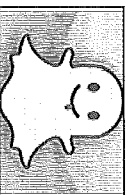
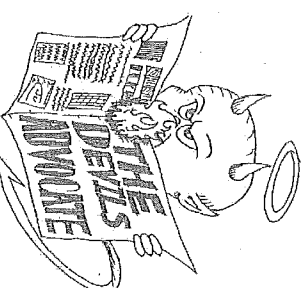


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The BLUE DEVILS

Advocate



Richmond High School
35320 Division Road
Richmond, MI 48062

Volume 9, Issue 4

January 18, 2013

Bridging the gap in curriculum

Mrs. Gabridge gets promoted to Curriculum Director for RHS

By: Olivia Kestler
Coordinating Editor

With all the new changes in the school district this year, what difference does one more make?

A pretty big difference, actually. Mrs. Gabridge, an English teacher at Richmond for 13 years, is handing over her grammar book to a new teacher and will assume the administrative position of Curriculum Director.

"At this point in my career, I think that a change is a good thing," she said.

She will be overseeing the direction of the content studied from kindergarten through 12th grade in the Richmond School District.

Instead of keeping her students organized, she will be organizing the core of each subject and establish a communication within the district so this system is followed in each school.

So, not a big change, right?

This position has become available only recently. The last Curriculum Director was Dr. Hiller, who retired from the district three years ago. The limited budget of the district at the time prevented a replacement from



Mrs. Gabridge helps her class prepare for their mid-terms.

being found.

Now that the budget has been stabilized, the school district reposted the position to better the school.

"This year, our focus is to implement the common core in K-12," said Mrs. Gabridge.

The common core in the state of Michigan establishes clear and consistent goals for learning that will prepare America's children for success in college and work through Mathematics and English Language Arts.

Not only will the curriculum in

these and other subjects be readjusted through the Curriculum Director, but other changes are on their way too.

"I expect that more work to be done on the curriculum k-12 and technology introduced in the classrooms," said Dr. Olson, the superintendent. "We want to work on the glitches and the backbone of the technology."

Mrs. Gabridge plans on addressing these glitches when she assumes this administrative position.

"Technology integration is a big part of my job," she said. "We are

hoping the community will support a bond this spring, so we can update our infrastructure that is ancient and inefficient."

Technology in the district is not the only project she will be focusing on. She will assist the teachers in applying for grants and other mediums to update the classrooms.

"I'm just providing them with resources and any help I can give them," said Mrs. Gabridge.

Through this teamwork, more positive changes will be taking place in all of the schools with the new Curriculum Director.

"We really need it," said Mrs. Michon, principal of the high school. She, along with the principals of the middle and elementary schools, had assumed some of the responsibilities of the Curriculum Director in its absence.

Because of their multiple other responsibilities, they were not able to concentrate on the implication of the curriculum as much as they would have liked to.

Mrs. Michon is not the only staff member who believes this addition to the district will be advantageous.

"It'll allow a positive direction, a consistency," said Mr. Rineer, a colleague of Mrs. Gabridge's in the English Department. "It's important to have a guide to bring a vision to the district as a whole."

Continued on Page 2

Real Steel at the high school

By: Adam Boyd
Sports Editor

Last year the Robotics team had an impressive finish. Finishing fourth in the national tournament in the rookie division and sixteenth out of one hundred total teams, this was not only their rookie season, but they won the state competition and placed at the world competition.

"Last year's game was called 'the rebound rumble'. Basically what we had to make our robot do was make a series of basketballs into hoops while balancing on a bridge," said senior Logan Iskra.

This year's game is similar but unique in its own way.

"This year's game is 'Ultimate Frisbee'. We have to build and program our robot to throw Frisbees into slots in a wall. The slots vary in

height; the higher the slot on the wall the more points we get. However, there's a catch to this year's game. We have to end the game on a pyramid in the middle of the court but the higher on the pyramid we finish, the more points we can receive," said Logan.

Logan does the team's electrical work and helps his brother Blake Iskra, a sophomore, with the programming. "I make sure that the ro-

bot is fully wired and functional electrically and then I help program the robot to do what we need it too," said Logan.

He added, "I think we are going to do a lot better this year because we have a better concept of what we need to do and we can build a better robot because we have more materials at our disposal. We have more much needed experience because this year we won't be receiving help from other teams. We're all on our own."

