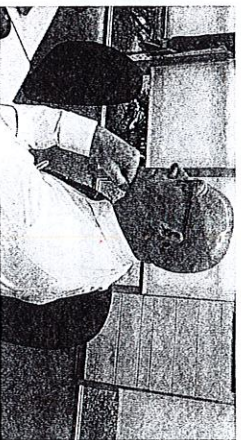


# In Our Opinion



## Question of the Week

~\*~  
**What are you excited for this summer?**



**Dr. Ladd:** Murphy's wedding.

### Senior



**Roy:** Working.

### Junior



**Ivan:** Hanging out with my friends.

### Sophomore



**John Tack:** Sleeping in and hanging out with my friends.

### Freshman



**Noel Riggs:** Being out of school.

## Opinions

## Staff Editorial: My last article for the Blue Devil's Advocate

**By: Daniel Seguin**

*Head Staff Writer*

I am feeling very conflicted as I write this.

I feel very excited. I feel very optimistic, I feel very enthused, and I feel very... afraid. I don't know if I am ready to graduate. If you are reading this, it means that I got all of my credits in and have graduated. So, by the state's standards, I am ready. But, by my own? ...eh. I

mean, I am so very excited to have all this new free time, all this freedom. But, I don't know if I am responsible enough to handle it. What am I going to do with my time? I can't just hang out. I certainly have not earned that right. I need to do something productive. I am probably going to get a job, and when I am not working, I suppose I'll be working on my music. And theatre. See, now it's too much stuff. I want time to not do anything as well. I need to reflect. So, I suppose I'll do that now.

Senior year was not as sad or exciting as I thought it would be. If anything, it was stressful. The most stressful year of my high school career: Only because of the way that I allocated my time throughout it. I'd say I spent my time roughly like this: 1% school-work 99% fun and games. (After I graduate, that 99 is going to turn into a cool 100%. In the words of artist Mark Rothco, "The black has swallowed the red.") If I hadn't tackled high school like this, senior year would have been a breeze. But, I did, and it wasn't.

Every year, seniors always say "It goes by so fast!" And now, I guess I can say that too. Okay, here it goes: it goes by so fast. That felt wrong. I feel kinda like an idiot. Obviously it went by quickly. High school was only four years.

Four years at the end of a 13-year long journey. Compared to elementary and middle school, high school is a breeze.

Now is the point in the article where I look back on my memories from my time at Richmond. Once, in fourth grade, I left my shoes at the school.

My mother was very upset. Apparently, I had put up my chair (something that I was not able to do on my own) and then put my shoes on top, like it was routine. Why did I take my shoes off to begin with? I do not know.

In second grade, I peed my pants. My teacher asked me if I wanted to go home or go to recess. Obviously I went to recess. I quickly realized my mistake, and asked to go home.

The next year, in third grade, I just figured "Well, I peed my pants in second grade, I might as well do it again in third grade." So, I did it again. Things were not so nice that time.

I took a little break between writing this sentence and the one above it. A night. In that night, I worked on e2020 and my Spanish exam. And then, I came to Mr. Murphy's class, and he almost made me cry. I wasn't sad yesterday. And I don't know if I am sad now, but I am feeling sentimental. I am going to miss this class. I love newspaper. I am very appreciative of Mr. Murphy, and all he's taught me. I also am appreciative of Dr. Ladd, of my friends, of the theatre program, of Mrs. Michon, of Ms. Denapole, of Ms. Lepak, Mrs. Smallwood, Mr. Ogilvy, and, finally, I am appreciative of you, Dear Reader.

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#### Mission Statement:

Richmond High School's student newspaper, The Blue Devil's Advocate, strives to serve the student body and provide a public forum to make their ideas heard to the school and community. Our goal is to provide both accurate and balanced stories in order to heighten understanding, entertain, and inform.

#### Letters:

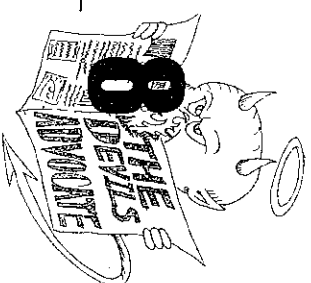
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#### Non-Discrimination Statement:

In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education amendments of 1972, Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title II of the Americans with Disability Act of 1990, and Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act of 1977, it is the policy of the Richmond Community School District that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, military status, national origin or ancestry, sex (including sexual orientation), disability, age (except as authorized by law,) height, weight, or marital status be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to, discrimination during any program, activity, service or employment. Inquiries related to any nondiscrimination policies should be directed to the Superintendent, 35276 Division Road, Richmond, MI 48062, (586) 727-3565.

May 19, 2017





## What You'll Learn

By: Jenna Stafford  
Features Co-Editor

Four years.

For some, four years of high school doesn't seem like enough. Four years flies by, and there's simply not enough days that you could ever feel fully satisfied—like you did enough, went to enough, spent enough time with these friends you've had since you could walk. For some, there's just not enough time to ever feel complete when you're done.

