

The Messenger

New Richmond High School, 1131 Bethel-New Richmond Road, New Richmond, Ohio
Volume LXXV

Spring 2015



Moving on to next stage of life...

Mr. Heflin will be greatly missed after he retires

By Hunter Gilpin & Tristin Baumann



Choir director Doug Heflin will be retiring after a long career at the end of this year. He answered a few questions that summed his career as whole.

"I think I was born to teach," Heflin said, "and that my decision to teach was part of fulfilling that. I knew that I could teach without putting my ego into it."

"The ability to think outside the box and see so many of those things come to fruition is quite a blessing. It's great," Heflin said about his experience at New Richmond High School. "You know when you're six years old and you say you want to sing songs and write stories and then years later you retire from a job after sharing stories and singing songs, there's a level of fulfillment there that not everyone gets to feel, and it's really a privilege to experience that."

Heflin shared what he will remember most about his time here. "I'd like to say I made a difference in the lives of kids, but I'm far more likely to say that the people I have met have made a significant difference in my life and because I still feel so indebted to all those who allowed

me to do this for a living and to enjoy it so much, I have a very grateful heart that it is not quite that way you would picture a career. You'd think that you would serve into a job and give in to it, but I feel very much like I got more than I gave."

Heflin also knows how many students he's had over the years. "So I've done some calculations because at some point, I was asked about that, and I believe just recently I went over ten thousand. I believe that I've had over ten thousand different students in my classrooms, and of course right now I have 420, so when you're dealing with a large number of students, when you have four classes with over 90 kids every day, the numbers go very high. The neat thing is that so many of the kids who joined

the program when they were young followed through with the program all the way through, which is what would be dozens of seniors every year."

Heflin discussed what would be the most emotionally touching thing that has ever happened to him during his career. "I think finding one specific time would be difficult," he said, "but the general times when I have felt that way were when the response of the students went beyond what students do and went to what caring people do. Then to see those times when the

students and families reached out to me broke down the subordinate type relationship and it went into a personal sense, which is among the things that have been blessings to me that were far beyond what I would've imagined when I started teaching. Those times when students and teachers and families saw me as more than their kids' teacher but saw me as a person and those are very special moments."

"I guess it depends on which hat I'm wearing," Heflin said in regards to the song of his people. "If I am in the role of musician playing the song that means the most to me it would probably be the hymn *It Is Well With My Soul*. If I'm picking a song that applies to an unbridled joy, I might listen to *The Firebird* at the very end of Stravinsky's *Firebird*, or

maybe *Jupiter* from *The Planets* by Gustav Holst. If I was going to sing a song that was relevant to my memories, I'd probably pick *Morning Glow* from *Pippin*. But since the final song I'll do as a high school teacher is the song *I Will Fly*;

that is probably my anthem. If you want to know who I am, listen to that song, and I think you'll get a better insight."

Of course, Heflin explained the significance of The Duck. "The Duck is physical proof that the children I work with, on occasion, are insane and troubled. It is a public reaching out, a cry



for help. And when they are worried and confused and concerned and they need a friend, they know that there is a stuffed duck who will listen to every inane word they have to share. That duck turns out to be serving a symbiotic relationship with the students, so that together, the students and the duck are as one."

Heflin was asked if he wanted to build a snowman, and he said, "They won't open the doors so nobody will talk to me. So I have to sit outside making snow angels with my Beagle, in my snow boots. And if after time, of being retired, I look back upon this and need more, I then will build a snowman. But it will look like a Beagle. A snow dog."

In conclusion, Heflin summed up what his plans are for after retirement. "Inside every artist there is a journey for understanding, and between serving others and digging deeper into myself through music composition and recording and performance and ministry, I believe I can have a better, deeper understanding of myself, and through there, continue to make an impact in the world."



Final year for NRHS industrial tech teacher

Jim Robinson retires after 36 years

By Elise Holdsworth

Jim Robinson is a well known industrial technology teacher here at New Richmond High School. Robinson has taught 33 years at NRHS, since fall of 1982. After all these years, this school year, 2014-2015, will be his last year teaching at New Richmond High School.

"What made me decide to start teaching was because I enjoy the setting of being in a school and I went to college to work in the area of industrial technology because I really like it and it was perfect for me," he said.

When Robinson graduated from college, he taught three years in his hometown, Miamisburg, Ohio.

"That school district then

started to have major money problems and eventually had to lay off a lot of the staff, including me. So I started to look for another teaching job and this was the closest school I could find that was hiring," Robinson explained.

Overall, Robinson said his experience here at NRHS has been great.

"The number one thing is that I would consider myself very fortunate to find this job because at NRHS, I've always had a board of education that supported my program and actually cared about it. Also, the administrators and principals have always supported me, too. And for the most part, the students that take my

classes are great and you can tell they really do want to be in my class," Robinson said.

Robinson considers himself as a very fair educator.

"Over the years I've been very fair, but definitely firm. Education has changed drastically over 36 years I've taught, but I have still kept the same motto," he said.

As you would think, being a teacher for as long as Robinson has it creates a handful of memories.

"What I will remember the most is the people. The great students, the amazing, staff, pretty much everyone. I have met so many great people and had so many great students that have moved on and been successful in the field that I teach. It's amazing to see that, you can't beat that," he said.

During his time here at NRHS, Robinson has also coached baseball, basketball, and football.

"Two of the baseball teams that I coached both went on to regionals. That is a very special memory of mine. Also, my three kids all went to school here and graduated from here. I have a lot of memories with my kids, because two of them took yearbook with me," Robinson said.

"But some of the success stories of students that went into some of the areas in college that I've taught and been successful and stayed in touch with me throughout the years are the best memories," he added.

Aside from being a teacher and a coach here at New Richmond, Robinson is also the head of Student Council.

"I slowly eased out of coaching when my kids were starting to grow up so I could spend more time with them. I then started to run Student Council because it really fit my schedule," he said. "It isn't an every-



day thing like coaching is and the spot opened and thought it would be a great chance to come into contact with some of our greatest/top students."

While working here at NRHS, Robinson has taught many different classes, but his favorite has to be yearbook.

"I like teaching yearbook because every year is different and allows me to be creative with the book. Also, everyone that I've had in the class each year is different in their own way, which creates a different/more creative yearbook each year. They're all very hardworking. Basically, just to be able to design and do layout work for it is fun; I like doing that type of thing," he explained.

As you would imagine, retiring from a job that you have been doing for quite a while must be bitter sweet.

"I'm both happy and sad," he stated. "Happy because you are able to retire and you can do something new. I will continue to work at Coney Island (this will be my 31st summer working there.) It is going to be a different life for me. I am also sad because I will miss it. I'm so used to being on a schedule all my life and having seven periods in my day. It is going to be different. I don't know what I am going to do but I will definitely be working somewhere because I really do enjoy working," Robinson said.

Saying farewell to Mrs. Hall

Intervention Specialist retiring this year

By Ciera Moore

Working here for seventeen years, Mrs. Gail A. Hall plans to retire at the end of this school year. Having been with the New Richmond school district for so long, she has many fond memories. "I have worked with a wide variety of students, and I have many precious memories, too many to list," said Hall.

While working here, Hall has seen many positive as well as negative changes in the school district. "There are more college prep classes now (which is a positive). But there are fewer career and life skill classes."

When her family moved into the school district, Hall decided to join the faculty as an Intervention Specialist. "My children attended Locust Corner, New Richmond Middle School, and New Richmond High School. I believe in public education and support the mission/philosophy of NREVSD."

After she retires, Hall plans on doing many new things with her



free time. "I just acquired a new puppy, which requires lots of time and attention. I plan to travel, spend more time with friends and family, read, garden, and enjoy life," said Hall.

Hall says that NRHS is a great place to work, with excellent teachers and wonderful, devoted, ethical colleagues. "I strongly believe that educators should be student centered and should always focus on doing what's best for each student and their future. I enjoy being able to impact young people and to help them prepare for the future."

Senior flashback: Camp Joy

Students reminisce on sixth grade field trip

By: Sadie LaRocque

Each year, the 6th grade classes from all three elementary schools in the New Richmond Exempted Village School District go on a field trip to Camp Joy. It serves as a fun outdoor educational activity for the students, and allows them to meet the other kids who will be their classmates in middle school.

Former Locust Corner Elementary principal Julie Renner, now is the athletic director in the Loveland school district, but while at LCE, she had gone to Camp Joy every year with the 6th grade class. "Camp Joy has always been a great experience for the New Richmond District 6th graders. We would take all 3 buildings together so they could start forming new relationships and friendships before entering the New Richmond Middle School," she said. "The activities at Camp Joy are all based around respect and responsibility which are 2 of the 4 Rs that the district promotes. But the best thing is you get to watch kids be kids...get dirty, explore the outdoors, play games with

others, share meals with friends and peers, and have slumber parties in cabins with their friends and classmates!"

Camp Joy was founded in 1937 by the St. Barnabas Episcopal Church. According to the Camp Joy website (campjoy.org), the camp moved around several times in its early years but has since settled in Clarksville, Ohio. The new 317 acre location is finally large enough to support Camp Joy's ambitious goals to challenge individuals and change lives today, tomorrow, and forever.

Camp Joy provides summer camp and year-round opportunities for many groups of people such as Low-Income Youth and Families, Youth and Families Affiliated with Children's Services, and Camps for Grieving Children and Families. These camps are provided by funding from partners. These partners include St Joseph Orphanage, Cincinnati Children's Hospital, Arthritis Foundation, Hospice of Cincinnati, among many others. Now, six years later, the NRHS

seniors share their recollections of Camp Joy. Every senior has their own memories from the field trip that they will always remember. For some it is the Under ground

Railroad simulation, for others it is making new friends, and even the experience in the cabins with their classmates and friend, among others.

"The obstacle was awesome and I enjoyed the Underground Railroad a ton as well. Chilling in the cabin before we went to bed was a fun time as well," Austin Fischer said.

Ally Meadors said her favorite memories are: "All the girls in my cabin sitting in the living room area filling out Coke or Pepsi books, and doing rock climbing."

"My favorite memory was when Isiah Young was saying his name was 2Pac. Bunking in the cabins was also cool, the food was great, and rock climbing was fun," Darren Porter said.

There were many students that went on the Camp Joy field trip that meet some of their (now) close friends when they were in 6th grade.

"One of the best moments I had at Camp Joy was when I met Troy (Saunders). I had determined that he looked more like a "Bob" than a "Troy" so I called him Bob the whole time," Grace Williams said.

"One of my favorite memories from Camp Joy was meeting some of my closest friends, like Grace," Troy Saunders said.



The entrance to Camp Joy in the spring of 2009, when this year's senior class visited the facility. Photo/S. LaRocque.

Mrs. Renner shared a story that will live on in her as well as the hearts of other Locust Corner staff forever. "One of my favorite stories about Camp Joy involves Mrs. Barnes...We always called our trip to Camp Joy, Mrs. Barnes' vacation and she always would take all of us on vacation with her. So on this eve of Mrs. Barnes' last trip to Camp Joy before her retirement, we have all been blessed to travel to Camp Joy and learn and love under the direction of Mrs. Brenda Barnes. We all have that JOY in our HEARTS, from Camp Joy!"

Camp Joy has outdoor educational programs that it offers the groups who come to visit. The current senior class at NRHS did the Survival on the Underground Railroad program as 6th graders at the camp. The Survival on the Underground Railroad (SURR) program actively involves all participants. The JOY staff portrays several different characters representing different perspectives on slavery. The participants will travel through the woods at night, and meet Plantation Owners, an Abolitionist, a Bounty Hunter, a follower of John Brown, a Quaker, etc. The visiting teachers and parents portray the "conductors" leading the group toward freedom, and the



The back deck of one of the Camp Joy cabins in the fall. Photo/Campjoy.org.

students role-play the part of runaway slaves. It is approximately a 3-hour program and covers almost one mile of trails, in the evening, in most types of weather. (<http://camp-joy.org/programs/outdoor-education/outdoor-education-programs>). When the 6th grade class did the SURR program, they were split up into many different groups, as runaway slaves looking for freedom, some of whom made it to freedom, and others that did not.

"Our group didn't make it to freedom on the Underground Railroad, we got caught by some crazy guy with a knife," Korinne Gillman said.

"We got shot right at the end," Carrie Stapleton said about her group of runaway slaves on the Underground Railroad simulation, "At least I didn't pull down my bandana."

The students on the Camp Joy trip were split up in small groups and stayed in cabins with the other students, and some were in the guest house.

"I bunked with Kelsi Curry and she got me in trouble by throwing flip flops on me while everyone was sleeping," Ella Neess said about the cabins with her group.

"I'm not a morning person, so I was always the last one up and

got really annoyed when everyone was making noise," Olivia Latham said about her cabin experience.

Tyler Anderson thought the cabin experience was fun. "It was like a big sleepover, which was pretty fun to do back in grade school," he said.

"The people in my cabin thought that I was crazy because I was pretending that I was a mermaid," Grace Williams said. "I got into my sleeping bag and twisted the end of it around my feet and started flopping around. It was fun."

Taking showers in the cabins at camp was an experience of its own. Everybody had to take a shower in under three minutes each day. Some students made it more fun to take showers, while some didn't like them.

"We got the new cabins and during shower time we held cards to the "window" and people in the showers guessed what the card was," Emily Carter said.

Given the opportunity, most students would go back to Camp Joy, for a variety of reasons.

"I would definitely go back. I don't remember a whole lot from then. I know the people more now and it would be fun," Maddie McDaniel said.



Senior Kelsey Hardin performs during her class' stay at Camp Joy in 2009. Photo/S. LaRocque.

"Yes, I would go back, it was extremely fun and a memory that I will never forget," Ashley Stephens said.

Audrey Feiler has mixed feelings on going back if she could. "Sure, I would like to go back, but I'm not sure if it would be as wonderful at the current age as it was then," she said.

While most students said that they would go back if they had the opportunity, there were a few students that said they would not go.

"I would not go back because time is more important right now," Tyler Davis said.

"I hate not sleeping in my bed, so no, I would not go back," Steven Wolf said.

Some seniors have some final memories and words that they would like to add.

"I hope the elementaries never stop going to Camp Joy," Maddie McDaniel said. "It is a good experience."

Ally Meadors has a few memories from the camp that weren't exactly fantastic she was reminiscing about. "I got stuck in a sticker thorn bush and got pushed face first into a puddle of dirt," she said.

Kelsi has one final thing to add. "I just want to say that the short showers and no phones killed me," she said.

Olivia Latham added that, "The Underground Railroad thing was SCARY as heck and I hated it as a 6th grader, but I feel like it would be fun to do now as someone who's not 11 years old."

"It was an important memory going into middle school and high school, giving us a way to connect," Audrey Feiler said.

For most of the senior class, going to Camp Joy as 6th graders was a great experience and most of them would like to go back. As seniors looking back on the trip in 6th grade, we believe that the elementary schools should continue going each year.

Camp Joy provided a fabulous educational opportunity with every activity, especially with the Underground Railroad simulation, although it may have been scary for some. There were some experiences on the field trip that weren't ones that we particularly want to remember, but for the most part, the camp was good. Many people met some of their best friends while on the trip, and made unforgettable memories on the field trip.



The Creative Arts building at the Camp Joy facility. Photo/Campjoy.org.

advice

present
make put younger
insight emotional words people
adult backgrounds self
send tears future dear glimpse fabulous
share trove comfort love other
encourage message
group past
trust silliness
emotion guidance
letter meaning wondering
treasure intimate

wisdom

letter

Dear Me is a national phenomenon in which people from all walks of life are asked to write letters to their younger selves. Here at NRHS, we asked freshman English classes to do just that and we are proud to publish their thoughts, along with a few sophomore letters and the thoughts of one of our staff members as well. For more information about Dear Me, go to dearme.org

Julia Broshear

Dear Me,

1. Stop being negative, think positive
2. Try new things
3. Forget about bad things in the past
4. Forgive some people, but not all/everyone
5. Have an open mind
6. Save your money
7. Don't try to be like everyone else
8. Practice your sport--don't give up
9. Be a role model for your younger sister
10. Aim, keep steady, wait for it.

Kacie Colwell

Dear Me,

1. Some things I would tell my younger self are:
2. It is OK to have a C; it is not the end of the world.
3. It is OK to have lots of friends
4. Hang out with your family more
5. You do not always have to have the newest phone out
6. You do not always need the newest clothes
7. It is OK to be yourself at school
8. You do not have to act like someone you're not to just get friends
9. If you have friends who don't like how you act, they are not your friends
10. These are some of the things I would tell my younger self.

David Havens

1. Be a kid
2. School is not that bad!
3. Don't go to sleep, because your dad will die 5 days after your 10th birthday.
4. Don't be selfish

Jacob

Dear Me, Things I should tell you to do and not to do:

1. Don't climb a ladder with one hand
2. Don't cuss out your cousin; it might be the last thing you remember of him
3. Never climb trees
4. Don't get angry so often with others
5. Live life to the fullest
6. Be happy for what you have
7. Don't waste your time getting an \$800 computer

Luke Petry

Dear Self,

Hey, it's you from the future. Yeah, I know technology has come far. Anyway, I want you to actually care about school and want to be at school because it's not that bad. Secondly, you don't have to be the class clown to be cool, because you're already cool, broski! Lastly, I want you not to play so many video games. Go outside and make memories with your friends.

From your loving self, Luke Petry

Zachary Wuest

Dear Me,

Keep doing what you've been doing but do your homework and go outside every now and then. The outside may seem boring but that's what your imagination is for. Be yourself and go meet those other kids like you. Don't stand in the back, be bold and stand out above yourself. Most importantly, don't be stupid, don't do anything stupid and stay in line. You only get one chance for a first impression and if you mess it up, it's your future that you're ruining for yourself.

