

New Richmond
will always remember...



Diana Spinnati

“STAY SAFE! :)”

“I started coming to New Richmond my 9th grade year and I knew that Ms. Spinnati was different from any other principal I’d ever had. The students not only respected her authority, but they loved her as well. It was obvious that the kids were her life and she would do anything for them if it meant they would be a better person for it. She cared for much more than her students’

education...she cared about how the students felt and their character development. She’s one of the greatest women I’ve known and the impact she has made on my life will never be forgotten.”

--Ashleigh Beard

“My favorite thing that I remember about Ms. Spinnati is the fact that she had a personal relationship with almost every student and really cared about each one of them, too. She was more than just a principal to us; she was a friend. Someone we could talk to about everything and have a good laugh with, too. She was truly an amazing woman.”

--Zack Coldiron

“I didn’t personally know Ms. Spinnati, but whenever I saw her she seemed like a very nice person, who loved life. I felt as if she was an example of someone who lived life to the fullest. Everything happens for a reason, though, so her moving on was just a sign that it was time for her to go, and that she still lived life to the fullest, and will be dearly missed.”

--Miah Bayless



“Ms. Spinnati was a saint among us. She did everything to see her students prosper and achieve their goals and dreams. She cried with us, laughed with us, and she was there when we needed a shoulder to lean on even with all the burdens she had. She still was there for all her students no matter what. She will always be loved and missed by all.”

-- Love, Sean Ray Lane J.R.

“We all are going to Miss Ms. Spinnati so much! It is great when a principal can make kids look forward to going to school. She was like one of us. She will always be a part of New Richmond, and New Richmond will always be thankful for what she has done to help us.”

--Courtney Senters

“I have some fond memories of Ms. Spinnati that I will cherish. During my first year at NRHS, she would often stop down in the “basement” to eat lunch with the small crew of teachers that included Mrs. Dalton, Mrs. Minning, and me. In the winter of my first year at NRHS, I came to work several days in a row while feeling incredibly sick. After two or three days of feeling miserable, I was given strict orders- by Ms. Spinnati, of course- to leave work and go straight to the doctor, despite a scheduled observation for that day... turned out that I had pneumonia. She made sure to check in on me that same day after I left work. We may not have chatted as often as I would have liked, but when we did chit-chat ,she always asked about my son, Alex, and my dog. From one dog lover to another, she knew I was totally gaga for my **dog**, so I would actually be ready to share my latest story or dog photo when she approached me with a grin and said, “How’s Reesie?” I will always remember her for her amazing smile, that infectious laugh of hers, and her incredibly loving and generous heart. She was truly one of the most giving individuals I have had the privilege of knowing.”

--Michelle Senter

“I remember when my brother graduated in 2010, Ms. Spinnati was introducing the next person to speak and she ended her introduction with “...yeah” and the audience got a good laugh out of it. I also remember last year in our English class she came into the room while Mrs. Parker was out. The smart board went to its screensaver and she was trying to get the screen we needed back up, and she was so amused with it and said it was fun to play with. Ms. Spinnati treated everyone special and I will miss her.”

--Kylie Phillips

“Ms. Spinnati was more than a principal to a lot of students, including me. She helped me in ways that my best friends couldn't. Ms. Spinnati knew how much I love New Richmond and how hard it is for me to stay in this school. She has fought with me and for me in several issues in my life. She comforted me when she learned my grandmother had died of cancer, only to learn she had cancer just a couple months later. A great principal, a caring person, a person who everyone should have had met.”

-- J.R. Forsee



“Ms. Spinnati was my favorite and best principal that I have ever had. Even though I only had her for my sophomore and junior years, she was an inspiration to me and everyone else. She was a role model and I looked up to her for everything. I may have been in her office a couple of times, but she knew what was going through my head and was always there when I needed someone the most. Ms. Spinnati will never be forgotten. She was loved by all of New Richmond and many others, and will forever be in our hearts. We love you...stay safe”

--Victoria Vise

“Ms. Spinnati was not only a great principal, but a great person, too. I only had her for one year as a principal and I learned how wonderful she was. If she can make an impact in a person's life in just one year, then that truly shows what a wonderful and caring person she was. Even though she is gone, everyone that knew her will never forget her. She will live in the halls of New Richmond forever. Rest in peace Ms. Spinnati. We will all love and miss you forever and always.” - **Taylor Zimmer**

“Oh, Ms. Spinnati, the times we had. The good and the bad. We were so close and still are. You would always find out if I was having a bad day and you would call me down to see what was wrong. Out of all the schools I have been to, you have been the best principal I have ever met. I'm going to miss you so, so very much. I hope you are having a good time up there. Every time I look in the sky I will think of you. I love you! Stay Safe!”

--Jason Gage Skillman

“I'll never forget 'Save Our Spinnati'. That was awesome and showed how much everybody loved her.” **Larry White**

“I may not have known Ms. Spinnati for long, but it still hurts to know she is no longer with us. My only hope now is that her family knows that she is not suffering any more. Please know how brave she was when she was here. She never showed her pain to the students at all.”

Love,

A student.



“Ms. Spinnati was such a great person. She was the best principal anyone could ask for. She made sure to know every single student. New Richmond is the best, and we got the best. She will always be the heart in this school. She brings us together. We love you Ms. Spinnati, we’ll never forget you.” - **Carrie Stapleton**

“I appreciated Ms. Spinnati’s role at the high school in many ways. She made you feel like you were more than a student. She made you feel like you were a friend, or you had some kind of importance to the school. Ms. Spinnati made my high school career start off great. She is one of the most outstanding people I’ve ever met in my life. I’m glad I had the opportunity to meet her.”

“I am here representing my daughter, Shari Cloud Thompson, she asked me to come and represent her. She was an 8th grade social studies teacher for Ms. Spinnati for 9 years. She now lives in Brisbane, Australia with her husband, Ben, and two little girls, Mia and Holly. She was very sad to hear of Ms. Spinnati’s illness and passing. Her prayers are with her family and friends. Shari enjoyed her years here with her students and the faculty. - **Eleanor Cloud**

“Diana hired me at the middle school 13 years ago. She was a great boss and friend. I felt like I could talk to her about work or other issues at any time. She will be missed.”- **Tina Grippa**

“Ms. Spinnati was a very great principal. I’ve known her for three years and she has always known me. It’s sad to see her go. I liked when she stopped by the school to check and see how things were going. She knows everyone in the high school loved her and we still do.” - **Cody Barth**

“I remember at our school’s ‘Spikes for Spinnati’ game, I had to deliver a short speech about how much New Richmond loves Ms. Spinnati and how glad we were that she could make it. She’s always been a huge support in athletics. After my speech, I hugged her and gave her flowers. She was crying.”

**Love,
Jessica Mowery**

“We will miss you so very much. Thank you for everything you did to help me through the three years I was here. It is very greatly appreciated.” - **Josh Hayslip**



"I am going to miss her so much. She was the best principal in the world. She was amazing, funny, and devoted to all of the students and making sure that they were the best they could be. She was, and is, loved by me, and everyone else. Even when she was battling pancreatic cancer, she stayed strong and positive, and was always smiling. I am going to miss her hugs and the conversations we had. New Richmond High School will never be the same without her. She is one of the strongest women I know, and she is an inspiration to me and all of the students at New Richmond, as well as staff and teachers. She will never be forgotten, and the influence she's had on so many people will live forever." - **Rachel Taylor**



"Growing up at New Richmond my whole life I remember meeting a lot of people my dad worked with. At a young age, I distinctly remember meeting Ms. Spinnati. The first thought I ever had was how nice she was. Since that time, I have grown up hearing from two sisters how much they loved her. When I got to high school, I learned just what they meant. I had a relationship with Ms. Spinnati I couldn't have with any other person I know. She will always be missed." - **Cole Bird**

"My best memory of Ms. Spinnati is at basketball games. During warm-ups I would look over and she would be standing in that doorway talking to everyone that came through while supporting each and everyone of us. She never failed to show up." - **Bailey Workman**



"I remember the day I met Ms. Spinnati. I had heard from the high schoolers that Ms. Spinnati was awesome when I was in middle school. The day I met her I knew she was a special person. She was very nice and calm and also had a mean side, but it only came out because of tyrant students. Ms. Spinnati will be missed greatly in my heart, and many other students hearts as well." - **Kyle C.**

"Ms. Spinnati was a very good person to me, my friends, and especially my family. Ms. Spinnati was a very good friend to my grandma as well. She will always be loved by everyone and most importantly missed. Rest in peace Ms. Spinnati." - **Taylor Whittaker**



