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RHS Administration

- Principal  
 Gerald Demming  
 Assistant Principals  
 Tony Allen  
 Jill Johnson  
 John Roszell  
 Laura Stanford  
 School Website

<http://rdh.leeschools.net/>

Dear Raider Family,



The second semester has already begun and excitement is in the air! We have had a wonderful start with academics continuing to soar. I want to thank the staff, students, parents and community members for their hard work and support this year. These combined efforts are why it continues to be a "Great time to be a Raider".

Our SAT scores again outpaced the District, State, and National averages. Reading, writing, and discussion continue to be a major focus, as we look forward to seeing the results of all our students' academic endeavors. Also, athletics has been very successful with boys' and girls' basketball teams both qualifying for regional play and our cheerleaders and wrestlers qualifying for

State final competitions. Cheerleading placed fourth in the State with wrestling still competing for the State title.

Parents of Seniors, make sure to check the calendar of events. This is an exciting and hectic time of year. Have your students keep up with their grades and attendance and check in with your guidance counselor periodically to make sure they are on track. Remember that "Success is a Choice" at Riverdale High School.

Gerald Demming  
Principal



**BELIEF STATEMENT** :PUBLIC EDUCATION IS IMPERATIVE TO SUPPORT AND SUSTAIN A DIVERSE DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY. TO THIS END, WE BELIEVE, STUDENT LEARNING IS THE CHIEF PRIORITY FOR OUR SCHOOL. CHALLENGING EXPECTATIONS INCREASE STUDENT PERFORMANCE. STUDENTS LEARN IN DIFFERENT WAYS AND SHOULD BE PROVIDED WITH A VARIETY OF INSTRUCTIONAL APPROACHES TO SUPPORT THEIR LEARNING. THE HOME, SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY MUST SERVE AND SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER. TEACHING AND LEARNING REQUIRE A HEALTHY, SAFE AND ORDERLY ENVIRONMENT. RESOURCES AND SERVICES ARE ESSENTIAL FOR EFFECTIVE INSTRUCTION. ALL STAFF MUST CONTINUE TO LEARN AND ALL SCHOOLS MUST CONTINUE TO IMPROVE.



Congratulations Golden Apple Finalist  
Mrs. Anne Hester

Golden Apple Teachers of Distinction  
 Ms. Joan Starr  
 Dr. Frank Palaia  
 Mr. Washburn Johnson



Tonya Solberg receives award for her winning Character Education wallpaper in the school district. Mr. Demming, School Board member Pam LeRiviere and District Representatives awarded her Dunkin' Donuts breakfast for the class.

SUCCESS IS A CHOICE!



# Keeping Lee County Home Grown!

Riverdale High School students can now embark on the path toward a career as an educational professional. In the fall of 2016, RHS will launch the "Grow Our Own" Education Academy Program, allowing students to advance toward their dreams of becoming highly-qualified teachers right here in Lee County. The four-year program will include academic courses, internships, and on-site dual enrollment courses, all geared toward preparing our best and brightest students for a career in education. One of the biggest attractors for the program? A guaranteed teaching contract with the Lee County School District for the academy's top performers, contingent upon meet-

Only school in the East Zone offering the Home Grown Education Academy Program!  
[owl.li/XDn6D](http://owl.li/XDn6D)



ing state certification requirements. "We are thrilled at the opportunity to share our love and passion for our profession while preparing young people to become the next generation of teachers," says Laura Stanford, Assistant Principal for Curriculum. Riverdale will be the only high school in the East Zone to offer the Education Academy for incoming 9th graders. Those interested in enrolling in the academy will need to register with their school counselor.



## The World of IB

Our IB students have been busy with academics and extracurricular activities. We have Juniors and Seniors that are volunteering at Riverhall Elementary and Buckingham Exceptional Student Center. We had our Annual Basketball Game with Buckingham on January 8th, our Riverdale Freshman Basketball team vs. Buckingham students. What a great afternoon!!!

January 28th was our Annual IB Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction. At the event the IB Seniors also presented their Extended Essay Research called their Viva Voce. The event was a huge success! Thank you to all who came out to support Riverdale IB.

Reminder that there is Peer Tutoring with Junior and Senior IB students every Tuesday and Thursday right after school in the Media Center. Please take advantage of this great opportunity to get tutoring or advice from students that have taken the same classes that you are in right now!



### SUCCESS IS A CHOICE!



## How Can I Help You?

First Semester is over and grades have been recorded on transcripts. Report Cards will be mailed home on February 5<sup>th</sup>. New schedules have been issued for 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester, yearlong classes will remain the same, but semester classes will change.

We will begin registration for next year during the month of February.

School-wide tutoring is available every Tuesday and Thursday after school in the Media Center from 1:35 to 3:20. Teachers are available to help students.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Riverdale Guidance Department to speak to you child's School Counselor.



The Suncoast Credit Union Foundation announces its partnership with The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools, Inc. to offer five \$2,000 scholarship awards to high school seniors in Lee County. Class of 2016 in the communities served by Suncoast Credit Union have the opportunity to apply for financial support to continue their education, thanks to a \$100,000 investment in scholarships this year by the Tampa-based credit union's Foundation.

Applications are open until March 23rd and are available on [www.leeschoolfoundation.org](http://www.leeschoolfoundation.org).