Joel Bird

Dear Me,

I want to give you some advice for life:

1. Don't try to be funny. People think it's annoying when you do.
2. You don't need a huge group of friends; just find a few really good friends that will last.
3. Be social Talk to more people.
4. Be friendly, but not annoying.
5. Be willing to accept new ideas.
6. Question everything--only a fool accepts something as fact without thinking about it first.
7. Think about things through other people's perspectives.
8. Don't let things people say get to you. It's easy and cliche to say, but seriously, think about it.

Julien Battista

Dear Me,

1. Don't let other people change you into someone you're not.
2. I shouldn't have quit soccer for those two years.
3. Be nicer to siblings.
4. I should have cherished the time I had with my grandpa before he died.
5. Be proud of yourself.

Olivia Hicks

Stop trying to be like everyone else. Whatever you do, do what you want to do, wear whatever you want to wear, don't let others bring you down. You are so much better than that. Let the haters hate, just make sure you stand up for yourself. Follow your heart. Don't let others tell you how to live your own life--it's yours and only yours so they shouldn't tell you what to do; don't listen to them. Love your parents unconditionally!! You never know what's going to happen down the road. Sometimes a simple, "I love you," can really make their day. You never know how much you truly love someone until they're gone. Never say that you hate your parents because they tell you to do something; just love yourself.

Mickaelah Wilson

Dear Me, If I could tell my younger self anything, I would tell myself to be nicer and spend more time with your parents, even if you don't think they're cool. They won't always be here so cherish the moments you have. Whether you think so or not, your mom will become your best friend. Put down the phones and go outside and play, have fun, be a kid because once you grow up, you will wish you were young again. You will wish that you could do a lot of the things you could when you were five or ten. As you get older, you get more responsibility, so don't wish your life away. Don't focus on the future because you won't live in the present--you'll be too focused on planning your future. Enjoy what you have today because tomorrow you will wish you had.

Sean Underwood

To my younger self,

Hey younger self, it's me but you're older. I want you to know that if you waste your time just laying around you won't get anything completed in life. So just live life to the fullest. Do anything and everything you can, put down the device and go outside.
-Sean Underwood

Maria Trimble

Dear Me,

Now that I'm older and looking back on my younger self, I realize how different I wish things were. I wish I had taken things more seriously. I wish I would've pushed myself more and instead of not trying and getting As and Bs, I could've gotten all As. I wish I would've tried harder to keep my friendships and not get mad at the people that cared about me over silly things. I regret not doing things when I had the chance. I realized that I'm young and this is the time for me to have fun while I still can. I shouldn't be stressing myself out over a breakup or one bad test grade. I should be worrying about who I'm going to hang out with over the weekend and what dress I want to wear to Homecoming. I worried and stressed so much over things that weren't important and now I realize that you can't worry your way through life and expect yourself to be the happiest, most carefree person there is. I wish I would've had more fun and experienced more when I was younger. I look back on the younger me and sometimes want to smack myself and ask myself what was I thinking? I really hope that now that I'm older I don't make the same mistakes that I used to. I want to have fun and enjoy high school while I have the chance, I want to be the wild, happy teenager that doesn't stress over everything.

Anonymous

Dear me,

Think about what you do before you do it. Don't argue with your parents. Save your money.

Sincerely, Unknown

Brittany Lowery

Dear Me,

You have endured a lot, I know, but just know everything you have been through is for a reason. Growing up you felt lonely; that's okay, though, a lot of people do. Sometimes you didn't know your purpose for being here. You were confused and lost but didn't know why or how to make it stop because you thought you had a good life a good family. Just remember you're okay. God has your back. Stop worrying about everything that you do, or do not do. Do not try to be somebody you're not. Be you and love yourself, don't down yourself and think about what's not right with you. Just be happy, watch the friends you make because they are not always your friends. They will get you into things you can't get out of, possibly get you into trouble for something that isn't even your fault. Don't trust everyone, watch closely how people act towards others. If you see that they talk about others behind their backs then are friends with them to their face, get away from those people. They are not good people to befriend. Love like it's your last day because not everyone will be there forever. Do not disobey your parents because when they aren't here any more, you will miss them. Even when you think you hate them and want nothing to do with them, tell them you love them every day. No matter how far or how much you think they don't deserve it, and when you do lose one, DO NOT lose yourself. If you do, you'll never be the same. You will shut everyone out, your grades will slowly get worse and worse as the years go. You won't care about anything anymore. You will trust less, if at all and you will never ever, ever be the same again. I know it hurts and I

know you feel like your world's over and feel like you have nobody or nothing, you have our Lord and Savior. That's what will get you through. Just believe, and have faith that He will make things better, and eventually he will. When you're sad, pray. When you're happy, pray. No matter what you're feeling, pray and things will get better. I promise it will; I know.
Sincerely, Me

Chandler Kinhalt

Dear Me,

I cannot believe how much I have changed in the past couple of years. It's ridiculous to go back into my life and remember all of the things that I was or wasn't or what I did or didn't do. Now that I'm 15, I notice that time flies by and you want to cherish every moment that you have to be with your friends and be with your teachers and even to be at school. I'm grateful for all the things I have in my life and there's so many people in the world that don't even have an education or even have a bed to sleep on and I do. Kids nowadays should be more grateful for what they have and when I was younger, I wasn't as grateful as I am now for the things I have. I don't want to have any regrets in my life so the mistakes some of my family members have made, they've told me the right way to handle the situation instead of getting in the wrong. I had A's and B's in middle school and now that I think to myself about it, I should have taken the extra five minutes to study for tests instead of playing on my phone. I should have taken the extra five minutes before I went to bed to study for my tests, but instead, I said I didn't feel like it. Now I WILL take the extra five minutes to study for my tests so that it will benefit me for when it's test days.

Sincerely, Chandler

Alexis Blackburn

Dear Me,

You have been through so much already, Life hasn't shown you many positives yet, but they're yet to be coming your way. I'm the older you. Don't worry about the things you can't control. There will always be that mean girl, or that friend that is not really your friend... all the drama that you have gone through since the first day of school. I'm not going to lie, it just gets worse. You have to pick your battles with others, and yourself. I was never the kind of person to get picked on or made fun of, but everyone is going to talk. I have learned through my many years of school that you will have your group of friends all the way through elementary school and then your will go on to middle school and that group gets a little bit smaller and eventually in high school, there are only one or two of them left. As you get older and become more mature, you will learn that it's not just you with these problems, everyone else has them too.

TJ
Love

Dear self,

Stop being such an imperfect idiot all the time

Signed TJ Love

Grant Anderson

Dear me,

Keep on keepin' on. Except don't stop working on academics after middle school. You should care about it more.

Hannah Kellerman

Dear me,

I have a few things I would like to give to my younger self. 1. spend more time with my family. Right now, at this point in my life, I never really get to spend time with my family. I'm always socializing, at sporting events or something. 2. Do not try and fit in. I wasted so much of my time on trying to fit in with other people. I wasn't even my actual self. I was this girl who changed to fit in. 3. Be more confident. Don't let others push you down or make you feel bad about yourself.

Sincerely, Hannah Kellerman

Rochea Brown

Dear me,

Think things through before you jump full speed ahead and get hurt. Always know how you are. If you want to do something, think of what could happen or if you'll like it. Make sure everyone is your right friends or REAL FRIENDS! Don't let anyone tell you you can't do it or you will not be anything; prove them wrong. Always be kind to others even if they're not to you. Don't say anything to people who don't talk to you.

Sincerely, Rochea Brown

Daniel Stoy

Dear me,

1. Learn to control yourself
2. Stick up for others
3. Get rid of all your bad friends
4. Slow down
5. Be a leader
6. Follow your dreams
7. Make a plan
8. Help as many people as possible

Sincerely, Daniel Stoy

Joshua Clancy

Dear me

1. Life is going to hurt, you need to be prepared.
2. Stop trying to protect everyone, let your parents be your parents!
3. Be assertive, don't put up with things you don't like, even if you hurt someone else's feelings.
4. Exercise more
5. Don't go ice skating in 2009; you break your arm
6. Stop staying up until 2am! You need sleep!
7. Don't be afraid to smile
8. Embrace your nerd-self! You're turning into a huge one.

Sincerely, Joshua Clancy

Hannah Reinert

Dear me,

Don't let things bother you so much
Think long term; that boy won't mean anything to you in 5 years
Trust yourself- but don't ignore the hints; people are trying to help you
It will get better; maybe not today, but the sun will set and there is always a chance for a better tomorrow.

Give yourself credit, you've been through a lot
You're stronger than you think
All good things take time
What you think is right for you, may not really be

Sincerely, Hannah Reinert

Logan Taulbee

Dear me,

Have fun while you're young. Just have fun and don't listen to what people say. Besides the good things, the bad things ignore.

Sincerely, Logan Taulbee

Nicole St. Clair

Dear Me,

Don't worry about fitting in, because you are unique in your own special way. Feel free to have a good time with your friends and just be you. If I knew then what I know now, I should have just not worried about drama and bullying, but now I'm happy and have nothing to worry about because high school is not that bad, it's fun. So don't be scared, just get your homework done and focus on your school work. The summer before coming to high school, I was too scared, but I've been here for months now, and it's not so bad. It's funny and we have some funny moments, and serious ones because sometimes you need to focus. Be you because you are perfect in your own special way. Don't worry about having a boyfriend because, trust me, they are not worth it. You can shine by just being yourself. Love you lots.. And just have fun. Sincerely, Your older helpful self...

Lily Moeller

Dear me,

First of all, don't doubt yourself. You're going to try and fit in and grow up a little faster than you should be. Stop trying to fit in all the time, when you know it's not you. You should be who you are despite everything. I know maybe you won't have as many "friends", but sometimes it's not about the number if you know all your friends are true. Don't be afraid to go through your "awkward" stage. You needed this. You will find yourself and where you belong in time, don't try and rush it too much. Another thing, don't listen to everyone when they try and bring you down, you're beautiful and unique in your own way and that's better than any "perfect" girl. You're far more amazing being you. Don't stop being true to you, once you figure that out, everything else in life falls in place. God has a plan for you and is in the process of making you perfectly imperfect. Stay true to you and that's what will make you happy in life.

-Lilian Moeller

Matthew Lake

Dear me,

1. Keep doing what you're doing
2. Don't screw around in classes because you're bored
3. Never be mean
4. Never get a B when you could get an A
5. DON'T PROCRASTINATE!
6. Don't give teachers a reason to hate you.
7. Help everyone you can if given the chance
8. Never brag
9. Always remember how fortunate you are
10. Don't be stupid

Sincerely, Matthew Lake

Daniel Mattoon

1. Talk, don't be afraid of people. Just hope you talk to the right ones.
2. Relax! You're moving too fast and plan too far ahead, SLOW DOWN!
3. Be prepared, a lot is coming your way, learn from it.
4. It's always going to get better, remember that.
5. Talk to your brothers, you may find similar problems.

Blayke Murphy

Dear old me,

Some advice I'd give myself for when I was younger would be to not try so hard. When I was little, I wanted everyone to like me. Now that I'm older, I realize that you're going to meet a lot of people that don't like you and you're going to meet people who do. Don't try so hard to impress certain people. Not everyone's going to like you. Also, stop trying to grow up so fast, you're only little for so long. Let it go, have fun and be weird. Don't care what people think. I'd also tell myself that growing up fast is not all it's cracked up to be. Stay young as long as you can because reality sucks, growing up stinks. Don't try so hard to grow up.

Sincerely, Blayke Murphy

Libby Rosenow

Dear me,

1. Never let anyone tell you aren't good enough.
2. Stop worrying so much.
3. Be happy
4. Don't be so stressed out.
5. Destroy what destroys you.
6. Smile more
7. Don't let anything bring you down.
8. Most of all, be yourself.

Sincerely, Libby Rosenow

Kayla King

Dear me,

Be nice to your parents. You should try harder in school. You should not let people get you down and call you names when you knew that you are not what they said.

Love, Kayla King

Donell McDade

Dear little me,

You have a great personality and a good head on your shoulders. You have a big imagination and big mouth to match. You don't have to say everything that comes to mind and don't be so quick to shut someone down by going for the jugular and being hurtful. Bee good, bee strong, bee in control, fly like a bee!

Sincerely, Donell McDade

Matthew Franks

Dear younger me,

Stop! Stop worrying about hurting and feelings so much. Let things go. If you hurt someone by accident, they let it go. It's ok!

1. Let things go
2. Save money
3. Stop getting worked up with problems
4. Be yourself

Sincerely, Matthew Franks

Luke Smiddy

Dear me,

1. Focus on soccer.
2. Look forward not back.
3. Get a work ethic.
4. Work out.
5. Anna is bae (Heiden).
6. Get some cool shoes.
7. Kill your heroes .
8. Sometimes the best things in life are the things you don't want to do.
9. Save your money.
10. Chill.

Isabelle Oiler

Dear Me,

Don't feel like you're nothing because that is how people treat you. Know that you are worth something and don't let anyone tell you differently. You are perfect in your own way, so don't try to change to please others.

Don't be so sensitive. People are going to hurt your feelings, but if you show them that it bothers you, then they win. If they don't treat you right, then they don't deserve your attention. Don't cry because of the people who don't know the value of your tears.

Let things go and don't hold grudges. Forgiveness is the key to being happy. You need to forgive others, just as you need them to forgive you.

Do not get too attached to a boy. He may say he loves you, but he doesn't. He will just break your heart and you will be in pain. Boys are not worth the drama or tears. You can like boys, but don't "fall in love" too quickly.

Don't stress out so much. Stress just makes things worse. You're so smart, don't freak yourself out. You won't fail, I promise. Success if yours as long as you do your best. You can do anything, so don't fear failure.

Sincerely,
Isabelle Oiler

Tim Brown

Dear me,

1. Focus more on school than girls.
2. Do your homework.
3. Hug your parents more.
4. Live life to the fullest.
5. Don't spend all your time on girls and drama.
6. Don't rush everything.
7. Be yourself.

Lexi Forsee

Dear me,

Do what makes you happy. Don't let others bring you down or affect your mood. Don't be in a hurry to grow up. Your young years fly by and soon enough you are going to miss them. Don't change your ways just to try and get noticed by the "popular" crowd. Just be you and do what makes you happy. If people really want you as a friend they will come around eventually. Don't do anything stupid. Just because other people do stuff doesn't mean you have to do it too. Don't let others pressure you into something you don't want to do.

Brianne O'Connor

Dear younger self,

1. You've made a lot of mistakes but only you can change that.
2. Stop trying to please everyone else and put yourself first
3. Be who you want to be not who everyone else makes you be or wants you to be.
4. Leave everything how it is, let things fall into place.
5. Don't let anyone hurt you or mess with your emotions.
6. Do what you want, do what makes you happy and what you think is best for you.
7. Do what you have to do to keep yourself out of trouble and get the grades you need to graduate.
8. Keep a positive mind and don't let anyone's attitude or opinion get you down.
9. Keep a smile on your face no matter how hard the situation.

Shayla Underwood

Dear Me,

I wish I would have focused more in elementary school in the 5th grade because if I would have, I'd be in the grade I'm supposed to be in now. It stinks to be in a grade lower than the grade you're supposed to be in, knowing that all your friends you grew up with and went to school with are a grade above you and you're going to have to meet new people and be in classes with people you don't know yet. Now it is fine and I know a lot of great friends. Now I'm keeping my grades up and staying focused to graduate from high school and not fail any more.

Aaron Ellis

Dear Me,

You have had some changes but not many. Let's start off with the ones that haven't changed. Your best friend is still Jonathan and yes, he still lives next to you. Your sister is in college, but is still at home. She has a new boyfriend named Drew who's been around since the summer of 2014. In 4th grade, when you were friends with Chris and then he went distant, but he became your friend again in 7th grade and now he is a best friend. You still talk to

Brandon and he has a 2015 GMC truck now. You have also made new friends you never had talked to before like Matthew and Corey. You are also making your confirmation this year on April 12 2015.....to be continued (maybe)

Cole Thompson

Dear Me,

Do not worry about getting a girlfriend. Just because all your friends are in a relationship does not mean you should be. Also, you should try your hardest. School gets harder, but you will do well, except maybe math. But no one is good at math. Also stay away from girls, they are nothing but trouble. Just imagine how fun it will be to be single. You will feel a lot of emotions including anger, sadness, and happiness but you will have a good life if you stay happy, so keep your chin up. There will be times where you are going to be stressed about girls, school, and life. But not for long. Your family will help you through the hard times, especially Coty, they will also give you useful advice. Even Jasmine's advice, although it may not be the best advice, it will be helpful at times.

Sincerely,
Cole Thompson

Desteney Fisher

Dear me,

People are mean, so don't let anyone get you down because they want to be mean to you. And stand up for yourself, don't let people walk all over you. But when you do stand up for yourself don't act mean with it because then people will think you're the bully.

Your slightly older self,
Destaney Fisher

Andria Cochran

Dear Me,

You should be more confident in the things you do and don't be afraid to be yourself because if you don't, nobody will know how great you really are. You'll have a lot of friends that will care about you and you'll get better grades in school. You are going to find people that will actually accept you for who you are and not want them to be. You are going to see your boys in concert after four incredible years of waiting, so put your phone down and actually enjoy the concert and have fun. You don't need to worry about getting everything on camera and rewatching it because you miss what you didn't actually see. Be different because it's OK every once in a while to actually accept the person you are. Don't be overly self-conscious about your body because every single person in this world has something to be shy about. Think about things before you speak and how they might hurt someone's feelings. Don't worry about what other people will think of you. You're super shy and it's hard to really talk to people about just normal things or help them with something. You need to speak up and let people know who you are instead of showing them someone you're not.

