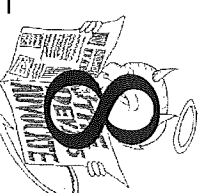


In Our Opinion



Girls are mean

By: Regan Blissett
Feature Editor

Girls are vicious. They are mean, cruel and have no mercy. Not all of us are, of course, but unfortunately, girls start so much drama. Let's face it. Once in our life we have said nasty words, judged somebody we didn't know and gossiped. Everybody is guilty of it.

I am.
But why do we do it? People say that the guilty person is really insecure deep inside. That may be the case, but most likely it's not. Girls are mean and we gossip for many reasons but mostly because of two.

One of them is because we think it's fun. Whenever we're with friends, we always bring up somebody we don't like, make fun of them and are always judging somebody's flaws.

It brings up something to talk about. Girls think it's okay too. We never think they will find out. Heck, we could be friends with someone for years but deep inside we may truly hate them. The second reason is because of boys.

Boys are always the ones to make us girls go crazy. They can make two best friends become enemies in seconds. If you see a girl flirting with a guy you like, you automatically hate her even though you don't even know her! We all do it.

Boys have the ability to cause us so much pain, so we take it out on everyone else.

That's just what we do. A self-defense mechanism. We can't use our brawns like boys so we use the one thing that hurts the most: Our words. We know exactly what words to use, too.

Some girls can just pick other people completely apart using just a dozen letters. It's terrible how much backstabbing and cruel things we can do and say. But for what? Just to hurt somebody else?
Plus now with Facebook and

Twitter, girls are finally calling each other out. They are making statuses about other people and getting in fights where everybody can see.

They hide behind a screen and say everything they want on a computer, but will say nothing in person.

Our words have gone too far and people are getting hurt from it. It's time to take a stand. No more judging someone we barely know. No more causing stupid Facebook and Twitter fights. It's getting old! We need to stop.

No more judging other girls because they look different than you. No more talking crap about your own friends behind their back. Just no more.

There's no point. Nobody is perfect. Not you, not me, not any of us. It's time to get over ourselves, grow up, and start respecting each other.

That's one of the biggest problems why girls get in so many cat fights, because we have no respect for ourselves and for anyone else. Mean girls aren't cool anymore.

They are just mean. Being mean will make you lose more friends than making them.

Not all girls are mean, however. Deep down girls are really good people. We get this reputation from things we do from people who don't know us. For example, people watch movies and see snobby cheerleaders and assume they're all like that.

They aren't, and girls definitely aren't all like Regina George, from *Mean Girls*.

We're not all bad so don't stereotype nice girls as mean ones. So to the girls that are nice, I say thank you. Thank you for being kind and respectful no matter what.

To the girls that are mean -- and I think we all know if we are or are not -- try changing. Change for the better. Stop judging someone you barely know, stop talking about your friends and maybe the reputation of being a mean girl will change too.
It starts with us and who we are as a person.

Hybrid Classes Bring RHS into the 21st Century

By: Jake McKiernan
Staff Writer

School days may be shortened next school year for some. A select amount of students will only be required to be present for five hours a day, or even less while still getting a great education in the subject.

The Richmond School District is presenting students of the 2012-2013 school year with a variety of new experiences, with one being a new education phenomenon: hybrid classes.

The hybrid class is a new way to learn that has been introduced across the country. This special type of class is not like a normal class. Students will only be required to meet in the physical classroom for only a few times per week, depending on the teacher.

The rest is done online. Students can also come in during their "off" days to receive extra one-on-one time with the teacher. This feat was much more difficult to perform in the past, because of a lack of teacher availability.

Hybrid classes are being offered to students who need or want to take English 9, 10, 11, and 12, Earth Science, U.S History, Accounting 1 and Accounting 2.

This new setup is very beneficial to students as it provides an opportunity to understand materials better than they would in a traditional classroom setup.

