



WE ALL HAIL FROM RICHFIELD HIGH
FOR THE SPARTANS WE DO CHEER,
WE'LL FIGHT ON AND EVER TRY
FOR THE SCHOOL WE LOVE SO DEAR.
HOLD OUR COLORS, RED AND WHITE,
MAY THEY WITH OUR SPIRIT FLY,
MAY WE EVER FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT!
FOR RICHFIELD HIGH.

HERE WE COME (shout) HAIL THE SPARTANS,
FIGHT FOR RICHFIELD HIGH! FIGHT!
DO YOUR BEST, TEAM! WE'LL DO THE REST, TEAM!
FIGHT FOR RICHFIELD HIGH! FIGHT!
HOLD OUR COLORS, RED AND WHITE,
MAY THEY WITH OUR SPIRIT FLY,
MAY WE EVER FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT!
FOR RICHFIELD HIGH.

Twenty Seventh Annual



SPARTAN FOUNDATION GOLF TOURNAMENT

www.spartanfoundation.com

Crystal Lake Golf Course
Lakeville, Minnesota
June 20, 2016



SPARTAN FOUNDATION AWARDS BANQUET

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Dave Boie
Athletic Director, Richfield High School

WELCOME

Dave Boie

INVOCATION

Ernie Lindstrom
Spartan Foundation Founding Member

INTRODUCTION

Steve Unowsky
Superintendent, Richfield Public Schools

DINNER

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

Dave Boie

Tom Spooner Award
Athena Award
Top Scholar
Against All Odds
Athletic Scholarship
Desmond Scholarship
Russ Schuvieller Scholarship

TOURNAMENT AWARDS

Debbie Lamberger & Jerry Nye
Golf Committee Co-Chairs



THANK YOU!

To our Participants and Sponsors,

Today marks the 27th Annual Spartan Foundation Golf Tournament. We are so glad you could join us today at Crystal Lake Golf Club.

We are grateful to the supporters of this tournament and the young people of Richfield. Over the past 27 years, your support has provided nearly \$300,000 in contributions to Richfield youth.

Spartan Foundation funds have been used to purchase equipment for a variety of athletic and performing arts programs. The funds have helped Richfield students who needed assistance with various participation fees. It has also provided numerous scholarships for Richfield seniors attending college.

These funds primarily come from this tournament, however, additional donations come from individuals, organizations and businesses.

The Spartan Foundation Board and Tournament Committee are very thankful for your participation and continued support!

We hope you had a great day with friends and colleagues. Enjoy your evening!

The Spartan Foundation Board

Bill Davis (President), Mike Sandahl (Vice President), Steve Lindgren (Treasurer), Jerry Nye (Secretary), Dave Lamberger (Golf Committee Treasurer), Debbie Lamberger (Golf Committee Chair), David Boie (RHS Athletic Director), Cheri Lindgren, Ernie Lindstrom, Todd Olson, Bob Strandquist, Andy Small, Pat Brekken, Ryan Davis, Tim Pollis (School Board Liaison)





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|----|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Lindstrom Law Offices | Desmond Foundation |
| 2 | Broadway Pizza | |
| 3 | American Family Insurance | Jason Williams Agency |
| 4 | Universal Athletics | Best Buy |
| 5 | Elliott Law Offices | Parsley Builders |
| 6 | Richfield Tourism Promotional Board | |
| 7 | Common Cents Bookkeeping System, Inc. | |
| 8 | Kennedy & Graven Law Firm | |
| 9 | Richfield Medical Group | |
| 10 | Dan & Kris Seeler | The Schuveiller Family |
| 11 | Sandahl & Associates | Hairy Bittman Family |
| 12 | Champion Awards | |
| 13 | Bernie Mattson and The Club | |
| 14 | Olson Family by Grandpa | |
| 15 | RBCU | |
| 16 | Richfield Boys Basketball Association | |
| 17 | In Memory of Robert (Bob) Lindgren | |
| 18 | Ability Plus | |

Practice Green The Sandeen Family Wallace Carlson Printing
 Sandeens: Richard & Judy, Marie & Ernie, Dr. David & Cheryl
 Edwards: Nicole & Chuck, Cameron & Jackson, Erik & Nikki Mahn

In addition to the hole sponsors, we would like to thank these who contributed to our raffle drawing: Advanced First Aid (AFA), Hub Jewelers, Minnesota Lynx, Minnesota Timberwolves, Minnesota Twins, Minnesota Vikings, Minnesota Wild, and Toro. And to Rob Shurtleff, Bob The Website Builder, for his work on the Spartan Foundation Website. Additional thanks to Anniken Fuller at Anniken Creative, LaFayette, Melseen & Plath, Ltd., and Broadway Pizza.