SUCCESS IS A CHOICE!



MRS. CAROL HAUGER	A - FRAN IA, IS, LIFE SKILLS	EXT. 217
MS. LORRI MERCER	FRAO - PAZ STUDENT AIDES	EXT. 222
MR. OTTO HAMPEL	PB - ZZ DUAL ENROLLMENT	EXT. 385
MRS. ASHLEY SEXTON	PRE-IB & IB	EXT. 220
MRS. TRACI BUD- MAYR	IB COORDINATOR DEPARTMENT HEAD	EXT. 416

# 3 . . . 2 . . . 1 Blast off!



Riverdale High School students recently participated in a state-wide high school STEM competition called the Student Astronaut Challenge, successfully competing with 19 other schools at the Kennedy Space Center in the shuttle simulator. The six-student team competed in shuttle aeronautics and

facture plastic parts by 3-D printing on Mars. The bacteria would be freeze-dried on Earth, transported to Mars, and revived to begin monomer production. All the necessary support and lab equipment could be transported to Mars as a single unit with the bacteria, and would fit into a large suitcase.

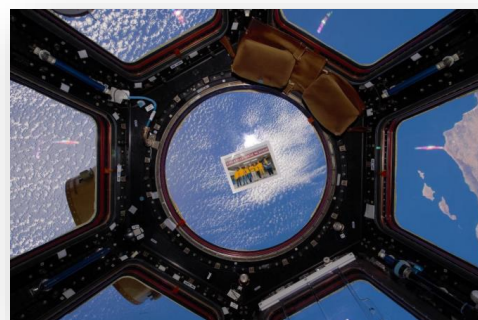
“This was a great opportunity for our students,” said Principal Gerald B. Demming. “The student Astronaut Challenge at the Kennedy Space Center inspired Riverdale students to explore the many opportunities in the Aeronautics industry”.

For more about the Student Astronaut Challenge visit [astronautchallenge.com/](http://astronautchallenge.com/).

avionics, a surprise engineering challenge, and in designing and presenting an experiment to conduct on Mars.

The Riverdale team was able to score 4th in the “surprise”, timed engineering challenge and 6th in the Mars experiment. The team designed a lab experiment to be conducted on the surface of Mars.

The student used a genetically modified bacterium (created at the University of Georgia) to convert the carbon dioxide in the Martian atmosphere to an acrylic monomer, which could be used to manu-

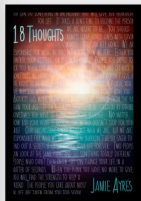


SUCCESS IS A CHOICE!



## Featured Authors

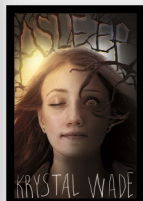
Jamie Ayers



### "18 Thoughts"

Olga Gay Worontzoff left the Underworld for her final year of high school anxious for things to return to normal, but fate has other plans. The new hottie at school reads her thoughts but nobody else's. Her best friend wakes up from his coma acting like a completely different person. Caught in a world that's a mix of familiar and supernatural, she must confront what she will-or won't-do to bring him back and stare down her own perceived inadequacies to face a couple of tenacious demons, figurative and literal. And by the end of a heartbreaking year, she might be forced to realize "normal" in the conventional sense of the word is the one thing she may never achieve.

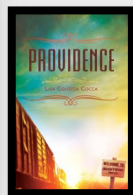
Krystal Wade



### "Asleep"

Rose Briar claims no responsibility for the act that led to her imprisonment in an asylum. She wants to escape, until terrifying nightmares make her question her sanity and reach out to her doctor. He's understanding and caring in ways her parents never have been, but as her walls tumble down and Rose admits fault, a fellow patient warns her to stop the medications. Phillip believes the doctor is evil and they'll never make it out of the facility alive. Trusting him might be just the thing to save her. Or it might prove the asylum is exactly where she needs to be.

Lisa Colozza-Cocca



### "Providence"

After hopping a freight train, Becky finds a newborn baby in the corner of the car. She is fleeing the harsh responsibilities of her hardscrabble South Carolina farm life, which seems to hold no future for her. And yet, as the oldest of 10, Becky's well-honed maternal instincts kick in, and she selflessly takes on the ominous responsibility of caring for Baby Girl. The railroad tracks take them to Watson's Grove, and Becky embarks on a new beginning, landing into the soft and trusting world of Rosie and her resale shop, Secondhand Rose. Rosie, Becky, and Georgia Rose create a family built of mutual need, love, and kindness in this gentle tale of life in nostalgic small-town America in her debut novel.

Liz Col-



### "Maddox Pink Thrillers Trilogy"

**Tor Maddox: Unleashed:** When sixteen-year old Torrance Olivia Maddox, self-confessed news junkie, figures out that the mysterious and deadly New Flu is being spread by dogs, she has one question—if the danger is that obvious to her, why hasn't the government revealed the truth and taken action? Her search for the answer will take her farther than she ever imagined. But then again, she never imagined that man's best friend could become public enemy number one, that men in black might show up in her cozy suburban neighborhood, that she'd spend her sixteenth birthday as a teenaged runaway, and that her effort to save one dog would become a mission to save them all.