I am anticipating an extremely high level of enthusiasm from students and teachers alike. We become tired of being in class after a while, so these hybrid classes will be a great way to keep us both from becoming, how the kids say, "burnt out".

Hybrid classes will be a wonderful way to make kids more interested in the subject without smothering them. It will keep kids from being spiteful about school because they can enjoy the freedom of having some of the class as independent work.

But the hybrid classes will benefit students in more ways than just one.

The open class and online work is a great way of giving students a task they will have to fulfill independently without mandating and pressuring them to complete it. This is a great way to prepare students for the real world; it puts students in a situation they would encounter in a job, similar to a task assigned by their boss.

In this, Richmond Community School District has found a great way to pre-

pare kids for their future. RHS is not the only school district to integrate technology into the normal public education system.

Crosswell-Lexington has initiated a new one-to-one iPad program.

The district has purchased and assigned WiFi capable iPads to every student in grades 5-12. The iPads are equipped with virtual textbooks, novels and other learning applications. Such applications will allow students to test and answer questions virtually using the application "e-clicker".

Other applications such as a graphing calculator, reading comprehension, and math comprehension come standard in these new iPads.

Crosswell-Lexington has, without a doubt, taken a huge step into the 21st Century.

So has Richmond, and this is something that we need to make sure gets done and continues to evolve.

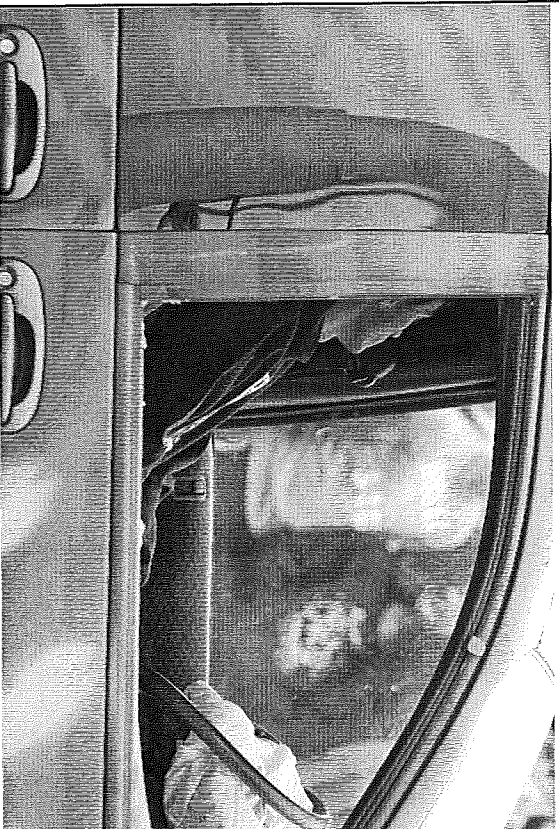
With our hybrid classes, we are able to perform similar tasks such as online testing, worksheets and lessons. We are also granted access to graphing calculators and other technologic advances, keeping us as current with technology as schools like Crosswell-Lexington.

The next step, hopefully, will be to integrate technology more fully, and with more advanced devices.

The technical education race has only begun, and it is a positive thing to see that Richmond is leading the pack.

MOCK ACCIDENT

Colton Leach during the mock accident.



Senior Colton Leach pretends to be an injured drunk driver in the mock



Juniors and seniors gather around to watch the mock accident.

Opinion

May 3, 2012

In Our Opinion



Top Ten

perseverance, hard work, effort, tenacity, intelligence, dedication, character, drive, well-rounded and achievement.

By: **Anabella Ottenbacher**
News Editor

What does it take to become part of the RHS Top Ten seniors? Well, if we're being honest, we all know it can't be narrowed down to just one characteristic. It takes qualities like dedication, perseverance, effort and being a hard worker.

It takes a dedicated person, someone who wants to excel, achieve and, most importantly, learn. If you don't have the desire to better yourself and push yourself towards perfection, you won't be part of the Top Ten.