THE VISION

The Spartan Foundation, Inc. is a tax-exempt, and nonprofit corporation formed in 1990. It is operated solely by unpaid volunteers for the purpose of supporting the youth of Richfield in cases of need that go beyond that which is provided by governmental means.

The Spartan Foundation wants to fund tomorrow's opportunities for today's Spartans. It has been found that kids who participate in co-curricular activities are more likely to become school leaders and role models in our community.

Our vision is to help provide the maximum number of activities that provide the maximum opportunities for the maximum number of you in Richfield schools.

Our mission is to aid in funding the needs of tomorrow's leaders here in Richfield. We are dedicated to enhancing the education experience for students in the Richfield Public School system.

THE HISTORY

It all began with **Bob Lindgren**, a director on the Richfield Public School Board of Education in the 1980's. He became concerned about funding for school sports programs. Together with his friend and former Richfield School Board member **George Karnas**, they launched a plan to supplement the funding for new equipment and student participation fees through a community initiative: A Golf Tournament and Banquet!

Together Bob and George gathered other Richfield leaders to plan a tournament at Rich Acres Golf Course where entry fees and local sponsors' donations would provide these needed funds for youth programs. George contacted **Fred Babcock** at VFW Post 555 and American Legion Post 435, and they accepted the opportunity to host the banquet on alternating years following the golf tournament.

The inaugural event was held on June 12, 1990. This first Golf Tournament Committee was co-chaired by **Bob Lindgren** and former administrator **Gene Olive**. They were assisted by community volunteers: **Steve Lindgren**, Richfield Chamber of Commerce President; in sponsorships; **Bill Davis** in publicity; **Ernie Lindstrom** in legal matters; **George Karnas** in banquet/program and **Bud Erickson** in golf tournament events. These men became the inaugural Board of Directors of the "Richfield Spartan Foundation, Inc."



TOM SPOONER WINNERS

RUSS SCHUVEILLER MEMORIAL

(Athletes/Academic Excellence)

The Tom Spooner Award is given annually to an outstanding senior male athlete who demonstrates achievement in athletics, citizenship and academic excellence. The award is named for Tom Spooner, a Richfield High School athlete, who died from leukemia and personified these criteria. The Spooner Family, along with the Richfield Spartan

1957: Larry Molsather	1987: Jeff Ziebol
1958: Dick Schubbe	1988: Steve Holman
1959: Doug Carlson	1989: Chito Arcilla
1960: Bill Davis and Marty Richardson	1990: Jason Janu
1961: Bob Werness	1991: Amos Casey
1962: Jim Mitchell	1992: Hai Le
1963: Tim Wheeler	1993: Casey Johnson
1964: Mike Sadek	1994: Mark Holman
1965: Barry Bishop	1995: Paul Scanlon
1966: Doug Edmonson and Tom Kiedrowski	1996: Nate Ashmead
1967: Scott Stein and Doug Schindler	1997: Neal Gambaianni
1968: Doug Kingsriter	1998: David Ashmead
1969: Mark Flanders and Steve Cook	1999: Charles Case
1970: Robert Slonski	2000: Joe Pavelko
1971: Larry Habegger	2001: Ta Ho
1972: Chuck Viskocil	2002: Patrick Akpaette
1973: Doug Goebel	2003: Wade Vrieze
1974: Steve Bender	2004: Stuart Lindgren
1975: Doug Nelson	2005: Tate Quale
1976: Mike Voelker	2006: Dustin Driefke
1977: Brian Holt	2007: Trevor Olson
1978: Paul Franzmeier	2008: Will Neilsen
1979: Dan Lerom	2009: Renard Robinson
1980: Scott Schuveiller	2010: Corey Fitzgerald
1981: Randy Westlund	2011: Zak Beaudet
1982: Ivan Zubar	2012: Max Hamilton
1983: Paul Gisselquist	2013: Duncan Pederson
1984: Bill Krohn	2014: Obsa Ali
1985: Mark Hollingsworth	2015: Marcus Voigt
1986: Dan Palmer	