Kylan Burns

What I would have told my younger self is not to be worried about high school, try harder at school, and try to pay attention more in class. Have fun in elementary school and enjoy recesses as much as you can; enjoy your childhood.

Colbi Simpson

Dear Me,

It's your older self, and I'm writing this letter to you because I want to give you some advice to help you through your life. Be yourself, and don't worry about what other people think. It doesn't matter and it never will. The only thing that matters is what you think. Another thing to remember is to stay out of the drama. It's not fun and it's definitely not cool. Make sure that you listen to our parents. They actually do know what they're talking about even if what they say is sometimes ridiculous. Also, be good in school. Don't get in trouble, and make sure to STUDY FOR TESTS. It's not fun having to do homework in first period when it's due next bell. Respect your teachers because they respect you.

Treat others the way you would want to be treated. NEVER judge someone before you meet them. You never know what they are like just by looking at them. And don't worry about high school because those middle school teachers are just trying to scare you. Another thing about high school is to have fun! Make mistakes, take chances because you only get to do this once, and once it's over, there's no going back.

You'll want to fit in with the other kids in school but you don't have to! They aren't any more different than you are. Some kids will try to persuade you to drink and smoke, but that stuff is just crap that some people think is cool because someone else told them it was. Make sure to NEVER turn your back on your family because after high school, they are the people who are staying with you forever. One last thing, ALWAYS be yourself.

Sincerely,
Your Older Self

Maggie Smith

Dear me,

1. Enjoy playing sports now because you won't be able to forever.
2. Tell my parents thank you more.
3. Enjoy every moment I can because you don't know when it will be your last.

Ben Oliver

Dear me,

You don't need to stress about cross country; it is not as bad as Stone tells you. It's actually the most fun experience you will have all year. You don't need to be scared about marching band; it is super easy and the music is fun to play and also don't worry about fitting in; people will accept you for who you are.

Sincerely Ben Oliver

Zade Richardson

Dear Freshman,

First thing is the lockers in high school are a little different. Not much to worry about, it's an easy fix. I can't really explain how you do it but it's easy and you will find out how to do it. Second thing about high school is it is more free. so when you have freedom, don't abuse it. And last thing is wear deodorant. It is that time of your life where you start to change again big time, so don't be the smelly freshman.

Sincerely- Zade

Robert Wooten

Dear Freshman,

First off, don't be scared about coming to high school. It honestly isn't that bad. After the first week, it will fly by and you will absolutely love it. There is way more freedom in the high school than back in middle school or elementary. One important thing is don't make a bad impression of yourself. High school will be so much easier if you stay on the good side with teachers. Don't goof off because you will regret it. I once got in trouble and I regret it. High school is very important to your future when college comes. You have to do well in high school to get into a good college and have a good career. If you stay on the good side of the teachers and the principal, you will do just fine. One more thing about high school that you need to do is your homework. Yes, you will have a lot of homework, but if you do it, you will do just fine. Oh! and don't be scared of the upperclassmen; they won't mess around with you that much.

-
Robert Wooten

Dakota Carnahan

Dear Me,

Hey, you! Keep up the good work in your classes. They can be better than they are now in 10th. You are going to do the best you can in the new classes you are going to be in. You should always do your best. The best thing that you should do is not live in the past. You need to live in the moment.

Donald Gibson

Dear Freshman,

Take it from my experience do not goof off in class. There is a time and place to goof and school isn't a place to goof off. Be open minded to play different sports. Also, don't walk to the bathroom alone. Your best bet is to be friends with everyone or everyone will hate you.

Your friend,

Donald Gibson

Haylie Clemons

Dear Me,

Hey. It's your older self here. I just want to let you know that you're amazing and beautiful just the way you are. Don't worry about what other people think of you. You are allowed to be different. You don't have to fit in with the "cool" kids because you already have amazing friends that love you dearly. Love yourself. Don't be afraid of failure. You're going to make mistakes. It's okay. Do what you love. Don't stress out over the little things. I know a big part of your life is One Direction. They always make you happier. Your family makes you happy, too. Your dad is always making you laugh and mom always helps you with your high school drama. Your sisters are there too, encouraging you to follow your dreams, but you have to be that role model for them. Never give up on anything because they are watching you and you don't want to show them you are a quitter. You have to teach them to love themselves and tell them it's okay to be different. You shouldn't be stressed out all the time either. Softball is your favorite sport and you're good at it. Don't let other people tell you they are better than you. You are just as good as anyone else. Be smart about things. Don't make dumb choices that will throw your life away. You are young. Have fun. Just close your eyes and enjoy this roller coaster that is life.

Sincerely,
Haylie Clemons

Elexis Sanchez

Dear Me,

There have been a lot of things that have happened in your life. Trust me, I would know. I have already lived through it. Why don't we start with sports. Of course, you love soccer to death, but when middle school comes around, you are going to be in love with band. I know, it doesn't really add up because mum has always wanted you to play soccer, but all of the years of hard work paid off when you marched on that football field. Also, when you get older you find out that you really like karate. Just make sure that mum keeps you in it.

Why don't we move on to friends, shall we? Ok, so your best friend in the whole entire world is Haylie Clemons. She is such a weirdo and loves to laugh. You don't really like her at first because of everything that happens in your life, with trust issues and never wanting friends, but try not to hurt her as much as I did. When you get in the summer of '14, you will soon find out that you might want to be careful with everything you say, because it will soon bite you in the butt. Please don't hurt her. She will sometimes be the only one you have....to be continued.

Chris Day

Dear Me,

Don't get with fake friends like back in elementary when now they don't even talk to you. Don't worry so much how you look and be constantly thinking someone is judging you. All you need to do is not think about it so much and just live the way you want. Also, don't think that you have to dress a certain way just because someone else is. You should dress the way you want.

Don't think that your hair has to look perfect all the time. It's not like someone is just staring at you all day judging your hair and clothes. You shouldn't be quiet all the time and should talk a lot more.

Dakota Hampton

Dear me,

It was hard at the beginning of the year. Some of the friends weren't my true friends and those were the ones that were mean to me for what I am. One of those friends was so mean that he almost made me hurt myself. I don't want to get him in trouble so I won't tell his name, but he hurt me so bad (my feelings). But I found the friends that have supported me all the way through my day of heartbreak. I am happy now that I have someone in my life that loves me.

Sincerely,

The Older You that
knows this stuff

Thomas Sill

Dear past me,

I wish you hadn't gone through such stupid phases. I also wish you'd been smarter about getting in trouble and not getting caught.

Collin Albers

Dear me,

There are some ups and downs in life that you will experience later on in life. If you listen to me your life will be less stressful than mine at this point. First, you have to stop playing video games and do what your dad says every day. "Study." You will be respected and treated fairly. Next, once you are done with St. Veronica go to New Richmond High School, don't listen to your friends about McNick and Moeller, trust me it's not the place for you. As you are probably still in rec soccer, push mom for you to go to select every day. Make sure to do anything possible to do something other than video games, just cherish the time with your friends before you all separate to various high schools.

Do well,

Collin Albers

Natalie Barcheski

Dear me,

If I could go back in time and give myself advice about how to live I would tell myself, not to care what other people think of you. People may call you names and say mean things about you, but don't listen because the truth is, they're probably just jealous of you. I would also tell myself to be yourself. Don't try to fit in. If someone doesn't like who you are then they don't have to be friends with you.

Your friend,

Natalie Barcheski

Meagan Brown

Dear me,

-Be yourself.

-Don't feel like you have to act or look like someone to fit in.

-Time goes by fast so enjoy it while you can.

-Don't blame yourself for everything.

-Don't be the person who talks crap about others.

-If something is meant to happen, then it will just take time.

-You can talk to your friends and family about anything

Megan Brown

Diana Mancilla

Dear me,

You need to remember that things happen for a reason. Don't stress, do your best, and forget the rest. You don't always have to fit in, be who you are because, "Those who matter don't mind and those who mind, don't matter," -Dr. Seuss. If people are going to like you, they are going to like you for you, not for someone else. Life is just too short to worry about what others are going to say. Over the years, you will understand that life goes on by a blink of the eye and you will learn to appreciate the moments. Second, you need to learn to take time. Take time to forget and forgive, take time to figure yourself out, take time to risk, take time to conquer, but most importantly, take time before it's too late. Younger me, learn not to rush things. When it's time, it will happen, no need to rush. Lastly, you need to remember you are stronger than what you think. There are always going to be hard days, but you just have to get back up and NEVER GIVE UP. If you have a dream, strive for it. Don't let the sadness of your past and the fear of your future ruin your happiness of your present. Also don't let the time or fear get in the way. Whenever you start something, it's always going to be hard. It's the ache in your lungs and the voice in your head that will make you better. Never give up on a dream just because of the time it will take to accomplish it. The time will pass anyway. Forget the risk and take the fall; if it's what you want then it's worth it all. I could write more but I think that's enough. You will slowly, but truly, learn the ways of life. Always stay positive.

Sincerely,

Diana Mancilla

Brandin Webb

Dear me,

-Don't follow the crowd.

-Be yourself.

-Stick with what you believe in.

-Be strong.

-Stay away from the wrong crowd.

-Follow your gut.

-Believe in yourself.

-Don't put others down.

-Show love to everyone even if they do you wrong.

-Show yourself friendly.

Nate Dillow

Dear me,

Keep on growing. Don't stop growing. Being small isn't fun. Taller people will start making fun of short people. Don't listen to the music too loud. It will damage your eardrums.

Sincerely,

Nate Dillow

Matthew Bateman

Dear me,

I would tell my younger self to take more risks. Just go for it. It'll be ok. You'll be fine. You know what they say, YOLO.

From Olderself,

Matthew Bateman

Julie Fetchak

Dear Younger-Julie,

- 1)Worry sucks the life out of you. Don't worry, it'll all work out!! 'Things I worry about never happen anyway' per Tom Petty.
- 2)Don't forget to stop and smell the roses! Enjoy every moment of every day because one day you will look back and regret not savoring those times.
- 3)Remember to laugh daily, it will give you beautiful laugh lines when you are old(er).
- 4)Don't let life hold you back. Push through to all your dreams!
- 5)Don't believe the negative people because YOU CAN!
- 6)Don't settle . . . for anything . . . EVER!

Madison Lanter

Dear me,

- 1)You should do and try everything you want to try
- 2)Make sure you include everyone and be friends with everyone
- 3)Try hard on everything you do like grades and sports
- 4)Have a hobby or hobbies of things you like
- 5)Be yourself because later it won't matter

-Madison Lanter

Stacy Spaulding

Dear Me,

You've been through so much this year with foster care and moving into a new home to being adopted. Things have gotten so much better for you here. You have no reason to be unhappy now. You have a supportive, understanding family that will love you unconditionally. The friends you have right now are probably going to be there for you through anything. They've stuck by your side this long, and even if they won't be there for you in the future, there will always be more friends to meet and love. And guys....you might've thought that you need a guy to call you pretty and to tell you he loves you but you won't need them later on. Guys are dumb and immature in high school. You should never forget how far you've come to bettering yourself and making your life better all around. I hope that you are happy with the improvements you have made. You have graduated from therapy, no longer needing medication to make you happy, and best of all, you got adopted by the best people in the world. Your grandparents have always been there for you, and I know you will not ever treat them with disrespect. You will have more respect for them because they are your heroes and they saved you from self harm and kept you from all the harm in the world. They would not let anything happen to you. And you may not have the best grades in the world but I know we can get them up and improve even more. Don't mess up our life with drugs or anything like that.

Sincerely, Stacy

Jaden Atkins

Dear Me,

Right now, you're probably sitting in your bed on your computer. Do not exclude yourself from anything. You're so good at what you do. All you do is write, keep doing that. You will go through many trials. You will be hurt, but you can handle it. I know you can and it'll get more simple as you go on. Don't try to give up on anything; and please don't do anything drastic. You have a best friend who loves you. You'll lose her, but it will be alright. That'll bring dark times, but don't spend your nights upstairs in the dark, writing poems. Don't regret it; life's not worth regretting anything. You'll make it through, you're so strong. Keep writing, it will help.

Love, your wiser, older self.

Terri Kennedy

Dear Me,

Stop being upset about everyone else's mistakes. People are going to mess up all the time so don't worry because they're not you. The people around you are going to leave eventually, so don't get too attached because people come and go. Stop taking out your anger on everyone at school; they did nothing to you. Stop giving everyone chances after chances because they are just going to take advantage of you and expect more chances. Don't have friends that are guys because you have no male figure in your life. Keep your heart set on someday and quit thinking every day is someday. If they do it once they will do it again. Someday you will leave everyone that hurt you repeatedly and they will be left behind for your own good.

Ryan Roark

Dear Me,

Whenever you come into a tough situation and you think about should I or shouldn't I, your best option is to say no! Actually pay attention in middle school because it will help you out in high school a lot more than you think. Next time a teacher yells at you and tries to give you advice, take it; it will help you out to not get mad and just take their advice. Also, don't ever go anywhere without saying I love you to your loved ones because you're never going to expect them to go so quickly and without saying things you would have wanted to say before they go. Treat your brothers with more respect, too. Stop fighting so much with them; they're the only brothers you've got and you need to be a role model for your two younger ones. Try to help your mom out a lot more, too; she's going through a really rough time right now and you need to be there to support her. Never give up anything either, you really should give everything you have 110%. If someone ever gets in an argument with you, don't fight about it, just let it go because you're just going to get mad and do something you'll regret.

Sincerely,
Ryan Roark

Thane Witzak

Dear me,

Sometimes times are hard but no matter what, don't give up on yourself. Life will be fine, just go through with your plan for college; it will pay off. Also, just be yourself and don't do what people want to do.

-Sincerely, Thane Witzak

Thomas Sutherland

Dear me,

Finding out what's wrong and what's right is important. (ex. air kicking in the hallways) If you find yourself in a class bored, don't decide now is the best time to cut your hair, and leave it on the floor. One last thing, no matter how good you think you are at balancing desks, don't do it.
~sincerely Thomas Sutherland

Anna Heiden

- 1)Live life without worry
- 2)Don't care so much about others' opinions of you
- 3)Don't become attached to technology
- 4)Go outside
- 5)Don't grow up too fast
- 6)Enjoy not having exams
- 7)Try new things
- 8)Don't wish to grow up
- 9)Don't wear your hair like you did
- 10)Enjoy not having homework every night
- 11)Don't stress
- 12)Have more patience
- 13)Be kind
- 14)Be considerate
- 15)Trust your gut
- 16)Work harder
- 17)Pay attention more in school
- 18)Read more

Marianna Dinardo

Dear me,

If I was to tell my younger self something, it is to relax more. I was always so uptight and I missed out on a lot because I was so nervous. Just chill and enjoy the little things in life. Don't always stress about stuff.

-Marianna Dinardo

Kacee Edwards

Dear me,

Don't let people walk all over you. Don't take things to heart. Do what you think is best, not what other people think is best. Take more choices into consideration.

-Kacee Edwards

Kaeley Fagan

- 1)Be the best you can be, being competitive is good but you shouldn't compare yourself or try to be better than others.
- 2)Care less about what people think about you.
- 3)ALWAYS go with your gut, you know what's best for yourself.
- 4)Take a break from technology, you miss the great things in everyday life when your phone/TV consumes you.
- 5)Don't be afraid to tell people how you feel. Mad, sad, happy etc. it's always better to express yourself to someone.
- 6)Prioritize the correct things! School and family should always come first.
- 7)Don't do stupid things. Consider the possible effects of things.
- 8)DON'T PROCRASTINATE!
- 9)Take pictures. You'll love to look back at them and relive the past.

Chris Isaacs

Dear me,

I would tell my younger self a couple different things. The most important thing I would tell myself is to be confident. Another thing I would tell my younger self is to be myself and try not to fit in and like what I like and do what you want to do.

-Chris Isaacs

Miranda Bates

Dear self,

If I could go back to my younger self and give advice, I would tell myself to stay out of drama and to make the right decisions about things in life and not be such a risk taker. I would also choose to do better in school when I was younger and not get into the habit of slacking off so I would be doing really well in school by now.

Lane Dees

Dear Freshman,

You are probably freaking out about being an upcoming freshman. It's okay, though, I was in the same position you are right now. I know what the middle school teachers are saying, but I can assure you that it is going to be alright. I wish someone had written a letter to me. Then things may not have been as stressful for me. Trust me, the hardest thing about your freshman year is opening your locker on the first week. The last thing I need to tell you is WEAR DE-ODORANT! (The golden rule). Your friend, Lane Dees

Brad Vise

Dear Me,

You need to work a lot harder in math because right now, you stink. You also need to bet all of your money on the Seattle Seahawks winning the 2014 Super Bowl and pitch the idea of bite sized Twix. The world will not end in 2012 so don't be afraid of lava or the world freezing over. In the future, you meet a lot of cool and nice people so don't mess that up and take nightly showers when you get to about 11, because you smell really bad.

Natasha Waters

Dear Freshman,

Coming into the high school, don't stress, You'll be terrified at first but don't be scared, things aren't bad. Something you do need to know, though, is you have to do your work. High school is nothing like the middle school. When you were down there, you could get by with only doing some of your work, but when you're up here, though, it's a whole new ball park. If you do your work, you will pass all your classes, but if you don't, you will fall way behind. From my experience, I did only a little bit of my work in history and I failed, but then the next quarter came and I changed everything--now I have an A- in this class. The teachers up here are nothing like the middle school; they expect you to be on task, do your work, and study hard. Keep in mind all the stuff you do up here carries on with you the rest of your life, like when you apply for jobs or try and get into college.