Being generally intelligent can only get you so far. Having to persevere through four years of high school can be difficult, and all too often, students tend to slack off during one or two years, which is something that can break your GPA.

Many kids have a tendency to drop the ball a little bit their freshman and sophomore years, and then when junior year rolls around and the ACT looms ahead, they begin to look into colleges; they realize that the big college they dreamed of going to is out of reach because they got a few C's on their report card.

So how can you persevere through four long years of high school? What makes certain kids study and work hard while others slack?

Some may argue that extracurricular activities may

have something to do with it. Playing sports or participating in clubs can drive kids to be better students.

I know from experience that being on a sport can push you to do better academically; no one wants to be the one on the team that gets an ineligibility slip. Whether you believe that extracurriculars have anything to do with it or not, this year's Top Ten is proof that being high-achieving student-athlete is possible.

This year's Top Ten students are all involved in some kind of sport or another, as well as at least one club. Every student in the Top Ten has been involved with NHS, which is an organization requiring each member to participate in 20 service hours and 10 fundraising hours throughout the school year. Many are in SADD, Student Government and Key Club.

Piling on NHS responsibilities, with athletic commitments and academic responsibilities, this year's Top Ten is certainly a well-rounded group.

Another important quality for a member of the Top Ten to have is the ability to put their best effort into everything. Whether it is their education, participating in a club or working hard in a sporting event, effort is key. After all, no one can be successful without having put forth a ton of effort.

Being an accomplished student isn't just beneficial in high school. It can transfer into college life and even into adulthood. Being a hard working student

can help kids transition into college and be better prepared for new responsibilities and studies.

Not only does a successful high school career better your college education, but it can also help you to be a better employee and achieve more in the workplace. Taking an interest in what is going on around you can also prepare you to be an active citizen in your community as you grow older.

However, it's not all about going to college and getting a good job to make money. Being a successful high schooler can help you with things not relative to education, such as forming relationships and working with organizations outside of the workplace.

A good high school education can help you become a well-rounded human being, not just a well-rounded student, because of your hard work and tenacity.

From perseverance, to hard work, to dedication, to putting forth good effort, being a part of the Top Ten is not easy to accomplish. However these qualities should be something every student and teacher work to achieve and maintain.

So, good luck to this year's Top Ten and to the future seniors, keep up the hard work.

Prom: Let's continue to change its location

By: **Melissa Resk**
Advertising Editor

Every year girls get dolled-up and dressed to the nines for one special night. Guys get fitted for their tux and attempt to impress their date. They hope for the best on this unforgettable night.

To underclassmen, the location of their Prom is nothing, but for a junior or senior, this night means everything. Maybe it's the fact that freshmen and sophomores are not allowed to go unless they are accompanied by an upperclassman. But either way, Prom is the last dance a senior will have at their high school. With the limited amount of days left, they want to make the best of it.

Picking the perfect dress.

Spending hours on their hair.

Getting the perfect date with the perfectly

matched tie.

Millions of pictures and flashing lights.

This magical night can be the fairytale every girl looks for. The only thing missing is the perfect location.

Location is a big decision and takes forever to decide upon. Class advisors hold meetings and students vote on what they think the student body will like best.

But who want the location to be the same as the year before? Many students want to switch it up and experience a new location every year.