Thomas Fallon

Academically, Thomas became a national AP Scholar with all scores of 4 and 5 on the exams in his junior year. In addition to this national ranking he took even more rigorous courses in College in the Schools Physics and American History. All these efforts led to his rank of 8th in the class of 234. Tommy also earned a very high 32 on the ACT. In the athletic realm, he is a three-sport, four-year star. In the fall he was senior captain of the RHS football team and set a school passing record as quarterback: 402 yards in one game. In the winter he was a three-year captain of the basketball teams and was a leading scorer every year. In the spring Tommy was the most successful starting pitcher as a junior and senior. Tommy was selected to the MSHSL Section 6AAAA baseball team. According to RHS physical education teacher, "Tom has had the integrity to make positive choices when faced with difficult decisions. He has developed the leadership skills necessary to grow as a caring and productive young adult." Tom dreams of "working for NASA to build technology that will both land on Mars and help people in their everyday lives."



He plans to attend the University of Minnesota in Mechanical Engineering.

Kaelyn Swetala



Not only is Kaelyn a National Honor Society student, but she also serves as its chapter secretary. She took several AP courses as well as College in the Schools courses earning a class rank of 5 with an high ACT score of 30. Outside the classroom Kaelyn performs on the dance team. She capped off her four years of dancing as Metro West Conference Honorable Mention award. As an artist, for three years her writings were published in "Mindsong" the RHS literary and art journal. Kaelyn also worked with Freshman Orientation and tutors students after school.

She is truly an active member of our greater community. Dr. Nikki Schiffler, RHS English department chair wrote, "Kaelyn routinely goes beyond expectations and demonstrates her intellectual, as well as creative abilities."

Kaelyn plans to attend Iowa State University with a focus on Engineering.

DESMOND FAMILY

(Attending Normandale Only)

2016 TOM SPOONER WINNER



Abdimunim Hayou

Abdi entered Richfield as a 9th grader and applied himself to his studies earning his place on the A honor roll in 10th and 12 grades with a 3.4 g.p.a. These rank him at 63rd in his graduating class. His interest in math has been strong although his fluency in language is even stronger. He can speak and write in Swahili, Luganda, Arabic, Somali and his newest language is English. Outside the classroom he played on the RHS soccer team, and in the community he worked in guest services at Abbott Northwestern Hospital and volunteered at Southdale Library. Abdi says of his future, “While many may differ, I and Normandale Community College possess likewise visions. Eight years ago I chose school over three meals, so one day, I can see me holding a degree and living a lifestyle where I know I already paid for it.” RHS ELL teacher Lorraine Hanson wrote, “I have no doubt that Abdi will achieve his goal.”

Abdimunim plans to attend Normandale Community College focusing on Accounting.



Tommy Fallon

Academically, Thomas became a national AP Scholar with all scores of 4 and 5 on the exams in his junior year. The bases of these top exam results are due to his focused study in AP World History, Statistics, Language & Composition, Calculus and Biology. In addition to this national ranking he took even more rigorous courses in College in the Schools Physics and American History. All these efforts led to his rank of 8th in the class of 224. Tommy also earned a very high 32 on the ACT.

In the athletic realm, he is a three-sport, four-year star. In the fall he was senior captain of the RHS football team and set a school passing record as quarterback: 402 yards in one game. He was named Academic All State in AAAA class. In the winter he was a three-year captain of the basketball teams and was a leading scorer every year. In the spring Tommy was the most successful starting pitcher as a junior and senior. Tommy was selected to the MSHSL Section 6AAAA baseball team. One highlight in baseball was being on the mound and defeating crosstown rival Edina two years in a row.

According to RHS physical education teacher, “Tom has had the integrity to make positive choices when faced with difficult decisions. He has developed the leadership skills necessary to grow as a caring and productive young adult.” Tom dreams of “working for NASA to build technology that will both land on Mars and help people in their everyday lives.”

He plans to attend the University of Minnesota in Mechanical Engineering.

