

FEATURES

Twirl, Tap, 1st Position

By: Sydney Black
Staff Writer

What is dance? Well, one may think that it's something to do on your free time, or something you wish you could do, or perhaps something you vow to never do again. For Tia Cronauer, however, it's her whole life.

Cronauer spends at least 13 hours a week at JLP's Leap of Faith Dance studio. Every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday, for the past 12 years, Cronauer has spent two hours, if not more, practicing her skills and routines.

"I take ballet, contemporary, jazz, and hip-hop classes," said Cronauer. "But for competition, I only do contemporary, jazz, and hip-hop."

Cronauer's favorite dance is her hip-hop routine—it's fast, energetic, fun and the style that she enjoys most.

There's two main seasons in the dance world: regular and competition. Regular season exists to prepare the dancers to compete at different competitions around Michigan.

But why dance?

"I chose dance because as I was growing up I always had a thing for it," said Cronauer.

"My sister danced and I wanted to dance so I could be like her. It kind of just grew on me."

Along with it being something that makes her happy, and gets out her energy, Cronauer uses dance as an escape from reality.

"I can express myself," Cronauer began. "It allows me to have a safe haven or like a place to get away to when I'm down."

As for the passion and will, Cronauer has developed friendships and memories along the way. Being a part of a team is one thing, but being able to create strong bonds with the students and teachers is something special.

"I have become close with everyone on my team, including the teachers," said Cronauer. "The memories made with those people are some of my best memories yet."

One of Cronauer's best memories all happen at competitions. She and twenty-one other girls all have bonds and compete together.

"My friends and I make so many memories at our competitions, which causes us to become close – which I love," said Cronauer.

Cronauer's best memory was when her team won Regional Champs at Nextstar Talent Competition.

"The look on everyone's faces was my favorite part," said Cronauer.

Sometimes it gets hard, however. Even though dance is one of the things Cronauer can depend on when she needs some cheering up, it still challenges her.

"The hardness is definitely the most challenging thing about [dance]," Cronauer started. "From conditioning, to the countless times we redo a dance to perfect any mistakes, it takes a lot out of you. Especially when you have other things going on, like school and personal things."

However, it doesn't stop Cronauer's desire. It actually pushes her to do better. Being able to keep a 4.0 GPA and also do dance and other activities, like SADD, is very impressive.

The other side of her dance experience, Cronauer hopes to leave a mark when she leaves the studio.

"I want to be able to be a role model for the younger kids at my studio who are now taking a serious interest in dance," Cronauer said.

"It's nice knowing that the younger kids look up to me and all my other friends from dance – it makes me want to work harder and prove that I'm someone to look up to."

Ceiling Tiles Hold Inspiration

By: Haley Fortuna

Coordinating Editor

Things are looking up here at RHS.

When students, staff, parents, or visitors enter the front doors at RHS they are now greeted by bright, fun ceiling tiles that line the sky of our hallways, thanks to Ms. Belf and the art program.

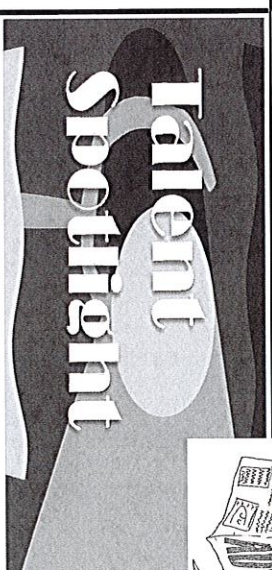
The senior hallway is currently decorated with various college logos painted onto ceiling tiles.

Ms. Belf, art teacher, said, "I got the idea to decorate ceiling tiles from my old school. There, we decorated tiles with candy logos and designs and placed them by the gym. We did this because the gym was a very active area and everyone could be exposed to the fun, bright colors on the tiles."

Creating college logos took the old project to the next level.

"First, my classes began creating tiles with paintings of candy logos, but then we had the idea to do colleges for the senior hallway," Ms. Belf said, "I figured colleges fit well in the senior hallway."

The next time you take a stroll down the senior hallway, look up. You will see The University of Michigan, Western Michigan University, Wayne State University and Central Michigan University logos, just to name a few. And they aren't even finished.



ANGELICA BARROWS ARTIST

How long have you been involved in art?

I've been serious about it since seventh grade.

What's your favorite medium for art?

Graphite or pencil.

Do you have a favorite piece that you've done?

A watercolor painting of Chit-taphon, my favorite dancer.

What's your biggest accomplishment?

Making it into art shows, like Scholastics.

Do you plan to continue doing art in the future?

More as a hobby or a side job in college.

It appears as if ceiling tiles are spreading joy and inspiration to everyone who sees them.

Olivia Wofford, a freshman, said,

"Even though I have some time until I choose a college to go to, it is so cool to have our ceiling decorated. It lifts the mood when you're surrounded by bright colors."

After a tough math test or a tiring day in biology, walking through a brightly colored hallway can make a world of a difference.

"I really like looking up at all the colorful artwork. It gives me something to enjoy when it's been a long day at school. I think everyone feels that way," said Wofford.

But the tiles aren't only keeping students' heads up; parents also seem to have taken a liking to the splash of creativity up above.

Ms. Belf said, "During parent-teacher conferences I overheard so many positive comments about the tiles and that was nice to hear."

With positive reactions from students, parents and faculty, the plan is to keep expanding the ceiling tile project and include many more colleges, as well as branches of the military.

RHS will continue to spread inspiration one ceiling tile at a time.

Features

McKiernan Making Moves Toward Future

By: Jenna Stafford
Features Co-Editor

High school serves the purpose of preparing students for real life. Richmond High School took proactive measures to ensure this necessary learning happens.

