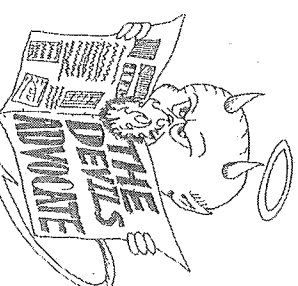




# The BLUE DEVILS

Advocate

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## Students visit DIA; Learn about Rivera and Kahlo

By: Brandon Stein  
Staff Writer

On March 18, students of the RHS Spanish classes recently took a trip down to the Detroit Institute of Arts to see a rather rare and interesting sight: The Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo exhibit. The exhibit opened March 15 and goes until July 12.

As the 67 students walked around, they could go up to specific paintings and put on headphones to listen to the history of that painting but the two artists who did a lot of their painting in the 1930s.

"It really is an interesting place. There is so much to see and history to learn about," said Spanish teacher Mrs. Smallwood.

Since this is the first time that this exhibit has ever been at the DIA, this was the first time this trip has been conducted to see the in depth information about the two Mexican artists. It was definitely an experience students enjoyed, as it related to current class work. The Spanish classes taught a chapter on culture, so going to the DIA was a way to use and see the class in real life. "There are Mexican influences right in Richmond. It's cool to see that on an everyday basis," said Senior Michael Tyll.

It also taught kids about local culture. "I really liked learning about all the history of Detroit and its best

years. The audio and video exhibit was cool. I recommend taking a trip to see it," said sophomore Mikala Evans.

The DIA features many famous artists, painters, and drawers such as Picasso, Michelangelo, and Leonardo DaVinci. However, having a Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo exhibit puts a new twist on things that attracts many art lovers.

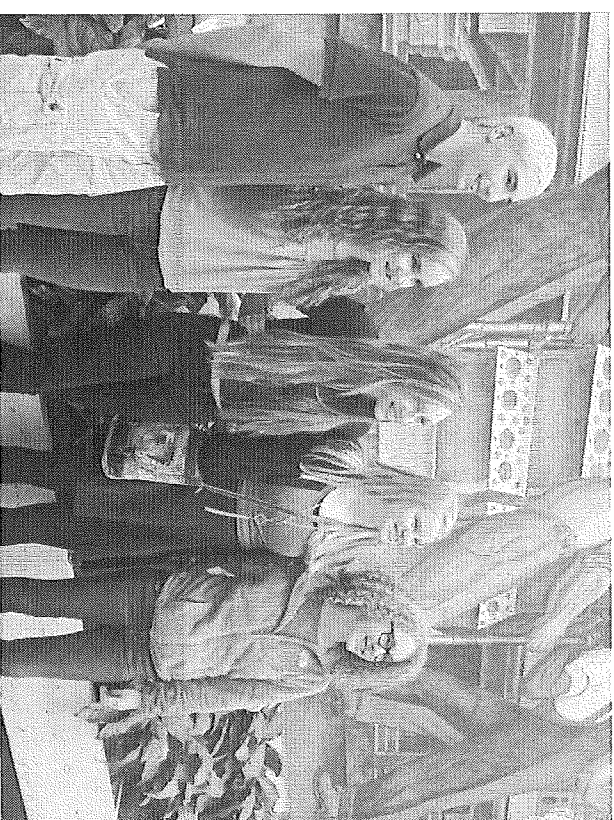
Frida Kahlo had a rough start on life. She was born with a life-threatening case of polio. Then at 18 she was involved in a serious bus accident that rendered her unable to have children.

*"The trip was fun. There is so much to learn about the art and its history and I really recommend going to see the new exhibit."*

*- Michael Tyll*

She first met Diego Rivera as an art student when trying to get advice from him on painting. They sparked a relationship of a considerable age difference, with Diego being 42 and Frida being 22. The Mexican couple married in 1929 despite Frida's parents' opinion.

The two moved from Mexico City to Detroit, Michigan in the 1930s at the beginning of the Great Depression. It is here where Diego started painting murals and various works for the DIA which Henry Ford funded. Diego also did works for local government buildings. Diego and Frida's marriage was a rocky one. They fought often and disagreed on many topics. They even divorced, then got remarried a year after. With her marriage in



Freshman David Kalz, Sophia Kesler, Juliana Ciegljo, Megan Reece, Willow Howington pose at the DIA Spanish field trip. (photo courtesy of RHS Yearbook)

pieces, frequent periods of sickness, and the knowledge that she could not bear children, Frida fell into a serious state of depression.