Continued on Page 3

Interim science teacher hired at RHS

Katie Volmer hired to fill the position of current Vice Principal Mr. Nuss.

By: Hunter Barjaktarovich
Features Editor

There has been new experimentation going on in the science hallway at RHS.

A new long-term substitute science teacher was hired at RHS, Katie Volmer, in order to fill the job of Mr. Nuss, who recently took the job of being vice principal.

Volmer, who is originally from Saint Clair, at-

tended college at Saginaw Valley and Michigan State University for Physical Education and Health and minored in Science. She played soccer at Saginaw for four years before moving on with her education at MSU.

Volmer coached three and four year old kids for soccer. She really liked working with the children, which inspired her to become a teacher.

Though she enjoyed her stay in Las Vegas,

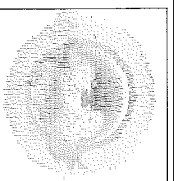
where she taught at Becker Middle School for six years, Volmer recently moved back to Michigan. At Becker Middle School she taught a science class to younger children.

"I moved there to see new places and for the adventure," said Volmer.

Like many others who have lived far from home, she became homesick and missed her family.

"I missed my family and the Michigan weather with the changes in season. My sister is having a baby, which is why I really wanted to come home," said Volmer. "I like Michigan, too, because there are no sports there. It is not as entertaining."

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Today's Forecast
Partly Cloudy
High: 32°
Low: 29°

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Gabridge

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Mrs. Gabridge is not the only person who wanted to provide the district with this vision. Out of the six applicants interviewed, she and one other candidate were called back for a second interview. Of the two, Mrs. Gabridge was selected for the job by a committee made up of Mrs. Michon, Dr. Olson, Mr. Benoit and Mr. Bartels.

"Between the four of us, we made the final decision," said Mrs. Michon.

This decision will have a lasting impact on the district and the content taught in every classroom.

The Curriculum Director undertakes a lot of responsibility, but Mrs. Gabridge's colleagues have faith in her ability to do well in the position.

"One of her greatest strengths is communication," said Mr. Rineer.

"She's from the community. She not only knows the people in the community, but has professional and personal contact with them."

Mrs. Gabridge plans to use this communication to help the community as well as the schools.

"The community can look to the school's website where I'll have a newsletter that updates them on the happenings in the district," she said.

"We hope to have more parent meetings to show them how to be involved with their students' education and how they can take steps to help implement the Common Core State Standards at home."

She would also like to include a "tips" page for parents on how to help their children become respon-

sible digital citizens and better students.

Mrs. Michon also trusts in these plans, and expects Mrs. Gabridge will transition easily into her new administrative position.

"I think she'll do a great job," she said. "She's very organized and has been involved in quite a few administrative positions in this community."

Of course, the school is looking for a new staff member as Mrs. Gabridge prepares herself for this change.

On Monday, January 14, the district began interviewing potential candidates for the opening.

The school is selecting their applicant carefully based on a number of factors.

"We're looking for experience:

This decision will have a lasting impact on the district and the content taught in every classroom.

an English background and teaching experience," said Mrs. Michon.

Despite the high expectations for the new staff member, the district plans to make the final decision by the end of the week.

Dr. Olson has a positive outlook on deciding who will assume Mrs. Gabridge's teaching position. "As soon as we find a qualified candidate, we hope to have that person in place for the second semester," she said.

Even though Mrs. Gabridge is abdicating this teaching position that she has held for 13 years, she looks forward to this new opportunity.

"I'm really excited," she said. "I still get to work with the same people and I already know almost everybody. It's going to be a nice change."

Key Club cuts out myth of teenagers not helping out

By: Kyle Soldan and Shelby Stewart
News Editors

Every year, Key Club helps out local hospitals by making dolls for children. These dolls are cut out, stuffed and then shipped to hospitals for children who need operations.

Each doll has the operation the child is receiving on the back to let them know what is going on. Sophomore Jennifer Lafata enjoyed making dolls for the children.

"I thought that it was cool how it helps kids understand their operations," said Lafata.

Junior Dionte Hampton, another member of Key Club, thought the idea was interesting as well. "I thought it was a lot of fun, and interesting how it helps little kids learn about a surgery," said Hampton.

The Key Club has done this for about five years. They come to school in the morning and work on the dolls. It can be a little frustrating, but the students don't mind because they care about the children.



Above: Sophomore Christian Fatla has some fun while working on his doll. Below: Megan Bishop and Allison Schweiger work on their dolls as well.



