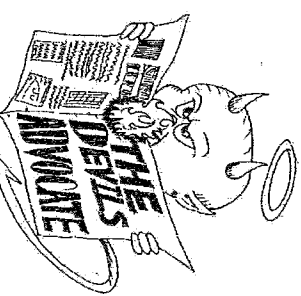


Happy Gobble Day!

The BLUE DEVIL'S

Advocate



Richmond High School
35320 Division Road
Richmond, MI 48062

Volume 11, Issue 2

Weavin' New Knowledge Into The Science Wing

By: Brandon VanGorp
Staff Writer

School was not always Mr. Weaver's favorite place. Now, he is there almost every day.

Mr. Jason Weaver attended Anchor Bay High School and lived near the area his whole life.

Although Mr. Weaver always had an interest in science, especially chemistry, he was almost not allowed to take it his junior year. Mr. Weaver's grades were not the best and from past performance in school, his counselor did not recommend he take the class.

"I really wanted to take the class because a close family friend of mine I went to church with taught the class," said Mr. Weaver. Nick Jabe was the teacher's name, the one who inspired Mr. Weaver to learn more about science.

Mr. Jabe made science an enjoyable subject. "He was funny; he always kept the game interesting," Mr. Weaver said. It was a difficult class but he had great success.

He received a good grade in the class, around a high B, and from there his love for chemistry started.

Mr. Weaver graduated from Anchor Bay High School. With his newfound love for chemistry, he continued his education by going to Grand Valley State University. He eventually got his bachelor's degree in chemistry at GVSU.

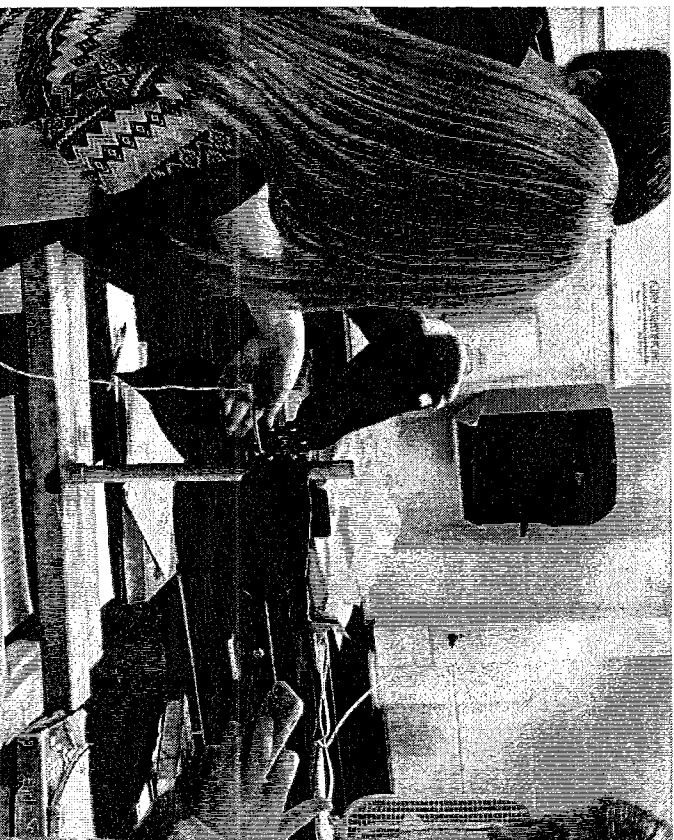
One of the hardest classes he had to take was physical chemistry. His favorite class he took was analytical chemistry.

With his talents in chemistry, he then took a job as a product-developing chemist at Akzo Nobel. Gadgets always sparked an interest in him.

He is a co-inventor of many patents including coating compositions comprising.

This is a coating composition comprising a polyisocyanate compound, a hydroxyl functional film forming polymer and a non volatile branched monoalcohol. Basically it's a technology used for a clear coat paint that's used in car refinishing.

Years later he decided that he wanted to become a teacher. He said, "Becoming a teacher was always a lifelong desire of mine. I enjoy sharing knowledge with oth-



Freshmen work on their windmill projects. This is one of the first projects Mr. Weaver had his science students do.

ers." He furthered his education even more by taking night classes at Wayne State University, where he got his teaching certification.

While Mr. Weaver was taking those night classes he was still working at Akzo Nobel. He would go to work and then, most days, go to his classes after.

After he got his teaching certification, he continued to go to school to

"Becoming a teacher was always a lifelong desire of mine. I enjoy sharing knowledge with others."
- Mr. Weaver

eventually get his master's degree in the arts of teaching.