Stay Freshy,
Natasha Waters

Ariana Rose

Dear Me,

Here in the next few years things will change a lot. Your mom is going to pass away and you're going to fall in love. You're going to grow up. I know it's scary, but you're going to learn a lot, and the best advice to take is to stop rushing through life, and enjoy the moment. Don't worry about all those boys, or those popular girls at school. You might think he is the best boy ever, and that he'd never hurt you, but that's not true. People will come and go in your life, and there's nothing you can do to change that.

Destiny Gross

Dear Freshman,

High school isn't as bad as you think it's going to be. If I were you, I wouldn't waste my time on "friends" or people that never cared from the beginning. Some of your peers are going to push you into things you don't want to do. If you are about to make an important decision, sleep on it. Take your time. Don't let other people make your choices for you. People are going to start drama and throw their opinions in your face. You don't need to listen to them. You can take their opinions into consideration, but think about what you really want. Listen to your heart and how you really feel. As you start to mature, you'll realize what is real. The truth hurts. A lot of people are going to lie to you so you'll probably end up having trust issues. Even the ones that say they are your "best friends" could really be your worst enemies. People are fake. You are going to make mistakes, lose friends, and be hurt. Guys, not as much. But the girls have more of a heart, depending on who and how they are. Don't let other people drag you down. Think of things the good way, though. Always keep an open mind about the bad things that could happen. You'll be better off not having your secrets shared with the entire school. Stay innocent, because trust me, what is done, is done. There are things you will NOT be able to take back. You may regret a lot of things but use what you do, wisely. I hope you have fun, don't stress about a lot of things. Keep your problems to yourself. There are people to talk to in the office that have good advice. Keep up with your grades and study. Exams are important. I'm always here if you need me though. Bye, guys.

Sincerely,
Destiny Gross

Brianna Whittaker

Dear Freshman,

Take my experience into consideration. I was getting in a lot of trouble, getting suspended, being mean and being rude to people; just being very rude when I wasn't in a good mood. I talk to everyone, though. That is one thing everyone liked about me. I was nice to a lot of people. I never disrespected a teacher; you should just know they are higher than you. It's not as hard as the middle school teachers say it is going to be. High school is not hard at all. The only time it is hard is when you make it hard. If you work hard, listen, and don't be a goof off the whole time, there are times where you can play around, but there are some teachers that don't take it. Don't be disrespectful to anyone. It always comes back to you in the end. Also, do not be a show off. No one likes a show off. Just be yourself and have fun. High school is going to be one of your most fun experiences in your life. Be open to play sports, different sports and one thing in high school to know is be nice to everyone even if you don't like them. Just be open to trying new things.

Sincerely,

Brianna Whittaker

Thea Transier

Dear Me,

You don't need to fit in. You're good, and all the friends that leave you out, don't worry about that, because when you get older you can meet more people and have more friends. And p.s. you're going to be awesome with soccer, so keep training!!

Love Thea

Ryan Wolf

Dear Me,

Looking back at my past I have done great things and I have also done things that I regret and wish I could take back. For starters, playing sports was one of my best choices I have ever made. It's shaped who I am today and has also helped my grades in the long run. I also have regrets about not starting sports at an earlier age because it might have helped me even more in school and also out of school. Sports teach you life lessons that just can't be learned in school or on your own. They teach you no matter what to never give up, especially when the going gets tough. This lesson is a hard concept to have nowadays and most adults don't understand this concept yet.

Down the road I will have obstacles that have tried to slow me down but none of them could or will. I will have friends betray me and I will also make new friends down the road.

Anthony Stamm

Dear Me,

2. Listen to yourself
3. Live life to the fullest
4. Block out the haters
5. Be yourself
6. Think before you do something wrong
7. You are in charge of your life
8. Don't be afraid to stand up for yourself
9. Let life take its own path with some help by you
10. It's ok to be weird
11. Try your hardest for something you want
12. Just live your life the way you want to

Emily Kidd

Dear Me,

If I knew then what I know now I would know to not waste my time on people who weren't treating me right. Definitely don't let a boy interfere with your life; there is one out there for you, just make sure he is the right one. The friends that I know now won't always be there for me in the future. Don't be afraid to make new friends and make new memories. Be more open in sports also because you might change your mind about what you will play in high school. You will have to remember to watch your own back, because people might turn on you when you need them. The most important one of all is to be you, don't try to fit in with everyone else. Love yourself; it will only help you in the future.

Sincerely,

The older and wiser me

Laura Wilson

Dear Me,

I won't tell you too much, because the experiences that I worked through by myself made me who I am today. However, I will give you a bit of advice. A. You were put on Earth for a reason. You were put with your family in New Richmond, for a reason. Believe in yourself & God, and you will do what you were meant to do. B. Push yourself. Not to the point where you stress out, but push yourself to get better. Dance. School. Golf. Always do your best, because it will pay off. And C., Manage your time better, I still haven't worked that one out because I'm rushing to finish this.

One more thing: Tell your family and your friends that you love them. Tell them every day.

Yours Truly, You

Mackenzie Adams

Dear Me,
If I knew then what I know now I wouldn't have wasted so much time on friends that didn't treat me how I should be treated. I wasted so many years on "best friends" that were never there for me and always brought me down. It gets old when something tragic in your life happens and no one is there for you other than family. Your best friends are supposed to be people who give you advice and are always there for you, no matter what the situation is. Every single day I would go into school and they would criticize me. They never complimented me. It's awful to grow up with such negativity. If I knew that they were going to just bring me down our whole friendship, then I wouldn't have been friends with them as long as I was. Stand up for yourself. Don't let people treat you badly. Most of all, don't waste your time on people who aren't worth it.

Sincerely,

Your older, more knowledgeable self

Sydney Payne

Dear Me,

Don't stress out so much; in reality, whatever it is probably isn't that big of a deal. And don't care so much about what people think about you. Honestly in 20 years, people aren't going to remember how you dressed or what you wore to school on May 3rd, 2015. That's silly. You spend more time worrying about how you look than just going out and having fun.

Love, Sydney Payne

Orien DeTellum

1. Dear Me,
2. Don't get in trouble
3. Chill out!!!
4. DON'T DO IT!!
5. Don't hit Nolan with the golf club
6. Don't be stupid.

Corey Bozic

Dear Me,

1. Don't steal
2. Don't lie
3. Be yourself
4. Be free
5. Don't be stupid
6. Don't go on ice
7. Don't be limited
8. Be a good brother
9. Don't be selfish

Evan Taylor

Dear younger self,

You may not believe me but make a habit of doing your work!! Also when you break your ankle don't quit soccer, you will lose all your skills and have to restart it stinks!! Eat healthy, don't be so picky.

Gage Combs

Dear Me,

Don't worry about fitting in. Be yourself, and don't worry about how others think of you. Think positively and have confidence. No negative thoughts because that will bring down your self esteem.

-Gage A. Combs

Anna Hamilton

Dear Me,

1. Stop stressing about things; no matter how much you worry about something, it won't fix the past, or change the future. It will only ruin the present.
2. Appreciate the small things: because those little things will mean everything looking back on them.
3. Don't be someone you're not: if they don't appreciate you for who you are then they're not someone that deserves you.
4. You're never alone: just because someone's not in your life anymore doesn't mean others are not.
5. Don't let others change how you feel about yourself: other opinion of you doesn't mean that's who you are it's only their opinion.

Wayne Naylor

Dear Freshman,

There are many rules in the high school but fear not, you will have much more freedom. The teachers expect you to always be on time, get homework done, and never goof off. When you start a good rhythm, then you will truly see the best part of high school. Also in high school, it's a lot easier to fit in than you think. You truly just need one best friend, then you will be set for all four years of high school. You may have acquaintances, but they will never treat you the same as a best friend. On a side note, please don't go to the bathroom by yourself.

Sincerely Future Freshman,
Wayne Naylor

Courtney Price

Dear Me,

Last year, I shouldn't have been so worried about a lot of things. I was always so nervous about things and it was completely unnecessary. Most things go so smoothly when you just sit back and let things take their natural course. I made plenty of decisions that weren't needed and I sometimes regret them, but I know next time to never do the same thing.

Also last year, I was too busy worrying about trying to make new friends instead of trying to keep the ones I already have. I got into a lot of fights and arguments with my friends and I really wish those people were still a part of my life. Some of them have moved on to other schools and some just aren't my friends any more. I have great friends now who are always there for me but I wish I still had my old friends as well.

From now on, I am not going to worry about so much and I'm going to focus on my work more often. My future goals are to keep my grades up and worry less.

Rachel Riffle

Dear me,

Don't get jealous and mad over petty little things. Don't lose yourself trying to find someone/something, let them find you. Appreciate every day because it's a gift. Don't treat the people you care about poorly because one day they may not be here anymore. Live every second of the day and never let it go to waste. Don't worry about what others may think, just do what makes you happy. Take chances, and have fun.

Kayla Shea Gilbert

Hi, younger me... There are a couple things that I'd like to tell you.

First of all. Don't lie. I know that lying may make you sound a bit better but trust me, people will like you and respect you more if you tell the truth. You could lie and lose your two BEST friends. That happened to me. DON'T LIE!!

Second, stop eating so much! Haha, you think I'm kidding. Be more active, hang with out friends more, and on that note PICK BETTER FRIENDS!!!!

I'm serious, the friends that you'll hang out with are going to make fun of you. You didn't deserve the bullying and meanness people gave me.

Lastly... Over the years I haven't been the nicest to myself. So all I'm going to say is love yourself.

Unknown

Dear Me,

1. Don't hold on to the pain
2. New Richmond is the best place for you
3. Forget and forgive
4. Don't become guarded
5. Don't think you're not good enough
6. Grandpa will always be here
7. Don't re-date losers
8. Keep on smiling
9. Change is okay!
10. Jojo, Jake, and Dad are all the guys you need
11. Study more!
12. Kacee will always be there
13. You can never have enough friends
14. Don't self harm <3
15. Single life is the best life
16. College is #1 dream
17. Don't let distraction get in your way
18. It's okay to cry
19. Just don't keep crying over it
20. Notice and appreciate all the things you have

E. Sells

Dear me,

Over-achieve in all things. Do everything as if it is your greatest passion. Dream huge and be verbal and open about your dreams. People will tell you that you are poor and they're right, but you are not poor in spirit. If you apply yourself, you will achieve anything.

-E. Sells

Tim Tyler

Dear me,

1. Work harder in school and at baseball
2. Don't play Xbox as much and focus on other things
3. Figure out what you want to be when you're older
4. Make a plan to make some extra money for a car
5. Hang out with your friends before you move
6. Stay in shape, don't get lazy

-Tim Tyler

Cheyenne Booth

Dear self,

1. It's OK to show emotion, don't be afraid, don't push your family away
2. Be yourself. Don't worry about the bullies, don't cry and in bed for hours, don't change
3. Plan out as many things as possible.
4. Don't fall for lies; go for the honesty. Go for the venom instead of the honey.

Travis Justice

Dear me,

Stop being stupid. Be more outspoken(even more than you already are). Tell everyone what you feel. Stop being afraid of telling people the truth, don't lie to make everyone feel good, be honest with them. Don't worry about losing your friends as you go through life, you meet some pretty awesome people in middle school. Don't worry about people making fun of you, they're dumb. Raise your hand in class more often, being smart isn't hard. And lastly, just DO YOU!

Your future self,
Travis Justice

Seth Butler

Dear me,

Don't stress so much. Always be respectful. Take life little by little. You can only handle so much at once. Worrying about things will not solve your problems. And remember to work hard at everything you do because you never know what day could be your last. Life doesn't build character, it shows it.

Gavin Riddell

Dear Me,

When I was in middle school, all I could think was I'm almost in high school and I'm not ready for it at all. Now it's almost the end of my freshman year. If I could go back to middle school, I would, without a doubt, That was some of the best years of my life and I didn't know it until now. I look forward to having you as a teacher next year and I hope you look forward to having me in class; thank you.

Drew Maxwell

Dear Me,

First off, stay friends with Skylar and Peyton no matter what. They will always be there for you. You guys will go on fun trips to so many places. I also want you to try in math, trust me, it will pay off in the future. If you start to have problems, just don't worry about them, it gets better in the future. You will also meet a guy named Ian. Be his friend immediately. Why? Because he will introduce you to some cool dudes like John, Pat, Luke, Paul, Karl and many more.

Also, in 8th grade, you will start to love science, thanks to Mrs. Grippa. So please listen in her class and pay attention. Also, don't forget to bring Cheez Its to her class while watching *Jurassic Park*. Forgot to mention, you go through a Cheez It phase where you absolutely crave Cheez Its.

Follow in Joe's footsteps because if you do, you will learn to love running and tennis. Tennis is probably the best thing that will happen to you in your freshman year. Don't forget to buy a kendama before they are cool so you will be a trendsetter.

Sincerely,
Future you.

Shane Jones

Dear me,

Don't worry about going to the middle school, it's one of the best things that will change you for the better. You will be happy as long as you keep your grades up and play the sports I want you to play. You will be happy you'll have many friends that you will love spending time with. Just be happy and have fun, then you won't have any problems at all. Sincerely,

Shane Jones

Elizabeth Tumbleson

Dear Me,

You have been through a lot of changes and rough times since you were younger. For example, remember in 7th grade when you thought you were a failure because you weren't doing well in school and you knew the teachers hated you because of what happened at fall camp? Also, when your 6th grade math teacher said to you: "Don't be happy, that's the only A you're ever going to get in my class," after I got an A on a really big project. Or when you and Lydia stopped being best friends over a stupid fight back in elementary school after 10 years of being best friends. But I also feel that this is what shaped us into who we are now. Getting straight A's third quarter with a GPA of 3.914 or in 8th grade when I made Honor Roll all four quarters and got the Silver Presidential Award.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Tumbleson

Katie Brashear

Dear me,

Hello younger self, just wanted to give you some advice. Don't worry, you turn out fine though you're going to face problems with friends, mom and dad and even with yourself, but if you just take time to think about these problems. Everything happens for a reason. You're also going to get in trouble and get grounded but don't get angry with mom and dad because it is your fault that you're in trouble, not theirs. Just try to better yourself, better your grades and your attitude and you will be fine.

Yours truly,

Katie Brashear

James Daniel Seal

Dear Self,

Yo! What's up, self? James, don't do drugs. Drugs are bad and learn from mom's and dad's mistakes. Remember to stay in school and get smart, and remember up with hope, down with dope. James, remember to stay awesome and loving yourself is a good, but don't become an egomaniac. Be nice to everyone. Remember the golden rule: "treat others as you want to be treated." Being nice gets you further than being mean, so don't be an jerk. Remember to get the clear glasses; everyone loves them and they look cool. Remember, people stink so don't trust anyone and always come prepared. To wrap up this letter, James, remember that you're the best and I love you. You're the most amazingly awesome person ever.

Love,

James Daniel Seal

David Woolum

Dear me,

You don't always have to be in the spotlight. Be true to yourself and friends. Wake up every morning with a positive attitude. Remember everything happens for a reason.

-David Woolum

Dan Troxell

Dear me,

Do what you want to do. Have fun. Don't worry what other people think. Don't take anything too seriously.

Sincerely,

Dan Traxell

Skylar Grady

Dear me,

I am writing to my younger self, and if I could give my younger self advice, I would say to be yourself. You shouldn't care what others think. Try harder at school and make more friends! Do successful and fun things. Tell your family you love them and don't do things you will seriously regret. Younger Skylar has grown up a little and in that time I have learned many things and lessons and that you should not rush growing up and be confident and happy.

Sincerely,

Skylar Grady

Nick Edmondson

Dear me,

One thing I would tell my younger self is to do what makes you happy and just live life. Another thing I would say is to not stress about the little things and just chill out. The third advice I'd give to my younger self is to make smart decisions and think before you do things.

Sincerely,

Nick Edmondson

Chris Allen

Kasie Snider

Dear me,

Don't let other people tell you what you are or what you need to be. Don't be friends with people that don't benefit you and bring you down because you don't need those kind of people in your life. Stop overreacting over people that don't like you. Not everyone in life will like you, and it's okay not to be normal.

Sierra Hammons

Dear myself,

Eat whatever stop being so picky. Don't worry about fitting in everyone is different and that's alright. Be a kid while you can because time flies and before you know it you'll have so many responsibilities. Listen to adults when they are telling you something even if you don't think its right 90% of the time they are. Get good grades, go to school, do what you're told.

Older,

Sierra Hammons



#DearyoungerBrooklyn

Advice from me to me

Dear me,

High school isn't as hard and scary as you may think. Sure, there are now seven classes you have to take, but it's not really



that bad, I promise. No one gets shoved into lockers, or beat up by upper classmen; it just doesn't happen; the upper classmen don't really bother anyone.

When making your schedule; keep in mind these important things. Don't take classes that are too hard for you; if you're not advanced, don't take advanced, it's just not worth the bad grade, trust me. Deciding what math class to take is really easy--take regular with Mr. Shoemaker! He makes every day fun and makes math easy to learn. (He is also the boys' basketball coach!)

For English, take Ms. Pride, she is a ton of fun. She teaches both advanced and regular English. For every book you read she has a movie and even has a few for some short stories we

read! Some of the videos are very funny.

Whether you sign up for advanced or regular biology take Ms. Wilkins. I love biology. It's a tough class but that is what makes it so much fun! Now don't think I'm some geek or nerd for loving the challenge, because I'm not. There is a lab we do in her class where we extract DNA from our spit! It looks like a white booger!

Try to join as many extracurricular activities as possible. Trust me, sweetie, it's so worth it. Don't let anyone push you to want to quit. They are just jealous of how much you get to do and how completely awesome you are.

