

Rivercrest School District

Sally Bennett, Superintendent
1700-A West State Highway 14
Wilson, AR 72395

Telephone: 870-655-8633
Fax: 870-655-8841

February 14, 2020

Arkansas Department of Education, Charter School Office
Four Capitol Mall, Box 26
Little Rock, AR 72201

Director Webb,

Please accept this letter as Rivercrest School District's official letter of interest to apply for a school conversion public charter school. Listed below is the information required by the Arkansas Department of Education.

School District:	Rivercrest School District
District Contact:	Sally Bennett, Superintendent 1700-A West State Highway 14, Wilson, AR 72395 870-655-8633 sally.bennett@smccolts.com
School to Convert:	Rivercrest High School
Proposed Name of School:	Academies of Rivercrest High School
Proposed Location:	1700 W. State Highway 14, Wilson, AR 72395 (This is the current campus of Rivercrest High School.)
Grade Levels:	7-12
Number of Students:	570

The Rivercrest School District proposes to establish a conversion public charter high school focused on defined pathways for student success. The Academy Model will specifically serve students in grades 9-12.

- A **Freshman Academy** will also be developed. This will serve as a pivotal year for students to build capacity for project-based learning and pathway exploration. All freshmen will participate in this academy prior to selecting their future pathway.
- The **Agriculture Academy** will prepare students for the wide range of opportunities available in our region. The curriculum will be designed to incorporate agriculture into every area of instruction. Internships, real-world experiences, and industry certifications will be provided through partnerships with Arkansas Northeastern College, University of Arkansas Extension Office and Research, Greenway, Farm Bureau, and local farmers.
- The **Tech Academy** will use the EAST initiative as the springboard for high tech integration. EAST provides for student-led, technology-driven, collaborative service-based learning. Curriculum will reflect current technology trends to include the solar farm on campus as well as support the high tech components from the Agriculture Academy. Robotics and coding will further enhance learning opportunities for students.

Rivercrest School District

Sally Bennett, Superintendent
1700-A West State Highway 14
Wilson, AR 72395

Telephone: 870-655-8633
Fax: 870-655-8841

- The **Colt Academy** will be the general education pathway. This will be the more traditional approach to education. Though a more traditional path, experiential opportunities will be provided to engage students in their individual learning paths.
- Other areas of development after year one may include a **Fine Arts Academy** and other focus points of specific interest.

The goal is to produce students who are future-ready. They will graduate with the academic and technical skill sets to succeed in both skilled jobs and post-secondary formal learning opportunities. Those opportunities could include direct entry into the workplace, apprenticeships, or college (2- and 4-year programs).

Students in grades 7-8 will be more broadly served. Exploratory opportunities will be provided, and students will focus on core content proficiency to ensure their future success. This will include field trips to farms, AG Days at school, guest speakers, and opportunities to interact with hands-on activities. Outside of this high school academy, the elementary curriculum will also provide foundational emphasis for students. A school garden, STEAM activities through the library program, and coding experiences in the elementary will foster interest in areas that will be further developed at the secondary level.

This comprehensive approach starting in the early grades and coming to fruition through the Academies at Rivercrest High School will provide our students with innovative learning experiences to better equip them for their future success.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 870-356-2912.

Respectfully,

Sally Bennett