

River Valley Graduate Learner Outcomes

January 14, 2010

Academic Content Knowledge

River Valley graduates will master and use academic content knowledge at high levels in order to become effective and self-reliant life-long learners.

This means that River Valley students:

- Understand and integrate the foundation of information and the fundamental skills learned in each content area.
- Develop effective strategies in each content area in order to create products that reflect ongoing learning.
- Are aware of how they learn and can verbalize when and how to use critical thinking, creative thinking, and problem solving strategies to develop a deeper understanding of academic content.

Creative Capacities

River Valley graduates will learn how to develop new ideas and concepts that are both original and hold value.

This means that River Valley students:

- Identify and generate patterns and relationships drawn from diverse content areas.
- Embrace and integrate new ideas and perspectives to broaden their overall understanding and to increase relevancy.
- Articulate ideas in multiple formats by exploring, observing, collaborating, and presenting.
- Recognize the importance of developing mental quiet-space and stillness to avoid chaos in the thinking process.

Critical Thinking Skills

River Valley graduates will be able to apply critical thinking skills to determine the meaning and significance of academic content and of the products of their own creative process.

This means that River Valley students:

- Organize, synthesize, question, and analyze to evaluate academic content and generate new ideas.
- Recognize and appreciate the need for life-long learning.
- Understand the importance of metacognition (understanding how you think, feel, and learn).

Communication and Collaboration Skills

River Valley graduates communicate their ideas effectively with diverse audiences.

This means that River Valley students:

- Effectively use appropriate methods of communication, well suited to need and purpose, and display confidence when communicating with various audiences.
- Use multiple forms of technology to enhance, create, and produce appropriate communication for diverse and global audiences.
- Listen effectively and show respect when communicating with others.
- Display social skills, flexibility, and a willingness to compromise in order to achieve common goals with diverse teams.

Global and Cultural Awareness

River Valley graduates appreciate diversity from both a local and global perspective and utilize this understanding to influence the local environment.

This means that River Valley students:

- Work effectively with diverse groups in academic and co-curricular activities.
- Investigate the world to learn new perspectives and communicate ideas.
- Take action to meet local challenges and address global issues (think globally, act locally).
- Display global citizenship and stewardship
- Demonstrate an understanding of how world cultures and global issues connect to their lives.

Technological Literacy

River Valley graduates will use technology as a tool to research, organize, evaluate, and communicate information.

This means that River Valley students:

- Integrate various technologies (new and old) to achieve specific purposes.
- Engage in digital citizenship to use technology safely, legally, responsibly, and ethically.
- Understand how and why media messages are constructed and for what purposes.
- Organize and manage information to create projects.
- Use various technologies as a learning tool to gain access to new knowledge and current happenings and reacting accordingly.
- Use technology communication to collaborate locally and globally.

Life and Career Skills

River Valley graduates will effectively navigate complex life and work environments.

This means that River Valley students:

- Set goals and define personal expectations in achieving them.
- Create, prioritize, and execute plans and ideas.
- Create and execute an action plan on an issue of concern.
- Demonstrate personal responsibility and intrinsic motivation.
- Explore career interests.
- Display intrinsic motivation and the ability to take personal initiative.

NOTE: Many of the learner outcomes can and should be viewed as overlapping into various broad areas. For example, skills listed under critical thinking could also be necessary skills within the life skills and/or creative thinking skills area. These Graduate Learner Outcomes will be best utilized and most efficient when integrated with each other. Desirably, full development of all RV-graduates will include the ability to integrate these skills in their application of academic thinking, career responsibilities, and in their every day lives.