Don't worry about having a boyfriend in high school; it's too

Rookie

Brookie
By Brooklyn
Parker



much trouble. One day you will meet the perfect guy who will make you happy and you will marry him. But first go to college, live a year on your own, get a job, than you can get engaged. It's Mom and Dad's rule, one of which I actually agree with.

Brooke, you are fun, loving, caring, have a giant heart, a gift with public speaking and a gift with children. Don't forget that. Sincerely, Older Brooklyn

#DearYoungerCiera

Inspirational letter to my younger self

Dear younger Ciera,

Put away that straightener! Hair products haven't advanced enough for you to straighten those crazy, frizzy curls that you were "blessed" with. Looking back at those pictures today really makes me cringe, as well as those plastic purple framed glasses that you seemed to think were the coolest thing ever. Buy some defrizzer and lace up those high tops that you got for Christmas and just embrace your weirdness.

We used to be really shy and quiet, and that caused us to lose a lot of opportunities both academically and socially. The two friends that we did have were the only ones that knew just how great we were, and the rest looked at us as the "nerd". Just

because we were always the tallest in the class doesn't mean we should've taken on the role of the silent giant.

Also, switching schools all the time doesn't mean we should've changed our personality. Being yourself makes it easier to adjust to the new environment, instead of focusing on this new persona we took on. Embrace your geekiness and who cares what all those popular middle schoolers had to say; in a few years their opinion literally won't matter and you'll barely remember it at all.

If I could go back and really talk to you, I would recommend taking on more hobbies. Keep up with the drawing and continue the writing, as well as not quitting volleyball. It takes time to

get better at things, and just because we couldn't correctly serve or draw a dog at first, means you should really keep practicing. Being a sixteen year old with barely anything to do but sit around all day and sketch a few things while looking through Instagram isn't that fun. I wish I had kept doing some of those things.

Okay, so just because somebody says you aren't good at something does not mean you should give up. Take what they said to you and prove them wrong. People always used to tell us that we sucked at anything we tried to do, especially singing. But today I feel like we got a lot better, because like I said before, we kept practicing.

So in the end, just keep up the

Moore is More

By Ciera
Moore



good work. We've always been advanced when it comes to school work and that will benefit you in the future, just make sure you do the homework. Keep in tune with your creativity and enhance your writing and drawing skills. Don't worry about how you look to others as long as you're happy with yourself. Live life, love yourself, and just be you!

Sincerely,
Your older self

Dear Younger Me.....

Some advice from your older self

Dear me,

It's going to hurt. Everything is going to hurt. Growing up is going to hurt. But you have to move forward. If I could go back and tell myself one thing, just one thing, I would say I need to not be so hard on myself. Just because you are outgoing and fun on the outside, doesn't mean you can't have normal feelings like a normal person. Don't lock yourself in your room. I did that too many times and it didn't do me any good. There's too much I would say to my younger self that I can't say in writing. But for one, you're a great person. You will like some people, you will not like other people. But the one thing I was taught is to treat others with respect. No matter how harsh they are to you, if you give them the respect you wish to receive, then your life will become so much brighter and sadness will not consume you.

Also, another main thing I wish I knew when I was younger

is to be confident. It's hard, really hard, actually, to be confident with yourself in this society. But if you start to act confidently, saying you are pretty instead of ugly, saying to yourself that you are a great person, then you will eventually become confident and you won't have to fake it, I promise. Don't be too hard on yourself. Stop being mean to your body. Learn to be so in love with yourself that you do not care what anyone else thinks about your appearance or your great personality. Also, please, please, please, don't let your mind control you. Don't let the anxiety control you is what I'm trying to say.

Friends fight. The friends you have right now, I can promise you, will not be here for the rest of your life. It rarely happens that you stay best friends with someone for your whole life. It's good to think you're going to be best friends with someone for the rest of your life. It's good to have

hope for that, but just don't be completely shocked when that person eventually leaves. You'll come to realize that everyone leaves. You could become so close with someone and share your secrets with them and be with each other almost every day, but it doesn't matter because they aren't going to stay forever.

Another thing you need to learn is that school is important. I wish I could have told myself earlier to take things way more seriously. You have to try your best in school, but just make sure it doesn't consume your life. Failing a test is not the end of the world. Failure does not mean your life is over. You have to keep trying. And this doesn't just mean for school. You have to keep moving forward and don't let anyone get inside your head. Don't listen to people who say rude things to you. It won't matter when you're older and successful.

Out of everything I have said,

Hippie Holdsworth
By Elise Holdsworth



the most important thing I wish I could've told my younger self is to love yourself. Love how you look and love who you are. Quit spending countless days being mad at yourself because you don't like how you look. Eventually, you will learn that you are pretty whether you believe it or not. It took me too long to realize that I'm not as bad as I thought I was. It took sixteen long years to be exact. Love yourself. You will waste so many years of your life not liking yourself. But trust me, everything is so much brighter when you love yourself and everything around you. Be a positive person.

Sincerely,

Your older self

Dear Me, Skip seventh bell so you don't have to write this paper... ...on second thought...

Dear Me,

On March 16, 2015 at exactly 1:45 pm, you will be let out of AP chemistry class to head up to your seventh period, journalism. An average day, nothing special, but during that class you will be assigned a "Dear Me" paper to address your younger self. You have decided to address yourself prior to being assigned this assignment. Therefore, my 48 hour younger self, SKIP SEVENTH BELL. Think of all the things you could do with your time.

First off, you wouldn't be writing a paper. Who likes writing

anyway? Or papers... seriously?! You could go get something to eat. Who doesn't like eating? It's either, write this paper or a Chipotle burrito, it's not a hard choice. Although, what if you get food poisoning... then you'd be sick and throwing up. That's not good at all! Okay, I guess you won't skip to get food. NEXT!

Alright, what if you went and played tennis? That's a good one, no downfall there... Unless, I FALL DOWN! (pun intended.) Hurt my ankle again, that'd be terrible. I'd be out the whole ten-

nis season, never have a chance to play tennis out of high school, that would surely affect my pro tennis career. Okay, so tennis is a no-go as well. NEXT!

Not to mention, what if I get caught skipping seventh period, I would be in so much trouble... Probably a few In School Suspensions that would go on my transcript! I will never get into a good college; if I don't get into a good college, I will end up not getting a job. If I end up not getting a job, I would have to live on the streets; if I live on the streets, how can I build a fam-

JOE COOL
By Joe Maxwell



ily? If I can't build a family, what's my purpose in life?! Well, I want to have a purpose in life, a job, and family... so, don't skip seventh period, bad idea. Just write the paper, and now that it's already over... it wasn't that bad anyway.

Sincerely,

Your (slightly) older self

#DearYoungerSelf or #DearMe

Advice from my much older self

If you were an adult and could tell your younger self anything, what advice would you say? What would you warn about and try to change and what do you regret that you would also mention? Starting back in 2011, a new thing called “Dear Me” sprung up and many famous people encouraged it. It is a very neat idea and I encourage as well for a lot of people to do it, but this is a column, not a review so here’s my “Dear Me.”

Dear Hunter.

Times do get hard at any moment and it happens to anyone, even to the most famous of people; they, too, experience hardships. Yes, dad left two years ago and it upset you so much, but it’s fine; you are very talented and will have many more friends to gain and share the best times of your life with. Many people will actually be jealous of your voice or your skill in other things, and the way to not go about it is being a self-absorbed person who denies everything flawed about himself. Trust me, or you or us? I don’t know, but disregarding reason, it loses a few friends as middle school goes on. You can’t cope with that considering your personality relies on people for you to make happy to become happy yourself. Your job in life is to make others happy. Be a little lighter on people when you confront them. Disregard your bad times when talking to someone new, or even your own friends.

You had life going so good for you, all the friends, all the people liking you, and superb grades. And then you wasted it. Harsh, right? But that’s what you’re afraid of and always were. Afraid of the reality of being narcissistic and losing your friends. Lighten up! Being a little less

tense in situations helps but you turned into an arrogant, lost teenager going through a time you didn’t know how to describe. If you didn’t hesitate about everything and just went with your own heart, you would have been what you were, a fun, caring, enthusiastic person but you messed it up. Every. Single. Time.

By the time you realize how much that one selfish act caused, you’ll be in high school writing a column on it. But you still haven’t followed your heart fully; you need to go with what you believe, not what people expect from you. Either be yourself, or get lost within the depths of repressed opinions and shut out. Be the person you need to be is what I’m writing you about. It is a very simple process with the main goal getting the people you’ve hurt to forgive you. It won’t be easy but I know you can do it. You can do a lot when you put your mind to it. Be grateful even if you didn’t get anything to benefit you, because that’s what you need to learn. Nothing is ever supposed to be easy.

Forget about the people that voice over your opinions; in fact, no one in the entire universe should have that power. You are a leader; be a good one to yourself before you be one in the world. Don’t let yourself slip, be a man about things you’re unsure about, and don’t let anyone repress you. You don’t deserve it. Don’t let anyone slip a little seed through your personality to make you think you are a horrible person. Sure, you come off as a bossy and stubborn person, but you aren’t. Give people chances to meet you. You may find it enjoyable to be open again. It is a great thing, although I haven’t yet done it yet.

Rise up, don’t let people push you down that are ahead. Accept your flaws, do not repress them and pretend they don’t exist, because they do and you are still afraid of that one simple fact. Truth hurts, so I have a feeling this letter will hurt you in a way that will make you wish you had listened. I’m being very harsh, but I need to be so you will get it through your thick skull. Continue your passion of being yourself when others aren’t knowing what to do next. If you recall the story about Icarus, he flew so high that he burned up, right? Well, if you ever burn up, give it another go and never stop. A lot of people actually care about you. Do not let them down and be yourself. I have faith in both of us.

Apart from the orders I gave



Stuff n' Thangs
By Hunter Gilpin

you, I have no real advice to give other than the line we used in every story we can remember: “A strong person does not come from a single power or mind, but rather multiple powerful minds lifting up an entire idea.” Remember that for the rest of your life and you will follow this advice by 100 percent. Other than that, I’ll see you in my memories of myself, being a better person and helping so much in a world that you belong in. And with that, goodbye.

Letters to the editor are always welcome and we will print them as space allows. Please submit any correspondence to the high school office or drop off in Mrs. Griffin's mailbox, or email at griffin_s@nrschools.org. Questions should be directed to Sue Griffin, x10204.

Dear 5 year old me...

Some advice from me to you for the next 10 years



Dear Me,

This is you, ten years later, 15 years old. Over the next ten years, you are going to have so many ups and downs. I wish you would have been able to see this earlier to make these next years easier.

So, first, you are going to move schools five times by the time you get into high school. Five times that you will have to start over, make new friends and re-adjust. By the way, elementary school is going to be some of the

easiest times of your life. It only gets harder from there, so enjoy your time at that age.

After that, there will be no more father-daughter dances, recess, or specials. All that happens is that you get closer and closer to entering the real world. After elementary school, you will leave behind your mom and go to live with your dad, stepmom and brother. Yes, your dad does get married and you won't always be the only child. It's okay though, you guys get really close.

Middle school will be some of the hardest, most confusing, but fun and carefree years of your life. It will be the last two years that you don't have to worry so much about college and exams and everything else. You should enjoy this. Worrying about that stuff is a total pain in the butt.

You will deal with so much and it's going to be really tough. And, as cliché as it sounds, it does get better. It is definitely not the end of the world by any means.

Eighth grade will be pretty

easy going. That is, until you have to say goodbye. This will be one of the hardest things that you will have to do. Saying goodbye to some of your closest friends and leaving them behind.

Then, it will be time to take on the challenge of high school. The time that you have been looking forward to, but also the time that you have been dreading in the back of your mind.

Going into high school at a new school is going to be a SUPER weird experience. I mean, it's a little bit easier because you are already cheering for your new school and are part of a team, a team of people that have your back. But, at the same time, they aren't always going to be there to stand up for you. You need to learn to have your own voice and stand up for yourself. Without this skill, It's going to be hard to make through even the first semester.

So, now here you are. The last semester of your freshman year of high school. You have even started scheduling for your

Davidson's Decree

By: Jade Davidson



classes of sophomore year. You've made it this far, keep going.

My last words to you are, always be yourself. There's no need to change yourself for anybody, no matter what. Also, everything really does get better, don't stress over the little things. Not everything is the end of the world, as much as it seems like it is.

And lastly, high school really is important. Take it seriously from the beginning. These four years determine the rest of your life, so don't just blow it off. You have eight short semesters to make your mark and prove yourself to the world, and they go by fast.

Sincerely,
15 Year old you.

Dear younger Kaylee

Advice to my smaller self

Dear Me,

If there's one thing I want you to know, it's that people will come into your life and leave in the blink of an eye. Those people who leave at the drop of a hat or when things get the slightest bit rough, you are far better off without. People who are against things one minute will be all about it the next, and there's not one thing you can do about it besides accept it. Get out more and have fun, don't sit in your room. Be more adventurous and take more risks, that is one thing you should've started doing sooner.

The people you are closest to will hurt you, sometimes on purpose and sometimes not, and that doesn't mean they don't love you with all their being. Stop being so hard on yourself. Just because you didn't get a good grade on that one math test doesn't mean your life is over. Try as hard as you can, but don't take everything so seriously.

Leave your comfort zone and start talking to people sooner than sophomore year, I promise it won't hurt you. If you actually speak up in class and ask the teacher about something you don't understand, you may actu-

ally understand what they're trying to teach you. What I'm saying is stop being so shy, nothing great ever comes out of being quiet. Speak your mind but don't be too loud, your teachers don't enjoy it.

You will have very good days and very bad days, that happens to everyone. It's okay to have a bad day once in a while and to cry, no one is perfect. The nights that are unexpected and happen last minute are much more memorable than the ones you plan out. Don't overthink everything, that is the one thing you're bad about and I promise nothing ru-

Kaylee's
Commentary

By Kaylee
Gibbs



ins anything more than overthinking. Enjoy the good days you have with the people you love and thank them for being there on the bad days.

There is only one thing I can promise you, and that is it will be okay. It may not seem like it, but everything will work out in the end. I can guarantee that. Some things will work out how you want, and other things won't but everything happens for a reason.

Sincerely, your older self

#DearyoungerSadie

Advice from myself to myself

Dear younger Sadie,

How have you been? You've probably had some ups and downs, but it'll be okay. Life will be difficult at times, but you will live. As you grow up, you'll learn lots of lessons. But I have some advice for you before you have to learn all of these boring life lessons that you'll have to learn one way or another.

First of all, you're bad at spelling. Don't try. Actually, you should probably keep trying since you're going to want to write when you get older. Bad spelling will make that hard, so you better start to get better now. In the future, you're going to love writing, so just keep trying.

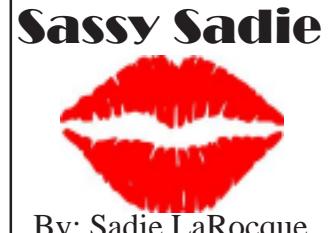
Secondly, you're kind of stupid sometimes. Not in a bad way, of course; more so in a fun way. You'll make some mistakes and think that you're stupid because of them, but just shake it off and learn to laugh at yourself. Life isn't fun when you are being hard on yourself and don't laugh at yourself. In the wise words of Ed Sheeran, who will probably become your favorite singer in the future, "Negativity isn't the way to go, smile more, eat some chocolate."

Aside from that, this starts my advice to you that will come in handy as you grow. First comes the friendship advice. People will not like you sometimes, but

they really don't matter. The people who really matter are the ones who actually like you, they are your true friends. Appreciate them and don't let anyone tear you apart from them.

Next up, relationship advice. You will have friends who are boys and people will think you're dating. Just because you have boyfriends doesn't mean they're your boyfriends. When the time comes and you're a teenager, you'll start to like people who may or may not like you back, but eventually you'll get a great boyfriend. Maybe one day you'll get married, hopefully, but no promises.

Last but not least, when you're



By: Sadie LaRocque

my age, you'll get your drivers license and a car, and you're going to be a bad driver. You'll get in accidents, hit trees, and mailboxes. You'll probably think you're a great driver, but in reality, you're not much better than any other teenagers. Learn from your mistakes, you'll get better.

You're going to be a great person when you're older. Never give up, and remember you are never alone.

Love,
Your older self

Dear me six years ago...

Remember to get some boots before camp!

Dear Tristin in sixth grade,

First off, let me tell you a little something... For the love of God, please convince mom and dad to buy you some boots before you go to Camp Joy. Trust me on this. Get boots.

Do me a favor, when you're thinking of trying to drop kick that rubber ball at recess, DON'T. It doesn't end well. Oh, and whatever you do, ignore all of the people around you and focus on your schoolwork. They're really not worth the time, and you'll need the ability to focus once you get to middle school.

Well, instead of me taking the whole letter to tell what to do and what not to do, let me tell you about yourself. You're going to be just fine. We turn out to be pretty alright. We have countless friends, and they are as loyal as can be. You are smart, and calculating and a leader. That's something you should really take pride in. From late seventh grade

to the end of high school, you are a true leader through and through. Yeah, you're going to make some mistakes, and it won't be easy. But you'll come out of it all a better person.

You think you can't sing? You're dead wrong. Get your butt into choir as soon as you can. Beg if you have to. You'll be grateful for it later on. There will be no greater experience for you beyond elementary school than singing with your friends in the concerts.

Your senior year will be amazing. You'll be in three great drama productions, and you'll have so much fun that the year will fly by. Clash will be extra special (you'll learn about it in a few years), and all I can say is that there will be a gorilla involved. Despite all the work you'll have to do, senior year is pretty easy, and it'll be a great experience.

Did I mention you play

hockey? Well you do. You're a goalie, and you're pretty darned good. You'll be the youngest player in the league, and then you'll break countless records. You'll also make some great friends who will become your "hockey family".