With his newly obtained knowledge, he started student teaching at Utica Stevenson High School. Mr. Weaver said, "I learned a lot from the all the teachers. They really helped me get a good start in my career."

Mr. Weaver then became a student teacher for East Detroit High School. Not long after he got his first official teaching job there.

He taught there for 14 years teaching numerous subjects including physics, physical science, biology,

environmental science, chemistry and forensic science.

Mr. Weaver recently was accepted here at RHS. He was very excited to see the job opening here because of the chance for a better future. "I took this job for a chance to teach at a higher level," said Mr. Weaver. He also enjoys being able to teach here because of the short drive opposed to the drive to East Detroit.

It's a big change from East Detroit to Richmond though. "East Detroit has three floors and many more students," he said. Many students at East Detroit have to go to work after school to help provide for their families. This affects their efforts on homework and then eventually shows on their test scores.

Mr. Weaver uses a unique method of teaching. "All my students are the actors and I'm the audience," he said. Everyday day is a different adventure in the classroom to Mr. Weaver.

So far this year in his classes, they have done a major, interesting assessment. His 9th grade science class just completed a windmill project.

His students had to construct a windmill that would lift a certain amount of weight.

"I love when I see someone finally get it," Mr. Weaver said.

He enjoys the feeling of satisfaction when students fully understand what he is teaching.

"I'm learning every day," he said. He wants to share his knowledge with his students.

Field Trips Down Learning Lane

By: Brendan Hart
Sports Co-Editor

Imagine your stereotypical high school student, and ask them why they would go on a field trip.

That student's response is most likely, to get out of school, but not the students here at RHS.

Whether it's a Spanish field trip or a field trip to learn about manufacturing and how it has changed over the years, RHS students go on field trips with one goal: to learn.

Manufacturing Day

This year Richmond was granted the opportunity to go on a manufacturing day trip.

Mrs. Michon described the trip as "an opportunity to learn that there is life beyond Richmond."

Mrs. Michon, along with counselor Ms. Till, took 30 students on the trip where they went to Elite Molding to discover the manufacturing world that has been reborn thanks to technological advances.

"I want our students to experience the inexperienced," said the principal, who feels that the 30 students she brought did. "We wanted to educate kids about the job opportunity."

Senior Kevin Maas said, "They had a lot of the newest and advanced machines that are being used in the manufacturing world."

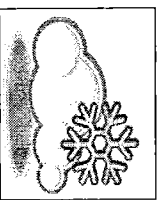
One thing Mrs. Michon stressed is that these companies are willing to take kids under their wing and mentor them to help follow the path if manufacturers before them. She even said that some companies are willing to help pay for college of these kids that wish to enter the manufacturing society.

Senior Evan Kratt, who is attending Central Michigan University on a baseball scholarship, attended this field trip, and even though he doesn't wish to pursue this opportunity, he still feels as if the trip prepared him for the real world.

"I went to learn about manufacturing and I definitely did," said Kratt.

Senior Jake Schmidt said that the variety of molds they had was something he didn't see coming.

The manufacturing day field trip *Continued on page 3*



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Mostly Cloudy
High: 25
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Revising Richmond: Room Changes Meant to Improve Efficiency

By: Christina Thomas
Staff Writer

Going into a new school year indicates a fresh start and change, and change is exactly what is happening at RHS. Things such as a new superintendent, new Athletic Director, new room locations and new room numbers are just some of the changes.

Several room changes have been made which caused many people to end up in a new location. Mr. Bourdeau, RHS's assistant principal, can now be found in the counseling office down the 100 hallway. "I'm very laid back," said Mr. Bourdeau. "I can work anywhere with anyone; I adapt easily."

The room changes didn't faze Mr. Bourdeau one bit although, there are issues to overcome. "There is the issue of being away from Mrs. Michon but we are adjusting to it as well as the students are," said Mr. Bourdeau.

Being in the counseling office puts Mr. Bourdeau more involved with the students. "It puts me in the middle of the ring," said Mr. Bourdeau. Following the change with Mr. Bourdeau, the Athletic Director's office has been moved to the main office.

Mr. Benoit, RHS's new Athletic Director, is now found in the first room in the main office. Mr. Benoit started off as a teacher, transitioned to an Athletic Director, changed to an Assistant Principal, went to the position of a Principal and is now an Athletic Director again.

"As an educator, to be able to have an experience at all levels is pretty powerful," said Mr. Benoit, turning back to an Athletic Director has brought me back to my roots."