Lynne Matson



### "Nil Unlocked"

On the island of Nil, the rules are set. You have exactly 365 days to escape—or you die. Rives is now the undisputed Leader of Nil City, but keeping the City united is tougher than ever. Raiders have grown bolder, supplies are dwindling, and non-human inhabitants have taken a turn toward the deadly. Desperate for answers, he teams up with the only other person searching for them: Skye, a new arrival with a mysterious past of her own. Soon the duo find themselves locked in a race to save all the residents of Nil—and possibly destroy the island forever.

# Riverdale High School

## LITERACY FESTIVAL

*"There is no life I know to compare with pure imagination. Living there, you'll be free if you truly wish to be. If you want to view paradise, simply look around and view it. Anything you want to, do it. Want to change the world? There's nothing to it." - Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*

Stanford at:

[LauraRST@leeschools.net](mailto:LauraRST@leeschools.net).

All donations collected from the community will go directly toward purchasing books for students to read and personally own.

The 3rd Annual **Riverdale High School Literacy Festival** kicks off **March 17-18, 2016**. The goal of this event is to create a celebration of reading and writing, ensuring that there's a book in the hands of every student at no cost to them. Students have selected a book that they can read before meeting the ten featured authors in person at the festival.

Riverdale High School places a strong emphasis on literacy to mold our students into successful and capable lifelong learners. "Riverdale High School will adapt to the changing face of the community while preparing to meet the needs of a global society." Reading is a fundamental skill that all students will master before they graduate. Finding reading material that is enjoyable and that students can connect to is at the pinnacle of preparing each student to be a successful global citizen.

Laura Stanford, Assistant Principal of Curriculum, wants to remind parents and community members that donations and fundraising opportunities toward this year's Riverdale Literacy Festival are already being collected, and prizes for contests and giveaways are being sought. Local businesses interested in sponsoring this year's event, helping with music or food and games, or who are interested in setting up a booth at the festival, should contact Riverdale Assistant Principal Laura

The **Riverdale High School Literacy Festival** is sponsored by: Suncoast Federal Credit Union, The Foundation of Lee County, The Riverdale High School Student Council Association, and the Riverdale High School 3rd Annual Cornhole Tournament.

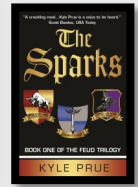


Thursday, March 17, 2016

- 9:00 A.M. ....Authors arrive at Riverdale
- 9:00-9:30 A.M.....Author's breakfast
- 9:30-10:45 A.M.....Classroom visits
- 11:00-12:00 P.M.....Lunch
- 12:00-1:35 P.M.....Author's Panel (*auditorium*)
- 1:40-2:20 P.M.....Book Signings (*media center*)



Kyle Prue



"The Sparks"

Could you forgive your sworn enemy if it meant saving your family, legacy and beloved city from the hands of an evil power? The Vapros, the Taurlum, and the Celerius: three dynasties bound by an ancient promise, and given superhuman abilities to protect the city of Altryon from the dangerous world beyond its walls. Centuries of fighting, however, have turned the families against each other. A powerful emperor now rules and each family has suffered heavy casualties in the feud. Sixteen-year-old Neil Vapros desperately wants to become an assassin. Despite a failed mission, Neil learns that a new sinister threat has awakened. This mysterious new power will shatter the established order and threaten not only the very lives of these powerful

Friday, March 18, 2016

- 9:15-9:30 A.M. ....Authors arrive
- 9:30-10:30 A.M.....Author's breakfast
- 10:45-11:15 A.M.....Classroom visits
- 11:20-11:50 P.M.....Lunch
- 12:15-1:35 P.M.....Literacy Festival (*football field*)



Peter Solamon



"All Those Broken Angels"

Richard Harrison was the last person to see his friend Melanie alive. She vanished when they were six, and while the police never found her, a part of her remained—a living shadow that became Richard's closest friend. For ten years, Richard has never questioned the shadow that keeps him company . . . until a new girl moves to town, claiming to be Melanie. All Those Broken Angels is a story of buried bones and shadowy secrets and the freedom that can only come from a journey through darkness.



Maria Andreu

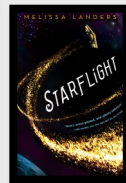


"The Secret Side of Empty"

As a straight-A student with a budding romance and loyal best friend, M.T.'s life seems as apple-pie American as her blondish hair and pale skin. But M.T. hides two facts to the contrary: her full name of Monserrat Thalia and her status as an undocumented immigrant. With senior year of high school kicking into full swing, M.T. sees her hopes for a "normal" future unraveling. And it will take discovering a sense of trust in herself and others for M.T. to stake a claim in the life that she wants.



Melissa Landers



"Starflight"

Solara Brooks needs a fresh start, someplace where nobody cares about the engine grease beneath her fingernails or the felony tattoos across her knuckles. Solara is forced to indenture herself in exchange for passage to the outer realm. Doran Spaulding, the rich, pretty-boy quarterback who made her life miserable in school, is framed for conspiracy on Earth, and Solara cons him into playing the role of her servant on board the Banshee, a ship manned by an eccentric crew with their own secrets. It's been a long time since Solara has believed in anyone, and Doran is the last person she expected to trust. But when the Banshee's dangerous enemies catch up with them, Solara and Doran must come together to protect the ship that has become their home-and the eccentric crew that feels like family.