Above: Jennifer Lafata works on the cutout. Below: Freshman Hannah Dullea concentrates.



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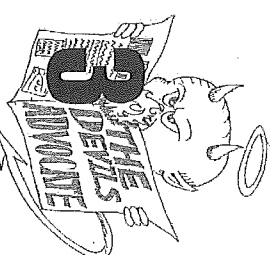
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Robotics

Continued from Page 1

Logan's favorite part of robotics last year was getting to go to the world competition in St. Louis and meeting all the other teams from all over the world, but not all of the teams spoke English so it was a challenge to communicate with them.

Logan also thought that robotics was a lot of fun. He said, "It's a good experience especially if you want to go into engineering it's a great learning experience too."

This year presents new but similar challenges for the robotics team. The team must get their throwing mechanism to be consistent and accurate. Also the team must pull together and be synergetic in order to make it like they did last year.

The Robotics team has 6 weeks to conceptualize and build their robot once building season starts. This season started on January 7, and the team meets Monday through Friday from 6-9 at night.

Blake is the team's programmer. "I have to tell the robot what it has and what they do and how to use them. But I have to do it very specifically. If not, then the robot will either not move or it will but not the way we need it too," said the sophomore.

He thinks they will do well again because they still have the main people they had last year and because the experience they have because they made it to the world competition.

"This year I think will be a lot of fun because it's got to be somewhat close to what last year was and I really liked it last year. And my favorite part is the building of the robot because it's a good team bonding moment," said Blake. Sophomore Jake Matthes is also

"I think we are going to do a lot better this year because we have a better concept of what we need to do and we can build a better robot." - Logan Iskra

Volmer

Continued from Page 1

Though she is glad to be back where she has family, it was not easy for her to say goodbye to her friends in Las Vegas.

"It was very hard to say goodbye there, especially to all of my students," said Volmer.

Before getting the job at Richmond, Volmer worked at Anchor Bay for a month before she was called for the Richmond interview.

She came and observed Mr. Nuss teaching and learned more about the school before becoming integrated into the system.

Ms. Volmer's previous experience teaching also helped her.

"Teaching at Anchor Bay and my past experience also helped me," said Volmer. "I decided to come to Richmond because the staff and students are really nice. It is a very welcoming school and has a nice community feel."

When Ms. Volmer had gotten the job the school year was already underway, so it was hard to adjust and take over the class part way through the year.

among the people returning on the robotics team.



Ms. Volmer erases notes on the board to prepare her students for a new lesson.

Ms. Volmer said, "Mr. Nuss has been a great mentor. Mrs. Michon and Mr. Roodbeen have also helped me out a lot."

The transition was made as smoothly as possible, for both Volmer and the students. Volmer tried her best to help students to adjust.

"I had to set a routine for the students. I tried to give them clear expectations and communicate clearly," said Volmer. "Adjusting to the new school has been pretty smooth. I am excited to be here."

Volmer very much enjoys her job at Richmond now.

"My favorite part is working with the student and learning about them. I enjoy interacting with them and caring about their lives as well," she said.

Volmer has learned a lot more about Earth Science, what she is now teaching. From the new teaching job.

"I had taught Physical Science before, so I am new to Earth Science," said Volmer.

Volmer has also learned to be more patient from the new job. Volmer said, "I have learned to have more patience and how to

Jake does the business work. This involves marketing and advertisement to help supply for the cost of the robot.

The robotics team is not school funded which means they have to come up with the funds to fuel their program.

"We do this through advertising. The team has to come up a \$5,000 registration fee. This gets us all the basic supplies we need but it's never enough. So we need to get sponsors to help us get the money we need to buy all the parts we need," said Jake.

Along with his teammates, Jake thinks they have another good year ahead of them. He thinks they have another good shot at the state tournament again.

He said, "My favorite part about robotics is the people and the environment I work in and with. We're all friends and that helps when it's

transition to a new

school better. The students weren't used to me at first so it took some patience and time for me to get know everyone better."

Volmer has done her best to adapt, but is learning as she goes.

"I did a project where the students had to invent technology to improve and make the environment better," said Volmer. "It helped to teach the kids time management and cooperation."

One project the Ms. Volmer was impressed by was Tom Merriman's project. Though it was offered as a group project, he chose to do this by himself instead.