ATHENA AWARD WINNERS

DESMOND FAMILY

(Attending Normandale Only)

Greek goddess of wisdom and bravery, Athena's symbol is the olive wreath, a symbol of Olympic athletics. Each year, the Minnesota Athena Award honors the most outstanding female athlete. This award is based on excellence in individual or

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1973: Marlene Carlson | 1995: Mandy Engberg |
| 1974: Jean Gooding | 1996: Ann Mathews |
| 1975: Patti Soderberg | 1997: Rachel Ekholm |
| 1976: Cassie Olsen | 1998: Angela Grengs |
| 1977: Sherry Case | 1999: Leah Zarn |
| 1978: Cindy Carlson | 2000: Molly Ramm |
| 1979: Carol Amos | 2001: Katie Freeman |
| 1980: Kim Case | 2002: Rachel Wallis |
| 1981: Tracy Hyde | 2003: Jenna Weinberg |
| 1982: Renee Dahlk | 2004: Katherine Flynn |
| 1983: Paula Chell | 2005: Nikki Jensen |
| 1984: Mindy Grafing | 2006: Sarah Kabes |
| 1985: Beth Anderson | 2007: Shelby Savage |
| 1986: Jackie Kawiecki | 2008: Lisa Klass |
| 1987: Brenda Paszkiewicz | 2009: Pamela January |
| 1988: Tracy Herington | 2010: Stephanie Skoog |
| 1989: Laurie Palmer | 2011: Kelsey Metz |
| 1990: Missy Miller | 2012: Bryann Guyton |
| 1991: Kris Lindstrom | 2013: Jessica January |
| 1992: Michelle Erickson | 2014: Kinya Gilbert |
| 1993: Sharen Luze | 2015: Emily Christian |
| 1994: Vicki Poehler | |



Michael Meister

In RHS Michael took on the rigorous challenges required within College in the Schools Physics and Statistics courses as well as Pre-Calculus. These grew out of his successful work in the AVID program. As a result, Michael has been on the B honor roll since 9th grade and will graduate in the top half of his class. Outside the classroom he was busy in the Families Moving Forward program helping a widowed neighbor with her yard work. He volunteered at the Minnesota State Fair in the Salem Lutheran Church booth, home of the Swedish egg coffee. Michael wrote, "Winning this scholarship, I know would not only help my family financially, but I know would make my parents very proud. I am their only child and I work so hard to make them proud of me." RHS Social Studies teacher, Mike Cunningham wrote, "Michael cares. His character is solid."

Michael will attend Normandale Community College looking at medicine, dentistry or culinary arts.

Aaron Swengel

Aaron took on the challenge of Advanced Placement Calculus this year and found it rewarding. In 10th grade his math skills moved his grades into the A-range and he continued to focus for the next three years. His ACT math score was the highest of all others. This success along with his strong work ethic placed him on the A and B honor rolls with a 3.4 g.p.a. and a class rank of 58. Aaron wrote, "My very strong point is math. I love math and I find it fun to and enjoyable solving difficult problems. Whenever I come across a problem in Calculus, I keep trying until I succeed because if I didn't keep trying I would never get anywhere in life."

Aaron plans to attend Normandale Community College focused on Computer Science.



ATHLETIC AWARD

(Athletics, Academics, and Leadership)

2016 ATHENA WINNER

Annika Duryea

For four years Annika played at the top levels of her sports. As a 9th grader she won the “Spartan Spirit” award in both soccer and softball. In her senior year, she served as captain of the RHS soccer, ice hockey and track teams, along with All Conference honors in soccer. In hockey, she won the Section 5A Academic Award and made the All-State Academic team. Also, Annika was the captain of the 2015 U17 Girls’ National Bandy Team. In the classroom she’s taken many AP and CIS courses earning a rank of 18 in her class, scoring an admirable 31 on the ACT. Outside school, Annika volunteers at Camp Unistar, the Minnesota State Fair and at the Ice Hockey Jamboree. Her math teacher, Steven Gothmann wrote, “Annika is the one student to ask a question which goes beyond the required work.”



Annika plans to attend either DePaul University or UW Madison in either neuroscience or Spanish.



Lauren Gunderson

Lauren’s plays tennis, dances and Nordic skis. Her efforts were rewarded by being selected as captain of the tennis team and being chosen for dance line, lyrical dance and dance team. Academically, Lauren embraces rigorous courses in AP, College in the Schools leading to a class rank of 21st and a score of 30 on the ACT. Lauren serves as secretary of the Student Government and editor of the literary arts journal, “Mindsong.” Outside school, she has been a camp counselor, Sunday school teacher and bingo caller at the Veterans Home. Reflecting on her experiences as a leader, Lauren wrote, “I learned that being a leader is not doing what is best for you, but what is best for those around you.” Lauren’s math teacher, Jonathan Zoellmer observed, “Lauren is simply a wonderful person and a joy to have in class. She is funny, inquisitive, unconventional and very kind.”

