recreative



**Wyatt W**

**BELMONT UNIVERSITY**

**Hometown:** Boise, Idaho  
**Years at Riverstone:** 2

**Extended Essay:** *The Origins of Blues Music in The United States*

**Something that people may not know about me...** It's no big secret that my real name isn't Wyatt, but John. However, proceeding that, and until several days after I was born, my real name was Spencer. Also, I am halfway through composing a full length musical with my classmate Sophie Griffin, called "*The Boy Who Stole All The Angles.*"

**The challenges at Riverstone have been...** I was not previously accustomed to the work load of an IB school. I quickly had to learn to mitigate the stress induced by long term projects and time management challenges.

**The highlights at Riverstone have been...** The people I met here were, without a doubt, the highlight of my Riverstone experience. I came to the school knowing no one, and developed several meaningful relationships I will carry into adulthood. The amazing teachers are definitely what makes the school #1 in Idaho.

**What gives you confidence for the next steps...** I learned to manage my time!

**Words of advice to younger students...** Take notes! Lots of notes!



**Avery W**

**UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON**

**Hometown:** Houston, TX  
**Years at Riverstone:** 4

**Extended Essay:** *To What Extent Have the Public Health Infrastructure and Religion Continued the Spread of Ebola in Sierra Leone.*

**Something that people may not know about me...** I read medical literature for fun.

**Tell us a little about your CAS experience?** I organized KIND Week for preschool through grade 12. The goal was to make people more aware of being kind and gave them the opportunity to participate in different activities each day of the week that encouraged being kind.

**The challenges at Riverstone have been...** The initial transition from public school was rough at first – the differences between the two curriculums are significant. However, Riverstone faculty and my peers were very supportive in helping me settle in.

**The highlights at Riverstone have been...** The outdoor trips, the people I have become close friends with, the teachers, the community, the sports.

**Words of advice to younger students...** I could tell you to be diligent, but more than anything, cherish Riverstone and the people you are surrounded by – it is a one of a kind place.

**Three words...** Adventures, studying, family



**Shaomeng "Jasmine" X**

**BOSTON UNIVERSITY**

**Hometown:** Shanghai, China  
**Years at Riverstone:** 3

**Extended Essay:** *To What Extent Does the Political System in Huxley's Brave New World Illustrate How Totalitarian Governments Suppress Different Identities?*

**Something that people may not know about me...** I am a Formula 1 fan. My favorite racing driver is Jenson Button from McLaren-Honda.

**Tell us a little about your CAS experience?** My CAS project was to teach the children in a migrant community in Shanghai during the summer time.

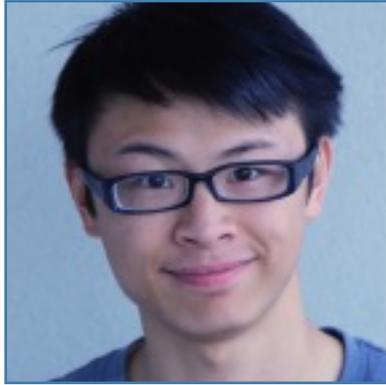
**The challenges at Riverstone have been...** Time management. Balancing personal and academic life has always been difficult to me. To not overdo things. Choosing a satisfying topic has always been the hardest part of writing a research paper to me.

**The highlights at Riverstone have been...** The outdoors trips and finishing my EE.

**Words of advice to younger students...** Your internal mediocrity is the moment when you lost the faith of being excellent.

**What gives you confidence for the next steps...** Trust in yourself and don't let other people influence you negatively.

**Three words...** Unique, adventure, unforgettable



**Chang "Owen" Z**

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO**

**Hometown:** Shanghai, China  
**Years at Riverstone:** 4

**Extended Essay:** *The Importance Of Starbucks' Changes In Marketing Strategies In China In Order For It To Be Successful*

**Something that people may not know about me...** I have a desire to become a fighter jet pilot one day.

**Tell us a little about your CAS experience...** I worked with One Stone to create a project that helped high school student find their passions.

**The challenges at Riverstone have been...** Making friends in such a small community was hard. Getting used to the IB curriculum was also challenging. I had to learn how to do online research and analyze information I collected.

