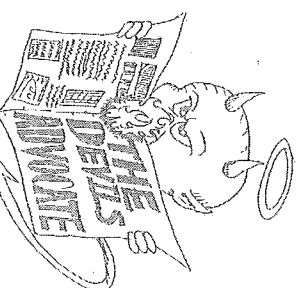


# The BLUE DEVIL'S

Advocate



Richmond High School  
35320 Division Road  
Richmond, MI 48062

Volume 10, Issue 3

February 21, 2014

## Richmond welcomes new Curriculum Director

By: Beth Beindt  
Coordinating Editor

From the Lancers to the Devils, new Curriculum Director Anthony Birkmeier is working on setting the path for his new vision of impacting student learning.

### Personal Life

A married man, Mr. Birkmeier has two kids, John and Madelyn. John was born on October 25, 2013 and Madelyn is going to turn two-years-old in March.

Besides spending time with his family, Mr. Birkmeier engages in many free-time activities. He said, "I do a lot. I love trying new things out."

Among the many things Mr. Birkmeier enjoys doing, he loves golfing, history and reading. Unfortu-

nately, taking educational specialist classes has held his hobbies in their tracks. He loves to learn and all his hobbies center around that.

Mr. Birkmeier grew up in a small town outside of Flint where he lived and worked on a farm. He graduated with only 69 other students. Growing up in such a small town meant a tight-knit community, which in turn is what Mr. Birkmeier wants to focus on for Richmond.

### School Life

Mr. Birkmeier has gone through seven years of post-high school schooling. He attended Michigan State University for human biology for four years and then attended Saginaw Valley State University to attain his teaching masters in educational leadership, which took him a year-and-a-half to obtain. Mr. Birkmeier is currently attend-

ing the University of Michigan to earn an Educational Specialist's Degree in Curriculum Instruction. This will end in April.

From MSU to U of M, one could say it was a divided household. But, when the schools are playing head to head, his heart "bleeds green".

At first, it wasn't hallways, desks, pencils and teaching in the future for Mr. Birkmeier.

"I was going to be a doctor at first because I got pre-acceptance at Michigan State. I started there, but I just felt like it wasn't envisioned in my future," said Mr. Birkmeier. He said the medical field comes with a lot of responsibilities to fulfill and time requirements.

"You have to give up family time, and that's just not me."

He said it was his professors at U of M that gave him the extra nudge to expand his leadership abilities

and keep applying to positions.

### Professional Life

Before applying for the Curriculum Director's position at RHS, Mr. Birkmeier's home was L'Ans Creuse, where he worked for five years as a teacher.

He taught several courses including Biology, Chemistry, Conceptual Physics, Physics, and Forensic Science, which he created the course curriculum for.

In addition, he was the Science Department Technology Coordinator along with a committee chair member of several other building and district committees. Mr. Birkmeier wrote in an email, "As for extracurricular activities, I was the Odyssey of the Mind coordinator and coach and the class sponsor for the Class of 2013 and the Class of 2017."

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## RHS saying 'hola' to Spain in 2015

By: Jonah Vandenburg  
Staff Writer

After years of practicing their Spanish, students say 'adios' to textbooks and 'hola' to Spain!

In June 2015, RHS Students will be getting onto a flight that will land in Madrid, Spain.

The group of students will travel through major cities in Spain from June 24 to July 2 and will cost just over \$4,000. This sum includes all meals, hotels, museum costs and so on.

The trip will start in Madrid, travel to Bilbao, San Sebastian, Zaragoza, Pamplona and end up and will also depart from Barcelona, where students will return to the U.S.

*"From this trip, I hope to gain a positive cultural experience."*

*- Mrs. Smallwood*

The group will tour the cities in detail with a guide, and they will also tour through medieval areas, museums and different neighborhoods.

The students will stay busy from the time they wake up until the time they go to bed, as the trip is nonstop. "The part of the trip I look to most

is visiting Barcelona and visiting all the other cities," said Señora Smallwood, Spanish teacher at Richmond High.

Mrs. Smallwood looks most forward to seeing the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao because it is one of those museums where the "rich and famous" get in.

Not only does Mrs. Smallwood look forward to seeing the sights, but she also looks forward to the educational opportunities that will come of this trip.

Mrs. Smallwood said, "From this trip, I hope to gain positive cultural experience, and for students to understand Spain's history. Also, it will be nice for the students to connect with the

history of Spain and Spain's culture, culturally comparing Spain to America."