Erica Cameron



"Deadly Sweet Lies"

Nadette Lawson knows when you're lying. Every night for the past two years, the Balasura have visited her dreams, enticing her to enter their world. And every night she's seen through their lies. Now, they're tired of playing in the shadows and they begin to stalk her in the waking world. It's no longer just an invitation; if Nadette doesn't join them, they'll take her family. Forever. She needs help, and the haven she's seeking may be just out of reach. Julian Teagan is a master of deception. To survive, he has to convince the world his mother isn't useless, that everything's fine, otherwise he'll lose what little he has left in this life. The Balasura have hunted children like him for centuries, and their next target, Nadette is his one chance at finally being a part of something real. If Julian can just convince her to trust him...

**“The object of the artist is the creation of the beautiful. What the beautiful is is another question.”**  
 — James Joyce

SENIOR ART



Tyler Tarry



Layni Challender



The Riverdale Art Department has had a great year so far with many students work being displayed throughout the community. We had excellent responses from the public. Some students were offered money for their art. The Art Club is up and running with several projects underway. We are fortunate to have many very talented students!

There was an art show, “Art Under 20” downtown over the weekend of Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> – Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>. We had 49 pieces entered in all categories.

We also have several teams of three participating in the Chalk Art Festival downtown during the same weekend.

Ms. Favia has students participating in the empty bowls project to raise money for The Harry Chapin Food Bank.

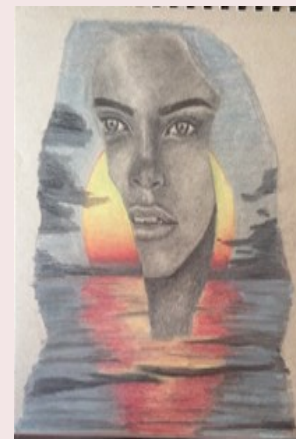
Anyone needing information about the Art Program at Riverdale H.S. may contact Mr. Greenblatt, Mrs. Eby, or Ms. Favia at 694-4141 ext. 251.

The ceramics classes have potters wheels this year and students are learning to throw pots. Of course, drawing, painting, creative photography and sculpture are also parts of our curriculum.

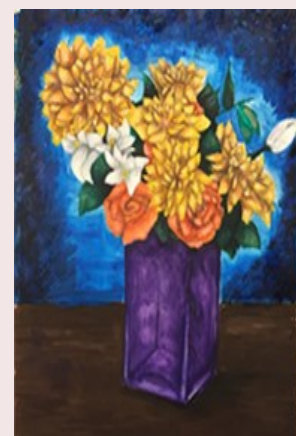
The Art Department is in need of items which will increase learning and creativity for the students that are currently in art classes. Anything that you could contribute; art supplies, paper, frames, money, newspapers, etc. would be greatly appreciated by us and the students at RHS.

If you are a current practicing photographer or artist, or may have something to share to help our students, please contact us at 694-4141 ext 251. Thank you for your help!

SENIOR ART



Anna Troyer



Hanna Zeleski



**It's A Great Time To Be A Raider!**

(left to right): Mohamad Okab, Luke Chin A Foeng, Amelia Shoriak, Megan Morrison, Piero Sotomayor, Kyle Dennison, and Ohee Syed.

Seven Riverdale High School students competed at the Seahawk Model United Nations Conference (SMUNC) at Cape Coral High School. This was Riverdale’s first Model UN delegation and it was a wonderful experience for all involved.



I AM RIGHT!

Debate Club

If you like to argue and win, then this is the club for you. The debate club is active but continues to welcome new members. The club meets on Thursday immediately after school in room 3-03. Ms. Starr facilitates the club; however, the debates, formats, and topics are organized and run by the club members. If you don't like to be on the stage, we have position for you as researchers, speech writers, and scores. Currently we are preparing to debate East Lee High School in the following debate formats:

Lincoln Douglas, Public Forum, and Karl Popper. Come join us and see what the fun is all about.



**SUCCESS IS A CHOICE!**



# FBLA District Leadership Conference

The Riverdale chapter of Future Business Leaders of America will be amongst the 200 students attending districts here on Feb. 4 from 3-8 p.m.

Cheesecake and coffee sales, along with a staff silent auction, helped students afford this year's district competition where they chose from 60 business topics.

District adviser Ileana Flores, RHS business teacher, is the new district adviser of the five-county student organization. Ryan White, former chapter president, is the chapter's assistant adviser, along with Dr. Frank Palaia. Chapter president Steele Spinosa, a senior, leads the Riverdale chapter, which has been the largest chapter and Chapter of the Year for many years.

Students will be performing individually or in teams, and many are testing in events such as Business Ethics, Digital Design, Public Speaking and Job Interview. Students who win their events will advance to the State Leadership Conference March 11-14 in Orlando.

FBLA thanks the staff, community and families for supporting their fundraising and for volunteering to judge or provide refreshments.



"The student presentations were impressive from start to finish." Beverly Spinosa

## FBLA District Results

Congratulations to our 40 first place wins and all the students who participated in last night's FBLA District 19 Leadership Conference and competition! Six schools brought about 200 students.