**The highlights at Riverstone have been...** Fall and spring trips extended the size of our classrooms beyond our campus.

**What gives you confidence for the next steps...** Minimizing the impact on the environment has been the theme of Riverstone outdoor trips. This gave me moral guidelines to follow when taking actions.

**Words of advice to younger students...** Time is a precious thing. Don't let it slip away doing nothing.

**Three words...** Challenging, tiring, accomplishing



**Weifeng "Jack" Z**

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS**

**Hometown:** Yangzhou, Jiangsu, China  
**Years at Riverstone:** 2

**Extended Essay:** *What is the most important factor contributing to the increase in Tencent WeChat's users worldwide?*

**Something that people may not know about me...** I have a Kindle that I have never used.

**Tell us a little about your CAS experience...** I created a music band and played traditional Chinese songs in a performance for the Chinese New Year. I volunteered in a social welfare center in my hometown and learned how to talk to the elders and understand how important for a country to develop the system of caring the elders.

**The challenges at Riverstone have been...** being homesick.

**The highlights at Riverstone have been...** I have made many friends, speak more fluent English, etc.

**What gives you confidence for the next steps...** I have improved my writing skills now that I have written so many papers.

**Words of advice to younger students...** Sometimes it's not just working hard, it's all about the 1% of inspiration, then why don't you live in a happier life?

**Three words...** Challenging, fun, appreciation

## COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES FOR THE CLASS OF 2017

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| American University                   | Regent's University London                      |
| Belmont University (2)*               | Regis University (2)                            |
| Beloit College (2)                    | Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute*               |
| Bennington College                    | Rhodes College                                  |
| Bocconi University*                   | Rochester Institute of Technology (2)           |
| Boise State University (4)*           | Saint Joseph's University                       |
| Boston College                        | Saint Mary's College of California*             |
| Boston University*                    | Santa Clara University                          |
| Brandeis University                   | Seattle Pacific University                      |
| Brown University*                     | Seattle University (7)                          |
| Carroll College                       | Seton Hall University                           |
| Central Washington University         | The College of Idaho (6)                        |
| Claremont McKenna College*            | The College of Wooster                          |
| Clark University                      | The University of Montana, Missoula             |
| Colgate University                    | The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill |
| College of Charleston                 | Tufts University                                |
| College of the Holy Cross*            | University of California, Davis (3)*            |
| Colorado College                      | University of California, Riverside             |
| Colorado State University             | University of California, San Diego (2)         |
| Concordia University – Portland       | University of California, Santa Barbara (2)*    |
| Creighton University                  | University of California, Santa Cruz            |
| Drake University                      | University of Colorado at Boulder (4)           |
| Emerson College                       | University of Denver                            |
| Emory University                      | University of Idaho (3)*                        |
| Fairfield University                  | University of Illinois at Chicago               |
| Fordham University (2)                | University of Massachusetts, Amherst (2)        |
| Gonzaga University (3)                | University of Minnesota, Twin Cities            |
| Grinnell College*                     | University of New Hampshire at Durham (3)       |
| Hofstra University                    | University of North Texas                       |
| Indiana University at Bloomington     | University of Portland                          |
| Lafayette College                     | University of Puget Sound (3)                   |
| Lake Forest College                   | University of Rochester (4)*                    |
| Lewis and Clark College (6)           | University of San Diego (2)*                    |
| Loyola University Chicago             | University of San Francisco (4)*                |
| Macalester College                    | University of Southern California, Viterbi      |
| McGill University                     | University of Utah (4)                          |
| Menlo College                         | University of Vermont (5)                       |
| Middlebury College                    | University of Vermont Honors Program*           |
| Monmouth University                   | University of Washington (3)*                   |
| Montana State University, Bozeman (5) | University of Wisconsin, Madison                |
| Northeastern University (2)           | Villanova University*                           |
| Occidental College                    | Wake Forest University                          |
| Pace University, New York City*       | Wesleyan University                             |
| Princeton University*                 | Westminster College (4)*                        |
| Purdue University                     | Whitman College (4)*                            |
| Quinnipiac University                 | Worcester Polytechnic Institute                 |
| Reed College (2)                      | Xavier University*                              |

*\*Attending*

### OUR MISSION

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