Instead of resorting to unhealthy coping techniques, Frida used her art as an escape. She painted many self-portraits that portrayed her sadness, as well as some rather disturbing concept drawings. Regardless of the hardships Frida and Diego faced, they left behind interesting artwork for the world to view.

"I would describe the art in the exhibit as exotic and depressing. It really is no surprise though. Frida would be bed ridden for days and unable to move, so it took a lot of energy to do the works of art she did," said art teacher Mrs. Belf, whose art students also attended. The artwork in the DIA is very

## Jazzing up Richmond Schools

By: Jacquelyn Loria  
Staff Writer

Students of RHS will be jazzing up their school.

Mrs. Schack wanted a jazz band from when jazz band was an elective but they did not have enough students sign up for the class. So instead, Mrs. Schack started the Jazz band as a club. Practices began on March 18 and from there it has gotten bigger and bigger.

It started with only a select few last year and that's why it never got big or never really happened. This year, a lot more students added into the band, which caused it to start to

get big and actually start to make things happen.

The band started back up from last year from which the band was an idea last year, but never really went into full swing. It didn't go into full effect this year until the idea came back up from band teacher, Mrs. Schack.

The practices are every Wednesday during 6th hour, where they work hard to prepare for concerts and just have fun with friends, since jazz in general is more laid back.

They plan on playing at the school, a spring concert, and an art showcase that they are practicing and preparing for which are all com-

ing up soon.

"Jazz is not just typical instruments. We add a lot of guitars, pianos and just a lot of different instruments. It's just more laid back compared to regular band," band member, Beau Brockett, senior, said.

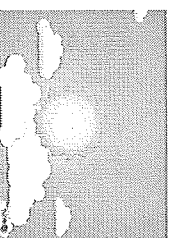
Along with that, the band has saxophones, a piano, bass guitars, electric guitars, drums, trumpets and trombones.

"Jazz band compared to concert band is a lot different. The techniques, listening, and interpreting are a lot different than regular band. It's more upbeat and fast-moving," Brockett said. The band is made up of high

school students including Brendan Roy, Matt Weidner, Joe Gusmano, Beau Brockett, Jacob Matthes, Vinny Denapole, CJ Wagner, Tory Romero, Nick Matthes, Jacob Gilbert, Dorian Hanson, Megan Diggs, and Matt Frammolino.

Even though they are all in different grades, the students work hard together to become a great band for the community and their school.

"We also are working on the same music for jazz band at the middle school. Those students will practice and perform with us at the after school events. It's very challenging for them but we are getting better!" Mrs. Schack said in an email.



Today's Forecast  
Mostly Cloudy  
High: 39  
Low: 27

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## RHS Art Takeover

By: Joe Bergen  
Advertising Manager

### Spider-Man Crawls His Way Into RHS

The drawing class at RHS has taken drawing to a whole new level. Modeling and creating people is what they have come to.

Mrs. Belf, the art teacher, wanted to do something out of the ordinary in her class. Thus, the installation art idea of the human-sized mannequins was created and put into play. Installation art is a three-dimensional piece of art that takes up space and has the ability be moved.

The project was worth 50 points, and students had two weeks to create them.

There is a regular mannequin and a Spider-Man mannequin created by students.

Two groups in the class worked on the mannequins. One group consisted of Rachel Conrad, Angel Deal and Morgan Norris. The other group consisted of Lauren Maksymuk, Kaitlyn Miliken and Jaret Gil.

Both are made of saran wrap and packaging tape. The easiest way to create the poses was to wrap the tape around one of the group members.

Conrad was her group's victim and Gil was the other's. Conrad said, "Being the person getting wrapped up was interesting. I felt like I was a very big part to the project."

Deal and her team found the perfect spot for the painted Spider-Man mannequin: It is hung upside down right in the hallway by the front of the school.

Making these works of art it not an easy task. Many members said it was difficult. Mrs. Belf said the most difficult part for students was trying to pinpoint the exact pose and shape that they wanted. "They tried to make it as perfect as they could," Mrs. Belf said.