Lauren plans to attend the University of St. Thomas focusing on Business.



Mariah Wendland

Mariah was recently honored at the 2016 Athena Awards banquet along with other winners from the Minneapolis area high schools. Wendland’s great success spanned four years earning 10 letters in three sports: volleyball, gymnastics and track.

On the volleyball team, she was Most Valuable Player for two years and earned a place on the Metro West All-Conference team as well as on the Metro West Conference Academic team. On the RHS gymnastics team, she served as captain for three years and was selected Most Valuable Player all three years and won a place on the Metro West All-Conference team. On the track and field team, she is senior captain winning two events in the recent Conference Championship meet.

In the classroom she keeps her g.p.a. above 3.5. In the greater Richfield community, she helps a special needs boy, serves in her church on mission trips to Montana, teaching Bible school and coaching softball. In her personal time, Mariah works as a coach in the Richfield Gymnastics Club.

“Giving back to the community is something that I want to do because I enjoy doing it. Working with kids has been a positive part of my life.”

Mariah plans to attend the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire hoping to major in Nursing.

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIPS

ATHLETIC AWARD

(Athletics, Academics, and Leadership)

The Spartan Foundation's 27 year history of fundraising for Richfield Public Schools and college scholarships provide the basis for a new era of synergy. Due to recent generous donations from sources beyond the profits of the golf tournament and sponsor donations, the foundation has been able to merge with other foundations and thereby reach out to more students with even larger scholarships. Considering the rising costs of tuition along with increasing pressure to attend post-secondary technical schools and college, we believe these scholarships will provide needed support for RHS students' post high school years. This year the Spartan Foundation will present 25 \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors.

Top Scholar Award

This scholarship honors a student who demonstrates a strong academic achievement, leadership, and community involvement.

Against All Odds, Any Senior.

This scholarship honors any senior regardless of GPA who has demonstrated perseverance, fortitude, and determination.

Against All Odds, First Generation.

This scholarship honors a student who will be a part of a first generation to attend college. Neither of his/her parents have previously graduated from college.

Against All Odds, Technical College and Community College.

This scholarship honors a student who has overcome adversity and is attending a local technical or community college.

Athletic Award.

This scholarship honors a student who are not only top athletes but leaders within Richfield High School.

Desmond Family Foundation Scholarship.

This scholarship is given in partnership with Normandale Community College. It honors a student who excelled in spite of the challenges they faced.

Russ Schuveiller Memorial Scholarship.

This scholarship is given in honor of Russ Schuveiller, a 1960 RHS graduate, who understood the importance of athletics, academics, and leadership.



Jordan Bartlett

Jordan is a year-round athlete: soccer in the fall, basketball in the winter and fast pitch softball in the spring. She won the Spartan Spirit Award in softball and served as senior captain. She coached local youth teams and attended a Space Camp in Alabama and a STEM camp at the U of M's College of Science and Engineering. In the classroom, Jordan is an AP Scholar and a 4-year A Honor Roll student. Ranking 4th in her class and a 32 on the ACT, she is tops.

RHS science teacher Dr. Jennifer Kersten wrote, "She really enjoys science. Jordan is one of the top students I have worked with." Jordan wrote, "I discovered that if I simply look closely, I will find that there is something amazing about every subject in school."

Jordan plans to attend the University of Minnesota where she hopes to study astrophysics.

Emma Carlson

Emma plays year-round: tennis in the fall, Nordic skiing in the winter and softball in the spring. As senior captain on the Nordic ski team that includes both boys and girls she had to be a strong communicator and organizer. She led 30 middle schoolers including a few novice skiers some of whom she led in Young Life Club and in her church. Emma wrote, "I get to know the kids in my Richfield community. We play games together, I drive them home, support them in their school activities, and try to be a constant in their lives." Academically, she ranks 6th in her class with a 33 on the ACT. These outstanding results come from success in rigorous AP courses, College in the Schools courses and PSEO (Post Secondary Enrollment Options). RHS science teacher, Jon Trendera wrote, "Emma is ready. She will excel in college as she has at Richfield Senior High."



Emma plans to attend Bethel University with an accounting major.