It is not required for students to speak Spanish on the trip, but it is hoped so.

When students do use Spanish, it will help them be confident about themselves using another language while interacting with the people

and overall country.

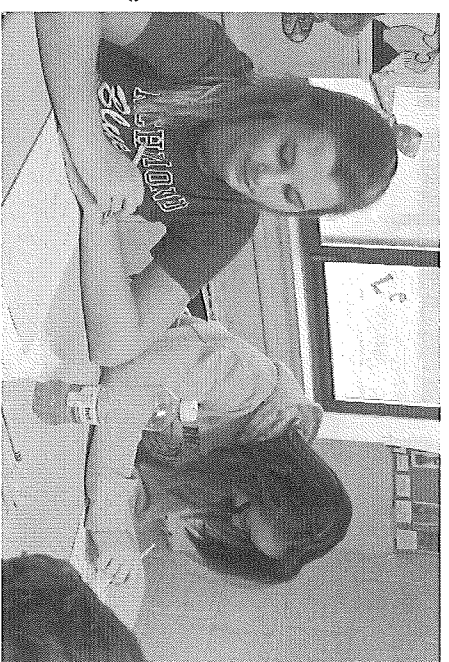
"Traveling is education itself and it is also visual, which will make the classroom material come to life," said Mrs. Smallwood.

To plan a trip like this, it took significant effort. Mrs. Smallwood and Mrs. Wolfe considered the paperwork, time and money.

The trip is set in 2015 because with a whole year's advance, the teachers give students time to save up money and learn more about the culture.

Sophomore Cassandra Sacra will be attending the trip to Spain next year.

"I look forward to going to Madrid and seeing all the different cultures of Spain," said Sacra. To save money for the trip, Sacra plans to get a job over the summer



Freshmen Rachel McKiernan and Emma Caperton complete a worksheet during Spanish class. In the future students will have the opportunity to apply their knowledge in Spain. (Photo courtesy RHS Yearbook)

and fundraiser to save up for the trip.

Sacra said, "Going to Spain will be fun. I have always wanted to go somewhere new and see new things."

John Hildreth, freshman, is also planning on going to Spain. "I plan on going on the field trip because it will be very educational and fun to learn and see all about different countries," said Hildreth.

He looks forward to going out of the country and fundraising money to save up for his trip.

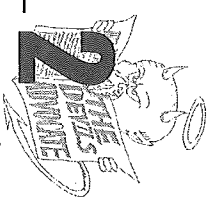
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Mostly Cloudy  
High: 33°  
Low: 27°

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## R.I.P. Backpacks

By: Ryan Telow  
Editorial Editor

With the passing of the Bond, RHS's older technology won't be the only thing getting lifted off students' shoulders. Principal Mrs. Michon and Assistant Principal Mr. Bourdeau have applied a new procedure that will not allow backpacks in class. "Mrs. Michon and I have talked about it in the past, but we came to an agreement that only allowing students to have backpacks while entering and exiting the building as well as for Band and PE classes will be beneficial," said Mr. Bourdeau. The final decision to eliminate the backpacks led to some negative opinions by students. "I think the backpack rule simply isn't fair. Why should we not be

able to wear our backpacks my senior year when I've been bringing a backpack to class every day since sixth grade? I use my backpack for multiple reasons one being that so when I finish class work in one of my class's I can finish homework from another class without having to use a hall pass," said senior Brett Brincefield.

Being on time to class has recently been a priority for many students at RHS with the new attendance policy stating: Anyone over four tardies receives a Saturday School.

"Having a class in the English wing and then having class in the Math wing has been such pain when it comes to making it to class on time. With my backpack, I can skip my locker and make it my classes so I won't get any tardies," said senior Zach Kasza.

With having the attendance policy on the back of their minds, the decision was not taken lightly to decide whether or not to keep the backpacks by the school's administra-

tion.

"One of the main reasons Mrs. Michon and I decided to enforce the rule was to increase the flow in the hallways. Without having backpacks it makes the kids go to their lockers and eliminates the students that are standing around. I noticed the first day that the flow in the hallways was much better and hopefully that gets kids to class on time," said Mr. Bourdeau.

As well as involving the attendance policy, there were multiple reasons for the backpacks needing to go.

