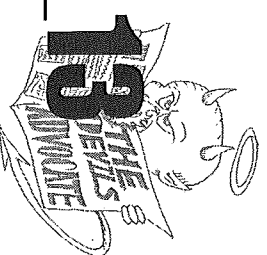


Features



Young Kids with Big Ambitions

As the underclassmen advance, so does their work ethic.

By: Hailey Fortuna
Staff Writer

When Alyssa Gall and Evan Quigley walk down the halls they aren't just taking steps towards their next class but towards their futures.

Gall and Quigley, both sophomores, have big aspirations for their futures.

While other students relax in the pool, Gall will be spending her summer at MyLead. MyLead is a leadership camp at Michigan State University. Educating students, this camp is a step into the right direction for her. Gall said, "MyLead will teach me leadership skills, including being more outgoing and standing up for what I believe in."

Just getting into this camp is a huge accomplishment. Gall had to apply, and she was accepted.

With a 3.9 GPA, grades are not a problem for Gall; however, she hopes to come out of her shell more and try different things throughout her last two years at RHS.

"I want to be more confident and be able to take charge. MyLead will help with that," said Gall. "I wanted to do this over the summer so I can bring my new skills to the table next school year."

She has big dreams for her future outside of high school as well. She hopes to attend Central Michigan University and pursue a career in journalism or law.

Young and dedicated, the future is looking up for her.

Much like Gall, Quigley is dedicating his summer to achieving his goals. For him the future is looking fast and furious.

Quigley hopes to achieve his goal of becoming a GT3 racing mechanic after studying high performance mechanics at the University of Northern Ohio.

GT3 racing is a technical, competitive street course racing series. A racing mechanic has to be responsive and listen to what exactly the driver wants and make that vision come to life and go fast. This kind of career revs Quigley's engine.

"Since I was a little kid I've loved cars, but this past summer is when a really developed a passion for racing. My brother Aaron took me to Belle Isle to watch GT3 racing and I fell in love with it," he said. "It was one of the best days of my life. I knew then that I wanted to be a mechanic for these races."

With supportive family and friends, things are on the right track for this optimistic student.

"I want to learn so much more about GT3 racing. In ten years, I hope to see myself graduated from college and working for Corvette Racing," said Quigley.

With a passion for cars, he has gotten himself a summer job at LaBelle Electric changing oil and moving trucks. In addition to his new job, he will be visiting Belle Isle again this summer to observe the races and talk to drivers.

"I really just want to gain as much knowledge on internal combustion engines as possible this summer," said Quigley. "At first, I was a little bummed about losing free time in the summer but I really do enjoy being around cars and I know it'll all be worth it in the long run."

These goal-driven teens aren't phased by the fact that they are giving up their summer vacation. Nothing will stop them from reaching their goals.

Gall said, "I'm fine with taking some time out of my vacation if it means I'll build a better character. I know that the only way to get anywhere is give up time. I want to go somewhere."

Teacher Feature: Dr. Ladd Edition

By: Trevor Barrett
Sports Co-Editor

From teacher to husband, track coach to grandfather, military veteran to college professor, Dr. Mark Ladd, a Social Studies teacher, is a well-rounded individual.

Dr. Ladd's quest to become a teacher began in the military, where, in Germany, he had the chance to work with kids whose families were in the military. From there, it took off.

To become a teacher, it takes education, and Dr. Ladd has plenty of it. As you can tell by the prefix in front of his name, he has earned his PhD.

He originally got his undergraduate at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. From there, he got his Master's degree from Oakland University, and finally, he got his PhD from Wayne State University.

While attending three different universities may seem a little difficult, Dr. Ladd sees this as an advantage.

He said, "It's good. I had different professors that offered different viewpoints and had different ways of thinking. It also gave me a lot more feedback."

The hardest part of getting his PhD was the time it took.

"The book and research I had to write took over a year to complete, and the comprehensive tests took a lot of time as well. The classwork was easy, but it was the exams that made it difficult," he said.

The book he had to write about was about slavery and abortion.

Persistence pays off, and all of his hard work led him to a job here.

Dr. Ladd has taught at RHS since 1996 despite a two year absence (2000-2002) where he taught at Algonac.

Teaching classes like World History, US History, Government and

Economics, Dr. Ladd continues to try to teach kids about the importance of education.

"I try to teach kids that your education is your responsibility and no one else's," he said.

There have been a lot of great times for the Social Studies teacher. So many, in fact, he struggled to pick a couple.

He said, "Taking 2nd place at We the People was pretty memorable."

This occurred in 1997.

Another great moment for Dr. Ladd: graduation. "I really like graduation and seeing all the seniors that I had as freshmen and seeing how they have matured throughout the years. I also like when kids come back after being out of school for a while," he said.

Like a story that never ends, Dr. Ladd's knowledge just keeps growing.

There is no summer vacation for this teacher. During the summer months you will most likely find him at a workshop or finding other ways to improve his teaching skills.

It is one of his former teachers, Mrs. Unted, whom he tries to model his teaching style after.

"She taught like this and when I got to college, I realized that is how professors taught so that is why I like to teach that way," he said.

Out of the classroom, Dr. Ladd considers himself a fan of sports and really likes to give back to the sports he likes. To do this, he coaches.

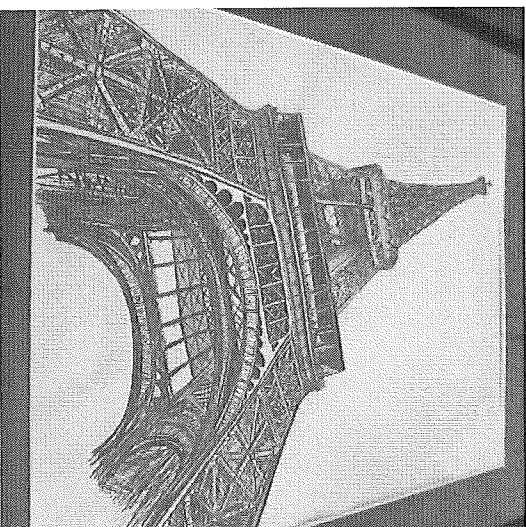
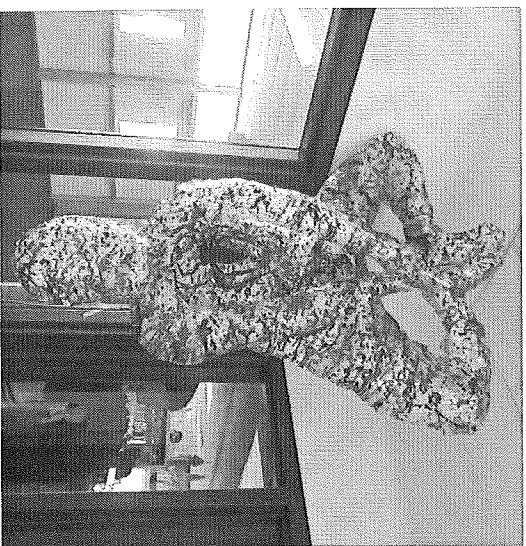
His most recent position is the girl's track coach at the middle school.

He said, "When I started coaching football, I was assistant to the head track coach and he got me into it. I started to see the correlation to football and so I stuck with it."

In fact, he really likes middle school track.

"There is no pressure of winning. *Continued on page 14*

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Features

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