One memory I will never forget about Ms. Spinnati was when some of the students from the class of 2008 decided to do senior skip day. We all decided that we would meet at Larosa's for lunch around noon. It wasn't five minutes after noon that Ms. Spinnati showed up asking why we were not in school. We all just sat with this blank look on our faces because she about scared the crap out of us. She then proceeded to make us all go home, called our parents and then we had three couple-hour long detentions on Fridays. **Karlie Mazzaro Class of '08**

“Webster’s defines *stern* as “having a definite hardness or severity of nature or manner” and *compassion* as “a sympathetic consciousness of others’ distress together with a desire to alleviate it.” Most people would say you could not be both of these: however Ms. Spinnati would prove them wrong. I didn’t always agree with Ms. Spinnati, but I understood her, because I knew she was always doing what she thought was best for the students. I admired how she was not afraid to show how much she cared for her students. She understood that students will do stupid things and that you need to get them to acknowledge it without destroying their whole lives. The best part about Ms. Spinnati was her sense of humor. She understood when I was joking and when I was serious and appreciated both. That is often hard to find in a boss. Ms. Spinnati clearly had a positive impact on so many students at New Richmond High School and because of that I know she will never be forgotten.” - **Richard Mahan**

“Ms. Spinnati made a huge impact on my life teaching me how to be strong and showing me how to be a fighter. The thing I will remember most about my graduation day isn’t getting my diploma or throwing my cap in the air, it’s giving Ms. Spinnati a purple carnation and saying, ‘I love you,’ as I walked across the stage and onto the next chapter in my life.” - **Jordan Berger**

“Only good things can be said of Ms. Spinnati. She touched the lives of countless individuals in more ways than one. She was one of the greatest things that has happened to our school, and our community. She will be greatly missed.”- **Chandler Cochran**



There are so many memories, little snippets of conversation, recollections of a shared laugh in the hallway, important discussions about students held in impromptu meetings in the cafeteria. And through it all, the consistent caring...about students, about me, about the dogs. Oh, the dogs! To remember Diana on a daily basis, I have Casey, a rather dimwitted, obsessive Goldendoodle. He was hers for about a year...until he starting eating parts of her home (literally) and very obviously needed more room to run. He's a big, shaggy doofus, infinitely lovable and always up for a game of catch . The only time I have every cried in school...in 25 years...I hit a dog on 52 on the way to school. It was standing in the middle of the road in early morning darkness; there was nothing I could do, but that didn't diminish my grief. I arrived at school in a puddle of tears and went immediately to Diana, who, of course, not only understood, but found a sub for my first bell class, so I could drive back and forth looking for an injured dog, grieve and compose myself. That's Diana...a small part of her, I know. A woman of compassion, of strength, of dignity and of infinite giving. Rest assured, Ms. Spinnati, Casey and I will always cherish the memories.

Diana's legacy is captured in this document; a collection of memories, thoughts, reflections from those who knew and loved her. Writing is remembering and this document will keep Diana close to all of us. Maybe her last act as an educator was to provide her students, her kids, and her colleagues, with this opportunity to express themselves in writing and capture her personality and her spirit in their own words. Hopefully, this document will be for all of us like holding a piece of Diana and her legacy in our hands.--**Sue Griffin**

"I really didn't know her all that well but I have heard really good things about her. I wish she was still our principal."

"She was an awesome person and loved everyone. I can't remember any one thing that sticks out in my mind because everything that she did was great."

"I didn't know Ms. Spinnati much but from having her for a year, she grows on you. Ms. Spinnati can be mean to you one day and your friend the next. Ms. Spinnati was a great principal and will never be replaced."

She did what she loved and loved what she was doing... helping her students succeed. She did everything she could to help us out, but also knew when to crack the whip to teach us how to be responsible young adults. Love you, Ms. Spinnati. Gone but never forgotten.

Megan McCabe class of '09



"Ms. Spinnati had a huge heart and was dedicated to her students 100%. I don't think she missed a single sporting event. She kept us all in line and for some reason I always thought it was funny that she never needed a microphone. I remember one time during my senior year I was taking Poetry in Rock Music and we had to do a music video project. It was the end of the year and my group decided to do the *The Lazy Song* by Bruno Mars since we were all seniors. We got Ms. Spinnati to do a scene with us where she was yelling at us in the hallway. She scared some students in one of the classrooms and they thought she was being serious. We thought it was hilarious. Ms. Spinnati will be loved and missed by all of us."- **Cheyenne Cochran**



"Ms. Spinnati was a woman that no one will ever forget. Her smiles brightened the halls every day she was here, and I've never seen a principal who puts her whole life and soul into her job. She was out to make us all succeed, no matter if we were punks or overachievers. She forgave and forgot and didn't hold grudges, which I greatly appreciated. I didn't want to be remembered as the girl who wore horribly destroyed pants freshman year and had to change. Diana Spinnati is a woman I will always remember and admire, and she will always be an important part of the legacy of this school. Her fight against cancer was so valiant it's just impossible not to admire her. She beat out Patrick Swayze and all his money, just by being a wonderful, strong woman who enjoyed life to her last day. Rest In Paradise, Ms. Spinnati"

--Chelsey Fawley

"She was a great principal and an even better person. I will always remember you. We love and miss you!"

--Levi Simpson

I didn't really get to know Ms. Spinnati until my senior year. I was an office aide 7th period, so I always got to see her at the end of the day. I remember one day she got finished with the announcements and she said how she would get distracted so easily and forget what she was talking about when someone would walk down the hallways or something. She would always joke around with people, and she liked showing people her dogs. She was always so nice. She even gave me a Christmas present last year, and I'll never forget that. She would always say hello and ask how you were doing if she saw you, even if she didn't know you well. She would take the time to get to know her students and check up on them. It's rare that you get a chance to meet someone as genuine as her. She will be missed.

--Tina Gortemiller, class of 2012



I remember in eighth grade when we would come up to visit the high school and Ms. Spinnati would yell at us to try and scare us. The sad thing is, I took her seriously until the first day of freshman year, and then I realized she was just a big kid. She always welcomed all the students every day, and she always had a smile that was a mile wide. You could tell that she truly loved her job and her students. She was the main reason I loved going to school because she was so inspiring and loving to every one of us. She made us feel right at home. Some of us needed tough love, and she would push us because she saw potential that wasn't being lived up to. If it wasn't for her pushing me so hard, I wouldn't have graduated on time. She believed in me when others didn't. She stood by everyone's side through the roughest of their times in high school and never left them. I have never seen a more dedicated, loving, and involved principal in my life. New Richmond was one of the most blessed schools to have her. She had a huge sense of humor. It was always funny to walk past her office and hear her yelling at students, and then after, they'd come out smiling like nothing had happened.

I was not present for this, but I saw the video of her surprising the students at the 2012 Homecoming pep rally and it made me cry. She was so strong and loving. She loved her kids (the students) so much that even through her cancer battle she came back to surprise them. My other memory of her is shared by all those who graduated under her. She gave every single student a hug when they walked across the stage at graduation and she cried during the ceremony because she would miss the class so much. It was heartwarming. I've never heard of another principal touched like that at a graduation.

I will miss (well I already do, since I'm an alumni) seeing her getting the crowd pumped up at pep rallies, walking in the parades, and at the high school in general. Her hugs were awesome. She was and still is the pride of NRHS and she will live on through us. She will never be forgotten and no one will ever take her place and no one will live up to her because when she left, the bar was set so high. Ms. Spinnati is definitely gone way too soon but she is watching over all of us now. She is missed. I love you Ms. Spinnati! Rest In Perfection <3

--Cariann Difazio, class of 2011



“Once I got called to the office for a bit of a disagreement with a teacher. She just laughed.”

--Aaron Everson



“My favorite memories of Ms. Spinnati are of her unbound love for her students. As a student, my performance is influenced by the attitudes of the people around me. An effective learning environment is directly attributed to an effective leader, and that she was.”

--Tyler Sipple

Ms. Spinnati was so tough, I'm glad she was our principal because she showed us how to enjoy what we have. I've met her a few times and even gave her a few hugs before she passed. She's impacted so many lives. She will NEVER be forgotten.

--Candice Kirtley

“Ms. Spinnati was a great role model for our school. She made our school a family and she made the biggest impact on our school that a principal ever could. We'll miss her and love her forever.”

--Laura Sacco

“I never really got to know Ms. Spinnati like most students have. I didn't need to, though. I could see how delighted students were to be around her. She was a fun, cheerful, delightful principal to have. God bless Ms. Spinnati”

--Jasmine Thompson

“Spinnati was a strong, confident woman. She believed that you could achieve what you wanted if you just put your heart into it. She was a great person and great principal. We will love her forever. Heaven's not a place you go when you die, it's that moment in life where you truly feel alive. Spinnati lived in Heaven.”

-- Krista Bruce

“She was one of the few people I actually cared about.” **-Jacob Byus**

"Ms. Spinnati was a great principal. She always cared about the students at NRHS and we always came first. Every time I saw her, I gave her respect and always a nice big smile and a hello. She will be missed."