"As far as the identification purpose goes we noticed that with the backpacks, it caused a lot of clutter in the hallways and it definitely isn't as easy to identify a student as it is now without the backpacks. It clears up the hallways making it easier to react more immediately if necessary," said Mr. Bourdeau.

Some students, however, felt that there are better ways to identify

students.

"I just don't see why you can't identify kids by their clothing or hair rather than taking the backpacks away for us," said Brincefield.

Although it may seem unfair to students, there were multiple reasons for the decision to get rid of the backpacks.

"Another reason we decided to get rid of the backpacks is not only does it clear up the halls but it also gets rid of tripping hazards in class during evacuation purposes. Getting rid of the backpacks was a deterrent as well. It just gets rid of the possibility of someone bringing something dangerous into our school," said Mr. Bourdeau.

With multiple reasons for the end to the backpacks some students are taking the extra step in hope of changing their minds.

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## Out of the tool shed and into the light

By: Elizabeth Urban  
Education.

Team work. Planning for a future. Those are all great lessons learned when joining RHS's Robotics team, named the Blue Devils. As a robotics team RHS competes annually in the late winter early spring in two district competitions. Coming in on their third year, the Robotics Team is gearing up for many competitions in the upcoming season.

The team participates in a program called F.I.R.S.T Robotics which stands for, "For inspiration and recognition of science and technology"

There are competitions for students in high school, middle and elementary school.

"Robotics is meant to educate and popularize STEM

(science technology engineering and mechanical) and to get students involved in becoming a scientist or engineer," said Jacob Mathes, junior.

The robotics team consists of 14 members and is led by Mr. Roodbeen, science teacher at RHS. "What I like about robotics is the fact that it's preparing for my future. I want to enter the business field and right now I'm learning is public speaking, writing and how to work with other people. It's helping me to be a good leader," Mathes said.

Each year every team is given a certain theme based around a game to build a robot for. Mathes said, "We both benefit and work towards our individual goal." This season the game is "Aerial Assist." The objective is to move a large exercise ball from one side of the field to a goal on the other side you get more points for every robot that is involved in moving the ball down the field so teamwork is a ma-

for part of the work involved.

Within robotics, there are three categories to participate in: business, mechanical and programming.

Building the robot is the responsibility of the mechanical part of the crew. They physically put together the robot. After that the programmers develop a "brain" for the robot which is what tells it to move around and gives it purpose for existing.

The team is given only six weeks to finish everything and that includes ordering parts, and designing and making the robot.

Mathes said, "A big thing you learn from robotics is how to work with other people but also each person on the team has an important niche on the team, and you realize that as time goes on."

Mathes, a veteran of three years, is the business captain for the club. He deals with outreach to increase people's interest in doing robotics and science.

Part of that job includes having deadlines and a game plan for what they're doing to move forward in the

robotics world.

The other major part of it is the community outreach.

Costing \$5,000 to participate annually in Robotics, fundraising and reaching sponsors is a crucial part of the process.

In order to get those sponsors, the team approaches different local businesses and shows them their business plan. That way they are presenting what they need in a way that seems professional and understandable to the businesses.

"Our greater aim than a sponsorship is a partnership where we work alongside companies and both get benefits," said Mathes.

Every year at competitions, the team competes with teams from across the state for business awards.

The team only being in their third year, it is nearly unheard of that they have a set business plan and are aiming to win the "Chairman's Award."

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## H & H Student Driving School — 2014

At Richmond High School  
23 Years of Experience  
State Bonded. Fully Licensed and Insured

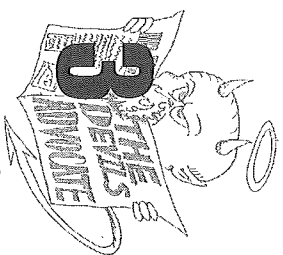
### Segment 1 -- \$279.00

- Must be 14 years & 8 months of age on first day of class
- Parental permission and original birth certificate
- \$100 deposit on day 1 of class

### Segment 2 -- \$30

- Must possess a valid Level 1 Learner's License for 90 days
- Parental permission (Signed Permission of 30 Hours Practice Driving)
- Driving permit

Classes held spring, summer, and fall. See Mr. R. Harshbarger for details on upcoming classes.



## Richmond, a drug free community

Nick Thomas  
Staff writer

Drugs can be a big problem in schools and in kids' lives, but with help, addiction to these drugs can be avoided.

Richmond High School is having a drug abuse assembly on February 24 at 6 pm. The assembly will be two hours long and will help students learn more about drug use and its consequences.