I cannot possibly thank enough those who helped with this event, from the IB docents who were lifesavers, to the staff and their families who judged. Most heartfelt thanks go to Ryan White for his leadership and enthusiasm in seeing our members advance to states. Darlene Blalock was command central until we needed her to be a judge. Beverly Spinosa helped with judging and food storage. Cindy Sentes and her husband judged, along with Kristen Fox, Wayne Adams, Luis Lillard, Joan Starr and her father, my husband Charlie Flores and nephew Steve Buller. Several parents stepped up, too. The custodial staff was super. The business department prejudged many events, and Eric Metzner stayed all hours to support the effort. Thanks to Mr. Demming for his positive message to students, which was echoed by our guest speaker from Men's Warehouse.

You would have been so proud of our students. They looked so professional and were so very helpful and TALENTED.



**SUCCESS IS A CHOICE!**

# JROTC Raider Battalion News



The Raider Battalion is concluding another busy year. Our mission is to motivate young people to be better citizens and this year as in years past I believe we have accomplished that mission. Here is a review of events since the last newsletter and the final events coming up for the rest of the school year.

## JROTC Ball:

The 2016 Lee County JROTC Ball will be held on February 27th. Last year about 60 cadets and their guests from Riverdale attended the Military Ball. Over 1200 cadets from the 14 JROTC programs in Lee County have attended this event. The event is a cadet led event and the night will begin with the posting of the colors by one of the other schools, it will then be followed by the Missing Man Table Ceremony by your very own, Raider Battalion Staff. Cadets then enjoy dinner, which starts with a salad, followed by either steak and chicken, mahi mahi, or vegetarian lasagna and chocolate cake for dessert. After dinner, the colors will be retired and the formal portion of the ball will come to an end. The final phase of the ball includes a presentation of the JROTC Kings and Queens. Once the Kings and Queens are presented, the floor will be opened for dancing until 11:00p.m.

## University of Tampa and University of South Florida:

On the 28th of January, 14 cadets went on a field trip to The University of Tampa and The University of South Florida. Cadets toured both campuses, and received briefings from the University Admissions offices and the Army ROTC Cadet Scholarship opportunities and admission requirements.

## Gulf Coast Drill Meet:

On March 12th the Raider Battalion Drill Teams and Color Guards will be participating in the Florida Gulf Coast Drill Meet, held at South Fort Myers High School. We will be sending one female unarmed squad, one male unarmed squad, and we plan to add a male-mixed unarmed platoon. The cadets have been practicing hard for the past few months and we wish them well at the

competition.

## Lee County JROTC Annual Food Drive:

February is the annual JROTC canned food drive and Riverdale JROTC will participate along with all of the other Lee County JROTC programs. The combined effort of all Lee County Cadets have a significant impact on the ability of the Unity Corporative Ministry Inc. to provide items to the needy through the spring and on into the summer. If you have some items to spare have your son or daughter bring them to JROTC sometime during the month of February.

## District Marksmanship Competition:

The Raider Marksmanship team has been practicing since December and has participated in several shoulder to shoulder competitions. Things look good for the District Championship on the 21st of April at Island Coast High School. Top 3 teams at the competition will move on to state level competition on the 23rd of April.

## Awards Ceremony:

The annual Lee County JROTC Awards Ceremony will be held at the Harbor Side Events Center on the 5th of May. This ceremony recognizes those cadets who have done exceptionally well in JROTC throughout the year. Cadets will receive notifications soon after spring break.

## Summer Camp:

This year we will be having three different camps at two different locations during the same time frame. This opens more opportunities for cadets to experience these summer camps if they qualify. Our summer camps are scheduled to begin during the 2nd week of June. 1SG Trent will be briefing the cadets soon. This is a very popular event at no cost to cadets. Once paper work is distributed cadets need to return it ASAP as participation is based on a first come first served basis.

If you ever have any questions about the JROTC program at Riverdale please call Major Falck, 1SG Trent or MSG Villaverde at 694-4141x286.

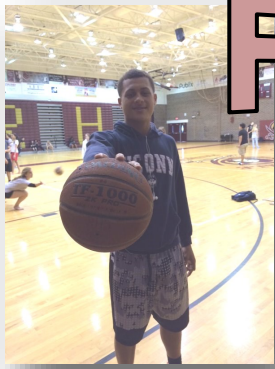


YEARBOOKS  
ON SALE  
NOW!

**SUCCESS IS A CHOICE!**



# Find A Way To Win!



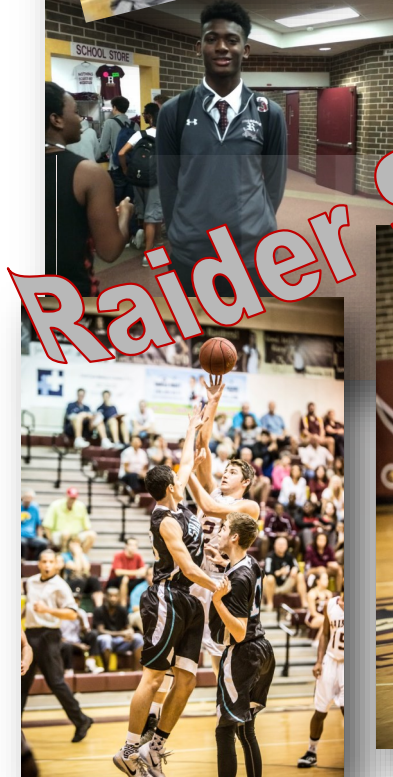
Boys Basketball enjoyed a good winter break. They started the break with a 62-34 win over Seacrest Country Day School. They then went 2-1 in the Gulfshore Holiday Hoopfest at Golden Gate High School in Naples. The Hoopfest was an 18 team tourney with teams from not only Florida but Tennessee and Illinois.