AGAINST ALL ODDS

(Technical College/Community College)

TOP SCHOLAR

(Top 10%)



Sonia Boyer

Sonia challenged herself with College in the Schools courses in Statistics and Physics despite her passion and skills for the Art world. She met these academic challenges and earned a place on the honor roll all four years. She earned a 3.8 g.p.a. ranking 36th. In addition, Sonia's artwork

won first place in the Teen Art Show and was published in "N is for Nature," a Woodlake Nature Center Activity book. Sonia wrote, "Whether it be painting, doing homework, typing or even helping someone else, I am always ready to overcome the physical and mental barriers that sometimes come with this disability and to work on becoming the best I can." RHS Visual Arts teacher, Jennifer Kotsmith Kraus wrote, "Sonia has taught me more about being a compassionate human being than I have taught her about art. If I make a clumsy mistake like handing her a paper pass, she smiles and calmly directs me to alternative choice suitable for her."

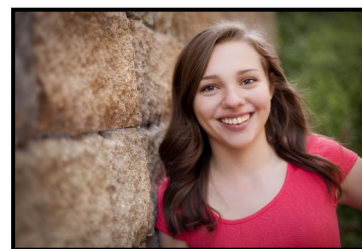
Sonia will attend The Art Institutes International Minnesota with a focus on animation.

Valerie Sifuentes

Valerie's academic transcript includes courses and grades from three high schools. Coming to RHS during her senior year was a challenge that she met successfully. She currently stands with a 3.5 g.p.a. and a class rank of 49, the 80th percentile. Valerie's strong sense of purpose guided her through the new cultures after the loss of her family in Texas. Outside of school, Valerie found a new sense of purpose in a local retirement home where the residents enjoy her good humor and willingness to help them. She wrote, "Ever since those days it made me want to help people. I know how hard life can be, it impacted me to do great things." RHS teacher Stacie Nielsen Bortel wrote, "While I have not known Valerie for an extended period of time, it did not take long to see the maturity she has. I enjoy having Valerie as part of my class each day and I wish I could have known her longer."



Valerie plans to attend Minnesota School of Cosmetology to become a cosmetologist.



Laura Diercks

Laura is vice president of the RHS National Honor Society as well as front-center guard in the RHS Marching Band. She took many rigorous courses in AP and College in the Schools along with Spartan Band and Symphonic Wind band combine to create a 4.55 g.p.a. and a class rank of 9th. Laura has also won many honors as a musician (flute) and yearbook editor. She is the president of the Octagon Club, volunteers at House of Prayer Lutheran Church and Arc's Value Village. Laura wrote, "I have always been organized with a plan for everything; planning is a skill I am grateful to have, and high school has only strengthened my time managing skills...I expect this will continue as I embark on my new chapter in college." RHS Director of Bands, Ben Hoehn wrote, "Laura always knows the music and was our front-center guard for three years –the entire band marches based on her, something that requires precision and consistency."

Laura plans to attend the University of Minnesota and is undecided about a major.

Katherine Zoellmer

Katherine's class rank of 2nd with a 4.84 g.p.a. stand as evidence of her success in several rigorous courses in both AP and College in the Schools. And, this year she elected to be off campus sponsored by the Post Secondary Enrollment Option. During these academic efforts, Katherine has been the editor in chief of the Aurean yearbook, vice president of Student Government and was selected to emcee both Homecoming and Fire and Ice coronations. Throughout the past four years, Katherine has competed on the Nordic Ski team, won the Harvard Book Prize and the Rensselaer Medal, and she served on the School District's Advisory Board. Katherine wrote, "Besides leadership outside the classroom, I always tend to head group projects through assigning tasks and delegating others... and will use these skills both in college and beyond." RHS English teacher Jennifer Tuuri Saybolt wrote, "Katherine is motivated by challenges that have a connection to our community and she works to affect change within our school and our town."



Katherine plans to attend Rice University in Texas focused on Chemical Engineering.

AGAINST ALL ODDS

(Any Senior)



Keja Berry

When the tornado blew away her childhood in Arkansas, Keja and her mother moved north and found success in Richfield. Here she ranks 52nd in her class with a 3.5 g.p.a. These are results of both her dedication and her choice of strong courses in AP and College in the Schools. Keja has also played tennis, basketball and track. Community service is a real strength of hers serving at Veteran's Park events, Feed My Starving Children and being a teacher's aide this year. She wrote, "I am now more appreciative for the things I earn than the things given to me. I have been through a lot at a young age; however, I feel that because I have gone through these things I am a strong and humble person." Keja's neighbor, Joel Anderson wrote, "I have spent my career in operations management and evaluate potential candidates. Keja has many of the traits that I look for in a member of my team. I am confident in her ability to succeed."