Three years ago, the class advisors, Mr. Roodbeen and Mr. Schleder, planned for Prom to be on a boat. After booking the boat through Infinity Innovation in St. Clair Shores, students were enthralled with the idea. Having your Senior Prom on a boat that takes you to see the glorious lights in Detroit is nothing but a dream to some students. But this in-

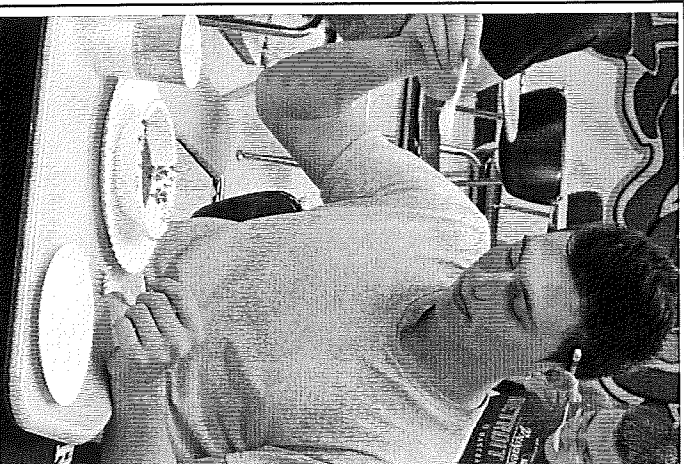
possible dream became reality.

In the past Prom has been held on a Yacht, at Tina's Country House and Garden on North Avenue, Crystal Gardens in Marysville, and Fore Lakes Golf Club in Kimball. These locations can meet the standards of perfect in anyone's eyes.

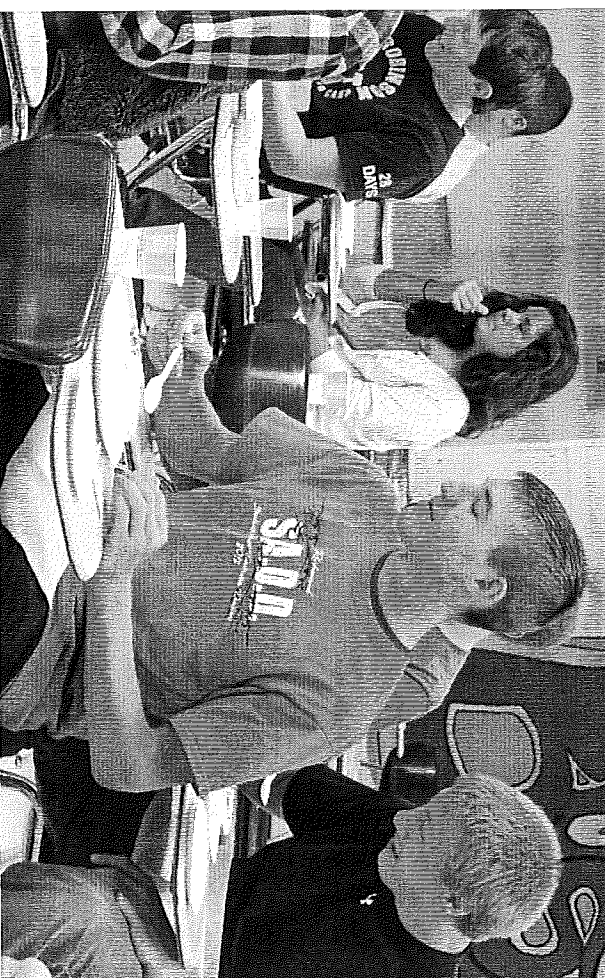
But, the problem with these locations is how often Richmond attends them. In past years, the location hasn't been rotated as often as needed.

That is why Prom should be rotated to a new location each year. It is good that this year, Prom is at the Detroit Yacht Club, a new location. This year should be full of the new memories that go along with a new and spontaneous place to host Prom.

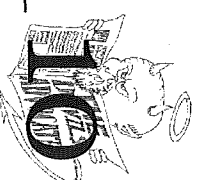
Hopefully, Prom will continue to be at a new location each year and give all the students new memories to create.



Tyler Bielecki working on his table manners.
From RHS Yearbook



Students are learning proper dining etiquette.
From RHS Yearbook



Kiss your seniors goodbye

By: Anna Fraser
Opinion Editor

As the year is wrapping up, Student Government is giving kisses. Hershey Kisses that is. Starting May 14, little goodie bags of Hershey Kisses will be available to purchase for any underclassman who is saying goodbye to a senior this year.