Now as far as your love life is concerned, I'll just say that you should forget about it and focus on schoolwork until high school. It really isn't worth the trouble, and you'll be better off keeping an eye on your grades. But don't worry, the time will come. Just be patient.

We do decide to take the military route, but only as a precursor to our real goal. It may take a while, but you're going to spend four years in the Navy getting discipline and a method to pay for a college education. Trust me when I say that you should definitely go to Northern Kentucky University. You'll love it there, and the food is great.



Tristin's
Tales
By Tristin Baumann

I should mention why you're going to college. You're going to major in political science. Yeah, that's right; you're going into politics. It will be almost a perfect fit. You're going to put yourself in a position to help so many people, and do a lot of good. But all in all you won't just settle for the House. We're ambitious by nature. And that will be of great importance when 2032 comes around... You know... Because you'll be 35 years old... See you then.

Sincerely,
Tristin R. Baumann

Help Samantha Fight Leukemia



Samantha is a student at Locust Corner Elementary who has been diagnosed with leukemia. She will be in the hospital for at least the next 30 days during treatment.

Locust Corner Elementary teacher Lisa Mays has started a fund drive to help Samantha's family with medical expenses.

"Any donation made will make a difference for Samantha and her family," said Mays. "Samantha is loved by her family, friends, and everyone who knows her. We especially miss her smiling face at school."

You can make donations online at the link below:

<http://www.gofundme.com/plpw74>

The thoughts below are from Samantha's classmates at Locust Corner:

Sam is a great girl! I wish the best wishes cause I need my bff. Many more great things will come!! --
Raven

I hope you're doing okay! Stay strong! Best wishes! -Alexis

Hi Sam! Hope you get well soon.-Austin

I feel bad for what happened to Sam and hope she gets better because we all miss her. -Nolan

Sam is a great artist, and always has great ideas. I give her my best wishes and hope she gets well soon. -Connor

I hope you feel better very soon, Sam.-Max

Dear Sam, I hope you feel better and fight it. Sam don't let it control you. You control it! -Isaiah

Dear Samantha, I hope you fight and always remember to be strong and take control.- Saddie

This a shout out to Sam! Hope you feel better! -Payton

We really miss Sam and her artistic ideas. Best wishes!
-Sadie

I hope you feel better and we all miss you! Best of wishes to you! -Jacob

I miss when Sam always came up to me and talked to me if I was sad or just needed someone to talk to.-
Aubrey



Sam we are all thinking of you. I miss your bright smile and upbeat heart. Best wishes to you Samantha.-Hannah

I really miss you and I hope you get better soon. You are a really good friend. When you get back we should play together. Love, Marissa

Hope you get better soon.-Elam

Shout out to Sam. -Ebin

Hope and wishes and she loves apples. -Dylan

She is the best at telling stories. She is the best person to talk to when you feel down.-Chase



Samantha is an amazing friend and I miss her so much. I miss the smile on her face and her funny jokes. I can't wait to see her again! -Ruth

I miss Sam's humor in our class.-Will

I miss sam so much. I miss her when she's not sitting at our lunch table not with us at recess. I just miss her all the time. -Tyler M.

Sam is an amazing dancer, and I miss her fun laugh. -Emily F.

Sam is a very outgoing person, she always cheers people up! We miss her a lot!!

Get well soon Sam, Hope you feel better and get back to school as quickly as you can. -Isaiah

I miss Sam so much. She is an amazing dancer and is always smiling! She loves trading foods at lunch! She is the master at trading. We miss you Sam!!(p.s. She would always give you hugs on days you were sad.)-River

Samantha always has high spirits. I like that about her. -Seth

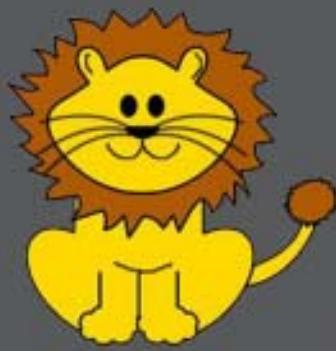
Sam is a very strong and cheerful person. She always makes people smile on their worst days. She is an amazing dancer and loves apples. She always loved giving hugs each and every day. I hope she can stay strong and get better. We miss you Sam!!!! - Emily



Sam I hope you get well soon. Don't think about the worse and look for the better.-Landen

CHARACTERS UNITE

PROMOTING TOLERANCE AND RESPECT



characters welcome.

USA

Characters unite is a national initiative sponsored by USA Network. It is supported by many non-profit organizations, and, according to the network's website, "...the ongoing campaign is dedicated to supporting activities and messaging that combat prejudice and intolerance while promoting understanding and acceptance--on air, online, and in communities across the country."

Here at New Richmond High School, we are proud to boast our very own cast of memorable characters, a few of whom we have profiled in this issue. Every single person here, both student and adult, has a name and a story; each one of those stories is compelling and deserves to be told. We are all NR Lions, to be sure; at the same time, we are all unique, thoughtful, sincere, sometimes slightly eccentric and always quite fabulous! We hope you enjoy these stories.

Callie's own not so little story

From her heart to yours

By, Brooklyn Parker



High School Bus 2014: Callie and Brooklyn on the way to big football game. Photo/B.Parker

When freshman Callie Daniel was 6 years old, on the last day of kindergarten, she was standing next to her father. While she was talking to him, one of her horses ran past her and as it did, she reached out to pet it. Her hand got caught on the reins and she was dragged a long way, repeatedly hitting her head and causing her to suffer a brain injury.

"When I was 6, I got a brain injury. I saw Jesus. It was amazing. At first I didn't know who he was, but then he told me that he was my hero here to save me. That impacted my life the most."



Brain Injury Ball 2015: Callie all dressed up for the evening. Photo/A. Daniel

Callie's brain injury affects her everyday life. "It causes my emotions to change really fast. It also causes me to make many different facial expressions without me noticing that it's happening," she said.

Callie believes she can make the world a better place by, "being nice to as many people I can and if I meet One Direction."

So far, high school is a fun experience for Callie. "I love that I am making new friends this year. I don't like when I don't get to hang out with Brooklyn, though, when she has cheerleading stuff to do."

The best advice Callie has for someone is, "Be nice to everyone, even if they aren't nice to you."

Callie said her biggest inspiration is Brooklyn Parker. "Brook has diabetes and we both have the same lifestyle, basically. She is pretty, smart and kind to everyone. It seems like everyone likes her. She is a sister to me. My BSF (best sister friend)," she said.

During Callie's free time, she enjoys doing many things. She says, "I enjoy swimming with dolphins while i'm in Mexico on vacations, and during my spare time, writing songs."

How would Callie describe herself? "I would describe myself as attractive, sweet, fun and hilarious." The way Callie believe other people describe her character is; "I am beautiful, smart, kind to everyone, and I make everyone laugh/smile and feel better about themselves. I'm the best friend to have in life,

I'll stay a faithful friend to everyone and love them like family."

The coolest thing Callie has ever done in her life is she went skiing with cute guys at Perfect North Slopes with Mrs.Carey. ("...who keeps me safe", she said.)

Some advice to incoming freshmen from Callie is: "Boys, stay strong. Be proud of who you are because those who mind, don't matter, and those who matter, don't mind."

When Callie grows up, she wants to be a lead singer in her own band, write a book and do something creative with technology. "When I grow up I want to write songs for my own band and sing them. Everyone says I look like Taylor Swift, so I want to

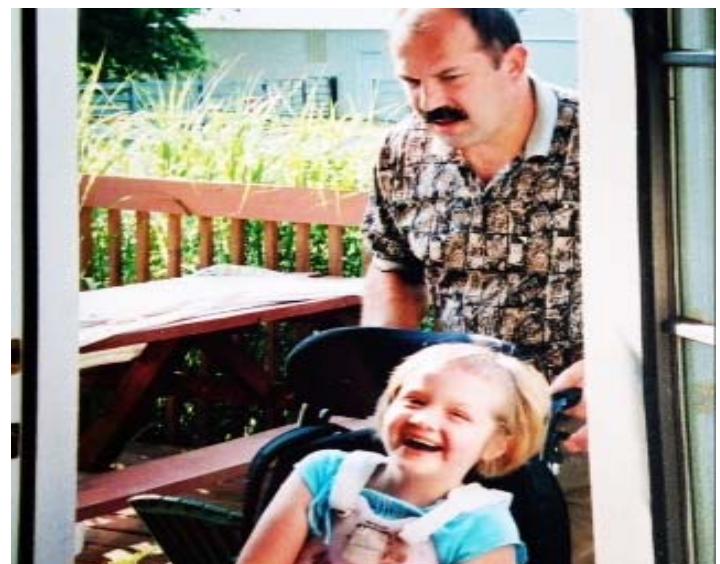


Callie's field 2005: Callie and her horse. Photo/A. Daniel

write and sing like her. I also want to write a book. After that I want to do something with technology."

Callie's favorite high school memory is, "singing Milkshakes with Brooklyn Parker in the elevator on the top of our lungs!"

Callie's own opinion of herself is simple. "I am the best person who has a brain injury in the whole world."



Callie's house 2005: Callie and her father. Photo/A. Daniel.

The nicest guy around

Happy and he knows it

By, Brooklyn Parker

Junior Dustin Carr is "known at NRHS for being more sympathetic than the average male, as well as being intelligent, nice, and optimistic," he says.

When he gets older, Dustin wants to be a prosecuting attorney.

In his spare time, Dustin enjoys doing a few different things. "In my spare time I enjoy reading, watching TV, and listening to music," he said.

Dustin believes that he can make the world a better place in one simple way. He said he thinks he can make the world a better place by, "just being a nice human being."

The best thing about high school, according to Dustin, is the people. "There are so many people trying to be nice, funny, and the best they could be," he said.

Dustin's biggest inspiration is JFK. "He's my inspiration because he challenged people more than others do," he explained.

Caring peer shares a bit of his personal life

More about Carter Light than meets the eye

By Joe Maxwell

Carter Light, junior at New Richmond High School, describes himself as a shy guy with a big heart. Some of his greatest achievements being inducted into National Honor Society, acquiring the American Legion award, retaining a GPA above a 4.0 throughout his high school career, as well as being on the varsity tennis and cross country teams.

During his free time, Carter enjoys playing tennis and going out with his friends. As well as his favorite weekend activity being able to hang out with guys on his tennis team and play on nice days.

There was an event that had a major impact on Dustin's life. "Switching schools was the incident that had the biggest impact on my life; I met people I didn't know and experienced more," he said.

Dustin's favorite memory from high school so far was a pep rally. "My favorite memory was my first pep rally because it was something new," he said.

He said that the coolest thing he has ever done in his life was a trip with relatives. "I went on vacation with my aunt and uncle for three nights in Gatlinburg and Myrtle Beach," he said.

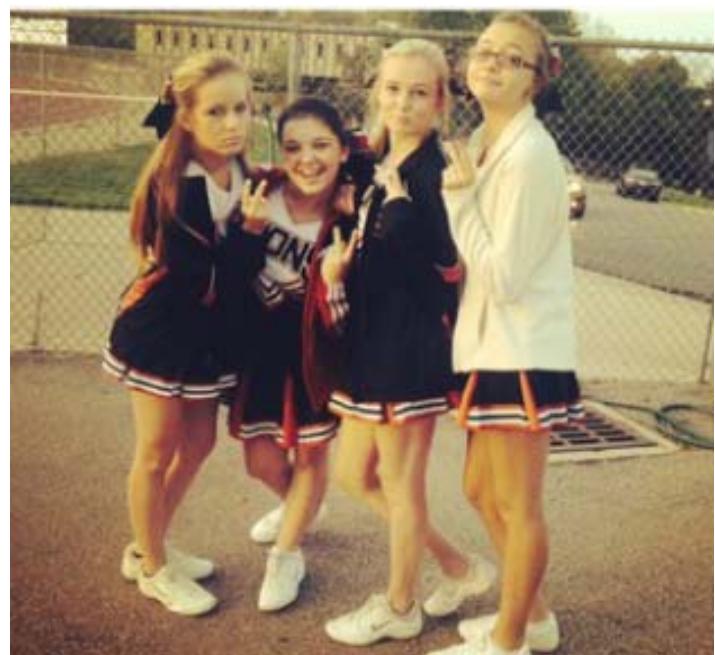
Dustin has a few words of advice for everyone in general, as well as some advice for incoming freshmen.

"The advice I would give everyone is be yourself, and to the incoming freshmen, I'd say make friends with as many people as you can," he said.

As for what many people don't know about him, Carter explained, "I used to have a hard time as a child with my parents being divorced." Carter also added, "The hardest thing for me to do is balance my life between my parents."

When asked how he balances schoolwork and social life, Carter answered, "Eh, it is not exactly balanced. Schoolwork gets in the way of my social life, but I try to get out as much as I can when I have the time."

When asked about his idol or who he aspires to be, Carter replied, "I don't want to aspire to be anyone, I want to be myself."



Lily and her friends before a JV football game. From left to right: Lexy Wilson, Jade Davidson, Kacie Colwell and Lily Moeller. Photo/J. Davidson.

Lily Moeller has big dreams

Many ideas for future career and life

By: Jade Davidson

Lily Moeller is a freshman at NRHS. In her spare time, Lily enjoys going outside to walk along the creek and enjoy nature. "I also like acting and dancing," she stated.

When asked how she believes that she can change the world, Lily replied: "I want to make the world free of hatred. I don't want people to be ashamed of who they are whether society thinks they're normal or not."

She gave one of her favorite quotes on the topic: "Can you remember who you were before the world told you who you should be?" (Danielle LaPorte)

"My favorite part of high school is probably figuring out who you are and where you belong. Before you get here, you don't really know yourself and you're lost but when you get to high school it all comes together and you find yourself in the mess of life," Lily stated.

She said her biggest inspiration is her mom. "My mom doesn't get enough credit for what she

does. She would drop anything and everything to make her kids happy," she said.

Lily said her favorite memory from high school so far has been the cheer party over the summer. "Me and the cheerleaders had dance competitions, took late night swims, and me and a few other girls stayed up until like 6:30 in the morning just talking and laughing and making endless memories that we'll never forget," she said.

After high school Lily would like to go to college and travel. "There are a few options for a career, pediatric oncologist, museum curator, or actress," she stated. Lily would also like to travel to Amsterdam, Paris, Brazil, and pretty much everywhere.

If Lily had any words of wisdom for upcoming 8th graders they would be: "Respect everyone and they will respect you; don't pick fights. Also, don't worry! High school is fun! You'll make some of your best memories in high school."

The story behind the music notes

Sophomore, Jude Utsinger, discusses her life

By Ciera Moore

Jude Utsinger is a humorous and down to earth sophomore here at New Richmond High School. The talented sixteen year old is known among the student body for her ability to play the guitar as well as use her vocal cords to create a low and soulful singing voice. "I enjoy listening and playing music, as well as hanging out with my friends. I connect with others through music because for the most part it is something that everybody has an interest in and can relate to,"

said Jude.

Jude has recently begun performing for just her family and close friends, but her whole school and random strangers. Frequently visiting the local Green Kayak, she participates in weekly open mics and uses them as practice for the real thing. While those performances are fun and memorable, Jude has picked another performance as her all time favorite. "Personally, one of my favorite performances was playing at a wedding. I had

the opportunity to play the first song the couple danced to back in September of 2014. They were my parents' friends and I felt very honored."

Jude has many musical inspirations, but her role model is a certain English ginger. "Ed Sheeran is my role model and inspiration. At a young age he decided to move out and pursue his musical career. But even when he was homeless and things didn't work out the way he wanted, he never gave up. The fame and success that he has reached today is what I aspire to achieve."

While she has only been playing instruments for a few years, Jude was raised around musicians. "I love playing instruments, mainly the guitar. The ability to connect and become one with the instrument is one of the best feelings ever. Being able to channel the emotions I have and feel into my music and the ability to express myself with the instrument or music I make is what makes me happy. I hope to be famous one day and use my music to inspire others as much as music inspires me. I want to travel and spread my love of music around to other people, whether I'm famous or not."

Jude has advice that she would like to give to her fellow students. "Just do you. You can't



Riverbend 2014: Jude Utsinger and Ciera Moore. Photo/ J. Moore

The star student: Kayla Olenick

Take a little journey inside her life

By Elise Holdsworth

Kayla Olenick is a humorous junior here at New Richmond High School. She has participated in many activities during her time here.

"I have participated in soccer, Student Council, Chemistry Club, National Honor Society, and being the president of Prom committee (not Ally Lutz)" she said.

During her spare time, Kayla likes, "taking long walks on the beach with my woes."

"I also enjoy listening to some good music, and making mix tapes, which are fire," she said.

Overall, Kayla describes herself as a caring person.

"I'd say I am pretty outgoing. I like to have fun," she explained.

Out of everyone in her life, Kayla said her sister is her biggest inspiration.

"She is such a good role model and a good listener," Kayla said.

Kayla said she has made a lot of memories here at New Rich-



mond.

"My favorite memories are pretty much just making friends and finding out who I truly am," Kayla said.

Since Kayla is finishing up her last couple of years of high school, she offers some advice to incoming freshmen.

"Cherish your time here, it goes by quickly. Oh, and do not wear flip flops because you will most definitely trip on the stairs," she said.

trust many people so keep doing your own thing. Stay true to yourself no matter what is going on and being said around you. I can guarantee that the people who "matter" now won't once you graduate, so stop changing yourself and trying to impress those people," said Jude.

This sophomore is someone who looks for the good in a bad situation, and tries to enjoy life. "I've never been in a relationship, because I know how to be myself and be independent. In my early journey of finding myself I found that the only person I'll need is myself. Therefore I am confident and independent enough to not have to rely on a relationship. Also, you can't love somebody and expect somebody to love you unless you've learned to love yourself," concluded Jude.

