



## Inquiry-based Education and Environmental Stewardship for 45 years



# The “Riveredge Style” of Education

- Small class sizes of 10-12 students
- Cooperative, inquiry based learning
- Professionally trained educators



## *Parents say...*

- My child “felt encouraged and respected by the teachers—they are so knowledgeable *and* so good with children.”
- “There is a connection to the subject that goes beyond the written or spoken word when one is expressing their soul's path through their work. That is what we have found in the teachers at Riveredge.”



# Homeschool Ed-ventures

Outdoor science education for homeschooled students in K4-12<sup>th</sup> grade



*Parents say...*

- “The depth of information and relationships with peers and teachers is wonderful... the time here in nature is exceptional.”
- My child “is a curious kid and loves the outdoors. These classes truly engaged his curiosity and broadened his interest in nature. He loves the hands on way of learning and having an outdoor classroom.”

# Hands-on, Inquiry-based Learning

- **Unit studies** promote inquiry learning
- **Student interests** direct learning experiences
- **Learning takes place during ALL types of activities:** hiking, collecting, observing, predicting, experimenting, analyzing, journaling, discussing, playing games, wondering, singing, reading, fort building...



Parents say...

- “My daughter was captivated by the field experiments and learning activities. She loves being out in nature, so being able to interact with the environment in a learning situation was a great motivator for her.”
- “Great hands-on and kinesthetic activities that involve learning not ‘entertaining.’”

# Outdoor Exploration and Adventure

- **Outside learning** in all seasons
- Promotes **healthy lifestyles** and a positive **sense of place** in the natural world
- Children notice intricate patterns of change in nature
- Children develop a strong **bond** with the Riveredge sanctuary and love returning to their favorite places



*Parents say...*

- “My children have gained a greater appreciation for all the little life forms around us.”
- “Outdoors, hands-on, feet wet activities—what kid doesn’t love that!”



# Community-based Education

- Nurturing healthy **human communities**: friendships, families, and local communities
- Recognizing and deepening the **connection** between oneself and the natural community
- Becoming familiar with bioregional communities and **ecosystems**



## *Parents say...*

- “Homeschool Ed-ventures encourages a nurturing and friendly learning atmosphere where social interactions spontaneously develop.”
- “The stewardship at Riveredge makes it a special, protected place, held by a community that cares for it...There is a level of unspoken comfort and effortlessness to be in an area protected and loved by so many.”

# Holistic Child Development

- **Social, emotional, and academic** growth is supported by developmentally-appropriate curriculum.
- **Community-based education** provides a nurturing learning environment and a sense of place and meaning.
- **Mixed age classes** encourage students to take leadership roles, mentor other students, and develop strong learning partnerships.



*Parents say...*

“It is a privilege for our children to be guided, held and taught by these educators. We especially appreciate the sensitivity and attention to creating a socially safe and inclusive atmosphere for all of the children. Cooperative learning is the perfect tool for a community based curriculum.”



# Dragonflies: grades K4 & K5

## Autonomy and Empathy

- Sensory and kinesthetic interaction with nature
- Dramatic play encourages imagination and cooperation skills
- Practice observation, comparison, questioning, and pattern recognition skills
- Choose activities based on personal interests
- Build friendships with students, teachers, and animals





# Monarchs: grades 1 & 2

## Exploration and Industry

- Share opinions and ideas in a democratic class community
- Practice basic skills of a scientist and begin using scientific tools
- Develop mapping skills through exploring new habitats and trails
- Engage a sense of wonder and adventure through regular visits to the group's "secret spot."





# Hawks: grades 3-5

## Exploration and Respect

- Hone interpersonal skills through cooperative group work
- Practice naturalist skills and the scientific method
- Develop a sense of adventure by exploring new territories at Riveredge
- Engage in socially-inclusive group discussions where everyone's viewpoint is valued





# Sturgeon: grades 6-8

## Personal Identity and Social Action

- Design and implement field studies using the scientific method
- Practice oral and written communication skills to share results
- Use knowledge gained to take social and environmental action
- Develop leadership and interpersonal skills in a socially-inclusive environment



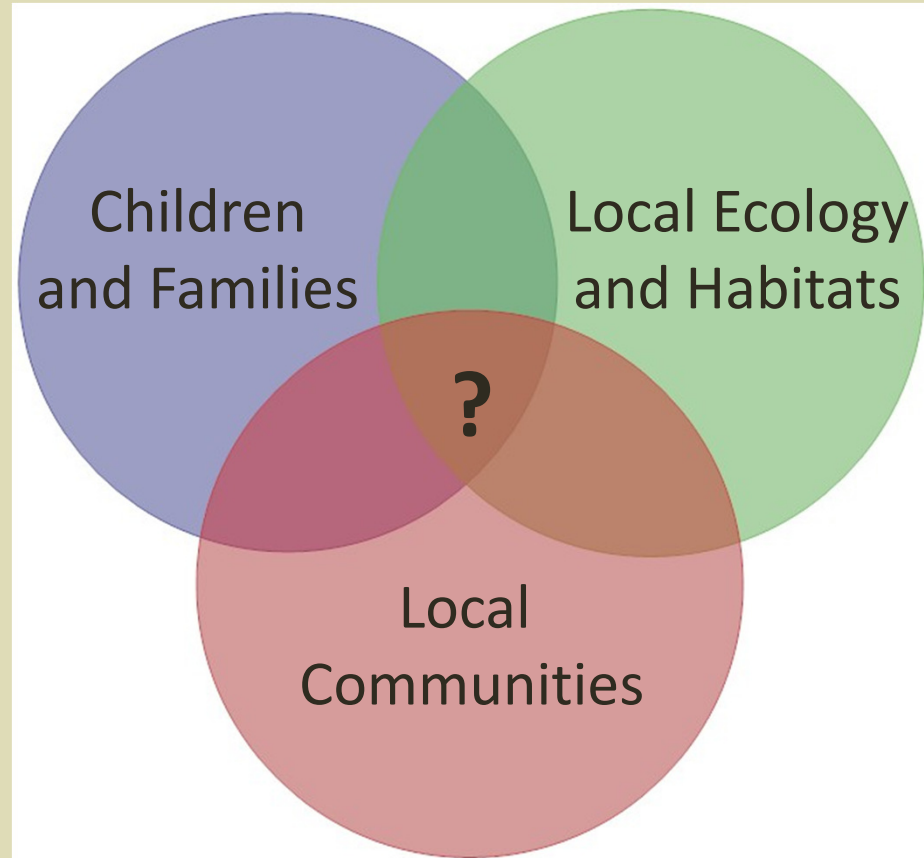
# Coyotes: grades 9-12

## *Environmental Pioneers: Scientists, Writers, and Activists*

- Explore the natural sciences through a variety of guided **field ecology experiments** during in-depth unit studies.
- Use scientific skills to design and implement **student-led research projects** in the field.
- Discover **literature and writing** as powerful tools for personal reflection, communication of ecological knowledge, and understanding connections between human cultures and nature.
- Gain inspiration from the life work of **famous naturalists and scientists** such as Aldo Leopold, John Muir, and Rachel Carson.
- Explore a variety of **careers relating to science and the environment** by meeting and working with professionals in the field.
- Design and implement an **activist service project** that benefits local ecology and human communities.



# Impact



## *Parents say...*

- “The Riveredge classes have inspired my daughter and a friend to do regular pond studies at a pond near our house using techniques learned in class.”
- “Riveredge teaches children to look at their lives and the world around them in a more complete and connected way.”
- “This lit a fire in my daughter that will last a lifetime!”