Senior and Student Government President Nicole Daniel came up with the idea while eating a Hershey Kiss.

She said, "I was just thinking about something we could do to send the seniors off."

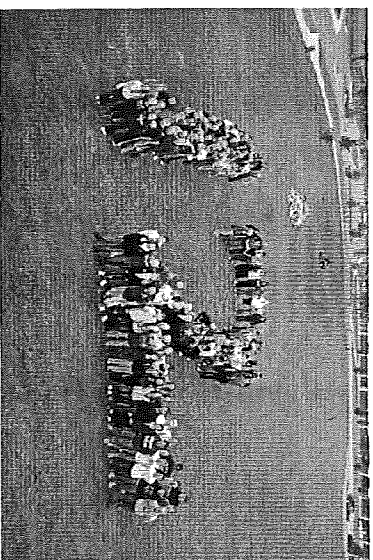
Student Government Advisor Dr. Ladd said this would be the first time Student Government does this.

"If this is well received, we'd like to make it a new tradition," he said.

Sophomore Leya Gonzalez is looking forward to this new and upcoming event.

"I think it's clever and a sweet way of telling our seniors goodbye," she said.

Like the "Slush for Your Crush" event that goes on mid-February, students can add a note to their surprise for the senior(s) of their choice.



However this time the messages won't be reading, "You're super duper cute."

Instead, they will carry a more meaningful message. Has a senior made an impact on your life? Have you learned anything from someone who is graduating? Let them know!

Senior Kerin Uppleger said, "It's nice to know that we're going to be missed."

Saying goodbye might be hard for some to do, but a little of bag chocolate can lighten up the mood.

For others, this is an exciting time.

The senior's countdown until graduation is dwindling down every week.

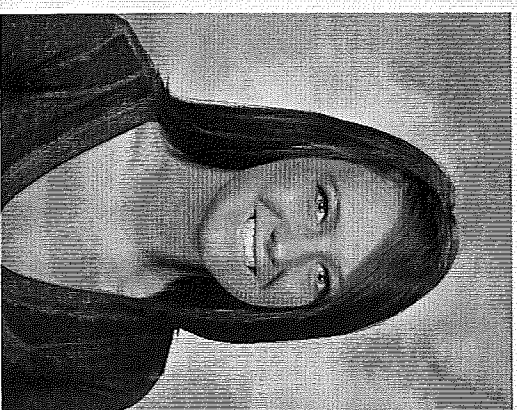
This means the time to say goodbye to them is also quickly approaching.

"I think it's important to send the seniors off in a positive way because this is the end of their four years in high school. It's a big moment and they deserve some recognition," Ladd said.

You can "Kiss Your Senior Goodbye" for \$1. They will be available for purchase at every lunch and will be delivered by Student Government members throughout the day.

Student Star

Elizabeth Renner: Freshman



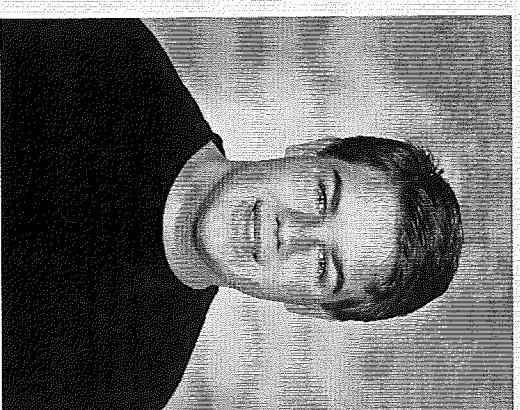
Favorite class?: English

Favorite movie?: The Notebook

Favorite food?: Ribs

Favorite quote?: NA

Jake Matthes: Freshman



Favorite class?: World History

Favorite movie?: Gladiator

Favorite food?: Pizza

Favorite quote?: "Good things come to those who work hard"

Don't forget to remember me

By Emily Swantek
Staff Writer

What if a loved one was going away for some time? They probably would want to have something to remind you of them.