The Raiders started the tournament with a 46-45 win over Immokalee then went down to Ft Lauderdale HS 65-45. The Raiders bounced back with a 81-77 OT win versus Monsignor Pace from Miami to close out the tournament. The Raiders are looking forward to the final three weeks of the regular season and look to push for a spot in the play-offs!

The boys basketball team captured the school's first District title in 28 years. Since 1988. It was a great team effort and I am so proud of them to have gone on the road to North Port and beat a team that had beaten them



**Raider Strong!**



**SUCCESS IS A CHOICE!**



RIVERDALE WRESTLING

Congratulations Coach Hayward 2016 National Wrestling Hall of Fame Florida Chapter inductee!



The wrestling program has started this year strong. Both JV and Varsity team are undefeated this year so far in duals against opponents. For the first time in school history both JV & Varsity won the "Captain Archers Memorial tournament" which is a prestigious event throughout southwest Florida.

Your Raider wrestling team is led by defending state champion Cole Schneider, Jesse Pryor, Daniel Williamson, and James Monos. The wrestlers that are on the rise are sophomore Trendon Dunn and Nelson Ortiz with freshmen studs Leyton Taylor and Coleby Barnes closing the gap as well.

The Raiders enter the 13th season coached by Coach Hayward, and they are pushing to claim their 3rd team state title with hopes of multiple individual titles as well. "We put in a lot of time and practice, it's nice to see the hard work paying off." Said Senior Jesse Pryor. "The team goal is to win a state title as an individual, but we all believe in each other and want to take home the team title together!" says Daniel Williamson when asked what the team goals were this year.

Look for the Raider Wrestling team to make a push, and reach the top of the podium come March at the state tournament. But before that, the Raiders will want to claim their 12th consecutive LCAC and District title and possibly win a tough region before.



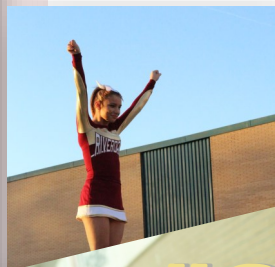
SUCCESS IS A CHOICE!



# Bleed Garnet & Have A Heart Of Gold

The Riverdale Raiders girls basketball team left everything on the court this past season. The Lady Raiders went farther into the playoffs than any other basketball team at Riverdale since 2004. The Raiders won the Class 7A District 12 Championship by defeating Gulf Coast High School 65-60. Along with the district title, the team finished with over 500 percent win percentage.

The Coach and the girls agreed that it was a team effort that led them to this amazing accomplishment. The team overcame many obstacles including: personal issues, injuries, amongst many arguments and personality conflicts just as a true family would have. That is what this team became, a family. It was these disagreements that allowed the girls to grow, not only as basketball players, but as young women still learning the ropes of the real world. It was such a great year of bonding from summer training and conditioning, to the team trip to Key West. Coach McChesney believes that a big contributor to their success was the hard work that they put in this summer. He also noted that the team's future looks bright with a very young roster. This left them with an incredible feeling as they finished out their season with a loss in the



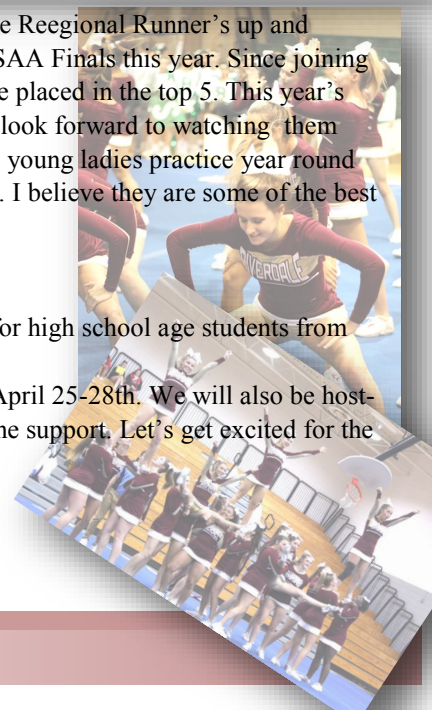
## #GetAfterIt

This years Competitive Cheer team were Reegional Runner's up and placed 4th in the state at FHSAA Finals this year. Since joining FHSAA 4 years ago, we have placed in the top 5. This year's team was very young and I look forward to watching them grow and build skills. These young ladies practice year round and cheer for multiple sports. I believe they are some of the best athletes at Riverdale!

### Upcoming Events-

Tryouts will be held March 14th-17th for high school age students from 2:00-4:00 in the gym.

Tryouts for 8th grade students will be April 25-28th. We will also be hosting out kids camp June. We appreciate all the support. Let's get excited for the upcoming events!



# SUCCESS IS A CHOICE!





## Twins coach is 'mayor' of hometown

For most professional baseball players and coaches, "home" represents a place distinct from the various locales in which they play the game. It's a place to recharge during the offseason, where one is known more for who he is as a person than for what he may have achieved on a playing field.

For Tommy Watkins, home is the best of both worlds.