Keja plans to attend the University of Minnesota focusing on Biochemistry.

AGAINST ALL ODDS

(First Generation College)

Steffanee Jagdeo

Steffanee earned top grades in many challenging courses in both the AP and College in the Schools curricula. Results of these efforts are seen in her class rank of 15th, a 4.4 g.p.a. and nearly 30 credits from the University of Minnesota. To complement these studies, Steffanee served as editor of the school's "Aurean" yearbook, editor of the literary arts journal, "MindSong," and vice president of the Octagon Club. Steffanee wrote, "Because my parents were from South America and new to this country, I struggled to understand things in school. However, I was able to overcome these challenges by asking for help and remaining positive." RHS Octagon Club advisor Shannon Lindberg wrote, "Steffanee is a joy to know and a delight to partner with. She is dedicated to her studies, but she also sees that she can impact the world around her through her service. She truly exemplifies the Mahatma Gandhi quote on our club t-shirts, 'The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.'"

Steffanee will attend the University of Minnesota in the Carlson School of Business.



Tenzin Tseten



When Tenzin arrived in Richfield Middle School she spoke only the Tibetan language from her home in India. Since that day she grew in confidence and in high school chose AP Statistic and Calculus as well as College in the Schools courses in Physics, Anatomy and Physiology. Today she ranks 45th in the class with a 3.6 g.p.a. Tenzin wrote, "When I first came to lunch, I normally do not eat sandwiches and I have never seen one in my country...So, I always went to the library and study or read. When I started getting used to high school, I discovered that I love math and science and they became my favorite classes. That's when I started to think about what careers I want to do when I grow up." RHS math teacher Steven Gothmann wrote, "While Tenzin is a student whom I can trust to do all assignments on time, what seems to set her apart from her peers is her pursuit of knowledge. She always goes beyond and wonders 'why?' or 'what if?'"

Tenzin plans to attend the University of Minnesota focusing on medicine, math or astronomy.

AGAINST ALL ODDS

(First Generation College)



Judith Dominguez

As President of the RHS National Honor Society, Judith stands as a leader of her peers based both on her academic strengths and her leadership skills. She took several College in the Schools and AP courses earning a 4.4 g.p.a. ranking 14th in the class. Her ACT score of 29 contains a score of 32 in writing. Outside school, Judith worked in the STEM program for 5th graders and helped organize the Me to We program. In athletics, Judith played basketball for two years but turned her focus on track and cross country running for three years serving as senior co-captain this year. Judith won awards in the National French Contest and served as Spanish translator to the Richfield Human Right Commission in grades 11 and 12. And, the spotlight was on Judith as emcee for the RHS 2015 Grand March ceremony. Judith wrote, "I realized that my need to fit in with a Hispanic group of people to feel closer to my heritage was absurd. I could not count on others to help me carry my heritage in my everyday life. I already did, and I always had been. I carry my heritage through the values I was taught by my parent and my ability to be a better person through those values." RHS counselor Jessica Okey wrote, "Judith is very motivated to achieve her dreams because she believes her parents have sacrificed for her."

Judith plans to attend the University of Minnesota focusing on Civil Engineering.

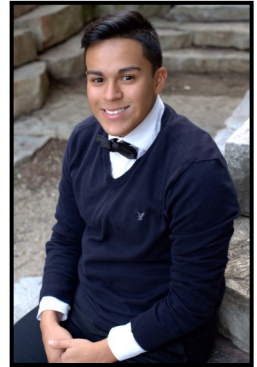
AGAINST ALL ODDS

(Any Senior)

Jordy Chavez-Estrada

Jordy's motto is from "The Rock" Johnson, "Success isn't always about greatness. It's about consistency." As a young boy Jordy had to learn English from watching SpongeBob Squarepants and reading any book in English he could find. From beginning in an ELL class, he rose to the gifted and talented programs. Today he is RHS President of Student Government and a member of National Honor Society. Jordy's has take three AP courses as well as four College in the Schools courses. Jordy's efforts result in a 4.3 g.p.a. and a class rank of 19th. Richfield Superintendent, Steven Unowsky wrote, "Jordy serves as a school board representative and is a leader in our Latino Family Association. He found ways to leverage his charisma and school success into a role supporting others."