"I first encountered her my freshman year when she yelled at everyone. It went completely silent and I was scared. But I soon realized that she was the best principal I could ever have. She cared about the school like it was family, punished you fairly and never held a grudge. Although I never had a personal relationship with her, I did get a chance to sit and get yelled at in her office. That was scary and I almost peed myself. When it was all said and done she treated me like I had done nothing wrong. It is a huge loss for all of us and she will be remembered forever."

-Adam Slade

"Diana's first MS dance, I chaperoned and the dance is coming to the end. The DJ was about to begin the last song. Diana said to those chaperoning, "watch this." Gladys Knight began singing "I Will Survive". Just as Gladys began belting the chorus, Diana took off running, landing on her knees she goes sliding into the middle of the students singing at the top of her lungs. To this day I smile to myself whenever I hear that song."

-Gaylynn M. Robinson



"I remember when one of my good friends passed away and I went to Ms. Spinnati for a friend to turn to and a shoulder to cry on. I went to her and she made me feel at home, and believe that everything will be okay. All of a sudden, I felt okay and from then on I felt that she was one of my best friends. Ms. Spinnati was everyone's best friend and made our school a fun environment, I actually wanted to come to school! We will always think of her every time we walk through the front doors of the school. To me, she will always be my best friend. Loved and missed by many."

-Rachel Bailey

"She was a wonderful woman, she loved everyone no matter what and everyone loved her. We will definitely miss her and I'm sad she didn't make it to my graduation." **-Autumn Clark**

I think that the best memory I have of Ms. Spinnati is when she handed me my diploma on graduation day. The smile on her face when I walked up on that stage. I miss her already.

Phillip Rains Class of 2010



“Ms. Spinnati was the best. Not even Mr. Bailey can live up to her standards for the school. She was the most friendly, loving, caring, heartfelt and hardworking person I have ever met in my life. It’s hard to say she’s gone because it felt like yesterday that she was at the school running it, laughing and having a good time with everybody. When Ms. Spinnati took off the lion head and everyone yelled so loudly, it gave me chills, it was awesome. Thats the only word that describes her, awesome.” - **Bobby Bingham**



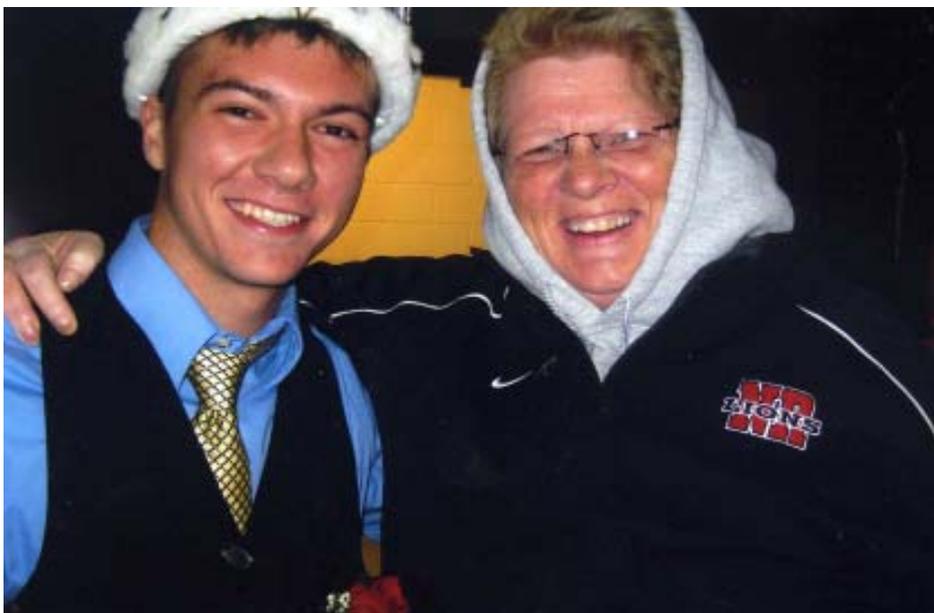
“Ms. Spinnati was a very caring and appreciative woman. Though she was very strict, she was understanding and looked at things from different perspectives. Ms. Spinnati cared for all of her students and didn’t judge them. It’s safe to say no one could live up to her. -**AJM**

“I just want to say thank you, for being an amazing principal and making a huge impact on the students’ lives. You’ll never know how much you’ll be missed.” -**Rachel Barger**

“She was so passionate for the students; much love and laughter.”

“Back in eighth grade, Mr. Helton warned John Ernst not to act like an idiot and that Ms. Spinnati would yell at him. Near the end of the tour, he acted like he was beating me up. She ended up catching him and yelling at him.” -**Branston Evans**

“Four years ago I worked in the special education room. Ms.Spinnati never ever treated our students any different than any other student. She always greeted them and treated them with respect. She truly had a kindred spirit.” - **Lisa Gauntt**



“I barely knew Ms.Spinnati, but in the time I did know her ,she seemed great. Ms.Spinnati did so much for this school and she was a great person. She had a kind heart. Ms. Spinnati will be missed and we all will remember her for what she did for us.” -**Devin Washburn**



“Ms.Spinnati will forever be in the hearts of the students at NRHS. She was the strongest woman I knew. She has made such a positive impact on our community. ‘Stay safe,’ Spinnati, forever and always” -**Olivia Ferguson**

“Ms.Spinnati was one of the best people I have ever known. I didn’t feel like we were just a student body to her; I felt like we were her children. She loved each and every one of us as her own. It is amazing how big of an impact she had on us all.” -**Kara Burns**

“Something I will always remember about Ms.Spinnati is seeing her smiling face in the hallway every day at school. She would smile at every student that passed her. It was so obvious that she loved every single one of us, and I will always remember that smile!”
-**Sarah Molitor**

“Ms.Spinnati was great! She was a fighter and will always be remembered for all that she did for the students of New Richmond. She will be missed but never forgotten.”
-**Ashley Redmond**

About a month before my class graduated, one of our students tragically passed away. I will never forget Ms. Spinnati presenting his parents with his diploma at our graduation ceremony. To see her tears and pain as she did this moved us all. Seeing her that day, I realized the depth of my principal’s love for her students. I only wish that more educators were like Ms. Spinnati.
Tiffany Crooker
Class of 2007

“Ms.Spinnati knew myself and my four sisters well. She had a great impact on all of our lives. I remember her always being at my swim meets, volleyball games and choir concerts. She was truly a person for her students. We love her.” -
Lura Applemann

“My most vivid and personal memory of Ms. Spinnati was the day she and Mr. Chuck Moore, acting superintendents back in 2004, came out to Monroe School to speak to me. That was when I was the P.E. and Health teacher. I was in the middle of teaching a Growth and Development lesson to fifth graders when they popped in and stayed for the lesson on changes during puberty! After the class, Ms. Spinnati and Mr. Moore proposed the idea to me about becoming the middle school guidance counselor. I remember Ms. Spinnati’s smiling face throughout the visit. She also beamed as she said that I would do a good job as a school counselor and that I would love working with the middle school kids. She was right about loving the middle school and the middle school kids. I’ll always remember the confidence she displayed towards me then and the help she offered when I became an elementary school principal.”
-**Terry Miller**

“One of my memories I have was when I was a freshman at lunch she gave me a chocolate chip cookie. I will miss her every day and second. I feel very depressed that she’s gone. Also she was the best principal of all.”
-Eric Pauly

“You were a great friend and principal a great inspiration and I looked up to you. I greatly appreciate everything you have done . RIP.”
-Ashley Redmond Worley Graduate

“Thinking of you”
-Taylor Litteral

“Thanks for the experience” -
Daniel Wilson



“I was so lucky to be able to see Ms.Spinnati almost every day of my high school career. She made it a joy to come to school every day. No matter what, she was always able to bring a smile to my face. I loved just being able to talk to her about anything I needed help with. Hearing her laugh and seeing her smile made every day better. She was truly an angel sent down to New Richmond High School and it was a pleasure to be blessed with her presence.”
-Courtney Grogan

“ Ms. Spinnati had a big impact on this school. She cared for all of us as a principal. I look up to her. She was a great woman. She was caring, loving, kind, and funny. She helped every one of us in our own way. If she were still here, I would tell her how much she meant to me and how much of a role model she is. She will be missed but never forgotten. She will forever walk the halls of NRHS.”**-Jade Stamper**

“Ms. Spinnati was with me for one year of my high-school career. She helped me with a lot throughout the whole year. She always knew the right words to say when I asked her for advice. I was close to her the first year of high school. When I heard the terrible news I cried. She made a difference in my family’s life. She made my sister go to college. I know Ms. Spinnati is unforgettable and I could never forget her. She was my inspiration because she was a strong person. I know she is in a better place now. I would give anything to thank her for inspiring me. I will be praying for her family.”