For the 2016-2017 school year, RHS introduced multiple new classes that focus on preparing students for real life careers.

Senior Raechel McKiernan saw an opportunity for herself when RHS announced that it would be offering a program for high school students to become emergency medical technicians.

"Taking care of others is my passion, and a career in medicine is what I've always wanted," she said.

McKiernan is planning on entering the medical field with a particular interest in being a physician's assistant.

Becoming an EMT will give her a head start in the medical field. She will gain knowledge many medical students don't receive until they are well into college. McKiernan explained her peers are not treated any differently because they are high school students.

"We're learning everything you would learn in a regular EMT training course," she said. "Overall, I've learned that attention to detail and thoroughness is vital."

The program is intended to be taken over the course of two years, with students gaining their certification at the end of the second year.

Since the program was introduced at the end of McKiernan's junior year, she will only receive one year of training from RHS.

However, McKiernan is planning to receive the rest of her training by enlisting in the National Guard to be a medic. She will learn the rest of the necessary skills in a four to six-month period at boot camp.

She hopes this work will help her gain hands-on experience necessary for her future career.

"I'm excited to start a career path that I can love doing every day," she said.

AMS Is The Best

By: Matthew Schuster

Opinion Co-Editor

AMS is a construction equipment class that people who attend Richmond High School have a chance of taking.

AMS is a two hour class that senior John Hildreth is taking again for his second straight year.

"I like the idea of learning hands on. It's nice to get out of the classroom and learn about the equipment," said Hildreth.

When attending AMS, students work on many different machines but they also work on engines for tractors.

They spend two hours there and a normal day for John is to get there and spend the first hour in the classroom learning basic skills about engines and how to fix and operate the equipment.

Hildreth wants to be a heavy equipment operator or even a field technician and what he uses in AMS will help him with his career.

A heavy equipment operator has many responsibilities but the major responsibility is to operate heavy equipment in a safe and effective manner in order to minimize the risk of injury, property damage or loss of life.

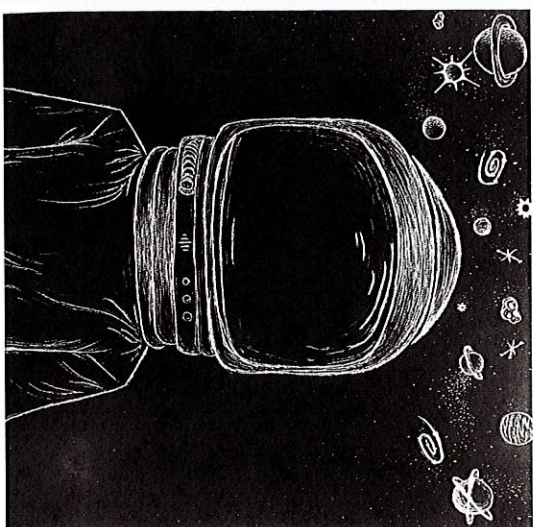
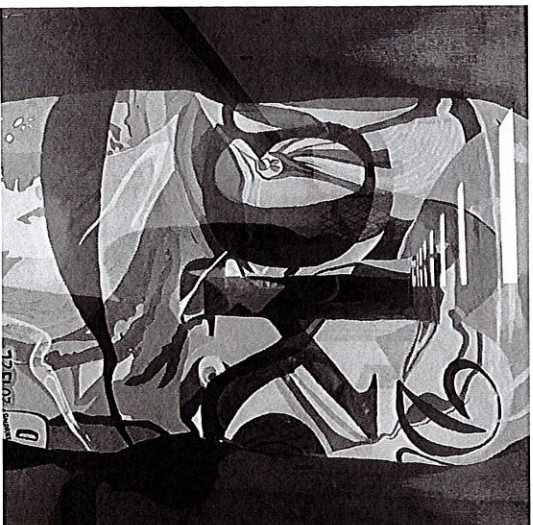
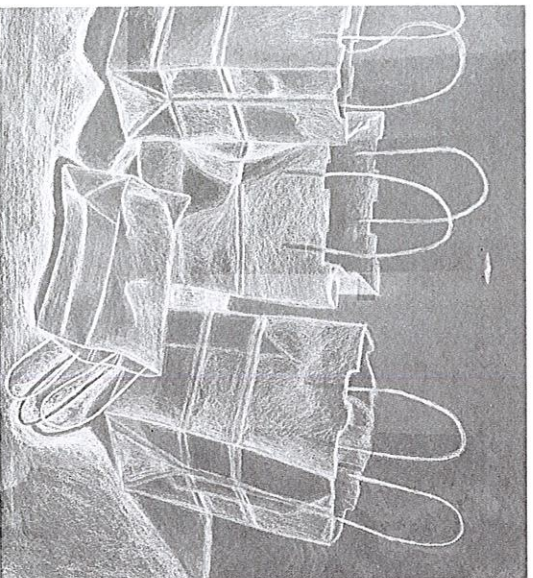
AMS helps Hildreth prepare for this by having him and his fellow classmates take apart heavy equipment parts such as transmissions, pumps and also engines.

When they take apart these parts all the way down as far as they can, it allows Hildreth and his peers to rebuild the parts. When he is rebuilding them, it allows him to learn where all the pieces go and what they do to the engine.

Hildreth said, "AMS is a great way to prepare me to become a heavy equipment operator. I get to learn new things every day while doing it and being able to see the part and know where it goes and what it does helps me prepare for my job."

When in AMS they have John build a stock pile so trucks can take asphalt with ease. John gets to experience more with operating and also learns all the traits while working. "I learned that operating is a skill. You have to pay attention and be patient," said Hildreth.

Show us your stuff!



By: Bailey White
Senior

By: Raechel McKiernan
Senior

By: Mikala Evans
Senior