"The project I made was mounted on a skit steer and it pushes sideways to feed the cattle. It would also be able to pass through the farm less times," said Merriman. "I'm a farmer and I sat around using other parts to see what works. I liked thinking about what I could use and seeing what worked."

Merriman has liked Ms. Volmer as a teacher and had a smooth transition from Mr. Nuss to her.

"I like Ms. Volmer because she is understandable and presents the information in an organized way," said Merriman

These projects can now be seen in the library inside RHS.

Thus far, Ms. Volmer has enjoyed her time at RHS.

"I am excited to have a job here. It has such a nice community feel," said Volmer.

so critical that we all work together efficiently."

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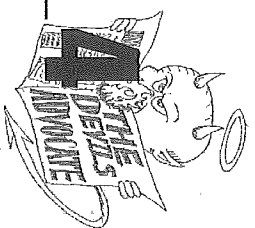
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Flipping pins: Blue Devil athletes defy stereotypes

By: Regan Blissett
Features Editor

At the beginning of the year, the RHS cheer team got a new member of the team who shocked the team and the school.

Jonah VandenBussche, sophomore, is the first male cheerleader that Richmond High school has ever had.

He was in gymnastics and after six years, he took a break and thought cheerleading would be a good idea.

"I was good at it, and I've always wanted to do it," said VandenBussche.

During football season he cheered along the sidelines with his fellow teammates.

While doing so, he faced many obstacles and criticism from other people, but he held his head high and continued to do what he loved.

Now the winter sports are under way, and Jonah is no longer allowed to cheer alongside his teammates.

Competitive cheerleading teams are an all-girl sport. Michigan High School Athletic Association has set strict guidelines stating that boys are not allowed to compete in cheerleading competitions.

"For every guy sport there has to be a girl sport and there are more guy sports," said VandenBussche.

Since there are more, this limits him from doing what he loves to do. He is still a part of the team and helps them with anything they need.

"I spot the girls in tumbling and support them, motivate them. In another way, I'm an assistant coach," said VandenBussche.

However, just being a part of the

team bothers VandenBussche. He would rather be on the mat with the rest of the lines videotaping.

"It makes me really mad. I'm not allowed to compete. In college, guys are allowed to cheer, so why not high school?" said VandenBussche.

VandenBussche feels as if he is discriminated against and the rules are unjust.

MHSSA doesn't bend the rules, so for now, VandenBussche has to deal with not competing.

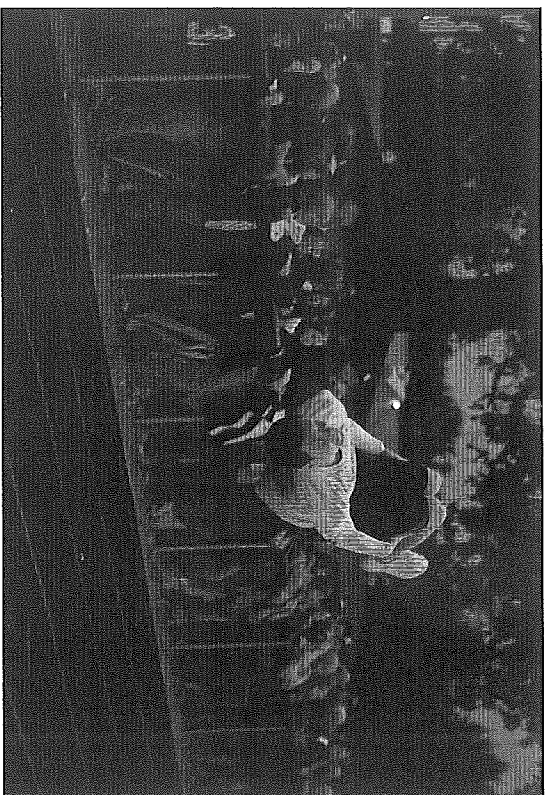
At St. Clair High School, there was an incident where a boy was on the varsity competitive cheer team and he competed with the team on the mat with them. When they got the results back, there was an X through their name.

They were disqualified from the competition because a boy competed with the girls.

If VandenBussche competed with the RHS varsity cheer team, it would be the same outcome.

VandenBussche is looking forward to try out for an Elite team that allows him to compete. It is a co-ed team that does not have to abide by MHSSA rules.

Not only is VandenBussche on an all-girl sport, but fellow classmate Breanna Jutila, sophomore, is on the wrestling team.