“Ms. Spinnati was a great woman. She always put her students before anything else. Her goal was to keep her students safe, and give them a good, fun high-school experience. She is a woman who will be missed for years to come.”-**Nicholas Wuest**



“I didn’t really know Ms. Spinnati, but you don’t have to exactly know someone to know they care about you. I believe she did everything she could to make me more successful.”-**Joe Waters**

“Ms. Spinnati had a big heart. She was a good person and cared for all the students at New Richmond High School. She was the best principal I could ever have. She’s in good hands now and is in a better place where she will never suffer again. I will miss her so much!”-**April Schmidt.**

“I had heard from my sisters that Ms. Spinnati was the nicest and funniest person ever. But when I got to high school I really didn’t see what they meant. I was kind of scared when she yelled at kids. Then one day, walking in the hallway, she came up to me; the whole time I was trying to think if I had done anything wrong. Then she smiled and said that I played a great game last night. That’s when I realized what my sisters were talking about. Everybody loved her and she will be missed greatly. You should be very proud of her, she was a great person.”-**CJ Grogan**



I would like to express my utmost gratitude to Ms. Spinnati for all her dedication to her students and their families. I have had the honor to have her in our lives with all five of my children. We will miss her. May God be with her in her travels to see our precious Lord and comfort her family knowing that she was an angel sent to help guide us all to be better people. We love you”- **LeAndra Appelmann.**

“Words couldn’t even speak for half of what Ms. Spinnati was. She touched the hearts of so many lives. She helped students become better people, and that she did. She will forever be loved and never forgotten.”- **Tyler Anderson.**



“Ms. Spinnati was my best friend. She understood me and never gave up. She will always be in my mind.”-**Josh Trivett**

“She was an incredibly amazing woman and will never be forgotten.”-**James Mahan**

“Ms. Spinnati was a great principal that was so dedicated to her job. She loved each and every student as if they were her very own. Whenever a student would be walking out in the hallway, she would always stop and ask how we were doing. Ms. Spinnati was so supportive to our sports and she would often go watch our teams play at different high-schools. I will always remember Ms. Spinnati and how great of an influence she was on our lives.”-**Logan Shinkle**

“The thing I remember about Ms. Spinnati was that she was strong. She was amazing; she took me in and talked to me and I never even saw her my freshman year. I would walk by and I would see her smile. She was happy to be at NRHS.”

“Ms. Spinnati was an amazing woman who was loved by everyone. Although I only had her for a year, I grew to love her. She makes every student her own. She was loved for being such a nice person.”-**Ally Meadors.**





“Thank you so much for our trip to Hilton Head. We had so much fun on that trip, riding bikes to the beach, and early morning alligator feedings with D. She was such a fun person to sit and talk with. I remember one of the nights very clearly: we were sitting downstairs in the living room and D was talking and all of us listened very closely.”

--**Mary Heckard**

“I never met you but the stories I hear, you sounded like a good person. I remember seeing you at the pep rally and the volleyball game. You will be dearly missed. You seemed funny, nice, beautiful, and caring person. Rest in peace Ms. Spinnati.”

--**Shelby Koehler**

“Professionalism! Diana Spinnati took this word to a whole new level. She always treated me with such professionalism. She had so much confidence in my abilities and trusted me to make decisions with students. I had a unique position in New Richmond and was privileged to be a part of meetings with her and individual students. Ms. Spinnati could break kids down while building them up all at the same time! Those kids wanted to be better, to do a better job, for her. She was tough, yet they always left the room knowing how much she loved them! I learned so much from watching her. On a personal level, I am blessed to be able to call her my friend! We had some fun times with a lot of laughs that I will never forget!”

--**Kelly Heckard**

“D was very good hearted and was always so nice to me. She introduced me to the Coulter family. I remember swimming with her in the back yard and chasing lizards.”

--**Mick Heckard**

“I will always remember how Ms. Spinnati ruled our school with an iron fist. She demanded our respect and attention, but she always showed us love. Ms. Spinnati knew what her students needed. She came to work every day and did her very best. She showed us true strength, true gentleness, and true love. We were her kids and she was the protective mother. We were her cubs and she was our proud lioness.” --**Brittany Hall**

“Ms. Spinnati was a very spirited person. Never once did I see her without a smile on her face. I know she loved us and we loved her back. She will be missed, but I know she is in a better place now.”

--**Miranda Moore**



“Ms. Spinnati was always there for us. She really did have that lasting effect on all of her students.”--**Sierra King**

“Ms. Spinnati was there for my son Mitchell Myers and our family when he and his friend Ed were in a terrible car accident. She was such a huge comfort to our family. She was an amazing principal. God bless her!”

--**Helen Myers**

The very first time I met Diana was at the Middle School. She was the new principal and I was subbing for the head cook. When she came into the cafeteria and we were introduced I looked at her and said, "Hello Red" and then realized what came out of my mouth and was not sure how she would react. She threw her head back and laughed. I was relieved. I often wonder what in the world I was thinking to address her/anybody like that just being introduced for the first time. I valued her opinion and miss her dearly. **Brenda Young**

I am very appreciative of the three years that I was able to work with Diana Spinnati. She was one of the most caring people I have known and she was a great principal to work for. Her spot in the corner of the basketball floor where she supported our program will always be hers. **Brian McMonigle**

"You remain a true inspiration and a genuine reflection of a true educator and leader. You led by example. You always seemed to know when to lead and when to step back and let the others take over. I don't think you ever followed, but you always seemed to know the right course to take. You always knew when to be stern, when to be supportive, when to hug, and when to laugh. When your health declined you still led as an example of courage, determination, and support. You will always remain in my heart and I will light an extra candle for you every year on May 25th. Your birthday buddy, Gail."

--Gail

"I don't have any personal memories to share about Ms. Spinnati, but I know she meant a lot to a lot of people and she will be missed."

-**Tristin Williams**

"Ms. Spinnati was the best principal anyone could have been educated under. My most favorite memory of her would be when she rented two charter buses for the marching band. That was the year that our football team went to the playoffs. Ms. Spinnati pulled money from her own personal account to send the band with the football team to give support. I will miss her greatly, and although I am sad that I can't shake her hand when I graduate, I hope that she is in a better place. We love you, Ms. Spinnati."

-**Cierra Edwards**

"Stay safe." - "Every time we were dismissed from school, Ms Spinnati would say this after the announcements. It truly made me feel like she cared, mainly because if you listened closely you could really tell she said it with feeling and meant it!"

--**Nick Lewin**



"Ms. Spinnati came into the district when I began middle school. I heard she was going to be a tough but fair principal. She definitely lived up to her reputation. She always said hello to her students and attempted to know every single one of them. It wasn't until after I graduated high school that I had the honor to know Ms. Spinnati better. Every year I would bake her a batch of pumpkin cookies. There was never a time that I wouldn't come home and see students (past and present) hugging her. If she hadn't seen you in a while, she would take the time to hear how your life is and what you're doing now. We all loved her!"

-**Becca Robinson Williams**

"When I started at NRHS, I met with Ms Spinnati. I remember her saying, 'My kids are the best kids - is there anything else you need to know?' I knew right then she must be a very special person!"

--School psychologist, Kristie Strittmatter



"Ms. Spinnati was a caring, passionate, loving, giving, hilarious, strong, and incredible woman who impacted the lives of so many people. She brought something special to a school and a town, and that will never be forgotten. I had the honor of knowing her and having her as a principal, and I am thankful for that. No matter what issue I had, in or out of school, I knew I could go to her for help or for guidance. She talked me through some tough situations, and I will always remember that. I am also thankful to have her looking down on me today. I smile knowing how peaceful she is now. I will always miss her smile, her personality, and herself as a person. She was known and loved by many, but will be forgotten by few."

-Josie Buckingham

"Ms. Spinnati challenged the traditional views of a high school principal. She maintained a personal relationship with each and every student in her care. My favorite memory of Ms. Spinnati occurred during my sophomore year. When I was a sophomore, my sister was a senior preparing to graduate and move out. I was very close with my older sister, and wanted to have one last hurrah with her while we were still both in high school. Then one day, my family won a cruise. My sister begged me to go, but I had to decline because if I went, I wouldn't be able to exempt exams. A few days later, Ms. Spinnati called me into her office. She asked me what was wrong, and I started to cry and explain to her how upset and scared I was for Casey to leave. She asked what she could do, and I told her about the cruise. She said that she completely understood, and gave me permission to exempt my exams that day. I went into that office in tears, and left smiling. I had one of the most memorable experiences of my life with my sister that spring. And I have Ms. Spinnati to thank for that."