Jordy will attend the University of St. Thomas focused on Mechanical Engineering.



Raeme Cheatham

Raeme believes that mastering a balance among rigorous courses, homework and sports has been the biggest challenge for her. Her mastery has led to being on the A Honor Roll for four years. Her g.p.a. stands at 4.16 and she ranks 26th in her class. She also earned the AP Scholar Award. She also scored a 28 on the ACT. Outside the classroom Raeme was a year-round athlete and served as captain of both the RHS tennis and softball teams and played basketball for three years. She was also sports editor for the Aurean, worked as assistant in the RHS athletic office and held various jobs in local businesses. Raeme wrote, "The diversity we have at RHS gives me great insight on many different cultures and views and has helped me broaden my overall picture of the world." Shannon Lindberg, Athletic Secretary wrote, "One of the things that impresses me most about Raeme is her ability to balance her life and set priorities. She is a huge asset to the athletic department."

Raeme plans to attend the University of Iowa focused on Nursing and Spanish.

AGAINST ALL ODDS

(Any Senior)

Rachel Hedges

Rachel's dream of playing volleyball in college stumbled when her ACL tore it apart. She found renewal in her academic life as she remained on the A Honor Roll for four years. Her success in challenging courses gave her confidence to revive her college dream. The AP and College in the Schools courses she took were in Calculus, Physics, American History, Political Science and French. She earned a 4.0 g.p.a. and ranks 29th in her class. Rachel wrote about her injury, "This not only affects my college search but my grades as well... I put into perspective what a student athlete means. The word student comes before the word athlete, and so I made it my priority." French teacher Margaret Cosgrove wrote, "She is outstanding in all respects. Rachel has proven that through hard work, follow through, and team work that she can accomplish tasks in a courteous and timely manner."



Rachel plans to attend Gustavus Adolphus College focused on athletic training.

Edgar Juarez Lopez

Edgar's challenge is time management because he lives in Bloomington, attends classes in both RHS where he is dedicated to the Jazz Ensemble and he attends Normandale CC in the Upward Bound program. Despite all these demands on his time, he maintains a 3.6 g.p.a. and ranks 44th in the class. This year he took on extra employment at Boston Market and Penn Lake Library. During all these, Edgar remained on the A Honor Roll. Edgar wrote, "I believe that I have overcome some challenges over the past that have made me better as a person and as a problem solver." Edgar's Communication teacher at Normandale wrote, "I am very impressed by how he is able to bring his thoughts, ideas and feelings to life through his writings. He is committed, dependable and always does his best."



Edgar will attend Hamline University focused on math or biochemistry.

AGAINST ALL ODDS

(Any Senior)

Jenny Llapa

Jenny has witnessed discrimination against her family and found that their reactions increased their integrity rather than being wounded by it. Jenny finds RHS to be an enriching environment where she can thrive. She currently ranks 12th in her class with a 4.4 g.p.a. She earned nearly straight A's in 9th and 10th grade and began the Post Secondary Enrollment Option (PSEO) in 11th grade and continues there now in the Upward Bound program. There she has been accepted into the college's Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. In these past two years Jenny worked as an intern to Hennepin County attorney Michael Freeman and worked as a Spanish translator. She also tutors at the Minnesota Internship Center in Minneapolis and provides care with Alzheimer patients in St. Paul. Jenny wrote, "One learns to move past these differences, whether it be culture or complexion, in order to work with each other and actually resolve issues. I've seen people change for the better." Jenny's advisor at Normandale CC wrote, "Upward Bound takes a tremendous commitment for any high school student, and Jenny's project on community building reached out to the Children's Hospital in Minneapolis. It was a fine success."



Jenny plans to attend the University of Minnesota focusing on Chemical Engineering.

Keiaria Smith



Keiaria moved to Minneapolis from Michigan and found her way to Richfield schools. Despite troubles in her family, in RHS she has taken on a new environment and achieved success. She chose challenging courses in Economics, Pre-Calculus French and Chemistry. Her grades have been strong throughout her four years. During these years Keiaria had to grow up and take on more responsibilities. She wrote, "My challenges I've been through taught me to think about who I am with and where I go. I think about the consequences and would it be right. I think and act differently from how I used to." Her RHS counselor, Kitt Guerrier wrote, "Keiaria is a person of integrity and her positive self-esteem rubs off on others. She is a student with real interest in studying law."

Keiaria plans to attend the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul focusing on pre-law.