"The purpose of this assembly is to inform parents and students about drug abuse and give the students and parents a perspective from judges and former addicts," said Principal Mr. Bourdeau.

RHS wants their students and parents to know what the consequences of drugs are and how they can negatively affect the human body. Students will not be required to attend the assembly but winter sport athletes will be required to be present

at the assembly.

"The board of education, Dr. Olson, Mrs. Michon, myself, the Richmond Police Department and Northwest Coalition played a major part in constructing and deciding to have the assembly," said Bourdeau.

There have also been many rumors of Richmond High School drug testing their student athletes. Many people have talked about it and have been hoping to see this happen in the school.

"A few schools in Michigan drug test their student athletes and so does the NCAA. The thought of drug testing our student-athletes has been brought up, but will not happen this year or next year, but it is in discussion," said Mr. Bourdeau.

There are many different thoughts and perspectives on this subject. About 20 percent of U.S. schools drug test their students. In 2006 about 14 percent of U.S. schools were drug testing their students.

Therefore, more and more schools are gradually beginning to drug test their students.

At the assembly there will be perspectives from judges and former addicts to give information to students and parents about the consequences of drugs and what they can do to you.

The judges and former addicts will speak and give spectators information on drugs and the negative impact they have on you. The main purpose of this assembly is to get information to students and parents about how drugs are bad for you, and to persuade you to stay away from them.

The assembly was scheduled for an earlier time in the winter, but has been delayed because of many of the snow days that we have had.

The activities that will take place at the assembly include the following: various organizations and judges will speak to the audience about

drug issues and trends in Macomb County.

"I think that every student should have to go. It's a shame that kids who need it the most won't get all the information from the assembly," said Coach Barnes.

Not all students are required to attend this assembly just winter athletes are.

"We cannot legally require the whole student body to attend the assembly, but we can require student-athletes to attend the assembly because they are involved in extra-curricular activities," said Bourdeau.

There are probably many students who are not student athletes who need this help, but won't go because they don't have to. The drug abuse assembly is a great idea and can help many people, and will hopefully have a helpful impact on many kids.

## Growing musicians

By: Stephanie Zube  
Features Co-Editor

RHS Choir and Band students played and sang their hearts out on Saturday, January 25.

Choir and Band students participated in the MSVMA District XVI Choir Solo and Ensemble Festival and MSBOA District XVI Band Solo and Ensemble Festival last month.

The Choir Solo and Ensemble took place at Chippewa Valley High School, while the Band Solo and Ensemble took place at Rochester High School. Students in Choir Solo and Ensemble receive a score with different rankings, including superior, excellent, good, fair and poor. Superior is the highest. Students in the Band Solo and Ensemble received a score ranging from first to fifth division, with a first division being the highest score.

Mrs. Schack, Choir and Band teacher, prepared the students for their performance at Festival with open ears. She has been teaching private lessons for almost 20 years and has taught band and choir for 10 years. Ever since she began teaching, she has always sent her students to these events.

She replied in an email, "As an educator, it is very rewarding to see student's musical achievement through their own initiative." She added, "I mostly listened to their solos or ensembles after they have spent time at home preparing. I encourage students to get private lessons or seek out extra help outside of my opinion."

Students challenged themselves with attending and pre-

paring themselves for this type of event. Mrs. Schack believes it helps them grow as a musician.

"This event is mainly an individual challenge for students. It helps students grow as musicians because they are self-teaching, self-reflecting and discovering the answers on their own rather than being told how to sing or play. It also gets the students out of their comfort zone of playing or singing with a large group. The performers receive comments from an adjudicator and it is always good to get comments from someone that doesn't hear you every day," wrote Mrs. Schack.

Mrs. Schack not only encouraged and listened to the students, but she also helped students overcome nerves.

"Practice, practice and when you think you have it down pat, practice some more. Perform in front of friends, family, or basically anyone who will listen. This helps get any nerves out. Then when it comes to performing in front of their judge, they can relax and have fun!" wrote Mrs Schack.

Stephanie Graham, sophomore, was one of four choir students who participated in the Choir Solo and Ensemble Festival. She has been doing the solo and ensemble festivals since 8th grade.

Graham performed two pieces at the festival, an English and foreign piece. She challenged herself with a three-page foreign piece called "El Majo Discreto" and an English piece called "The Silver Swan."

To prepare herself, Graham practiced as much as she could.