-Alex White



"Senior year when I rear-ended a school bus right before the day began and she came out, gave me a hug and a smile. This particular day was the day of the AP Government exam so she made a comment about how I must have really not wanted to take that exam. It just really made me laugh on a really hard day and she was always good at that. I'll never forget that classic Spinnati laugh!"

-Allie O'Brien

“Ms. Spinnati was everything from cheeseburgers to football games to our children. She impacted them in a way that only Diana Spinnati could. We are grateful for her in our lives.”

-Jim & Carol Glueck

“She was an inspirational educator. She was a very positive, outgoing person. She was always there for her students and staff. The New Richmond community was her passion not just a job to her. She could always cheer you up even in a bad situation. She always found the positive in her students. We all loved her and she will be greatly missed and forever rest in our hearts.”

-Charles Morgan Sr.



“Ms. Spinnati was more than just a principal at NRHS. She was a role model, and an inspiration to do good things. I was blessed to have spent all four years of my high school career calling Ms. Spinnati my principal and friend. My most vivid memory of her was her smile. No matter what was going on that day, or what she had going on in her life outside of the high school, she never failed to give you a smile in the halls. Another special memory was that at the end of each and every school day, Ms. Spinnati never failed to tell her students to, ‘Stay Safe’ over the intercom. She considered her students to be her kids and her love for each of them was abundant. No matter what issue you were facing in life, big or small, Ms. Spinnati was there to share her love and support. Her love and support carried on with me each day in high school and even after graduation. Not many kids can say they got to hug their principal on stage at their graduation. And not many kids can say they would even want to hug their principal on any given day, but the students of NRHS are lucky enough to have gotten to do both. Ms. Spinnati was an exceptional person and I can only hope to inspire people in even half the way she inspired me. The heart of New Richmond High School will forever beat for Diana Spinnati.”

**-Megan Louis
2011 Graduate**

“Ms. Spinnati made me an honorary cheerleader. It made me so happy and proud. I will always have many fond memories of special times we shared together. I am so happy to have had her be a part of my life.”

-Maggie Campbell

“What I remember about Ms. Spinnati is that I had her for three years as a principal. She was a good and nice principal.”

-Natalie Graham



“Ms. Spinnati always supported our decision to take PSEOP classes at UC Clermont. She was the most helpful and proudest woman.”

-Raisa Finch & Devan Macke



“Ms. Spinnati was a loving, caring woman. There was not a single person that she had hatred for. Meeting her has changed my perspective on life, and I thank her for that.”

-Michael Huber

“I remember being terrified that Ms. Spinnati was going to be our new principal at NRHS. This was my first year at the high school and I had heard stories that she was very strict/mean with the students and staff. After a while I remember her pulling me aside to ask how my child was (at that time I only had one) feeling after I had taken off work to be with her. She was someone that would take the time to ask about our lives outside of the ‘workplace’ and it allowed us to know that not only was she here for us about school related issues, but that she was also there for us with anything that happened outside of school. Her door was always open for us (staff and students) to go into, pull up a chair and chat about our daily lives. She taught us that even though we worked for her (New Richmond) that family always came first. For me, that was very comforting.”

-Maryann Dalton

“I didn’t really have a chance to meet her, but from what I’ve heard she was a very gracious, considerate person that I would have liked to have met.”

-Colter M.

“Everyone is sad that Ms. Spinnati died, and they have every right to be, but she would want us to be okay and just be happy. She loved every one of us as if we were her own. Spinnati was more than a principal to us who had her. She was a role model and a friend. We love you, Spinnati.”

-Lindsay Slone



“I never had Ms. Spinnati as a principal myself, but I have siblings who did, and the bond they had was crazy good. My brothers always had good things to say about her. I never heard one single bad thing about her and that has got to say something. I wish I could have had the experience others had with her, but she will be missed.”

-Sidney Adams

“Ms. Spinnati was a good, kind person that cared about other people. If you had something to say, she would listen to everything you said. She was very nice to me when I was around.”

-Allie Zellner

“Ms. Spinnati was more than a principal to me and Devin, she was a friend who was there if you needed her. Even when we graduated and our mom passed away, she was there to comfort Devin and me. That is more than any principal I can think of, to go and support and comfort students who she had as students and past students. She will forever be remembered by me and many others as a woman who put others before herself to make sure they were getting the support they needed. I’ll miss the talks and jokes from when we were in high school and her laugh and smile. Watch over us all and we will all meet again some day!”

Danny Ruck

“Just mentioning her name puts a smile on my face! She touched so many students (young and old), staff, parents and community members. Her undying spirit and true passion for the kids in our community will never be forgotten. Ms. Spinnati was an amazing woman and she always seemed to light up a room with that smile of hers...there was just something about it! I think we are all a little better of a person because our paths crossed with Ms. Spinnati’s. She will FOREVER remain in our hearts.”

-Joyce Montgomery

“I remember when Ms. Spinnati came to the pep rally, everyone was so happy to see her, some people even started crying.”

--Hannah Campbell

“Ms. Spinnati was a loving and caring person. Ms. Spinnati was always there when students needed to talk about something. Ms. Spinnati never let us give up on anything. Ms. Spinnati always put her students, staff, and school before her matters. Ms. Spinnati always kept me out of trouble. Ms. Spinnati was a good hearted person. She always knew what to say when you were down. You will be greatly missed by your school family. We will not let your memories fade. We love you so very much.”

-Shayla Mineer

“Its hard to believe that such a great woman is gone. She impacted every single student in our school. I am so grateful to have known her and am proud to say she was my principal and my friend. She was so intimidating, yet one of the most amazing people that has ever been in my life. She will always be remembered.”

--Cheyann Fletcher

“Ms. Spinnati was a great woman. She was the kind of person that would really look at all of the angles of a problem. I remember my brothers and sister coming home and talking about her. The best memory I have of her was the Lions pep rally. She was wearing the mascot outfit and all of the people screamed. It could have been me, but at that moment, when we all screamed, she looked, I don't know, like she was at peace. Just seeing how much love that was in one room was unbelievable.”

-Savannah Rayhawk

“Ms. Spinnati was an amazing woman with an exceptional and loving personality. She was nothing short of professional, yet made it personal with each and every student. She was there for me so much through high school and the years after. God took a beautiful soul home, but she will forever remain in the hearts of everyone who was blessed to know her.”

-Brooke Ragland



There were many things I admired about Diana Spinnati and her role as the New Richmond High School Principal. I appreciated how she cared for the students and spoke of them all as they were her own. But one statement that she would make over and over and I loved it every time she said it....."We have 700 of the greatest kids at New Richmond High School!" Thanks for looking for the best in all your students, Diana.

You will be missed! My Best, **Julie Renner**

Never could someone do so much with just a look. She'd make you think you had committed murder, then she'd laugh and you'd know it was all in good fun. I miss you Ms. Spinnati! **James Abbitt Wynett, NRHS Class of 08'**

*Just the mention of her name
Put a smile upon your face
Her character and courage
We soon would all embrace*

*It was more than just a job to her
It was a passion deep inside
And she wore the colors proudly
Of good Ol' New Richmond High*

*She had a special bond
With her students that she loved
She knew which ones to push
She knew which ones to hug*

*We always seem to wonder why
And may truly never know
But Jesus saw her suffering
And said, "It's time to go"*

*There's an Angel School Academy
In Heaven,...made of gold
God needed someone special
To run it,...I am told*

*So He looked down from the heavens
And smiled so tenderly
Then He put His arms around her
And said, "Come home with Me"*

*Remember her with kindness
Remember her with pride
But most of all, remember
She's right there by your side!*

-Gary L. Forsee



“In the time that Ms. Spinnati was my principal, I’ve learned what compassion, courage, and dedication really looks like. I’ve never met a more genuine person in my life. I am a better person for having known her. I will never forget the impact she had on so many people in her community, and the way she treated everyone with utmost respect. She is the definition of a passionate leader; a fighter to the end. New Richmond is blessed to have known such an incredible woman. Rest in perfection, Ms. Spinnati.” - **Sarah Glenn**

“Ms. Spinnati was a great principal and a great mentor. She could be intimidating as well as the kindest, sweetest person you know. She was one of those people who, if she yelled at you, it was because she loved you and wanted you to do your best. But no matter what, she could not stay mad and you could not stay mad at her. She will always be loved and remembered.”
-**Pierce Burnam**

“I remember when I had appendicitis; she called the hospital to make sure I was okay. I don’t think any other person in this school would do that. She was a great principal and also a great person. I will miss her.” - **Jae Mosley**

“Freshman year I was known to be a little bit of a punk head, so I got to know Ms. Spinnati pretty well. This, of course, led us becoming pretty close friends. No one else has ever called me stupid or irresponsible in such an affectionate manner, and no one was more proud than her when I finally got my head straight. For this Thanksgiving, I can most definitely say I am thankful for knowing Ms. S.” -**John C. Ernst**