Jonah VandenBussche does a back flip during the Richmond vs. Armada football game. (Photo courtesy of RHS Yearbook)

While Jutila was in eighth grade she was at wrestling meet in Cros-Lex.

She saw a girl wrestler get pinned in eight seconds. While everyone around her was laughing, she was thinking that women seem to be lower than men.

"When I saw her get pinned I thought it lowered how people see women in a man's sport. You see guys in women sports and they look so much better because they can be so much stronger," said Jutila.

Believing woman and men should be equal, she went out for the wrestling team her eighth grade year.

She has faced many mental and physical challenges but she works just as hard as or even harder than the rest of the boys on her team.

"Physically, I try to push myself harder than most of them do. I know

my limits and I know how hard I can push myself. I tell people to go harder on me so I get better," said Jutila.

Ever since she joined the wrestling she has fallen in love with the sport.

"I enjoy the challenges I am given trying to live up to how strong guys are. Wrestling is a sport mentally and physically really hard on you but you have to push yourself to get through it. There are no excuses you can give yourself," said Jutila.

With hard work and perseverance, her record this year is 6-7. Jutila believes she is getting better with time.

Not only does she have to face physical challenges like the hard work outs wrestlers are known to do, but she has to face discrimination against her opponents, and even discrimination from her fellow classmates.

Opponents that go up against Jutila do not think she would be much of a challenge because she is a girl. To her advantage, they tend to go easy on her or get cocky and lose their focus. That is when she closes in and shows she is a major contender.

"They'll see who they are wrestling beforehand and they will get a smirk on their face and go off to their friends laughing. Then I will go up to wrestle them and they'll be smiling.

At first they think oh I'm wrestling a girl so I'll go easy and then they get too cocky and start to forget their technique. I end up pinning them because they think they should go easy because I'm a girl," said Jutila.

People even doubt Jutila's intentions of her doing wrestling. They make fun of her saying she is on the team to be with other guys.

Jutila is appalled when few criticize her intentions because she truly loves the sport.

Many are surprised when they find out a girl is on a wrestling team.

Jutila is the third girl ever to be on the team at RHS.

The coach of the wrestling team, Coach Day, however, treats her just the same as he would the boys.

"Only difference is she has her own locker room and everything is the same and I think that's the way she wants it. That's the way it has to be," said Day.

Day continued on to say she is one of the guys. He praises her and yells at her just the same as anyone else on the team.

"I don't care what gender you are, if you're tough, you're tough," said Day.



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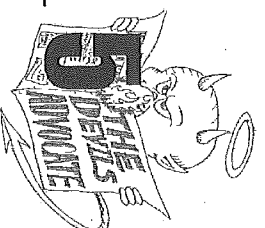


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The Blue Devil's Advocate

January 18, 2013



NHL skates back into action

By: Rosie Urban
Staff Writer

For most hockey fans out there, September 15, of this past year, was not a good day. This marked the beginning of the 2012/2013 Hockey Lockout.

The hockey season was supposed to begin on October 11, 2012, so when the date came and passed with no hockey, fans wondered just how long this lockout would be.

"I was looking forward to watching the games this season with my family," said Halie Creed, sophomore. "It's kind of a big deal in my family. We always watch it especially the home games."

625 games were canceled out of the original 1,230 scheduled. About half of the games in the 2012/2013 season were not played.

"It was disappointing not being able to watch my favorite sport," said Creed. "I'm so excited for the return of it!"

The season is set to resume on the 19th of January.

"Basically, I plan on watching every game I can," said Creed. "I really have missed being able to watch it with my family."

The Hockey Lockout of the 2012/2013 season was a result of the players association's contract expiring with the NHL. Negotiations of new contracts took quite a bit of time because the NHL wanted to cut pay and save money.

"It's too bad that money stopped them from playing their game, but I can understand why," said Creed. "I think that if it were me, I would have found a way to still play, but I guess not everyone is like that."

Finally, on January 6, 2013, players and the NHL reached agreements about pay and contracts. They decided on the length of contracts as well.

"I'm pretty happy that the lockout ended," said Michael Lepior, senior. "I love the sport and I'm glad that I'm going to be able to watch in again."

A lockout occurred during the 1994/1995 season and the 2004/2005 season and this probably won't be the last time it happens.

"I hope it doesn't happen again anytime soon," said Lepior. "I missed being able to watch hockey."