"I practiced every day and had lessons with my personal voice teacher, Traci Bartell. I recited the words over and over to myself. Mrs Schack also gave me critiques and tips and got me the resources I needed," said Graham. When students first arrived at their

competition, they checked in and received their warm-up and performance room. Before their performance, students would warm up in their designated room and then go into their next room, where they would sing for the judges.

Aside from warming up before her performance, Graham had to overcome a little sickness.

"I had lost my voice the night before, so to overcome that, I told myself to not think about being sick and just sing normally," said Graham.

Graham's sickness did not stop her from receiving an Excellent in both her pieces.

"I was very excited, after I received my score, and was so excited that I ran to go show my parents," said Graham.

After the students performed they would receive feedback from the judges. "When we got done singing the judges took five minutes to help us work on breathing techniques and vowels. They also helped us work on our weaknesses and complimented us on our strengths. The judge said that I had a very nice tone development and also said that I had a very good intonation, which is the rise and fall of the voice," said Graham.

On the same day, at Rochester High School, Rachel Rigole, freshman, was performing her flute solo and duet. Rigole performed two pieces, a solo called "Alegrado," and a duet with Kyle Donato, senior, called "Air."

To prepare, Rigole practiced every day. "I practiced every night and went to flute lessons every week for a half hour. I also rehearsed with my duet partner," said Rigole.

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## On This Day

1842 - John J. Greenough patented the sewing machine.

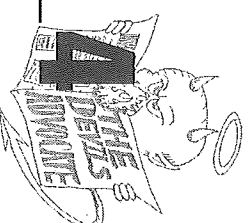
1848 - The Communist Manifesto was published by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels.

1925 - The first issue of "The New Yorker" was published.

1965 - Malcolm X was assassinated in New York City at the age of 39 by assassins identified as Black Muslims.

1968 - An agreement between baseball players and club owners increased the minimum salary for major league players to \$10,000 a year.

Source- <http://on-this-day.com/onthisday/thedays/alldays/feb21.htm>



# Looking for the 3-Peat

By: Austin Vannatter  
Sports Editor

The RHS cheer team is looking for a three-peat in continuing their State championship runs. They are the team to beat this year with a target on their back by the other Division 3 competitive cheer teams around the state.

Angel Deal a junior on the team said, "We have a good shot at States this year."

The team has a good shot at States because they are the returning back-to-back champions with plans to get another one.

The team's drive and ambition will definitely help them get back to where they want to be.

The team has a lot of confidence in getting their third straight State Championship in Division 3. The cheerleading team, being very young with eight freshmen, has shocked people with their ability this season.

Most of the people were shocked because of the stunts the young girls could do.

The team has eight freshmen who help them in their routines.

Kari Olsen, a freshman, is ready for the state championship run with her fellow teammates.

"It is a lot of hard work as freshmen but the older girls really help motivate us to keep us going," said Olson.

The district competition took place in Armada. The team had recently suffered a loss to Armada

in a league competition. The team did win the BWAC even though a loss to Armada was suffered.

The reason the defending State champs suffered a loss was because of the times the two teams competed said senior Carissa Rumpus. Armada competed before Richmond which makes them look better in front of the judges.

Armada also has four stunt groups to Richmond's three. This means Richmond was automatically down by four points going in to round three.

The following weekend the defending State champs avenged their loss to Armada but fell short to Notre Dame Prep.

The State champs did a lot of extra work to help avenge their loss to the rival Tigers of Armada.

Practices and conditioning got longer to help prepare them for districts. The team also fixed small things that went wrong in their routine.

"We had to try and make everything perfect, and we also had to switch some stuff up," said Rumpus. The team took second place at districts.

Placing second allows them to advance to the Regionals and helps them get ready to win their third consecutive State title.

"Our Round one and Two went good for us at Districts which cushioned us for Round Three. Our Round Three also went much better for us at Districts," said Rumpus.

The Regional will take place at Oxford High School on Saturday, February 21.

The team is doing a lot of extra work to help prepare them to make it out of Regionals with stiff competition. They will have Armada and Notre Dame Prep in their Regional also.

Only the top four teams advances from Regionals, so the Blue Devils will have to be on their "A" game.

The team knows what they have to do to make it back to where they want to be.

They have fixed their Round Three, so they will not have to worry about the automatic four points they are giving up to teams with four stunt groups.

"All three of our rounds have to be perfect for us to make it out of Regionals," said Rumpus.