Hard work pays off in the end

Taylor Harris talks about her high school experiences

By Ciera Moore

Taylor Harris is a studious sophomore here at New Richmond High School. She is known for her hardworking attitude and charismatic personality towards fellow students. "I would describe myself as a forward person, but I'm accepting of everyone and who they are, and I enjoy being around people. Especially if they can make me laugh! Laughing is one of my favorite things to do. I like to experience new things and I love having conversations with just about anyone," said Taylor.

Taylor has grades that reflect her hard work and plans on doing great things in the future. "I want to go into a career that allows me to conduct major research while also traveling, so I want to go into anthropology in college. Then I plan on doing work with the Peace Corps or a research institution."

Taylor addresses her studious

nature when it comes to school work by saying, "I would say that my work ethic is very strong and focused. I don't stray from what needs to be done and I don't finish working on something until I'm 100% sure it's perfect/I'll get a good grade on it."

While achieving academically, Taylor also excels in sports. "I started playing soccer at age three when my parents decided I needed something to keep me busy. I went through several different sports until I found basketball as my second favorite. I've been playing sports for 13 years, but unfortunately, I don't see myself playing any kind of college/ pro level sports. I am wanting to do something intramurally in college, though."

Taylor isn't sure what is unique about her. "I think that I have a broader mindset than most people. I look at the bigger picture on certain things and I can

be pretty calm about what they entail. I don't stress as much as other people, I guess you could say."

When playing sports, Taylor loves the feeling of being able to exploit her capabilities and enjoying what she wants to do. "I love to run, and sports makes me feel less-sluggish in a sense! It also helps me alleviate any pressure that I'm feeling in school or at home," said Taylor.

Taylor has advice for other students at NRHS. "Don't worry so much about the little things that don't matter. We're only here for four years, so it's pretty pointless to worry yourself sick over a dance or who's dating who and all that. I would say to just stay calm and let things work out for themselves. School becomes more difficult the more you worry about it, so don't. Just enjoy yourself and you'll be able to experience more things in high school."

Taylor would like to be remembered as someone who always tried to do the right thing. "I would also like to be remembered as a good role model. I don't want to leave high school as a ghost, with nobody remembering me. I want people to remember me as being driven and wanting to better myself in the future. I want to stay in touch with all the people I've grown close to these past few years, and I don't want to lose contact with them or vice versa."

Taylor's biggest inspiration is somebody that is very close to her and has always been there to support her. "My biggest inspiration would have to be my mom. Cliché? Maybe. But she truly is the strongest person that I know. She's been through so much and it's pretty much been



Homecoming 2014: Taylor Harris and Tabitha Stevens. Photo/ S. Nehls

just her and I these past 16 years, and without her, I wouldn't have become who I am today. She's an inspiration to me and when I end up leaving high school and college and going into a career, I want to give back to her all that she's done for me," said Taylor.

What Taylor enjoys most about high school would probably be seeing her classmates every day and just being around familiar people. "We may not realize this now, but when we graduate and when we wake up on a Monday like we're getting ready to go to school, we'll think: 'Wait. I graduated already. I won't get to sit with my friends in the cafeteria, or talk to my favorite teachers, or hang out at the games, or walk to class with the same people anymore.' To me, that's what makes your high school experience, and I'm really going to miss all that in a couple of years."

In the future Taylor is looking forward to growing up and getting to do just about anything. "It's hard to explain, but I'm sure plenty of people get what I'm saying. I'm excited to go to new places and learn new things and just get out there and discover what I can do with my life," concluded Taylor.

Advice from Caleb Cyrus

Encouraging kindness and respect

By: Jade Davidson

Caleb Cyrus is a sophomore here at New Richmond High School. In his spare time, Caleb enjoys playing soccer. He also plays soccer for the high school team and has played baseball in the past. Soccer also gave him his favorite high school memory when he scored the winning goal.

When asked how he believes he can make the world a better place, Caleb replied, "By encouraging people to treat others with respect and kindness."

Caleb says his biggest inspiration is his uncle. "He went through medical school and he is pretty successful in his career," he stated.

When Caleb finishes high school he wants to go to college. "I'm not sure what I want to major in yet, but I think I want to be a vet," he said. He would also like to travel to Europe, particularly Spain.

Caleb's favorite part of high school is the freedom. "You get more privileges and more teachers trust you," he said.

If he had any advice for 8th graders coming into high school it is: "Treat upperclassmen with respect and they will respect you."



Our school has a Gandalf

William Wuerdeman one of many characters here

By Tristin Baumann

t h o u g h t people might consider him so. "People may think that I am a character because I am a little eccentric in the way I act," he said. "I am a bit loud and make weird

sounds and yell and do weird acts when I'm right about something."

William has a few things that make him unique when compared to others. "I have a spiky eyebrow and my middle name is Mithrandir which is Elvish for *Gandalf*, the character from the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy and *The Hobbit*."

When asked to tell a story, or about the song of his people he said, "Well, I'm no good at telling stories but listening I like to do. My favorite song is *Melancholy Hill* by Gorillaz."

William takes pride in multiple talents of his. "I excel in learn-

ing how to play games, and I'm pretty good afterwards. Throwing cards, lighting things on fire and smoking my pipe on celebrations are what I take pride in."

"I have read and watched everything almost," said William about his reading and watching of manga and anime. "My favorite manga would have to be *Girls of the Wilds*, and anime would have to be *Full Metal Alchemist Brotherhood*."

William Wuerdeman is known by people at school for being a character. He shared why he

The coolest gal in school

Meet NRHS junior Sydney Padgett

By Elise Holdsworth

Sydney Padgett is currently a junior here at New Richmond High School. Sydney has participated in cross country, academic team, Student Council, Prom committee, and swimming.

"My favorite activity I have participated in has got to be Cross Country. It was such a positive environment and everyone is family on that team," she said.

Padgett and her family travel a lot and go to many different places.

"Out of all the places I have been to, Costa Rica has to be my favorite because they had really cool volcanoes and it was just a very beautiful atmosphere," Padgett explained.

Overall, Sydney describes herself as a hard working person.

"I am very organized and I try to be nice to everyone," she said.

Out of everyone, Sydney says her mother is her biggest inspiration.



Maybe he's not so mean: Sydney and her family pose for a photo with the Grinch at Universal Studios in Orlando. Photo/E. Holdsworth.

"She is very caring and she always gives me the best advice."

Sydney said her favorite memory from high school so far is definitely being inducted into National Honor Society.

"It was such an honor to be accepted into NHS. Also, making a bunch of new friends was awesome," Padgett said.

Sydney offers some very good advice to the incoming freshman.

"Don't bring drugs or drama to our school," she said.



NRHS student expresses self using artistic talent

Angel Sauer is unique artist with other hobbies as well

By: Sadie LaRocque

Sophomore Angel Sauer is known by other students at NRHS for her artistic talent, but that isn't the only cool thing about her. Not only is she a great artist but she is also a, "crazy cat lady," and enjoys playing the guitar.

Angel's artworks are drawing and paintings. "My favorite piece I have done is a drawing of a German girl," she said. "My biggest inspirations are Gerard Way, from My Chemical Romance and Misha Collins, an actor on *Supernatural*."

The coolest thing Angel has

done in her life is playing an entire song on the guitar.

She is unique because of her taste in music, and she belongs to many fandoms. "I am in the supernatural, MCR, Christoph Waltz, and Rammstein fandoms," she said.

Angel's favorite thing about high school is Mr. Wright's music class.

The advice she has for underclassmen is: "Don't mess with upperclassmen," and she thinks she can make the world a better place by, "Avoiding people."

Student known for unique style, rebellious personality

Madz shares her unique story

By: Sadie LaRocque

Madz Head is sort of a character. She is somewhat rebellious, has a black belt, and is pretty unique. She describes herself as, “a crazy person but loyal... a bit of a rebel.” Compared to others, Madz is unique. Her background and sense of style make her who she is and

make her unique.

When she got her black belt she accomplished something awesome. “I punched a brick in half when I got my black belt,” she said. Punching the brick in half was the coolest thing she has done in her life, she said.

Madz has a bit of advice that

she would like to give to the under-class men. “Don’t follow the freshman pack, find you and stand out. I mean, everyone hates freshmen so just accept it, you’ll be a sophomore soon,” she said.

Aside from having a black belt and being unique in comparison to others, Madz also does other cool things. “I do art, film photography, psychology, taekwondo, roller skating, and reading,” she said. As well as all of those hobbies that she has, she also enjoys, “being a nerd.”

The art that Madz does is mostly sketches and film photography, but she says that she is open to anything. She can’t pick a favorite piece of art that she has created. When asked to describe her favorite piece of art she has done, she said, “Why would you

even have me pick? That’s like asking to pick a favorite child!” Her biggest inspiration is Shane Koyczan, a spoken word poet, writer, and performer.

Madz already has a career planned out for when she is older, which is very much her and pretty different than most peoples career plans. “I want to be a criminal psychologist with a photo company on the side,” she said.

Madz believes that she can make the world a better place by “just putting myself out there and smiling.”



Sharp wit and a strong mind

The Collette Gibbs you may not know

By Kaylee Gibbs

Collette Gibbs, a senior at New Richmond High School, describes herself as quiet in school but loud and outgoing outside of school, adventurous and witty.

She has a few inspirations, which include “Kurt Cobain because he is a great musician and really supported women’s rights,” she said. “Jynx, the tattoo artist, is also another inspiration of mine because I just thought he was really cool.”

Even though she hasn’t been on Earth long, Collette has had a few life changing experiences.

“When I totaled my car I’d had only two weeks, and I had a bunch of friends with me, it put into perspective how fragile life is,” she said.

Collette is a very simple girl, and her favorite activities are, “happing, going outside, hiking and creek walking, reading and working a lot.”

“My family members are my

friends, my friends are my family. My friends are a lot like me,” she said about her friends and family.

As for plans after graduating, Collette says “I’m going to take some time off from school, travel, and in the spring of 2016, I’m going to attend college and major in English.”

“I don’t want to travel when I’m older, I want to travel now. I want to travel everywhere,” she says.

Collette’s favorite memories from her high school career include: “Coming to school for a full two weeks, senior Clash, Mrs. Parker’s senior English class in general.”

“High school goes by really fast, enjoy it while you’re here. Grades aren’t everything,” she says are very important things for high school students to remember.



Madz (center) and her lunch table compatriots.
Photo/Messenger

Russians, Cats, and Tea, oh my!

Joey Hammill an educated character at NRHS

By Tristin Baumann

Joey Hammill, Russian cat extraordinaire explained why people might think he is a character. “I see and hear things at times, and I still can’t decide if I’m not real, or everyone else is... Oh well, they stay beyond the wall... I stay isolated behind the wall. People bother me, so I get away from them.”

“The cats bring me into the dark,” said Joey about what makes him unique compared to others, “and then I am the darkness. Obsessing about cats is an avenue for escape, and it can push people away.”

Joey shared about the cats. “Cats are those wonderful, majestic creatures that cat. Yes, cat

is now a verb. They are also liquid. Give a sink to one, it will take the shape while maintaining a constant volume. See internet for evidence.”

“Quite... *sips tea*. I prefer to tea to coffee. It’s ‘classy’, so are cats and cats. I speak cat much more fluently than Russian”

When asked in Russian if he spoke Russian, Joey responded in Russian, “Glory to Lenin! Comrade of the people! My Russian is not actually very good. I’m surprised I understood your question. I am about the distance from Earth to Sgr A*)2 from being fluent. That’s 729,000 light years.”



Kaleidoscope of the Arts 2015
NRHS Artists: Their Works and Their Words



Name: Corey Baker, grade 10

Title of Work: Beneath the Shadows

Class:

Artist Statement: My motivation to make art comes from me wanting to utilize what I know to bring my ideas to life in a unique manner. When I created my self portrait, I used chalk pastel, with small hints of water spread throughout the portrait. An easy way to get the chalk to spread on the portrait was to use my finger and spread chalk onto the outline. To me, my artwork means despair and seriousness. My inspiration came from how I had felt at that moment, serious. I was also inspired to make something dark, given the time of the year, Halloween.



Name: Zack Bentley, grade 10

Title of Work: Morgan Freeman

Class: Art Foundations

Artist Statement: The things that you can make with just a pencil inspire me to draw. You can make beauty with art.



Name: Elise Bezold, grade 9

Title of Work: Kate Beckett

Class: Art Foundations

Artist Statement: I drew a portrait of Kate Beckett from the popular television crime show, *Castle*. In this portrait, it shows how seriously Beckett takes her job. The techniques, tools, and materials I used were pencils and shading. To achieve the darker values, I put more pressure on my pencil and the lighter values, I used less pressure. In Kate's portrait, I made her hair look 3-D (my favorite part) by adding darker values right along the edge of her hairline. I believe this portrait is really well drawn and it shows all the new techniques I learned from Mrs. Hauserman.



Name: Sam Blackburn, grade 10

Title of Work: Portrait Drawing

Class:

Artist Statement: I chose Kyrie Irving because I really like watching him play. I enjoy watching how well he can dribble and control the ball. I hope that one day I'm as good as him.



Name: Corey Bozic, grade 9

Title of Work: Strength

Class: Art Foundation I

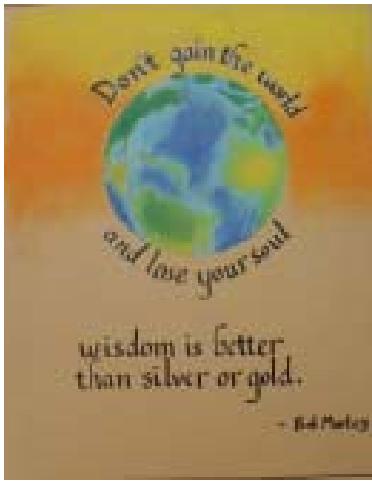
Artist Statement: I drew Reggie Bush because of his character. Reggie spends lot of his time in his hometown showing kids why they need to finished school, become successful and be accomplished.

Jacob Branson, grade 11

Title of work:

Class:

Artist Statement: What motivates me to make art is looking at famous sculpture and hoping that one day I will be that good. When I made my coil pot, I was not sure how I wanted it to look so I just started to stack the coils on top of each other to see how tall I could make it. After I finished stacking it, I started to make a shape that I liked. When making the shape, I used a modeling tool and sealed the cracks between each coil and it made a kind of wavy texture. When I finished, I didn't realize that it made the texture, it just happened by accident so I left it. What art means to me is a way to express the way I see things.



Name: John Buckingham, grade 12

Title of work: Calligraphy

Class: Crafts

Artist Statement: For this project, I used a form of writing known as calligraphy to write a famous Bob Marley quote. The only materials used for this project were a calligraphy pen and ink, chalk pastels, and a piece of mat board. Art has always been fun for me, it is relaxing and I have never made a project that I didn't enjoy working on. I guess I am inspired most by professional artists; when I see their work I want mine to look that good, so I work hard and diligently in hopes that one day I can be that good.



Name: Seth Butler, grade 10

Title of Work: Watercolor

Class: Drawing and Painting I

Artist Statement: I made this artwork because I mainly stick to drawing when it comes to art but I thought it would be interesting to try new things and test my hand at painting. I used multi-watercolor techniques such as "dry brush." What this artwork means to me is that you cannot be afraid of the unknown and that it is OK to try new things. I really found it intriguing being able to exceed my own limits in art class.





Name: Emily Carter, grade 12

Title of Work: Cyclones Mug

Class: Ceramics 1

Artist Statement: What inspired me to make this piece is obviously the Cincinnati Cyclones. My love for hockey usually has an effect on most of my artwork. Learning that we would be doing Sgraffito, I immediately thought of carving Twister, the mascot, into the mug. I also carved the new logo. I'm really glad that it turned out so well and I plan to use it a lot.

Name: Kaylee Chapman, grade 10

Title of Work: Simple Beauty

Class: Ceramics 2

Artist statement: With my nest bowl, I tried a new technique with draping the clay. I draped my clay over different sizes of balloons, then force-dried them. Art means a lot to me. I like to be able to express myself and my interests through my artwork. I love the beach and that's why the design I created reminds me of a sand dollar.



Name: Caleb Cyrus

Title of Work: Slab Sgraffito piece

Class: Ceramics 1

Artist Statement: The Sgraffito design that I created reminds me of a seashell on the beach. I am motivated to create art because you can create your own unique work. I started my Sgraffito design by making a bowl shape, then I pinched the rim of the bowl inward. Next, I painted the blue underglaze and scratched in the Sgraffito design.

Name: Becca Ellington

Title of Work: Miley Cyrus

Class:

Artist Statement: When I was told I had to draw someone famous who I like, Miley Cyrus was the first person to come to mind. Most people hate her, but I think she's just expressing herself in a different way. I had to draw her using different shades of pencil lead, with no color, only shading. Art is a really good way for me to express myself, emotions and interests. Getting the chance to draw someone I like really gave me the opportunity to express my interests without words.



Derek Gelter, Grade 12

Title of work: Coil Pot

Class: Ceramics 1

Artist Statement: I made my work to represent fire. My coil pot was made with coils showing and swirls in it to make it moving. Your eyes don't just stay on one place. It moves throughout the piece. My glazes are a fire color. It has shades from red, yellow, to orange. It turned out great and means a lot to me and I'm glad it's going to the Art Show!

Name: Sierra Hammons, grade 9th

Title of Work: Portrait Drawing

Class: Art foundations

Artist Statement: I chose to draw Bethany Hamilton because her story was inspiring; she never gave up she accepted the fact that she was different even with one arm. She could still do everything a person with two arms can do. After the shark attack, she got right back to doing something that caused her to lose her arm, surfing, "Never give up."