Watkins has been employed by the Minnesota Twins since 1998, when they selected him in the 38th round of the Draft. His 12-year playing career reached its zenith with a nine-game stint in Minnesota in 2007, and over the last two seasons he's worked as the hitting coach of the Midwest League's Beloit Snappers (the Twins' Class A affiliate).

But home for Watkins is Fort Myers, Fla., where

he was born and raised. Fort Myers also is the home of Hammond Stadium, which hosts Twins' Spring Training as well as the Class A Advanced Fort Myers Miracle of the Florida State League. Watkins suited up for the Miracle in 2002-03 and has made year-round use of the facility throughout his pro career.

"It's been good to have that access," said Watkins, a utility man who appeared at all nine positions over the course of his career.

"I just spent about a month [at Hammond Stadium] coaching instructional league. That finished up last week."

The instructional league stint was a continuation of Watkins' coaching career path, which began in 2010.

"So much of [coaching] is getting guys to play hard, just respect the game and go about it the right way," he said. "I think that attitude helped me out a lot because I was never going to be the biggest, strongest or fastest guy out there on the field."

Indeed, he was not. Watkins' career was defined by overachievement and perseverance, as he scratched and clawed his way to a brief stint at baseball's pinnacle. His never-say-die playing style and affable demeanor made him a perpetual fan favorite. And not just in his hometown.

Watkins spent the bulk of his final four sea-

sons with the Triple-A Rochester Red Wings and in 2009 was honored in a pregame ceremony as the team's most popular player.

"[Being a fan favorite] was never something I expected," he said. "I think what people saw in me was that I always tried to have fun and that I treated everyone the same. That was my attitude, and things turned out pretty good."

It's an attitude that he's now helping instill in Fort Myers' youth. Over the past decade, Watkins has served as a substitute teacher at his alma mater, Riverdale High School.

"I help out with the baseball team there, and it was the high school baseball coach who recommended I substitute teach in the first place," he said. "I like it [at Riverdale]. The students know who I am and don't give me too hard of a time."

Students are not the only ones in Fort Myers who know who Watkins is. His reputation as one of Fort Myers' most prominent residents increased immeasurably during Spring Training in 2007, thanks to his former Twins teammate Torii Hunter.

"[Watkins] knows everybody in Fort Myers, from a bum to the richest person in town," Hunter said in an interview with

# Raider Proud!

## SUCCESS IS A CHOICE!



the Minneapolis *Star Tribune*. You want a reservation for dinner? Watkins makes a call, you're in -- anytime, any place."

Watkins downplayed his reputation as "the mayor" but acknowledges that "ever since [the Hunter interview], it's just kind of stuck." And that reputation would only grow if Watkins is promoted to the Miracle, allowing him to be a year-round Fort Myers resident.

After two years with Beloit, wouldn't that be the next logical step in his career progression?

"That would be fun, getting the opportunity to coach here," Watkins said. "But I love what I do, helping guys to get better. No matter where I end up, it won't be too big of a deal."

*Benjamin Hill is a reporter for MLB.com and writes Ben's Biz Blog. This story was not subject to the approval of the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues or its clubs.*



Another Raider Inducted into the Lee County Hall of Fame!

## Upcoming Raider Events

- 2/17 JV Baseball vs. Bishop Verot
- 2/18 Boys & Girls Tennis vs. North
- 2/19 Wrestling Districts 1-9pm
- 2/19 Boys & Girl's Lacrosse 6-9pm
- 2/20 AAU Wrestling 7am -4
- 2/20 Indoor/Outdoor Track 10:30-7
- 2/22 Boys & Girl's Tennis vs. Clewiston
- 2/22 JV & Varsity Baseball vs. Port Charlotte
- 3/24 End of 3rd quarter
- 3/25 -4/4 Spring Break
- 4/30 Riverdale Prom



Mackenzie More is the first girl's State Champion for Riverdale!

SUCCESS IS A CHOICE!



# A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL!!

The 23rd Annual Angel Giving Tree was once again a HUGE SUCCESS!

The Riverdale Giving Tree team of Mr. Demming, Mr. Wahl, Mr. Hampel, Mr Borges, Mrs. Budmayr, Ms. Mercer, Mrs. Hauger, Mrs. Sentes, Mrs. Sexton and Mrs. Snyder delivered to our families on December 17th the following gifts of \$475.00 in gift certificates, 136 presents, 29 cases of food/toiletries, 2 holiday trees and decorations, 4 vouchers for four ham and/or turkey dinners and \$3,100 in cash. The tears flowed and our four families were very grateful for giving them a holiday they would fondly remember.

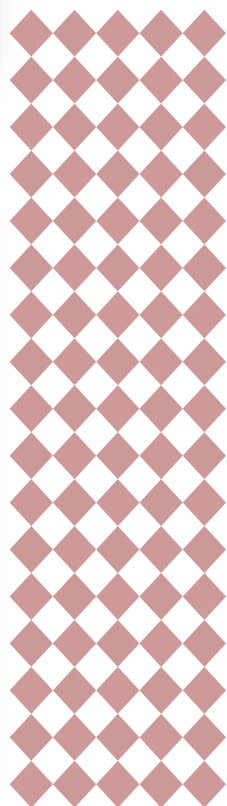
Many thanks to Riverdale staff, students, parents and community who helped to make our families holiday so special.

We look forward to next year's event and hope you plan on making yourself a part of the 24th Annual Angel Giving Tree!