As the team gets ready and prepared to get their best routines ready for Grand Rapids in the Delta Plex Center, they have to train as hard as they can.

Junior Lauren Riggs is new to the team this year and is very excited to try and win her first state championship and help the team win their third straight.

"It is fun and I am able to push myself to be a better athlete," said Riggs.

The Blue Devils will settle for nothing less than a third straight State championship to bring back to Richmond High School.

# Can Richmond Wrestlers Steal the Title Back?

By: Dylan Yore  
Sports Editor

How long will the Blue Devil's wrestling reign last over the BWAC?

The ferocious Richmond wrestling team accomplished its fifteenth straight District Title this season.

Team Regionals took place on their home mats, Wednesday, February 12; the squad achieved their sixth consecutive title in their region.

Junior wrestler Austin Vannatter said, "It was very special for me to help carry on the tradition of Richmond wrestling. It's important for me to help my seniors finish off their high school career with even more success."

Many seniors currently on the roster grew up watching their brothers wrestle for ex-head coach, George Hamblin and Coach Brandon Day. For example, Jake McKiernan, Nick Burg and Austin Peltier all watched older brothers compete and ultimately win state titles with the program.

Senior captain Jake McKiernan said, "Watching my brother and his fellow teammates wrestle was always exciting and intense. They were always the underdogs in their fights. My freshman and sophomore years we were expected to win. These past two years the tables have turned; I feel the intensity my brother's team felt. This defines the program because we are trained to succeed in these moments."

Practices in the wrestling room tend to range anywhere from two hours to two-and-half hours.

McKiernan said, "Our grind sessions top all the surrounding teams with a surreal schedule. These practices are why our team loves to compete under pressure."

Tough practices hold a possibility of breaking athletes and revealing the topic of team loyalty.

McKiernan said, "Our program is based on loyalty, and we have our definition. To be loyal to my team, I must do what is expected of me from our coaches and my teammates."

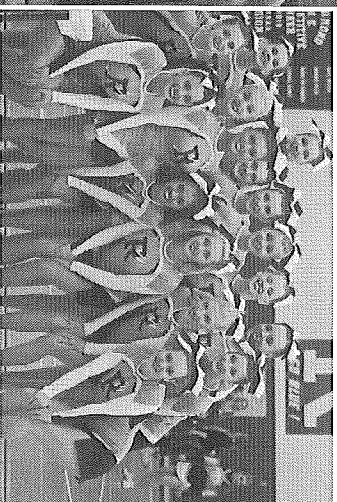
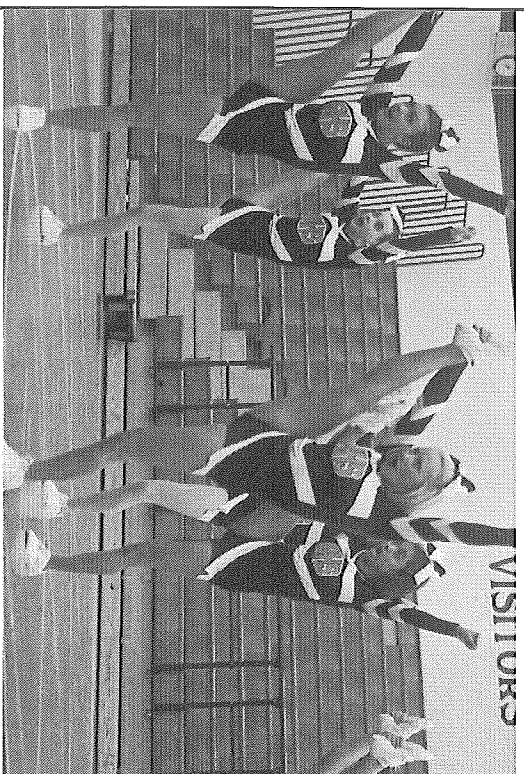
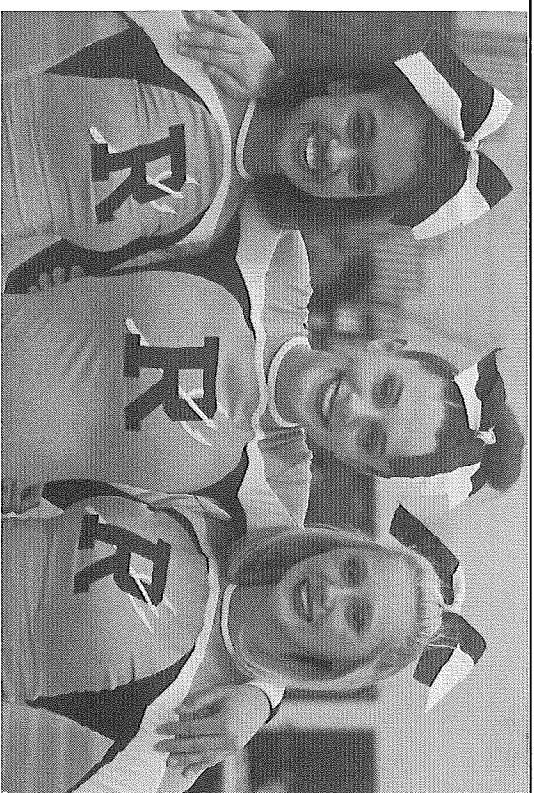
After winning the team regional Wednesday, February 12, the journey to redeem their state title back is in route.