“Ms. Spinnati was an amazing woman. She was one of the most influential principals that I’ve ever had. She was very strong and I will miss her forever.”
-**Alexis Cook**

“Ms. Spinnati hired me. She was a wonderful boss to work for. She always said family came first and was understanding if a staff member had family issues. She always backed everything teachers did. She would say, “I will back you in front of students and parents. But if you were in the wrong, I will tell you about it later.” One parent meeting we were in, the parents started bad-mouthing the teachers. Ms. Spinnati stood up, slammed her hands on the table and said, “You ARE NOT going to speak about my teachers like that. Teachers you are excused to leave.” She scared me and I wasn’t even being yelled at. This was my 1st year and I knew then, that I had a boss who would always support me.” - **Erin Keith**

"I remember my freshmen year standing in the lunch line and Ms. Spinnati yelled at us because we were not in a line and we were talking. After we all got in line and were scared of her she just busted out laughing. From that day on I knew she was an awesome person and wanted the very best for the school. I'll never forget her." - **Stephanie Day**

"Ms. Spinnati always had a smile on her face even if she was having a bad day. She was always there for her students in time of need." - **Rachael Westrick**

"Ms. Spinnati had the biggest impact on each and every student. It's crazy that freshman care so much about her even though they didn't know her very well. Ms. Spinnati always wanted the best for everyone in life including school and relationships. All of the students looked up to her and admired her. We will all miss her and admire her. We will all miss her and remember her forever." - **Jill Flenniken**

"Ms. Spinnati will be the principal everyone will remember. She understood the students and what they were coming from. She gave us respect other principals wouldn't give us. She was always there for us, when we were at our lows and highs in life. She loved us all the same." - **Christine Lutz**



"Ms. Spinnati was an awesome principal. Most people don't really like their principal but Ms. Spinnati was loved by the whole school. She always had a big smile on her face and was just a happy person. I know I only had her a year but she helped me a lot that year. She was just a great woman that was loved by everyone. We all love and miss her dearly." - **Korinne Gillman**

"I am sad that she is gone because all of my memories were better when she was here." - **Nathan Rostetter**

"Every day I saw Ms. Spinnati; she always had a smile on her face. She never looked disappointed. Ms. Spinnati had the most spirit at NRHS. She was at every football game, soccer, basketball, softball and even track meets. It's very sad to hear that she passed, but she will always be a part of this high school. Ms. Spinnati will never be forgotten she will be missed by me and everyone at NRHS." - **Cassidy Martin**

"Ms. Spinnati was one great principal here. She was strict but understanding. She knew when to mean business and when to have fun. I will surely miss her a lot even though I only knew her for about 2 years." - **David Larkey**



“Times like these are when words don’t seem to work. You could write down a million words to express Ms. Spinnati, but none of them will paint the picture of her smile, her laugh, nor her strength. Ms. Spinnati pushed me to develop into who I am today. Without her I’d still be lost. You were my greatest mentor. Rest in glorious peace Ms. Spinnati.”

-Elizabeth Watkins

“Ms. Spinnati was an amazing person who was taken before her time. Whenever I saw her or talked to her she was smiling. She will be missed greatly by everyone that knew her. Goodbye Ms. Spinnati.”

-Troy Saunders

“Ms. Spinnati had to have been the best principal in history. She was there to help both my brother and sister through high school and she always did what’s best for the students. She would go to the end of the world to see that students have success and let high school years be the years we all remember the most. **-Wesley Stevens**

“I only had Ms. Spinnati for a principal for one year, but she was the best principal I’ve ever had by far. Ms. Spinnati was good at what she did. She loved New Richmond and it was obvious. I feel like a little piece of Spinnati will always be here. Her strength inspires me and she definitely made an impact in my life. Rest in paradise Ms. Spinnati.”

-Micha Brumbaugh

“Ms. Spinnati was such an amazing person. She always had a smile on her face, even when yelling at a kid. She brought life and joy into my life and into this school and all the students here. She helped me through thick & thin and I’m honored to have had her as a principal and even though I won’t be able to hug her on graduation day, she’ll be on my mind when I walk across that stage.” **-Faith Dewar**

“I didn’t know you, but I heard about you. Everybody told me that you were a good principal. May you rest in peace.”

-James Drifmeyer

“I remember how she was fair to everyone about everything. She would listen to you and try to give you advice. She always had a smile on her face and was full of energy. R.I.P.”

-Brian Mote

“She was a principal in New Richmond high school.” **-Tamara Crosby**

“She was a great principal.” **-Beau Painter**

“Something most people don’t know about me is that I had a very rough time a while back. I had a problem my sophomore year in high school and was out for a week after. After that ‘incident’ Ms. Spinnati made a special time to talk to me and check in on me. At least two to three times a week I talked to her. I’m glad I had such an amazing person take time out of her schedule to check on me. She is the reason I’m still ‘here’. This proves she cared for each and every one of her students. This is one of the best qualities she had. I’ll make you proud, Ms. Spinnati! She treated me like the son she never had. Ms. Spinnati is the best person I’ve ever known and the most kind-hearted.” -**Craig Hoagland**

“If it were not for her, my son would have never made it through high school. I owe her so many thanks and love her for eternity. I am sad over our great loss.” -**Sherri and Doug Craig**

“I will never forget the speech she gave at Clayton Brown’s (my stepson) graduation. He wasn’t there because he passed away before he could graduate. Everything she said about him was great. She could not hold her tears back. I will never forget that.” -**Angel Strunk**



“You were a very strong, high-spirited woman. You knew my brother and sister very well and you have inspired them to act and think differently. You were a great woman.”

“Ms. Spinnati was an amazing woman. Every time I saw her, she would always have a smile on her face. She really did love all of us and fought for us to the very end. I will severely miss her.” -**Lindsay Gundler**

“Ms. Spinnati has a great character. She was able to teach everyone a lesson.” - **Colton Farmer**

“Ms. Spinnati meant so much to each of her students because she was so much more than a principal to them. The relationship we all had with her was very different from the usual student principal relationship because we all viewed her as our friend. She was someone we could go with any problem. Someone who was always willing to listen and to go out of their way to help us out. She deeply cared about all of us, making sure that everyone felt at home here in the high school. She also did whatever it took to make sure her students reached their full potential.

In the minds of the students, the fact that she pushed us was probably her best quality. She believed in every single one of us, and knew that all her students were able to do great things and she had the ability to get even the worst of students to succeed. She always knew exactly how to get the best results out of all of us.

Ms. Spinnati truly was a role model to everyone here in the high school. She was strong and determined. She was someone all of the students wanted to be a little more like. Ms. Spinnati will be deeply missed by everyone here at New Richmond High School. She’ll be forever in our hearts, and forever in our halls as each of us carry such fond memories of her. From our first meetings during the eighth grade tours, to the anticipation for the end of the day announcements to hear ‘stay safe.’ We all really were blessed to have the opportunity to get to know such a fantastic and inspirational woman.” -**Luke Gilday**

"Even though I had Ms. Spinnati for a year I really learned about how caring she is. She always thought of others and she had a lot of pride and faith in New Richmond High School." - **Maddie McDaniel**



"She was every parent's dream for a principal. She loved our children like her own and was always more than fair. We love you Diana and you will live on in our hearts." -**Cheryl Smith**

"Ms. Spinnati was the coolest principal I've ever had. I remember freshman year at the pep rally before the McNick football game. She yelled, "Are we rednecks?" There was silence. Then an uproar of yelling, pumped up students. It's something I'll never forget. She was always nice to me even when I screwed up. I'll never forget her. Every time she met someone part of their soul would have a special compartment for Ms. Spinnati." -**Zack Rolfes**

"Diana Spinnati.
A beautiful soul
paired with heart of
gold.
Hundreds of lives
she helped unfold.
Beautiful, daring,
and definitely bold.
Never afraid to be ex-
actly who she was,
when God made her
he broke the mold.
Love, passion, and
strength were just a
few of the qualities
that made her shine.
God couldn't have a
heart more perfect
or divine.
She gave herself to
every heart before
she was taken home
to meet her maker in
the sky.
God gave her his
best pair of wings...
Fly baby Fly!"