Next to that, students pointed out that it has been the biggest and most difficult project that they have done

all year.

Deal said, "Since we are making the Spider-Man mannequin, it was difficult to nail down the pose. And, originally it was clear, but we wanted to add some color to it."

They used red and blue paint to give Spider-Man his true colors.

As for the groups, members had specific jobs they had to do. Milliken said that while Gil was doing the modeling for the pose, Lauren was wrapping the tape around while she cut it.

Milliken added she really enjoyed working on the group project.

She said, "I feel that working in groups makes it much easier and organized. Also, I believe it makes the students closer as a class."

Mrs. Belf said she enjoys seeing students work in groups because they learn how to be a team and help one another.

But, the core technique she wanted the student to acquire from this project was proportioning. She said, "I want the students to leave with a basic understanding of proportioning and action. They will have accomplished a great piece of installation art."

### Richmond's Upcoming Artists

Nationals Scholastic: the farthest a student can go within a high school art program. Two students from RHS went from a competition with St. Clair, Lapeer, and Macomb County to a competition with all the other students in the United States.

Lauren Maksymuk and Jaret Gil both won Gold Keys from the previous competition. These Gold Key winning pieces of art are being sent straight to New York City for display.

This will take place June 10-12. They both submitted very unique pieces of art. Maksymuk submitted a painting. She painted the space between the bike in the picture with a map and a collage of many different color schemes.

"I tried very hard to make this painting as perfect as I possibly

could for the competition. I was really nervous," said Maksymuk.

Gil's was a contour drawing

where you draw while never lifting up the pen or pencil. His is made from pen and ink. Gil said, "I didn't even plan on going to NYC, but Mrs. Belf said that I should, so I decided that I would give it a shot."

They are both beyond excited to go to NYC for such an opportunity. They get to walk through Carnegie Hall and carry their gold medals. The Empire State building is also lit with gold at the time also to honor students participating.

Mrs. Belf told Gil to submit his typewriter contour piece because she was very intrigued with what he had drawn. Gil said, "It made me feel really good that she thought that my work was one of the best contour pieces she had seen."

He also said, "And I couldn't be more excited. I've never thought of doing anything with my art before this point."

Gil isn't the only one who was shocked by such an opportunity. So was Maksymuk. "I was shocked! I can't believe I was chosen over 300,000 other students in a competition," the junior said.

Both students, who had been interested in art since elementary school, are heading to a competition to express their passion for art.

Gil is really starting to think about his art and how he will use his skills beyond high school. Maksymuk is also thinking about an art career. She said, "In the future I plan on going into graphic design and working in an art studio."

Mrs. Belf is beyond proud of her students. She believes they will go very far, and she hopes to see many more of her students do the same.

Both Maksymuk and Gil are planning on attending the competition in NYC with their parents and Mrs. Belf.

## Art Madness

By: Katie Brown  
Staff Writer

Let the madness begin...

It's not March Madness but Art Madness.

Mrs. Belf's first hour basic design and fourth hour photography classes have been a large part of Art Madness. Her basic design class helped pick out the pieces of art and her photography classes has been counting up the votes to see who the winner is going to be.

"It's just like March Madness except with art," Mikala Evans, sophomore, said.

The competition started at the beginning of March with 16 pieces of selected art. Then at lunch, students voted on what pieces they liked the best. After all the votes are accounted for, the pieces with the most votes will move forward in the bracket.

Mrs. Belf's photography class has been a huge part of art madness, beginning with each student filling out their own bracket just like you would for March Madness. The students go back to their brackets and check how they are doing as the competition goes on.

"I chose letter H to win the whole thing because I like how the picture is one large self-portrait," Evans said. Letter H is the painting called Hand With Reflecting Sphere by M.C. Escher.

Each piece of art catches attention from each student, but the one most are fascinated about is "Afghan Girl." The art is a picture of an Afghan girl that was featured in a National Geographic magazine.

"I chose this picture because I liked the color of her eyes. I thought it was a cool piece," Emma Caperton, sophomore, said.

The students aren't the only ones participating in the madness. Mrs. Lashbrook has the best bracket without getting any wrong. Mr. Germain

*continued on page 3*

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