Senior captain Austin Peltier said, "I expect to leave my senior year with one more team state title. Our first step was winning the region. We don't take any teams lightly."

Richmond is sitting in the third seed at the team State Tournament in Battle Creek this weekend.

This is the first season Richmond has taken a seed lower than first or second going into the tournament

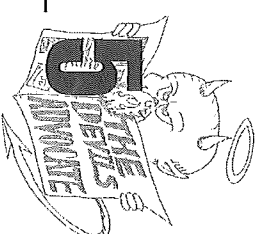
Top right: RHS cheerleaders celebrate after a good round.  
Bottom left: RHS cheer team do their heel stretches in one of the rounds.  
Bottom right: RHS' 2014 competitive cheer team.



The Blue Devil's Advocate

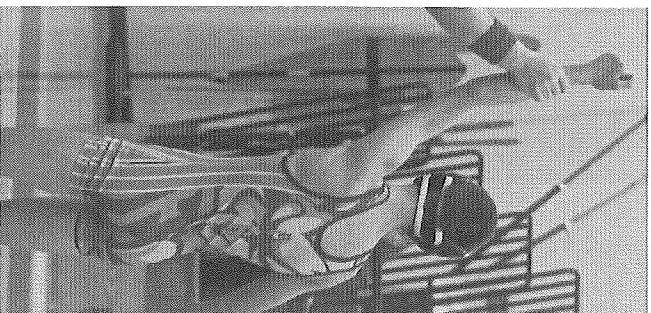
February 21, 2014

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## Richmond Wrestling

Continued from Pg. 4



Connor Behem wins his 103lbs match.  
Photo credit of RHS Yearbook.

spending time putting together line-ups that match with Dundee and Allegan as well as drilling technique specifically to match these other team's wrestlers.

McKiernan said, "We cannot go into a match knowing nothing about our opponents. We have to study their techniques and drill them in practice."

Junior Devin Skatzka said, "Allegan has two more wrestlers than us competing in the individual tournament. That is why they stole our second seed. They have some hammers in their line-up for sure, but I don't believe they are deep enough to come out on top."

The road to the Finals includes a Quarterfinals match against Remus Chippewa Hills, and if victorious, Richmond will most likely go head-to-head against the second seed, Allegan.

Skatzka said, "Being ranked behind Allegan and Dundee actually

relieves pressure for us because we don't have to worry about sealing a first seed. Competing as third seed is exciting because we have the chance to win two underdog matches."

Richmond has a week to prepare for the state tournament at Kellogg Arena, which will take place Friday and Saturday, February 21 and 22.

Skatzka said, "We have been working on scoring bonus points and not giving up bonus points."

Being a junior captain and wanting to achieve another state championship with his senior teammates, Skatzka has to step up and lead to prepare for success.

Skatzka said, "To me, winning my match and scoring bonus points sets the momentum for the rest of the team."

Individual, Richmond had all 14 of their District bids advance to the Regional Tournament Saturday, February 15. This is the second time in team history the team has had all 14 qualify. The team had 9 champions,

three second place spots, one bronze and one fourth place wrestler.

McKiernan said, "We are happy to have had all 14 advance to Regionals. Right now, we are focused on achieving a team title though."