Transitioning over from the Will L. Lee Elementary school to the high school, Mr. Benoit says the staff of the high school has been extremely welcoming to him. Mr. Benoit always liked high school sports and enjoys watching students in a different element and seeing the skills that they have outside of an educational era.

Trailing the change with the athletic office, the Special Education Department has been moved to where the athletic office was originally located because of the convenience for the staff and students. "When students go to assistant principal the case is they are usually in trouble. The counselors can now tie in and help; it's a natural fit," said Mr. Brian Wamsley, RHS's superintendent.

Mr. Wamsley's office is now located in Mr. Bourdeau's old office in the main office. Mr. Wamsley's office is a satellite office, which means it is an extension of his main office at RMS. "I feel as if it's important for me to have a satellite office because of the principles it comes with," said Mr. Wamsley.

With all the room changes and the new locations of staff members, new room numbers will be in effect. "We are taking one building at a time starting with the Will L. Lee Elementary," said Mr. Wamsley. "This will help our students with direction."

Room number changes will not be the only change.

"Many more physical changes are in the process of being done," said Mr. Wamsley. "It's just a matter of time."

Mrs. Michon has adjusted to the changes.

"Change is good, change doesn't hurt us. It gives us a new view and new focus towards things," said RHS's principal Mrs. Michon.

The main focus right now is the Will L. Lee Elementary school and then the process up to the RMS and the RHS will take place as well.

"We have a great educational system and we can always grow," said Mrs. Michon. "If you don't learn you can't grow."

Classes Give Students Top Thrill Dragsters

By: Beau Brockett, Jr.
Co-Features Editor

Coloring craniums with Crayola? Creating rollercoasters straight out of a Mario Kart fantasy? Watching organs pump within live animals? What's going on?

Projects, to be exact. From coaster tracks to body parts, Mr. Roodbeen and Mr. Schleder are redefining their Physics and Anatomy classes with amazing opportunities, giving their students quite the thrill from them.

For many theme park fanatics, the climax of any rollercoaster ride is the huge dips, droops, and hoops. For many Physics students at RHS, it was their worst nightmare.

Their instructor, Mr. Roodbeen, gave them the objective of developing, constructing and testing a coaster of their own design, complete with an inverted loop and two elevations, all clustered within a 1 1/2 X1 1/2 meter parameter.

The goal: "To allow kids to apply their knowledge of the velocity and acceleration concepts," Mr. Roodbeen said. "To show them the difficulties in everyday engineering using everyday materials."

For better success, senior Xavier Nickles wished he and his group would have brainstormed their ultimate design earlier. While building, they found that the ball (the 'cart') just couldn't get over the loop and second elevation. "Getting the rollercoaster to work and actually stay in place," he said, was the hardest part.

But through the late nights, Xavier gained organizational, teamwork and tool skills that otherwise would have continued to slumber. And it

all paid off in the early twilight "when we were sitting at three a.m. and it worked," he said.

Their theme for their thrill ride reflected was a bow to October, or Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Pink tape mingled with the mesh to create a huge drop and a dizzying loop in the waterslide-like ride.

Seniors Mathew Bauman and Ryan Wilkerson swam into similar waters. Despite having drawn numerous rough sketches, their coaster was a Millennium Force – it was just too fast. The ball would fly off the hill, loop, and even the course itself.

As a result, their cart completed the circuit only 50% of the time. "Everything worked as it should've when Roodbeen wasn't looking," Mathew said.

Nonetheless, their course was sheer ingenuity. Ryan and fellow senior Michael Wood worked on a back-drop resembling Super Mario World, making their coaster an honorary Mario Kart course.

For juniors Josh Blisset and Alana Poole, though, it was all smooth sailing.

Teamwork, Josh found, was the most rewarding. "It helped me as a person work better with other people. It required a whole lot of communication between you and your partner."