During the lockout, some NHL players played in a charity games for Hurricane Sandy victims raising over \$500,000.

"I think that the players, who played in those games, are awe-

some, said Creed. "Being able to put there skill to good use, is a really great thing."

Raising money during the lockout isn't the only thing that happened, but some things weren't so positive.

"I was so disappointed that Kraft Hockeyville was canceled," said Lepior. "It's so fun to watch."

During the lockout, businesses that surround the hockey arenas suffered and blamed it on not having the games.

"I mean it makes sense. If no one's coming for the games, less people are coming through the cities and less people are visiting businesses," said Lepior. "Less money is being spent, so lower profits."

The first game is scheduled for January 19, 2013 between the Ottawa Senators and the Winnipeg Jets. It begins at 3:00pm (ET).

Richmond wrestling competes with the best

By: Jacob Thomas
Sports Editor

Three intense tournaments capped of an exciting Christmas Break for the Richmond Wrestling Team. The Macomb Invitational and Medina High School tournaments were two of the four competitions that stood out the most.

Medina High School is located in Northern Ohio right around the Cleveland area. The tournament was on December 28. St. Edward's posed the largest threat to the Richmond Wrestling team. Located around the Cleveland area as well, St. Edward's is currently ranked second in the nation.

"We got to wrestle four nationally

ranked teams and several nationally ranked individuals," said Coach Brandon Day of the Blue Devils.

Facing a tough opponent in St. Edward's was intended to help the team get better and more prepared at a shot for a fourth straight state championship.

"The teams from Ohio are really good. They are a good wrestling state," said Dalton Yore, a senior.

Ohio is a strong wrestling state as it features five teams in the top 50 of the country. The only other state to feature more than five teams in the top 50 in the country is Illinois, which has six teams in the top 50. Oklahoma, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Iowa and New Jersey each have four teams in the top 50 of the na-

tion.

The Richmond team finished the Medina Tournament seventh overall, and second in their division. The tournament featured 39 teams.

Nate Henke finished in second place overall at the Medina tournament.

"Nate Henke did really well at Medina, and was MVP at L'Anse Creus," said junior wrestler Jake McKiernan.

Richmond defeated L'Anse Creus back on January fifth in a team tournament at L'Anse Creus.

The team did one place better than the Medina Tournament as it finished first in the Macomb County Invitational Tournament on December 21. The tournament was won by over 50



Grace Daniel

Nickname: Gray
Age: 14
Grade: 9
Sport(s): Volleyball and Basketball
Favorite pump up song: Jump
by: Rihanna
Favorite Food: Ice cream
Favorite class: Honors World Geography
because she likes Mr. Ladd
Future Goals: Go to college and get a good paying job.

Star Athletes



Trevor Barrett

Nickname: Smiley
Age: 14
Grade: 9
Sport(s): Football, wrestling, baseball
Favorite pump up song: Hall of Fame by Will I am
Favorite food: Macaroni and cheese

Favorite class: Honors World History
with Mr. Ladd because he is a good teacher, and the class is fun.

Future goals: Graduate high school and go to college.

points for the Blue Devils. McKiernan and Devin Skatzka were among the first place finishers at the tournament. The wrestlers had another match during the break as well.

Alumni Night for the Richmond Wrestling Team was on January 2. Richmond hosted the match, which was a double dual against Hudson and Temperance Bedford. The team ended up defeating Hudson, who is the reigning division four state champions, but lost to Temperance Bedford. Temperance Bedford has won eleven division one state championships.

Richmond's Wrestling Team believes it has a strong chance to win a fourth straight State Championship.

"That's the goal; we are working hard for it every day," said Coach Day.

The team lost ten starters from a year ago which helped the team reach a three-peat. Most people would assume that there would be a large loss of leadership after losing ten members of the team, but Coach Day believes differently.

"The seniors have been through it before," said Coach Day.

The team's experience of winning another state championship has provided more leadership and familiarity for this year's team.

Being located in a small city does not help when it comes to gaining the respect of other teams.

When asked of his opinion on not being fully respected as an elite wrestling program, Coach Day said, "It's a motivating factor. Amongst the people that matter we are, but not against the experts."

McKiernan had further insight. "We might not be the most talented team, but we will outwork every team we face," said junior Jake McKiernan.

Coach Day went on to applaud the great support the wrestling team has by saying, "So thankful for all the support we have from everybody. If we continue to train hard, then successful things will happen for us."