After hosting the Individual Regional Tournament Saturday, February 15, Richmond had nine of their 14 wrestlers advance to the state tournament taking place at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

Individual states are talked about all season when the wrestlers check if they are ranked on MichiganGrapple.com

Richmond's two-time individual state champion, Devin Skatzka said, "I have a returner who is pretty good but I am going to take it one match at a time. I care less about my individual states performance than our team states performance."

# RHS' athletes on confidence and sportsmanship

By: Jacob Thomas  
News Editor

### Confidence.

It is a key trait to success in life. Not only is confidence important in life, but it is important in sports as well.

For athletes there is no greater mental aspect than confidence and the ability to be mentally stronger than your opponents.

Senior Haley Schweiger has been an important part to varsity athletics at RHS since she has stepped foot in the school. Schweiger has been on

the girls' varsity basketball team all four years and on the varsity volleyball team for three years.

She attributes her success to her confidence she has in herself and her team.

"Confidence is really important to being successful. Confidence gives you a better mentality than your opponents. If you have confidence you will play better and it helps motivate your team," said Schweiger.

Schweiger considers herself a senior leader for her teams which is one of the reasons why she has been so successful at RHS.

"I would consider myself a confident player because I try to be a

leader. Being a leader is important because it helps the entire team be confident," said Schweiger.

As a senior, Schweiger's advice to future RHS athletes is to be always be confident in yourself and your team.

"I would tell others to always be confident even when things aren't going your way because not everything is going to go the way you want. Having confidence only helps yourself do better and gives your team motivation to succeed as well," said Schweiger.

Sophomores Stefan Fenwick and Spencer Trapiss participate in football, basketball, and baseball at RHS

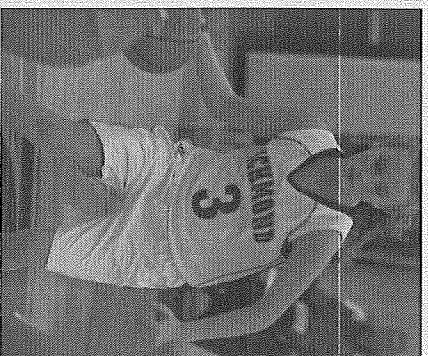


Photo credit to RHS Yearbook

## Mikayla Mlot

Nickname: Milkie

Age: 14

Grade: 9

Sport(s): Volleyball, Basketball, and Softball

Favorite pump up song: Remember the Name

Favorite Food: Pizza

Favorite class: Science

Future Goals: Get a scholarship for sports.

## Senior Athletes

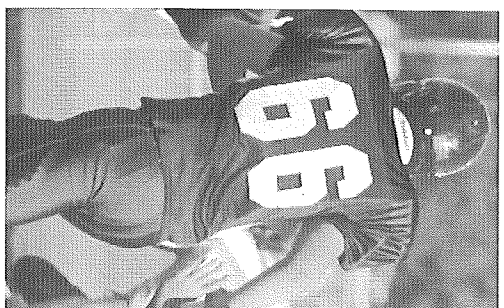


Photo credit to RHS Yearbook

## August Aiken

Nickname: Gus

Age: 14

Grade: 9

Sport(s): Football and Wrestling

Favorite pump up song: Any Eminem song

Favorite food: Pizza

Favorite class: Geometry

Future goals: Work at a hospital and be a doctor.

and expressed their feelings on confidence in sports.

"I think having a mentality like being confident makes you play harder. It gives you an edge over your opponents," said Trapiss.

Fenwick has a similar take to the matter.

"Some people consider being confident like being cocky, but it's really not the same. You have emotion and you send a message to your opponent," said Fenwick.

"I think it's good to have confidence at every level in high school sports. Confidence makes you play harder and compete better," said Trapiss.

Student-athletes usually have a role model or someone they want to be like. After all, who wouldn't look up to somebody who is one of the best at what they do for a career?

By now, every sports fanatic has seen Seattle Seahawk's cornerback Richard Sherman's post-game interview after a victory over the San Francisco 49ers in the NFC conference championship game.

It was an argument on television all week. Was the interview a little overboard or just the heat of the moment and true emotion?

Many believe the act was of poor sportsmanship and was not good for the NFL.

Senior Nick Ottenbacher is a huge NFL fan and provided his insight to Sherman's interview.

"I thought he may have taken it too far, but I like the passion he has. I think the media blew it out proportion," said Ottenbacher.

Ottenbacher believes being humble is important in sports, but for the professional game, being cocky adds for a better storyline.

"Humble honestly gets old in professional sports. I think it's a great

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