

High School years

By: Brendon Jacques  
*Sports editor*

Dear Kyle and Rylie,  
It's coming down to my last few days here at Richmond high school and it was quite a journey. Even past education my last four years have definitely had its ups and downs. Going from building relationships with lifelong friends, playing the sport you love, and maybe even dealing with a crush you may have.

In my experience, building relationships with the friends I have today are important. Knowing both of you very well, I know it will be for you guys too. Friendships are just something that last a lifetime.

Without my core group of friends I don't know if I would have made it through high school and achieved everything I had. I strongly believe that everyone going through high school needs a core group of friends that truly care about them.

Find those friends that you know will have your back. It is extremely important to get into the right groups and stay out of trouble as much as you can.

Although your grades must be the number one priority, make sure high school is an enjoyable for yourself. It might only be a short four years but it is very important. I can say that my group of friends have made high school the best years of my life, and I will never forget that.

As you guys know, soccer has always been a passion of mine. From a young age I had worked hard to get to the level I'm at today. I highly suggest that you guys continue to stay passionate in any sport or activity you may be interested in.

To have a passion and being motivated to achieve goals is a trait that will stick with you for the rest of your life. It teaches you to have discipline and to stay motivated to achieve something. When you finally achieve your goals in something you love, there is no greater feeling. Whatever it may be, you just have to strive for it. You only have so many years to compete and play sports. Take advantage of that before time runs



MATT BARTOLOMUCCI

Age: 14

Grade: Freshman

Sports: Baseball, football, and basketball

Favorite Class: World history

Future Goals: Play college sports

Favorite Athlete: Demar DeRosan

out. For me, that time is running out. Soccer is such an important part of my life and it hurts to think it is almost done. Not only does extra high school activities benefit you for the rest of your life, but it's just awesome to be a part of something.

Playing soccer with my friends were very exciting moments. Nothing beats doing something you love with the people you care so much about. I can't stress to you guys enough. Find something you love, no matter what it may be, and just go out and do it. That goes for high school and the rest of your life.

There is nothing tougher than a high school relationship. This is where you'll find your first love and really know how it feels like to be close to someone.

Although, it gets hard your senior year. This is where you start thinking more about your future. It's difficult to pick between who you think at the time might be the love of your life and deciding your own destiny. Sometimes life just doesn't always work out the way you want it to be. There are just too many challenges and different journeys that two people can't overcome. That's where you just have to follow your heart. Do what you think is going to make you the most happy and successful.

To this moment, I'm not sure that I really did follow my heart. Sometimes life gets scary and you push away the people you love most. I still go back and forth on whether the decisions I made this past year were for the better or the worst. Maybe you make the wrong decision. You have to live with that decision and make the best of it. What I learned is that if it's meant to be then it will happen. If it doesn't seem like the right time now it may still happen later in life. I can't tell you this enough. Never be afraid of the change that will occur in your life. I've always struggle with change and that's still something I need to overcome. Change is always occurring in our lives and it's how you deal with change is what's going to make you a stronger and happier person.

In the end, it's just high school and there is still so much more to come.

Senior

JULIAN SWEENEY

Age: 14

Grade: Freshman

Sports: Soccer and volleyball

Favorite class: Physical Science

Future goals: Play college soccer

Favorite athlete: Alex Morgan



Last Moments

By: Matthew Schuster  
*Opinions co-editor*

In my four years at Richmond High School, my main focus was school and soccer. I think I loved soccer more than anything else in the world. I would go out and play soccer and think about nothing else but soccer.

All my four years of high school, I would start every year and spend all summer conditioning for next year's season. I used to hate going to work out and run all day. I would wake up and regret that I had to do it, but now I would do anything to be able to work out all summer and be able to play one more season.

I have been playing soccer with nine of my friends since the day I could remember. They became more than just teammates to me; they became my closest friends.

The worst part about saying goodbye is not that I was sad about the loss; it was because I'll never be able to be on the soccer field with my friends again. Now, all I have left is the memories we created in the ten years that I have played with them since we were eight years old behind the elementary school.

People always complain about how they hate their sport and that they can't wait for the season to be over. But when it's your senior year and you realize you won't ever play your sport again, you wish you could go back and relive that season.

You wish you could relive every season because it's the worst feeling to be done with something that you spent your whole life doing.

I hated waking up at seven a.m. to go workout with the soccer team.

I hated running from touch line to touch line.

I hated practices that lasted for two hours in 95 degree weather.

I hated watching film and the long lectures.  
But the thing that I hated the most is losing.

And that's why I woke at six a.m. and started working a half hour before everyone got there.

That's why I always finished first when running from touch line to touch line.

That's why I practiced for another hour after everyone left.

That's why I took notes and prepared when everyone wasn't paying attention.

That's why I almost never lost.

In the last two years, we only lost one game in the BWAAC. We won district titles in the last two years, but sadly lost both years in regionals.

People always say live every moment like it will be your last because once it is your last moment, you don't want to have any regrets.

You'll always play the "what-if" mind game after it's over, but you never want to be asking yourself "Why didn't I try harder?" "What if I tried my whole season or the whole four years and not that last couple of weeks or when it's too late?"

Some people won't go to college for the sport that they fell in love with growing up.

That last goal, last touchdown or last three you made.

That is what they will remember for the rest of their lives when they think about high school. Other people are so lucky to be able to play the next four years at a very high level while getting their degree.

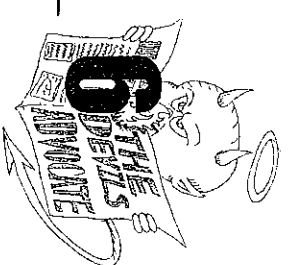
People who go to college for a sport don't realize how lucky they are to go to college and play their sport. They start and expect a scholarship because they are so good.