Mr. Roodbeen deemed the projects a great success despite the bumps along the way. "It surprised me some of the materials they used actually worked," he said. Not many architects and engineers can concoct a course out of materials like Benadryl bottles, cardboard, world maps, PVC pipes, wood, liter bottles, paper plates and superglue like his class

Continued on page 3

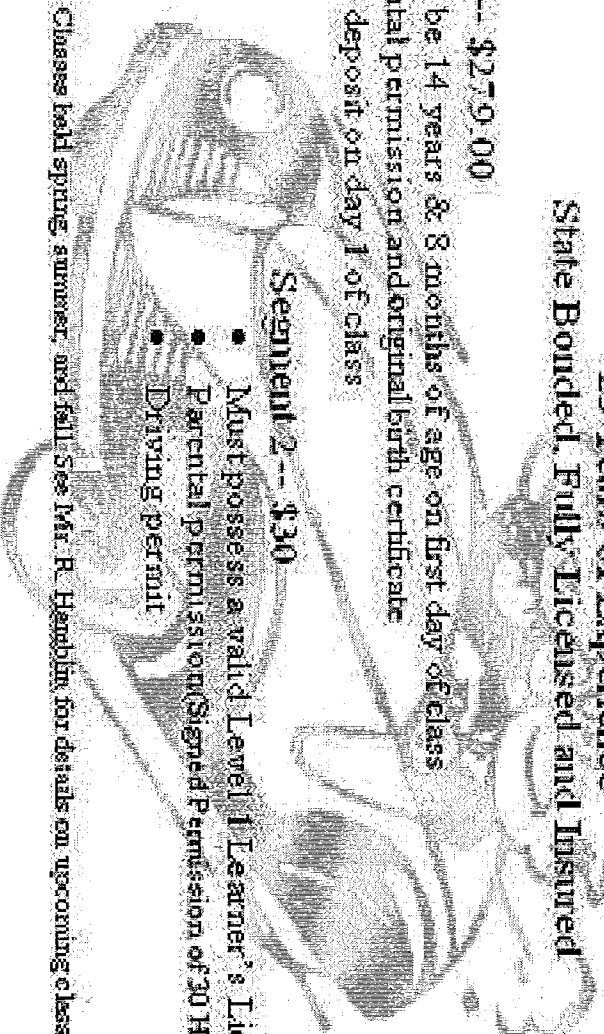
H & H Student Driving School
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23 Years of Experience
State Bonded, Fully Licensed and Insured

Segment 1 -- \$279.00

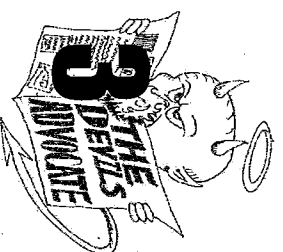
- Must be 14 years & 8 months of age on first day of class
- Parental permission and original birth certificate
- \$100 deposit on day 1 of class

Segment 2 -- \$30

- Must possess a valid Level 1 Learner's License for 90 days
- Parental permission (Signed Permission of 30 Hours practice Driving)
- Driving permit



Classes held spring, summer, and fall. See Mr. R. Herold for details on upcoming classes.



Science

Continued from page 2

did.

With day upon day of planning and assembling the Kinga Ka of projects, it was of little surprise there were some magical memories, like the one Josh had: "It was probably the moment you get it all together and you drop the ball and it goes through the whole thing. It was a feeling of accomplishment."

Meanwhile, Mr. Schleder's Anatomy class is digging up dissections and unearthing an eye witness account of biological functions.

This quarter's creatures: earthworms.

"It's a good starter dissection," said Mr. Schleder. "It teaches them to be careful. Be a surgeon, not a butcher."

Worms provide an easy incision and excellent insight on how the body runs. Students even got to see the circulatory systems pumping.

"It's so much more colorful," he said, to examine animals as fresh and functioning specimens.

He sees the bond between dissections and Anatomy like the close connections coaches and athletes share; severing the harmony would leave each part immobile. It's a relationship that runs deep and allows for the best understanding and growth possible.

His students are reflective of that bond.

Junior Stephanie Woodruff didn't see the projects as all guts and gore, but as beneficial.

"We were locating body structures and internal organs," she said. "We also compared it to human body systems." The earthworms were studied as a whole, from aortas to gizzards. Notes and diagrams were also filled out.

The experiment even sliced open a new career interest: the medical field.

"It was really cool – interesting to say the least," she said.

Popping open worms sped great experiences and information onto senior Barbara Dresden, as well.

"It was really gross, but it was interesting to see all the different

There's still more in store for the budding doctors as Mr. Schleder plans on dissecting animal hearts, brains, eyes and even a fetal pig.

The pig, he said, is a summary of all the systems with an emphasis on the digestive. Students will cut off limbs, skin and reflect. The examination will take a week to complete.

The worm preps stomachs and skills for these projects ahead. "I think it was really good," said Barbara. "I think it will help."

When organs aren't being used, students are coloring them in.

So far, senior Adam Boyd and his peers have crayoned in vertebrae, skulls, pectoral girdles (our shoulder and collar bone area) and various tissues and cells. "It gave you a good visual of where everything was and what the parts were," he said.