"I have known Ms. Spinnati for a very long time. I was in 3rd grade when my brother started attending New Richmond High School. Every time I would see her at games and school events, Ms. Spinnati would always be so excited to see me and my family. She didn't know us very well but yet she just had this spark about her. She was very inviting, and being the new ones on the block can be hard, but she was always there to talk or for a hug. She loved people and was the most honest, down to earth woman New Richmond had ever hired. Getting to know her as I got older made me love her even more. Ms. Spinnati is definitely someone I look up too and I hope she realizes how much she gave to the New Richmond community. Forever in our hearts!" -**Christin Gray**



"Ms. Spinnati greeted my family with honor. She was always concerned with what Jay wanted and not anyone else. I will always miss her hugs. She was great." - **Sue Troy**

"How do you even begin to explain DIANA SPINNATI! There are too many adjectives to sum up her character! One of my favorite ones would be "endearing." Her whole goal in life and for all of our lives was through the kids (our kids)! She touched all of them in their individual ways. She is a very special person in so many ways. We will never forget her. She is so much of the foundation to this school. We are proud and honored to have had the opportunity to have known her, to be able to say she was all our friend!" - **Shari Andrews**



"Ms. Spinnati was the most respected woman I knew. She was a beautiful lady who expected the best from everyone. The smile on her face can turn anyone's day around. No words can describe how much she will be missed. I love you forever Ms. Spinnati." - **Amanda Nguyen**

"Diana loved my kids, she loved all of her kids! Everything she did for us and our district was always what she thought was best for our/her kids! My daughter got into some trouble as a senior; Diana was patient and so kind to her; it left a lasting impression on my daughter that we will never forget. You knew if you broke school rules, that Diana would always use the student handbook and follow that exactly! However, she would do it in a kind and compassionate way and never hold it against you. She tried ferociously to help these kids graduate that had trouble completing high school, even two years after they had dropped out. I love her, and will miss her greatly!" - **Janice Kennedy**

"I only had Ms. Spinnati my freshman year and then half my sophomore year. But I remember being in middle school and thinking I couldn't wait to have her the next year. She had this way of yelling at kids that if you were watching it, you were just like, "Oh, here we go," and couldn't help but laugh because they were so scared. Ms. Spinnati not only made an impact on the high school but also on the whole town of New Richmond. We all love her, and she will be missed." - **Emily Barcheski**

"Ms. Spinnati changed my life for the better, I couldn't have asked for a better person to help me succeed in high school. I would have never made it after some of the tragic things that happened in those years. We lost a great mentor but heaven gained the most beautiful angel." - **Jillian Gilpin**

"I thought she was the best, and she was a good person. I remember all of the good times we had with her at the pep rallies. I liked her a lot and thought she was a good person, with an even better personality." - **Evan McKinley**

"She was such a remarkable leader to all of us. The way she cared about the school and each individual student makes me proud to be a part of this school. She was my role model and always will be. I remember being so afraid of her in 8th grade and once I came to the high school that changed to respect and love. I miss you, Ms. Spinnati. We will stay safe with you as our angel." - **Juliane Molitor**



“Diana- Thank you for all you did for my son, Zach. You took him right under your wing and I hope you will continue to protect him and watch over him. We will honor you and your memory this year again in Clermont County’s- Relay for Life Cancer Walk, June 22nd, 2013. Team- Staying Strong For Spinnati. You are truly missed and much loved.” **-Jessica Koehler**

“I was never the best high school student. I would rather do other things than homework and show up to school on time. I didn’t think it would matter until I realized that I was short on credits for graduating with my class. It looked like I wouldn’t be walking with the classmates I had grown up with. Then Ms. Spinnati pulled me into her office. She told me I was better than how I was acting. She didn’t give me an option to disappoint her. She said she was going to buy my cap and gown and I was going to walk with my class and I was going to complete my credits and go onto college because I was worth more than nothing. She said I was going to be someone and that my life was valuable. With her ongoing support, I did walk with my class and then into college where I think of her often because she believed in me when even my parents and everyone else were fed up. I will forever carry her with me and because of her my life is infinitely better.”
Madeline Murray, Class of ‘08

“Ms. Spinnati taught me that you can always achieve your dreams and that nothing is impossible.”- **Noah Gauntt**

“Me and Ms. Spinnati didn’t get to know each other that well, but she is an amazing woman. She clicked with you as soon as you met her. She showed us you can have fun and still do your work. Ms. Spinnati was the woman. She was it. Any student would love to know her. Now she’s in a better place in no pain. Just because she’s gone, she still will be in our hearts.”
-Anonymous

“I bumped into Ms. Spinnati at Kroger in August. I was in such a hurry that day, but realized what I had to do wasn’t nearly as important as the conversation we had. Only a week before leaving to study abroad, I was able to share my crazy and adventurous life plans, and thank her for all the support and encouragement with which she provided me throughout my time at NRHS. So here I am in Senegal, remembering how important it was to simply see her smile that day.”
-Krista Dawn Warren





How do you describe the feeling of sorrow you experience when someone who influenced your life so much is no longer there to point you in the right direction? I'm not sure it's possible-perhaps the best way of easing the pain is remembering all the good and seeing the growth that you were able to achieve under that person. Looking back on the young, immature individual you were before to the person you have become-someone whose priorities lie in the right place and who has established and demonstrated a strong sense of right and wrong.

I know that I wouldn't be where I am today without her. While I was under her leadership, she ensured I had everything I needed to achieve every goal I could imagine. Beyond that, I believe it was when it was my time to leave from under her care, when it was no longer her duty or obligation to look after me, that she had the most influence on me. In a time when I felt very alone in a very big world, ready to give up on the adventure she had helped prepared me for, she offered me the only words of wisdom that could influence me to continue on the difficult path to success she had helped to put me on.

I owe my successes-past, present, and future-to a woman who was taken far earlier than was her time-and far, far earlier than I (and the innumerable number of people whose lives she touched) was ready for her to leave.

I know of no better way to thank one of the strongest, kindest, most caring women I have ever met than to dedicate my future successes to her memory and the rock of strength she was when what I needed most was simply for someone to encourage me. Thank you, Diana Spinnati, for everything. I can only hope to one day achieve everything you believed I could do, in honor of you. If I can be half the influence on others that you were-I'll consider my life a success.

Gone, but never ever ever forgotten. #StayStrongSpinnati

Love always,

Kelli Bosse, Class of 2011

To the family of Ms. Spinnati,

As you witnessed last Sunday, Diana has quite a legacy in New Richmond despite being a private person. I came to know her (somewhat!) when she was the principal at New Richmond Middle School, her first position here in our district. Diana always impressed me as being in control, but on occasion her famous temper would flare up and it could be incineratory if you were in her path! Just as extreme as her temper, Diana also displayed a deep compassion and love for her students. She had an uncanny ability to relate to adolescents—especially those who were struggling or had disabilities. I can recall several students who came into the Middle School with very negative reputations and related behaviors that she was able to turn around by the force of her presence and will. Diana excelled at breaking down resistance and building up students. She always displayed the “presence of command” at school, and everyone—students, parents, and staff—knew her expectations. Diana also had a sense of humor and enjoyed surprising others—but she did not like to be surprised herself. She never let her increasingly serious medical issues interfere with school until last year when she faced an “enemy” that just would not go away. Diana will be missed!

Cynthia L. Groman, School Psychologist, Monroe Elementary and NR Middle School

"When I found out I was accepted to Ohio State, Ms. Spinnati gave me one of her tight, warm hugs, and hurried into her office and came out with this teddy bear, which she gave to me to keep. I am so thankful I have this little piece of her while at school. She was a kind, loving human being, and I hope to make her proud. Rest in Peace Ms. Spinnati, we love you. Thanks so much!" **Emily Grooms**



As parents, we truly appreciated Ms Spinnati's caring ways. When my oldest child (Bailey) was a senior, she came down with mononucleosis. She tried to attend school so she wouldn't get behind. After a few days, my classroom phone rang and it was Ms Spinnati. She told me that Bailey was too sick to attend a full day of school so she was not to arrive until 3rd period and that she could make up missing work after she felt better. What a caring principal!

When our youngest child (Heidi) was a freshman, Ms Spinnati stopped me at a basketball game and asked if everything was ok with her. She said that Heidi just didn't look happy. After talking with Heidi, she said that she was just overwhelmed with high school. From that point on, she made sure she smiled every time she saw Ms.Spinnati.

She was a rare gem in the education field. We always felt that our daughters were safe and cared for while she was in charge!

Dirk and Lori Richards

Dear Ms. Spinnati,
Never forget we all love you
Just as we'll never forget you.
Never forget us
Just as we'll never forget all
you've done for us.
I'll never forget that you're now
looking down on us, you're
beloved students, both past
and present, watching us with
hope in your heart and pride
in your eyes.
Roar New Richmond Lions,
roar.
Roar New Richmond, roar.
<3
Jordyn Eubanks

C's Eulogy to Dee

When I first heard Ms. Spinnati was going to be our principal here at New Richmond H.S., I was absolutely terrified to say the least. It was my first year as a counselor at New Richmond. I was trying to figure out my role and learn my responsibilities. I had heard all these stories about how strict she was and how she needed to take control of every situation. I remember her coming in to my office, sitting down with a stern look on her face and saying to me, "You're new here." I feared that I would never get to make another decision on my own again.