Mrs. Jill Snyder



Congratulations Christopher Ochoa National Merit Scholarship finalist!



## Animal Rights Club!

Mrs. Eby is starting the animal rights club back up! This club is great for volunteer hours and supports the local rescue, SPAY-LEE. Every Thursday after school we leave campus and go 3 minutes down the road to their shelter to walk and play with dogs. All students aged 16 years and up are welcome to join the club. Any adults who would like to volunteer can contact Mrs. Eby as all help is welcome. We are always looking for donations to the rescue, both monetary and the following donations are greatly appreciated and can be donated to Mrs. Eby's room:

We always need gently used collars, leashes, small pet beds, old blankets and towels, litter, paper towels, bleach, alcohol, plastic grocery bags, newspaper sleeves, large trash bags, Friskies canned cat food (we have 40 "forever" cats who eat about 20 cans a day), and of course, funds.

Thank you,

Sara Eby



Congratulations to Raider Daniel Malivert on signing with Florida Tech!

# SENIORS!!!

Order cap and gown by February 29th,  
Grad bash FINAL payment due—3/1/16  
\$150



**Don't forget to order your 2016 Riverdale Yearbooks before they are all gone! \$75**

Check out Riverdale High School's website [www.rdh.leschools.net](http://www.rdh.leschools.net) to be up to date on all the amazing events taking place at RHS! Don't forget to follow Riverdale on Twitter @RiverdaleReads  
IT'S A GREAT TIME TO BE A RAIDER!



# SUCCESS IS A CHOICE!



# SENIOR TIMELINE CLASS OF 2016

November through March—Grad Bash Payments will be taken.

\*\*\*Grad Bash Payment in FULL due by March 2nd \$150.00

\*\*February 29, 2016 -\* Last Chance to Order Cap and Gown\*\* Prices will go up!

Wednesday, March 2, 2016- Grad Bash Payment Due in Full-Permission Slips due to sign up for bus!

Friday-April 15, 2016- Grad Bash- Universal Studios- 1:00- Report to auditorium YOU MUST BE IN SCHOOL TO ATTEND- At least a half day or you will not be allowed to go!

Saturday- April 30, 2016- Prom- Harborside Convention Center

Tuesday- May 20 2016- Senior Meeting- 7:10 AM / Cap and Gown Distribution- Auditorium-MANDATORY

Tuesday – May 20, 2016– Senior Breakfast/ Yearbook Signing 7:45 AM -Cafeteria

Tuesday- May 23,24,25,26 – Senior Final Exams- MANDATORY

Tuesday- May 24, 2016- Senior Awards Night -6:30 PM (Wear Cap and Gown) (Invitation Only- Required to Attend) MANDATORY Practice Tuesday May 24<sup>th</sup> in the Auditorium-Time will be announced

Friday, May 27, 2016- Senior Pool Party/Slide Show- 10:45 AM- Auditorium

Tuesday-May 31, 2016- Baccalaureate- Auditorium- 6:30 PM (All Seniors are welcome- not required-(Wear cap and gown)

Friday- June 3, 2016- Graduation Practice 12:00 PM - Mandatory for ALL (time may change)

Graduation-June 4, 2016- TICKETS ARE REQUIRED TO ENTER- Germain Arena-7:00 PM



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OUT-OF-FIELD TEACHERS

Florida State Statute 1012.2 recognizes that teachers at times must be assigned duties in a class outside the field in which the teacher is certified. The following teachers at Riverdale High School are certified, but are engaged in training to add English of Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and Subject Areas to their certificates:

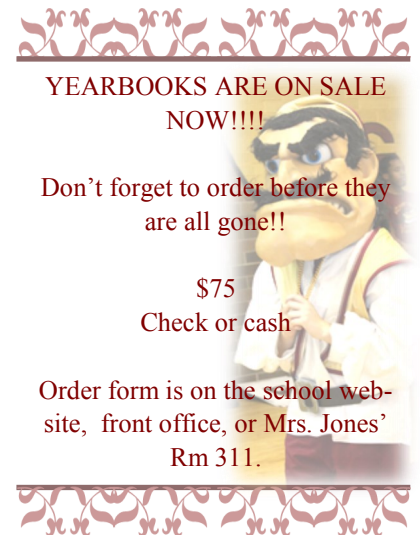


ESOL  
 KeiAnna Bennett  
 Sara Crume  
 Kyle Dawson  
 Kristen Fox  
 Katherine Jones  
 Caroline Maher  
 Jennifer Miller  
 Shayne Morin  
 Robert Taylor  
 Ryan Williams

ENGLISH 6-12  
 Brittanie Long  
 Whaley Walters

Math 6-12  
 Mark Lumsden

Reading  
 Shayne Morin



YEARBOOKS ARE ON SALE NOW!!!!

Don't forget to order before they are all gone!!

\$75  
 Check or cash

Order form is on the school website, front office, or Mrs. Jones' Rm 311.

The School Board of Lee County, Florida

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- Mary Fischer**, District 1 (Vice Chairman)
- Jeanne S. Dozier**, District 2
- Cathleen O'Daniel Morgan**, District 3
- Pamela H. LaRiviere**, District 5



www.leeschools.net

The School Board of Lee County, Florida, prohibits discrimination on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, national origin, marital status, religion or sexual orientation.