But there are kids out there, trying their hardest to even just make any team but sadly fall short. They would do anything to have a chance to play in college.

For those kids who think they are the best or don't have to try today, there is someone else out there working 110% every single second to get what you have.

I made a college team and also got a scholarship for soccer. I know that once I get to college I will compete for a starting spot. I know there are people who are trying to get in my place, but I will work even harder than them so I know I'll have a spot. The biggest advice I could give the underclassmen is that you really don't know what you have until it's too late, so live every moment like it's your last, because it might be.





“I Don’t Have A Title”

By: Lauren Duche  
Advertising Editor

“The best years of our lives.” Everyone told me that high school is supposed to be the best time of my life. I heard it as I walked through those doors on my very first day. You’ll never forget your first homecoming. You’ll never forget your last Friday night football game. You’ll never forget the smell of freshly sharpened pencils on the first day of each new year.

During these years, you’re supposed to make your fondest memories. Meet your best friends for life. Figure out what you want to do for the rest of your life.

It sounds so wonderful doesn’t it? It sounds so amazing, in fact, that every kid dreams and longs for the day they can finally be in the big kid school. They look so far ahead they’re living for the future and not in the moment.

The truth is, unfortunately, high school is far from glamorous.

I’ve gone through all four years. I’m graduating in just a few days, and I refuse to believe that these will be the best four years of my life. I don’t remember anything about my first homecoming, and the only thing I remember from my last football game was that I was miserable because November in Richmond, Michigan is beyond freezing. I walked in with a large group of acquaintances I had throughout middle school and I’m walking out without any of them.

You don’t walk out of high school with the same people you walk in with, that’s a promise. I’ve met some really great people, but I’m also not naive to think that after we graduate and go our separate ways that we’ll keep in touch.

Maybe. But who knows? High school was supposed to

be the best four years of my life, but I wish I would’ve made my time in middle school count because let me tell you those were the days. The only worry I had was which juice my mom brought back from the grocery store. I don’t know why anyone would look forward to writing a 20 page final, taking the SATs or applying for college after college with everyone breathing down your neck telling you have to know what you want to do with the rest of your life.

Actually, I do know why. It’s because everyone tells you how amazing it’s going to be. “The best four years of your life,” they’ll say with a smile. Don’t believe it.

I’m not trying to say that high school is bad, because that’s not true either. These are the last few years you’ll be able to spend without having to worry about bills, mortgages, and student debt.

You can do alright if you forget to study for that anatomy test on Monday. So go to homecoming. Go to that football game in the freezing cold with whatever

friends you have. And have fun, but don’t believe that those will be the best times of your life.

The best times of our lives have yet to come. The day you graduate college and venture out into the real world all by yourself for the very first time. The day you finally land a job with the degree you worked so hard to earn. The day you purchase your first apartment. The day you decide to get married. The day you decide you want a dog and you go out and get one. The day you have your first child. The day you wake up on a sunny Saturday morning and realize all of your hard work has been worth it and you’re finally happy. When you’re finally where you want to be.

Those will be the best years of our lives.

Es ist Das Ende

By: Brandon Furtaw  
Sports Co-Editor

The Beginning End

12 years. 12 solitary years. And now all that’s left is five days. Five days until my release, our release. Five days until real life, responsibilities, and for some of us, jobs. The rest of us will go off to another school, an expensive school, a community school.

We’re all moving on from this place whether we like it or not. We have to, we’re adults now, well some of us are. Some of us might stay and finish out our lives in this town. Some of us might move away to a nearby city. Some of us might leave the state and country all together. Who’s to say where life will take the Class of 2017.

The adults congratulate us on our milestone and question you to the n’t degree about your career choice; the “old people” tell us that it goes by too fast, and the college kids tell us it just gets better... but who knows?

It took 12 years of learning to graduate and there’s still things I don’t know how to do. I am thankful that I know the mitochondria is the powerhouse of the cell because you know, that’s important.

But even though we never learned how to file taxes or how to speak in front of large crowds or debate your opinions in front of a group, I am thankful for the things I’ve learned here and the people that have taught them to me.

The Middle End

This is the last article I will write for the Blue Devils Advocate. This is the last time I will... what else is the last thing I will do in high school, there’s a lot of them. My last first day, my last last day, my last lunch. If we’re the top dogs then why are we

remembered as ‘last’? It doesn’t matter, it can’t matter, and in a few days in won’t matter.

It is just crazy to think as a student, as a person, this is the last year of required school. I don’t have to go to college, there’s plenty of jobs out there for high school level educated employees. They won’t pay as well but they still pay something. If I didn’t go to college in the fall it’s not the end of the world. How do I know? My dad, didn’t go to college. My mom’s dad, dropped out of high school. My dad’s dad, didn’t go to college.

“But Brandon, that was 30 and 50 years ago,” yeah sure not going to college and getting a job out of high school is an ‘old school’ idea but it definitely isn’t the end.

You have to keep moving forward, never backward.

The End End / Beginning?

What’s the deal with all this end of ending ends mumbo jumbo? If you ask me it’s all kind of depressing. Why should we be sad about leaving high school? Besides moving away to college and away from some people we have known for more than half our lives or all, this is an exciting time.

Going into a new place with new expectations, new people, and a clean slate to start a new future and lead it down a path that you make.

They say high school is what you make it and that college is much of the same. Whoever ‘they’ are, the high school part of that analogy was pretty much right.

Would You Rather...

Spend Your Whole Life in High School



Never Go to High School?