



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 Eighth Annual



SPARTAN FOUNDATION GOLF TOURNAMENT

www.spartanfoundation.com

Crystal Lake Golf Course
Lakeville, Minnesota
June 19, 2017



SPARTAN FOUNDATION AWARDS BANQUET

WELCOME

Dave Boie, Master of Ceremonies
Athletic Director, Richfield High School

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 28th 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 28 years, your support has provided over \$350,000 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)





- 1 Lindstrom Law Offices, Desmond Foundation
- 2 Broadway Pizza
- 3 American Family Insurance, Jason Williams Agency
- 4 Universal Athletics, Shwaders Lawn Care and Landscape
- 5 Elliott Law Offices, Parsley Builders
- 6 Richfield Tourism Promotion Board
- 7 Best Buy
- 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 RBI (Richfield Baseball, Inc.)
- 15 RBCU
- 16 #RTown
- 17 In Memory of Robert (Bob) Lindgren
- 18 Ability Plus

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

Raffle Sponsors: Advanced First Aid (AFA), Minnesota Lynx, Minnesota Timberwolves, Minnesota Twins, Minnesota Vikings, Minnesota Wild, Affordable Therapeutic Massage, Toro, and Kohl's.

And Special thanks to Rob Shurtleff, Bob The Website Builder, for his work on the Spartan Foundation Website, Lafayette, Melssen & Plath, Ltd., Common Cents Bookkeeping System, Inc., 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 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

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 Foundation have kept this legacy alive through this scholarship.

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 Gambaiani
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 Hollingsoworth	2015: Marcus Voigt
1986: Dan Palmer	2016: Tommy Fallon

RUSS SCHUVEILLER MEMORIAL

(Athletes/Academic Excellence)

Aaron Anderson

Aaron is an all-around successful student, athlete and community member. He has earned a 3.7 g.p.a. and a class rank of #38 based on his hard work in 5 College in the Schools courses. These courses are designed by the University of Minnesota and contain a high degree of rigor. Aaron's CIS courses were in Political Science, Physiology, Statistic and German language. As an athlete over the four years Aaron has played on teams for cross-country running, basketball, baseball, Nordic Skiing, golf and track. This year he served as captain of the Nordic team and was chosen as All-Conference. Aaron wrote, "Being captain in Nordic was very meaningful to me. All the younger kids look up to me and I made sure I was a positive role model to them. I am glad that my mom decided to move us to Richfield. It was the right fit for me." And RHS counselor, Jessica Okey wrote, "Aaron is unfailingly respectful and always looks for the positive in his peers."



Aaron plans to attend the University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse focused on Business

Veronica Lundquist



Time management is one of Veronica's personal strengths. She effectively balances a rigorous academic schedule with a time consuming co-curricular one. Currently she ranks #50 in her class with a 3.54 g.p.a. Her courses choices have been 4 College in the Schools classes, 4 years of French, and 4 AP classes. After school in the fall Veronica played volleyball for 4 seasons being named senior captain, All Conference and MVP. In the winter she works a wrestling team manager. In the spring she volunteers at her church and Feed My Starving Children. In the summer she works at a veterinarian clinic as part of a Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Garrison, MN. Veronica's teacher Kim Niederluecke wrote, "Veronica has enviable study skills and thrives on high expectations." And, Veronica wrote, "I pushed through the hard classes and asked for help when I needed it. I never gave up. Now in my senior year, I have a job and it's nice already having good time management because I know how to balance them."

*Veronica plans to attend the University of Minnesota, Crookston
focused on Natural Resources*

DESMOND FAMILY

(Attending Normandale Only)

2017 TOM SPOONER WINNER



Nalisa Manikaran

Nalisa has been on the A Honor Roll for 4 years. Her academic record is stellar with a 3.9 g.p.a. and class rank of 25. With these high credentials her choice to attend Normandale Community College might seem below her abilities. However, Nalisa knows herself well enough to understand that to continue her success depends on a stable personal life. So, she chooses to live at home and make the adjustment to college life more gradually. Nalisa wrote, "I'm the type of person that needs to slow down and ease into things." Her personal résumé reveals a wide range of experiences that give her more social stability as well. Nalisa is in the Marching Band, she competes on the RHS Math Team and Knowledge Bowl. She has volunteered in the community through the Optimist Club. And, currently she works as a Certified Nursing Assistant. Nalisa's English teacher Dr. Bonnie Mueller wrote, "Nalisa has a keen sense of responsibility. Science will play a major role in pursuing her career, and her curiosity about how the scientific world works will benefit her."

Nalisa plans to attend Normandale Community College focused on Nursing or Dentistry



Patrick Voigt

Academically, Patrick ranks 4th in the class of 2017 having earned a 4.41 g.p.a. As rewards for these efforts he won Academic All-State and All-Conference honors in football and wrestling. At RHS Patrick is a seven-time Spotlight on Scholarship Award winner. These remarkable academic achievements are the foundation on which he built an excellent athletic career.