I have tried to remember how our relationship evolved. I know it took time to adapt to each other, to get to know and trust one another but I have no recollection of how and when the dynamics of our relationship changed from feared anticipation to trust and respect. I don't remember how she broke down those barriers to allow us to trust one another so faithfully. Then again, I don't need to tell you how she did it because you already know, she did it with you, too, and that is why you are all here today, to pay your respects to our dear principal Ms. Diana Spinnati.

Today is the day we come together as Dee's family, both Spinnati and New Richmond, to say goodbye to the woman that we all respected and loved. Although many tears will be shed, if Ms. Spinnati were here she would want us to dry those tears long enough to remember her and what she stood for.

Ms. Spinnati was a daughter, a sister, an aunt. She was a boss, a principal and a dear friend. She could connect with people and knew when they needed her. This was never more evident than when it came to her students.

There were many times she spoke to me about applying to become a superintendent, to continue to climb the educational ladder. During these discussions, I would shake my head and laugh at her because both she and I knew that when she came to New Richmond High School, she came home. I know she felt that this was where she needed to be, with her students, her kids, her New Richmond family, every day. She got so much joy from her students; how many times would we hear her say, "I have 700 of the best students you could ever ask for."

Another one of Ms. Spinnati's famous quotes and beliefs was that students are not bad, they just make poor choices. She truly embodied that when she worked with her students. If someone made a poor choice she never saw the incident in isolation; she saw what was going on in the student's life that led to that incident. She knew if we could help the student identify why he or she made that choice, he or she had a chance to learn from it. She would provide consequences and sometimes, just sometimes, certain students would stir up that Italian temper of hers, but inevitably they would end their discussion by the student receiving one of her famous hugs. I know this was her way of telling the student, "You made a mistake but it's ok; we all make mistakes and this mistake does not define who you are."

People would often question how I could be a friend with my boss. It was always assumed there were favors given because I was her friend. The reality is she never worked that way. I can say without a doubt that there was nothing fake, contrived or political in the way she worked. She was the ultimate professional. Although she wore many hats, I had the pleasure of experiencing her in all arenas. At work she treated me as one of her staff.

Away from school we would do what great friends do: eat together, vacation together, laugh together, confide in one another, share stories and create life long memories.

Diana, as you all know, was a very private person and even though we became great friends she always kept her guard up. She was such a strong, independent person; she always thought she could do it alone. She got so much joy out of helping others, giving to others, watching others grow, that she never could see how it could be reciprocated. It wasn't until she became sick in 2007 that she let us into her life and into her home; let us help her. It was through this invitation that our friendship developed into the kind of friendship that comes along once in a lifetime. I feel honored to have shared that with her.

We became such good friends, we knew each other better than we knew ourselves. During some of the most trying times in my life, she spoke for me when I couldn't speak for myself and in the last few months, she has turned to me to do the same for her. Today, she may not be here in person but I hope that her message comes through.

We were honored to be with our Dee in her final days. Her nurses told us that she would only remain alive up to 12 hours after her respirator was removed, but in true Spinnati style she stayed with us for 14.5 hours. Even in her final hours she was in complete control, just like she had been her entire adult life. She passed away peacefully and with dignity. I think she wanted all of us to know that she was ready to leave this world on her terms, in her own time, to sit with her brothers and her dogs in heaven. I was looking for an appropriate reading that I thought she would want me to read to you and then I remembered that Eric, my husband, had sent me a text barely minutes after she passed. I didn't really read it that evening, but I did yesterday, and I do I believe she would want me to give you this message:

If my parting has left a void,
then fill it with remembered joy
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah, yes, these things I, too, shall miss
My life's been full,
I've savored much
Good times, good friends,
A loved one's touch
Perhaps my time seemed all too
brief
Don't shorten yours with undue
grief
Be not burdened with tears of
sorrow
Enjoy the sunshine of the morrow.

Carol Ann Coulter





Ms. Spinnati was a source of strength and support for me at a time when I really needed it. I didn't ask for her help, and I didn't expect it. And yet, there she was. I think many of her students probably have similar stories, and that is the main reason why they thought so much of her. She cared about them, and they knew it. I am glad I had a friend like her.--**Nicole Parker**

Ms. Spinnati was much more than a principal to a lot of us. For some of us, myself included, she was a mentor and good stiff kick in the pants. One of the many fond memories I have of her comes from my senior year. It was a rough year, as it is for many, but what made it rough for me was that nearly all of my friends graduated a year before me. About halfway through the year, I had all but thrown in the towel. I was happy to coast till graduation. And it seemed that several teachers and even my parents were also okay with my lack of effort. Well, not Ms. Spinnati. She pulled me into her office before school one morning and informed me that she wasn't stupid. She had noticed my more than "senioritis" level of slacking off, and said she wouldn't stand for it. She knew I was capable of much better, and wouldn't settle for anything less than my best. And she warned me not to make her have this talk with me again. She refused to give up on me, and without her support and guidance I wouldn't be the man I am today.

Andrew Kemp- class of '08

Ms. Spinnati was one of the most caring people I have ever known and her generosity to others was truly inspiring. I thank her for her inspiration and showing me that family always comes first.--**Logan Minning**

Only one time in my life have I ever witnessed a person care about so many people's well-being at one time. Ms. Spinnati truly cared about each and every one of her students and faculty members beyond what any normal principal ever has. Realizing what Ms. Spinnati did just for ME during my four years of high school is really an inspiration. I knew that she felt the same love for every single one of her students as she did for me, and showing that many people love is a difficult task. I firmly believe that Ms. Spinnati was one of a kind. There has been no principal like her before, and there will never be a principal like her again. I know I speak for everyone when I say that Ms. Spinnati was not only an inspiration to me, but rather an inspiration to all of us. **Sam Curless Class of '11**



There will be many words spoken today to describe Diana. All of them accurate, all of them just. I would like to speak on the one characteristic that drastically changed over the last 11 months. Most all of us are aware of how extremely private Diana was in every aspect of her life. One thing those of us close to her learned is that cancer, at some point, invades your privacy, and over time, causes it to disappear completely. Selfishly, through this process, we were fortunate enough to see a side of Diana that rarely existed to us in her daily life. She had an understanding with God that offered her peace and comfort, and enabled her when the time had come to say, "I am ready, and I have no fear." She spoke of her fears, her aspirations, her beliefs, and the people and things she held true to her heart. She shared stories with us about her childhood. Papa Joe, we now know it was you we have to thank for hanging the moon. Talks about Frankie Joe, Saturday morning trips to the donut shop and boating, her trips to Lima to take the nieces and nephews out for the day. Vicki, do you remember the two of you getting in your car and just cruising for hours? Bret, she was so proud of the man you have become, we all know this, because every time you would leave the room...she would tell us! She told me a story a little over a week ago, of one of the memories she had of a dear friend. JV, you were working at an ice cream parlor; she couldn't remember exactly where she was employed at the time, but she used to pick you up after work, the two of you would stop by the store and pick up pop and chips, then go home and play cards all night long...her exact quote: "We had so much fun." So many personal stories that wouldn't have been shared under different circumstances.

The most remembered talk that I had with her came back in March. As any normal person would do in her situation, she tried to make sense of all this. She wanted to know that she had served a purpose here on earth. As inappropriate as it may have been at the time, being an educator in this building, watching how students and staff responded to her, I chuckled. You will hear many people today talk about her relationship with her students, but none will truly explain the magnitude of the impact she had on each and every student she came in contact with. Each student with his or her own story, his or her own memory of how she influenced each one of them. Parents in this district found great comfort in the fact that she loved our kids as much if not more than we did. One of her nurses at the hospital asked, "Does she have any children?" We responded by saying, "Thousands."

She found great joy in giving. Whether it was materialistic or monetary, she loved to sit back and watch the enjoyment others experienced from her gratitude, and it was genuine. The way she would get a kid's attention with her stern behaviors, scare them straight, and then walk away with a grin that said, "They think I'm seriously angry," was always enjoyable to watch. She took ownership of all the students in this building, they were all hers. Pastor Dale, you asked her to do you a favor once she reached Heaven. You can rest assured it has been fulfilled and she will keep a close watch until you get there; she won't be able to help herself...it's what she did best.

So to answer her question, a purpose...absolutely!
She was the constant in so many that had little stability...

She was the encourager for those who needed a little push...

She was a cheerleader for those who could make it on their own.

If you were ever a student of Ms.Spinnati's, would you please stand. Please know that she loved and believed in each and every one of you! Honor her and her legacy today, by leaving here and going out into the world to find your purpose. Once you discover what that is, fulfill it. --
Terri Flamm



Stay Safe



Remembering Diana