

THE RIVERS SCHOOL CONSERVATORY

Piano Dep't Curriculum (2022-2023)

LEVEL ONE

Skills & Goals:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Note, fingering, articulations, and time value recognition.● Introduction to scales and arpeggios (hands together, parallel motion) & key signatures.● Basic musicianship, including phrasing, balance, voicing, and interpretive elements.● Develop basic memorization skills.
Sample Repertoire:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Method books● Bach – minuets from Anna Magdalena’s Notebook● Kabalevsky – Op.39● Introduction to simple sonatinas
End of Year Evaluation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● A minimum of 4 scales and arpeggios (2 major and 2 minor), hands together in parallel motion. (Adjudicators will choose from among those prepared.)● Solo Repertoire: a minimum of 2 pieces of contrasting character, possibly from memory.
Additional Requirements for Young Artist Diploma:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Average Score of “high pass” for final Level I Evaluation.● Two solo performances per year at Rivers (at an all-school or dep’t event).● Two year-long electives in total.

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LEVEL TWO

Skills & Goals:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Introduction to polyphony.● Scales and arpeggios in four octaves.● Continued work on interpretive elements.● Basic recognition of harmonic patterns.● Memorization.
Sample Repertoire:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Bach – selected Inventions● Classical Sonatinas● Schumann – Album for the Young● Bartok – Mikrokosmos Vol. 4-6● Small concertinos
End of Year Evaluation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● A minimum of 6 scales and arpeggios (3 major and 3 minor), hands together in parallel motion. (Adjudicators will choose from among those prepared.)● Solo Repertoire: 2 or 3 pieces of contrasting character and representing different periods, for memory (unless from the Modern Era). If 3 pieces, possibly one is an etude of appropriate difficulty.
Additional Requirements for Young Artist Diploma:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Average Score of “high pass” for final Level II Evaluation.● Three solo performances per year at Rivers (at an all-school or dep’t event).● Three year-long electives in total.

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LEVEL THREE

Skills & Goals:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Introduction to playing 3rds, 6ths, and octaves.● More complex polyphonic works.● Detailed work on appropriate interpretive elements.● Introduction to more complex etudes.● Memorization.
Sample Repertoire:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Bach – Concerti; selections from Well-Tempered Clavier● Classical Sonatas● Mozart – Concerti● Chopin – Nocturnes, Preludes● Schubert – Impromptus● Debussy – Images
End of Year Evaluation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● A minimum of 8 scales and arpeggios (4 major and 4 minor), hands together in parallel motion. (Adjudicators will choose from among those prepared.) Alternatively, the candidate will present an Etude of appropriate difficulty, as long as all 24 major/minor scales/arpeggio have previously been passed. (See Dep't Chair.)● Solo Repertoire: 2 or 3 pieces of contrasting character and representing different periods, for memory (unless from the Modern Era). If 3 pieces, possibly one is an Etude of appropriate difficulty.● In order to pass out of LEVEL III, all 24 major & minor scales and arpeggio must have been passed. (See Dep't Chair.)
Additional Requirements for Young Artist Diploma:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Average Score of "high pass" for final Level III Evaluation● Three solo performances per year (at an all-school or dep't event). A half recital of 30 minutes of music is required to complete Level III.● Three year-long electives in total.

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LEVEL FOUR

Skills & Goals:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● High level of technical achievement.● Contemporary Seminar participation.● Development of more sophisticated musicianship skills.● Memorization.
Sample Repertoire:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Bach – selections from the Well-Tempered Clavier, Partitas● Beethoven – Concertos● Chopin – Ballades● Debussy – Etudes● Liszt – Concert Etudes● Scriabin – Sonata No.9
End of Year Evaluation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Must have passed the Scales/Arpeggios test. (See Dep't Chair.)● Etude: 1 etude of appropriate difficulty.● Solo Repertoire: 2 pieces of contrasting character and representing different periods, for memory (unless composed in the last 25 years).
Additional Requirements for Young Artist Diploma:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Average Score of “high pass” for final Level IV Evaluation● Three solo performances per year at Rivers (at an all-school or dep't event). Both a full recital with 50 minutes of music and a half recital with 30 minutes of music are required to complete Level IV.● Three year-long electives in total.