Senior Kelsey Kasom is going away to college in Chicago and designed a pair of shoes for her mother. "I made her a pair of shoes to remind her of me and how much I love her," said Kasom.

These shoes weren't just Nikes that you can design online. Kasom bought a pair of Vans and used fabric marker to make them a one of a kind. Not to mention, she did this all free-handed.

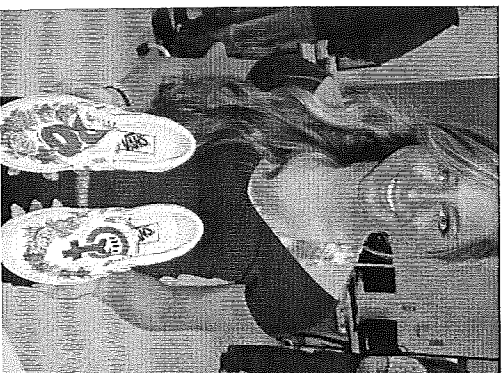
All the drawings on the shoe meant something dealing with her mother.

"I drew roses outlining the front side of the shoe because her name is Rosann and she loves roses," said Kasom. She added that she drew the letters "RO" on the top of one shoe because her mom's maiden name is Rosann Ortisi and they call her Ro.

Another symbol was a little rectangular pattern on the top edges of the shoes. "I made the rectangles green and red to represent her being 100 percent Italian," said Kasom. She also said on the elastic part of the shoes she drew zebra stripes to represent her being feisty sometimes.

On the back of the heel she drew the symbol for eternal love and wrote her family's initials inside of it. She also drew camouflage on the outer side of the shoe because she likes the pattern and enjoys being outdoors.

On top of the other shoe, she drew the female sign and instead of the average line she turned it into a fist. "The fist represents power and strength. My mom exercises a lot and is ripped. Exercising is kind of her get away," said Kasom.



She went on to say that underneath she drew her zodiac sign, which is cancer.

Probably the most important symbol is the butterfly that is resting on one of the roses.

"My grandma passed away from cancer about 10 years ago and anytime something doesn't go as planned, my mom sees a butterfly. We believe that that butterfly is a sign that my grandma is with us," said Kasom.

The last thing on the shoe is a quote that wraps around the shoe that states, "Only a rose grows in the brightest of suns... Te Amo Mamma."

Kasom said these shoes meant a lot to her and wanted to take her time on them. "I bought the shoes and started working on them before Spring Break and took a break during it. After I came home, I went back to work on them. I put a lot of thought into them and wanted to take my time because Van's aren't cheap and I wanted to make them special."

Kasom was planning to give these extraordinary shoes to her mother for Mother's Day. However, she couldn't wait to give them to her, so she gave them to her when she finished them.



Class Trip at Barrymore's

By: Jacob Marlow
Staff writer

All geometry students and NHS scholars should most likely put May 17 on the calendar because that is the day both groups will be taking a field trip to CJ Barrymore's. Geometry teacher Mrs. Wolfe said, "The reason for the field trip is because we will be doing a unit on reflections, and the reflections unit can apply with mini-golf and playing pool or billiards."

Mr. Germain one of three Geometry teachers said, "The reflection unit will relate with mini-golf and pool by the different types of angles the players will have to hit the ball so it will go into the whole or pocket."

The angles on the golf course are going to vary from hole to hole, the students will have to figure out how hard to hit the ball and were to hit without hitting any objects.

The objects on the mini-golf course are going to affect the route of the ball. So the ball will reflect off the object and the knowledge of angles and reflection will come into play on the course, by knowing how hard to hit the ball into the object and were the ball will end up after the ball is stops. TRIP continued on pg. 11