His method of coloring is what he tells his cousins while babysitting. "Get it done, but stay in the lines."

His color of choice: orange. "It's one of my favorite classes," said Adam. "Mr. Schleder does a good job of making everything interesting."

Anatomy and Physics are dissecting and assembling a contemporary classroom technique with hands-on and innovative experiences. And the students are loving it.

Mad City Money Meets RHS Students

By: Jenna Stafford
Opinion Editor

A normal Thursday morning in RHS's cafeteria is typically quite uneventful: empty, deserted rows of tables, waiting for lunch time to roll around.

However, on November 14, there was a different scene entirely.

On that Thursday, the cafeteria was bustling. Three personal finance classes gathered there for a real-life budgeting experience named Mad City Money.

Mad City Money is an event put on by the Credit Union National Association. RHS was visited by employees of Central Macomb

Community Credit Union.

For this event, each student is paired up and they receive a folder full of fake information, such as their jobs and wages.

In addition, students learn whether they are carrying additional expenses from month-to-month, such as children or credit card debt.

From there, students were sent through multiple stations, where they learned to budget many different expenses they will face in the adult world, or in their case, in "Mad City".

Mad City never failed to throw the students for a loop, either.

One of the Mad City workers, named Howard, was the bearer of bad news: He had an envelope full of "oops" situations, such as speeding tickets and emergency room expenses.

This taught the students that not everything in the real-life world is a given.

Haley Nicolopoulos, senior, was glad she participated.

"Earning to budget your money is very important," she said.

The various stations included housing, transportation, clothing, child care, and food. Other areas, such as the "Mad City Mall", gave students the temptation of splurging a bit on some non-essentials.

This activity proved beneficial to the participants. Many learned the importance of putting needs before wants. Mad City residents had to learn to say no to pushy salesmen and convincing marketers.

For example, Melissa Leduc, senior, had to sacrifice her want for a nice, new car to the significantly less expensive purchase of a public bus pass for means of transportation.

"It was a good learning experience," Leduc said. "I never thought budgeting would be so hard."

Her Mad City partner, senior Haley Holdwick, enjoyed the activity as well.

"It was hard," Holdwick said. "I didn't think I'd have to spend over \$500 just on food. Money goes quick when it's actually yours. The expenses added up fast."

Most students agreed that their favorite part was getting out of the classroom and getting hands-on.

Mr. Brown, personal finance teacher, was very pleased with the outcome of the activity.

"I asked all my classes, and there was no negative feedback at all.

Everyone really enjoyed it," he said. Mr. Brown looks forward to welcoming Mad City Money back to RHS next year.

Field Trips

Continued from page 1

trip provided kids with a new career choice once they leave RHS.

Spanish Field Trip

Richmond kids aren't just learning about manufacturing. Students in Spanish classes went on a trip to Macomb Community College in search of learning about a day the Spanish celebrate as Dia de Los Muertos, which translates to Day of the Dead. On this day families of the Spanish heritage celebrate the ones that they have lost.

To honor their dead, they make altars with symbols that they feel represent the one they have lost. Students learned that even though it is called Day of the Dead, it is celebrated as a happy holiday.

"The altars were my favorite part," said sophomore Eric Raska, "other than the food."

Most of the time, families make the altars out of from what they believe represents the one they have lost in the past so that their lives can be celebrated even past their lives.

For example if a person had a loving personality their altar would be religiously themed.

The participants attended the trip not only to learn of Dia de Los Muertos but to learn about Spanish culture.

They learned about Spanish food when they went to Don Pablo's, a Mexican restaurant.

This is a trip that both Spanish teachers Señora Wolfe and Señora Smallwood both coordinate, which they do annually. However, this is the first year that they have gone to Macomb Community College in search of learning about the customs of people from Mexican culture as well as Mexican-American culture.

"The reason students like this trip is because instead of just reading about the holiday out of a textbook, they get to connect to the holiday through real-world experiences," said Señora Wolfe.

In any class the best way to gain interest from the students is to go out and do something hands-on.

"This trip makes this part of the unit relevant to the real world," said Señora Wolfe.

Spanish students were definitely engaged in the Dia de Los Muertos unit this year, thanks to Señoras Wolfe and Smallwood.



Left: Haley Fortuna, Sam Christiansen and Courtney Tessmer at rock fieldtrip.
Right: Jacob St. John discusses *Of Mice and Men* in a Socratic Circle.



Check this out!