Name: Morgan Huddleston, grade 11

Title of Work:Sunday Hat

Class: Drawing and Painting I

Artist Statement: Getting inspired is sometimes difficult when there are so many ideas to potentially build off of. Fortunately, my only struggle is narrowing down my options. This hat was motivated by a weaved hat I saw on the top of my grandmas bookshelf. When I draw with graphite, there is no "sketching" step. The moment I sit down to begin a project, I do not stop until it is complete. Artwork can always be added to because more is better. When shading with a pencil, the darks can be darker and light can be enhanced. Because I am naturally creative, I can always put together a good meaning after completion, but all my artwork is a blank canvas and purely random thought out ideas with no hidden message.

Name: Calvin Hochberg, 10th Grade

Title of Work: Tracey

Class: Art Foundations

Artist Statement: I drew this picture because she is a very important figure in my life. I drew the outside then went to the inside of the artwork. I redid the contours of the face till I was happy and shaded it in using graphite pencil. I tried not to stress about it and just drew it until I was done. I respect the person and I think the face reflects the type of person she is. I drew this for her because she loves to draw and paint.



Sierra King, grade 12

Title of work: K for King

Class: Crafts

Artist Statement: I make my artwork to express my thoughts and ideas. I am inspired by my big surroundings and motivated by my teachers. I made the sculpture by paper mache-ing a cardboard base. I added charms, chain, ribbon, and buttons. I used the ribbon on the edges to make a music staff, with buttons for music notes. This piece of artwork is a symbol; representative of myself, showing many things that I enjoy in life.



Name: Drew Maxwell, grade 9

Title of Work: George Lopez

Class: Art Foundations

Artist Statement: I drew George Lopez because when I was younger, I would go on *Nick @ Nite* and watch his show. I couldn't think of anyone to draw, so I started thinking of TV shows and his name popped into my head.



Name: Shelby Miller

Title of Work: Al Capone

Class: Art Foundations

Artist Statement: When I heard we were drawing famous people, I automatically thought of Al Capone because although he wasn't the best guy, he found something he was passionate about and he fought for it, which ultimately led to an overturn of an amendment. Thats a pretty admirable thing for such an infamous guy, even if he was a criminal.



Name: Trinitie Patterson, Grade 9

Title of Work: Marilyn Monroe

Class: Art Foundations

Artist Statement: Looking back on Marilyn's life, I would like to portray her struggles in life. She had such a hard life, growing up in a foster home after her mom tried to kill her as a child. She then made all of her dreams come true and became one of the most beautiful women alive back in the '50's. I just felt it was my duty to capture her beauty in such an eye catching portrait.



Name: Mande Meyers

Title of Work: Elegant Word Art

Class: Crafts

Artist Statement: Art is a way to express myself. It's a way to get my creative juices flowing. This piece was really fun because she didn't have many guidelines for us and that made it fun to think of the best way to represent this word. When I think of the word elegant, the things come to my mind are beautiful dresses, lace, ribbon, and many more things, but I thought those represented the word the best.



Name: Sydney Payne, grade 9

Title of Work: Marilyn Monroe

Class:

Artist Statement: The littlest things can give me an idea for my art. I got my idea to make amy portrait of Marilyn Monroe by simply reading a quote. I love drawing because I can be creative and express myself through my artwork. Art is like a creative outlet for me.



Kali Snider, grade 10

Class: Drawing/Painting I

African Safari

Artist Statement: I make artwork to express emotions. My motivation to make artwork is to get better at it. I plan to have a more professional future in art. The materials I used for my watercolor piece were watercolor, obviously. I used multiple layers of color on top of each other and worked light to dark. My art is to show people my creative and fun side. I try to have fun with my art and be out there and different from what everybody else does. I add a weird twist to all of my artwork.



Name: Maria Steinmetz, grade 10

Title of Work: Silent Wolves plate

Class: Ceramics I

Artist Statement: I made this piece using a style of ceramics called Sgraffito. This piece is inscribed with the quote, "Sometimes the wolves are silent and only the moon howls." I decided to make this because wolves symbolize strength and family ties.



Ashley Stephens, Grade 12

Title of Work: Pumpkins

Class: Drawing and Painting I

Artist Statement: I made this piece of artwork to capture the form of the pumpkins' shape. I like to make things I draw look real on paper. The materials I used were colored pencil and graphite. I blended the two materials for a unique look. I was inspired by the season of fall and how pumpkins represent the season. I wanted to create a mood of fall time in my artwork.



Name: Cydney Stiles, Grade 11

Title of Work: The Garden

Class: Drawing and Painting 1

Artist Statement: When I make art I'm inspired by things and places I've seen. I want to share the experience with the viewer but through my own eyes. The challenge to make a simple place or object have personality is what really motivates me. In this piece I used watercolor and Sharpie. It was inspired by a fountain in the Notre Dame garden. I made this piece in order to show the garden in a different, simpler light.

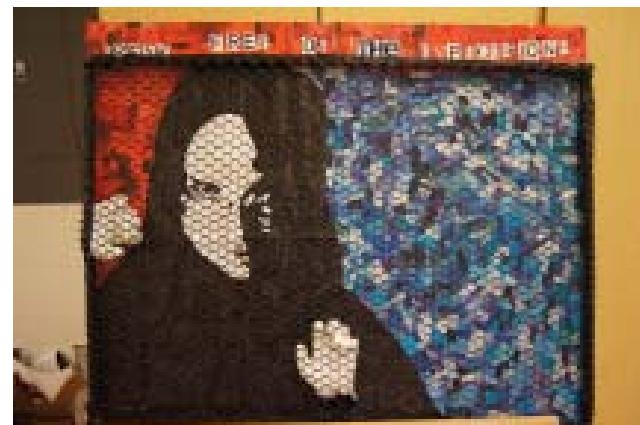


Rainy Stripelhoff, grade 9

Title of work: Teen Crush

Class:

Artist statement: I've always been fascinated by how society idolizes celebrities, like, for example, Josh Hutcherson, who was the subject of the portrait. Why do we put them on pedestal, and why do we almost "worship" them? I think it's because these actors embody our heroes from our favorite books and movies, and we forget that they're human. The reason I chose to draw Josh is because he's easily recognizable and, I must admit, he's also a favorite of mine. I used a photograph of the actor along with a grid and graphite to recreate him on a sheet of paper as realistically as possible.



Jasmine Thompson, Grade 12

Title of work: The Breakthrough

Class: Advanced Art Portfolio

Artist Statement: This piece is my voice. This piece demonstrates my perspective on life. There are many things that have expectations of how to act or what to do. I prefer to go beyond expectations. I push myself further than I expected in art.

This piece was made out of magazines, wood(frame), netting, plaster, and trash bags. I worked with many different materials that I have not yet used to make the piece more interesting and to further my experience. Like Vincent Van Gogh said, "I am doing what I cannot do yet, in order to learn how to do it." This quote is why I push myself.



Rainey Strippelhoff, grade 9

Title of Work: Back to the Ocean and Up Again

Class:

Artist Statement: For me, art has always been about making a statement and expressing one's feelings.

To create *Back to the Ocean and Up Again*, I used colored pencils, graphite and perspective drawing. I wanted to give the viewer a sense of realness, and I wanted it to have many different interpretations.

To me, I think my drawing is about letting go of oneself and therefore becoming free. Or it could be about new beginnings, letting go of anger and resentment and those feelings turning to love, happiness, etc. (About as cheesy as you can get, right?) But most of all, I wanted anyone who sees it to be able to identify with it, or get something out of my art.



Name: Molly Vanderpool, grade 9

Title of Work: Audrey Hepburn

Class: Art Foundations I

Artist Statement: The portrait I drew is of Audrey Hepburn. I chose her because I think she is a great actress and well known. I think my portrait shows a different side of her since many of her better known pictures she is smiling.



Name: Richard Winklebach, grade 10

Title of Work: Bigmouth Bass

Class: Ceramics II

Artist Statement: I made this piece because I enjoy fishing for this species. I hoped to accurately portray it as realistically as possible. I made this piece much like a pinch pot and eventually elongated the piece into a fish like body. I attached the fins and tail afterwards and then painted it. What my art means to me is a way to express myself in a visual way. I like to impress people and I try to in my artwork.



Zach Wuest, grade 9

Title of work: Rhett McLaughlin

Class: Art Foundations

Artist Statement: I make my art because of the knowing that it will look good in the end. I made this artwork using just a pencil, ruler, and a blender, with an image of the drawing I need to make. My inspiration for this drawing are the internet stars Rhett and Link who make my day better and less boring with their fun and entertaining videos.

Nicholas Wilson Athletic Scholarship 5K Run/Walk

**Saturday July 11, 2015 8:30 am
212 Market Street, New Richmond, OH**



Register Online at www.RegistrationSpot.com

Thanks to all our
advertisers!

The staff of
The Messenger would
like to take this op-
portunity to recog-
nize and formally
thank all of our ad-
vertisers. We liter-
ally could not survive
without the support
of these businesses,
and we appreciate their encouragement
of our school paper.

The businesses which advertise in
The Messenger show a generous sup-
port of school and community activities
should be congratulated. Thanks again
to all of you!

Sincerely, The Messenger staff



Thank you



A Full Service Award-Winning
Video Production Company

black tent
productions

www.blacktentproductions.com
Check us out on Twitter @blacktentgroup
Designed by Cody Kirschner, ©2014

FOLCHI'S



visit www.folchis.com
largest color selection
NO RUSH FEE



**OWN THE
NIGHT**
**PROM TUXEDOS
\$40 OFF**

*Folchi's is a generous supporter of Lions Reach Out .
The Messenger, along with New Richmond High School,
appreciates the company's thoughtful gesture.
Please consider Folchi's when you are renting a tux for Prom
or any other special occasion!*

KENWOOD - 513.891.9930
WESTCHESTER - 513.755.9930
ANDERSON - 513.231.9930

MTC Construction, Inc.

Planning The Future One Job At A Time

Tom Louis
Construction Manager

PO Box 221
New Richmond, OH 45157

Phone: 513-518-8593
Fax: 513-553-3669
E-mail: mtc@zoomtown.com



AUTO SAVERS

430 CENTER ST.
NEW RICHMOND, OH 45157
(513) 797-9400

FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED
COLLISION & INSURANCE REPAIRS
MECHANICAL, TOWING, TIRE SALES

PARK

NATIONAL BANK

Southwest Ohio & Northern Kentucky

513.553.3131 • BankWithPark.com



Lifetime Pet Centers

Jerry W. Miller, D.V.M.

3070 Williamsburg-Batavia Pike
Batavia, OH 45103
(513)724-2888

1044-A Old US 52
New Richmond, OH 45157
(513)553-8054

Don K. Gladis, D.V.M.

Visit Us at Our Website, www.lifetimepetcenters.com

GRANT CAREER CENTER

"A Great Place to Learn"

718 W. Plane Street
Bethel, OH 45106
Telephone: 513 734.6222

Visit our website at
www.grantcareer.com
for all your educational needs
throughout your career.

Sports Gallery Restaurant
Open: Tuesday thru Thursday
11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

CHERRY GROVE LANES



Cherry Grove Lanes
4005 Hopper Hill Road
Cincinnati, OH 45255

528-7888

Bowl Two
Games

FREE

Pay For TWO
Games At Regular
Price & Bowl TWO
Games FREE!

One Coupon Per Customer
Pay With Normal Bill
Does Not Include Any Or
Web Other Special Offers,
Discounts And Glow Bowling.

Bowl Two
Games

FREE

Pay For TWO
Games At Regular
Price & Bowl TWO
Games FREE!

One Coupon Per Customer
Pay With Normal Bill
Does Not Include Any Or
Web Other Special Offers,
Discounts And Glow Bowling.



ARBUCKLE
MOUNTAIN

Original
FRIED'PIE

Located near Jungle Jims at Eastgate

4450 Eastgate South Drive

752-PIES (7437)

arbucklemountainpies.com

Coffee, frozen drinks, pot pies, live music, entertainment

Like us on Facebook!

"This place rocks! The pies are fantastic
and they have a ton of flavors.

Trust me, I have had a few pies in my life,
just ask my shirt. These things are as good
as any you will find just short of Amish country."

- Blacktop Paving
- Excavation/Drainage
- Tar & Chip
- Demo



SHERRY LIGHT
President

1931 E. Ohio Pike
Amelia, Ohio 45102
sherry@wlpc.org
www.wlpc.org

Office: (513) 752-1100
Fax: (513) 752-1170
Cell: (513) 673-2783

Wilsey Flower Farm
Weddings

513-553-3721



All your protection under one roof.®

One call is all it takes to get the insurance you need. Auto, home, business, health, life and more, I'm ready to help.*

*Some products not available in every state.



Joel P Loyd Insurance Agency

(513) 831-0045 Bus
(513) 218-5121 Cell

jloyd@amfam.com

www.facebook.com/JoeLoydAgency



American Family Mutual Insurance Company
and its Subsidiaries
American Family Insurance Company
Home Office — Madison, WI 53783
amfam.com

© 2008 002134 — Rev. 11/08

Front Street Cafe
NEW RICHMOND on the OHIO

Quaint river view cafe by day... fine-dining bistro with live entertainment in the evening.
Proudly located in the heart of New Richmond's historical waterfront district.

120 Front Street, New Richmond, OH 45157
(513) 553-4800 - www.frontstcafe.com

Please friend us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter



MOLECATCHERS

WE STOP MOLES. GUARANTEED.

(513) 309-6099

Rich Grogan

Rich@molecatchers.com

PO Box 54063, Cincinnati, Ohio 45254

www.molecatchers.com

Licensed By ODNR • Member BBB • Free Estimates

BRUCE O'DELL, CLU

AGENT
1-275 & BEECHMONT AVENUE
CINCINNATI, OH 45255
BUS.: (513) 528-5406
FAX: (513) 528-5406

STATE FARM
INSURANCE COMPANIES
HOME OFFICES: BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®



*Grant Memorial
United Methodist Church
1600 Back St.*



Our Mission: "To plant the seed"

*Gordon Ginn, Pastor
553-3667*

*Robert Bettle, Lay Leader
553-3276*

**Clermont College.
Powered by UC.
Driven by You.**

**513-732-5200
ucclermont.edu**


UNIVERSITY OF
Cincinnati



MAD ABOUT HAIR
513-734-3900
1836 State Route 125
Amelia, Ohio 45102



LJ Franklin Photography
513-553-1681
LJFranklinphotography.com
Fabulous
Casual
Portraits
of
You
Call today to set up an appointment.

**Grant Memorial
United Methodist Church
1600 Back St.**

Our Mission: "To plant the seed for..."

Gordon Ginn, Pastor
553-3667

**Robert Bettie,
Lay Leader**
553-3276



Jay Bunyan, LLC
Firewood and Outdoor Service
Jay Berry
Owner/President
Downed Tree Removal
Onsite Woodsplitting
Hauling/Groundskeeping
513-205-1967
jaybe.jay-bunyan.com
www.jay-bunyan.com



The Pampered Chef®
Malissa S. Cornette
Independent Consultant
Consultant #734158
Cell 513-296-5229
malissacornette@gmail.com
www.pamperedchef.biz/cornettemalissa

MOP TOPS

752-6633

1139 W. OHIO PIKE • AMELIA, OHIO 45102

State Farm®

Letitia Fulkerson, Agent
882 Ohio Pike
Cincinnati, OH 45245-2204
Bus 513 752 2144
Fax 513 752 7356
letitia.fulkerson.cths@statefarm.com



For Emergency Road Service, call 877-627-5757.

50 Cahall Bros. Ln
Georgetown, OH 45121



60TH ANNIVERSARY
CAHALL BROS., INC.
JOHN DEERE
Amelia, OH (937) 378-6439
(513) 797-4500 (937) 378-4283



Phone 513.553.2886
Ask for Rob or Cory

HUBER AUTO AND BOAT TOPS
Complete Auto and
Marine Upholstering

301 Columbia Street
New Richmond, OH 45157




JACK's Lawn and Service

FREE ESTIMATES | 100% SATISFACTION

Lawn Services, Mulching, Clean Ups, (etc.)
CALL FOR OTHER SERVICES!
jacks.lawnandcare@gmail.com
513-439-0157 | Twitter: [@JacksLawnandCar](https://twitter.com/JacksLawnandCar)
Mopar: \$40 Installation FEE
\$37.50 per sq yard (varies)



**GENI'S
STYLING SALON**
523 Sycamore St.
New Richmond, Ohio 45157

553-2537
"Hair the Way You Want It Place"

Stylists:
*Jean Williams, Jeanne Earl,
Ashley & Amber Bowers*
Nails: *Pat Hornschemeier*



MOORES AUTO BODY AND FRAME

Complete Collision Repair

404 FRONT STREET
NEW RICHMOND, OH 45157

Robert Moore
Owner

Phone: 513-553-2331
FAX: 513-553-4300

32-Q

How do you want your butt?

4126 Half Acre Rd, Batavia,
OH 45103
513-257-3871
Lunch, dinner,
parties, catering



Caring You Can Count On


E.C. Nurre
FUNERAL HOMES, INC.

200 Western Ave.
New Richmond, OH 45157
513-553-4132
www.ecnurre.com

GRAMMAS



EST. 1976

PIZZA

GRAMMAS PIZZA

AMELIA, OHIO 797-4838 OWENSVILLE, OHIO 735-0500

BATAVIA, OHIO 732-6644

GRAMMAS PIZZA

EASTGATE, OHIO 528-3015 MILFORD, OHIO 722-4470

BETHEL, OHIO 734-3200

GRAMMAS PIZZA

WITHTAMSVILLE, OHIO 753-7499 FLORENCE, KENTUCKY 525-1440