For others, four years drags by. Four years feels like four years too long. Like you wasted too much time in this stage of your life, and you're ready for the next years to begin with new people and new experiences.

Every senior, at the end of it all, can say that they've learned things over these four years that has shaped them into who they are today.

So, from a senior, here's what you will learn.

You'll learn that stress doesn't last forever. You might feel like exam week will never end, your final paper will never get finished, or your project will never be complete. It will.

You'll learn you should always go the extra mile. Give 100% in your work. Take the AP classes. Study for the SAT. Your hard work will pay off. You'll learn to stop putting things off.

Stop waiting until the last minute to finish your work. Stop waiting to tell someone how you feel. We don't have forever.

You'll learn that you will make mistakes. You will do things that you regret. It'll blow over—it always does. But don't make the same mistake twice.

You'll learn that sometimes life can hand you every bad card in the deck, and sometimes all at once. The cliché is true—what doesn't kill you makes you stronger.

You'll learn that people change. Sometimes it's for the better, and sometimes it's for the worse. They will not always be who you thought they were.

You'll learn to never let how much you love someone be an excuse for how poorly they treat you. If they don't return the same effort that you give them, leave.

You'll learn that sometimes you have to walk away. Sometimes, things are no longer what they were. So if you have to, walk away. If they don't fight to make you stay, you're better off without them.

You'll learn to trust your gut. If you have a bad feeling about something or someone, it's there for a reason.

You'll learn that if everyone is telling you something, it's probably true. It's always easier to get an objective view on a situation from the outside looking in. If an outsider is telling you something, listen. Don't let yourself be naïve. You'll learn that sometimes, your best

effort isn't enough. Don't let that break you.

You'll learn to pay attention to how the people you call your friends treat other people. What they are willing to do to others, they probably aren't afraid to do to you.

You'll learn that not everyone deserves to be forgiven. Leave it in the past, but don't forget what happened.

You'll learn that you won't always get the apologies that you deserve. Some people will never admit to their mistakes. Accept that and move on.

You'll learn that endings aren't always final. Never make a goodbye forever. If something is meant to be, it will be, even if that is two weeks, two months, two years, or two decades later.

You'll learn to listen to the adults in your life. As much as you think you have everything figured out, you probably don't. Keep in mind that they've done all this a few times.

And at the end of the day, when you walk across the stage, take your diploma, and flip your tassel to the left side of your graduation cap, you'll learn something else, too.

You'll learn that there is so much more left to learn, and this is just the beginning.

This is growing up. This is the start of the rest of your life—and this is what you'll learn.

## Best Days Are Still Ahead

By: Ally Oddo  
Staff Writer

As a senior I have come to realize that the phrase 'high school will be the best days of your life' is completely untrue. It's the days that come after high school to start a new adventure and what a person should be looking forward to.

Whether your future is joining the military, traveling, furthering education, or even going straight into the work force, change is always happening and a path is always curving. Opportunities are endless when it comes to being young and ambitious; there will be so many options for the young adults that come out of high school and experience the real world.

Everyone has their own pathway they take in life and a lot of them are different from the rest. Your life is what you make out of it and the adventures you take along the way. After high school, some are thrown into the real world and others are eased, but anything that happens is a lesson learned.

Every mistake that is made, a person learns from. Once you are on your own everything you do will be accounted for on you in the long run. 'You learn something new every day,' is another phrase used by many meaning you're never done learning even after high

school.

What's so fascinating is that once high school is over nobody will remember what you wore on the first day of school or what classes you passed with an A in or who you dated in freshmen year.

They're going to remember if you graduated or if you moved out of the country or when you got married. High school is not the best days of our life because we haven't started ours yet.

Ponder on this for a minute: in 20 years from now do you really want to be saying high school was the best years of your life? Maybe they will be, but personally I don't want to be saying that. In 20 years I want to be saying how proud of my kids I am and looking forward to my next adventure in life.

My Next Step

On May 17, I am going to be moving to Winchester, Virginia. In December I will be moving again to Charlottesville, Virginia. There, I will be attending James Madison University to study Pre-Veterinary Medicine.

James Madison was not my first choice, though. I have wanted to attend Mississippi State University to study Agriculture. Due to expenses I could not attend Mississippi State and I only found this out in early April.

Since I found out so late about this

dilemma I had to find another way to attend college at a lower expense, but still attend in the fall. That's when I started looking around in Virginia for college that had something I was interested in, but was affordable.

I was able to find colleges that were still accepting applications this late, but it wasn't easy and it took several weeks.

I am a strong believer in "everything happens for a reason." I never expected to change schools right after I thought my decision was final. I believe that there is a reason I couldn't go to my initial school in the fall. I may not know that reason yet, but during my high school years I've also learned to not freak out when something goes wrong. From the four years of high school I have learned that every path you take will determine your future and set you on a path that was intended for you. I have also learned that a person is never given more than they can handle.

The four years that are spent in high school are going to be a stepping stone for your future. In those four years you will determine your next step into the real world and it won't be easy. So, make the most of the last four years before the best days of your life.