This year Patrick led the RHS football team as senior captain and he plans to continue playing in college next year. In the spring he played varsity baseball for the Spartans. But, it is on the wrestling mat where Patrick excels the most. As a two-time captain of the team he was the Most Valuable Player during those two years. A three-time All-Conference winner, two-time Section Champ and two-time State participant, Patrick led the way for the Spartan team.

However, one of his most outstanding memories comes from a football game against undefeated Mound-Westonka. During overtime in the section semi-final game the Spartans scored a touchdown leaving them one point behind. They went for 2 points and the win using a fake kick for the extra point. Patrick caught the pass leading the Spartans to the victory. This may be part of the reason why Patrick looks forward to playing football in college.

*He plans to attend Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter
with a focus on Health Science*

ATHENA AWARD WINNERS

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 team sports as well as school achievements and community involvement.

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 Grafin	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	2016: Mariah Wendland

DESMOND FAMILY (Attending Normandale Only)



Christina Dejuongsa

Christina is on a rising path of success. In the first three years her grades were on the B honor roll. This year it's the A honor roll. She played soccer, basketball and softball for two years and focused on her strengths in softball as a junior and senior. She's won the Spartan Spirit, and Most Generous awards. As a member of her church she raised her own money to participate in mission trips to Haiti, Tijuana, Boston and others. The director of student

ministries at her church, Jodi Ellingson wrote, "Christina shows courage as she volunteers to do what others are unwilling to do. She is the pillar of success in overcoming adversity." And, Christina wrote, "I want to prove to myself and to my family that I can go through whatever comes my way. Since I am undecided with what I want to do, Normandale seems like a great place where I can figure everything out, especially since I've heard that the resources and professors are geared toward supporting student success."

*Christina plans to attend Normandale Community College
focusing on Communications or a trade*

Naderia Harold

Naderia is a strong young woman who places a high value on her education. She has worked hard taking 3 years of Spanish, AP Calculus and CIS Physiology among others. She ranks #59 in her class with a 3.4 g.p.a. In the greater Richfield community, Naderia worked as an assistant teacher at Appleseed Montessori school, and as a sales associate at Super Target. RHS counselor Sara Linde wrote, "I have watched Naderia grow from a shy, quiet student in the classroom into an emerging leader with a steady presence among her peers." And, Naderia wrote, "I have decided to continue my education at Normandale because they put me first before themselves, and they stretch as far as they can to make dreams into reality."



*Naderia plans to attend Normandale Community College
focusing on Registered Nursing or Teaching*

ATHLETIC AWARD

(Athletics, Academics, and Leadership)

2017 ATHENA WINNER



Kyle Odefey

For the past 6 years, Kyle has been Swimming on the RHS Varsity team. During those years he has won all conference awards and stood as team captain this year. He has competed on a relay team twice at the State meet. But during his year as captain, Kyle encountered the challenges of leadership. It was on a team trip to Hibbing that he found confidence from his teammates. Kyle wrote, "It was because of their support that I decided to finish my swimming season the best I could. I try to be the best I can be and being a leader to others might just make them think the same about themselves." Yes, Kyle's swimming career led him into deeper waters and he not only survived but excelled. Out of the pool and in the classroom, Kyle took many challenging courses, several in the College-in-the-Schools program such as American History, German, Statistics and Political Science. He graduates with a 3.6 g.p.a. ranking 36th in his class. Obviously Kyle is a top athlete and student but he also found his way to the stage where he played Captain Keller, Helen's father in the drama "Miracle Worker" and he played Daddy Warbucks in the musical "Annie." To add to Kyle's artistic side, filmmaking is his personal hobby. For the past three years, Kyle has worked as the Richfield Optimist Club webmaster. An RHS English teacher wrote of Kyle, "He is a gifted writer, a talented film-creator and a solid leader."

*Kyle plans to attend University of Minnesota Moorhead
majoring in Film Production / Theater Arts*



Jordan Skof

For the past three years Jordan's superior academic efforts have earned her a place on the RHS A-Honor Roll. She has also received three academic bars from the National Society of High School Scholars. To complement these achievements, she has won a place on the Academic All Conference roster as well as ten Spotlight Awards during her high school years. Obviously, Jordan is a top student in the class of 2017.

Outside the classroom Jordan played on the Spartan Volleyball, Basketball and Softball teams. In varsity Volleyball she was voted to the Academic All Conference team. In Basketball, she served as captain and was selected Most Valuable Player leading her team to the Section Championship and an appearance in the State Tournament. In the spring, Jordan shines on the Softball field. She served as captain and Most Valuable Player sporting a .363 batting average, .469 slugging percentage and .915 Career On Base Percentage. For these results, she was selected for the Conference Honorable Mention team.

Outside of school, Jordan volunteers at Feed My Starving Children and the Humane Society as well as Me to We.

*Jordan plans to attend Rockhurst University, Kansas City
majoring in Exercise Science / Physical Therapy*

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIPS

ATHLETIC AWARD

(Athletics, Academics, and Leadership)

The Spartan Foundation's 28-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 is not only a top athlete but a leader 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.



Emma Nollenberger

What goes on in the mind of the valedictorian? For Emma it's about creating study groups who can share their expertise in similar courses. These groups can compensate for the loss of a larger social life due to the demands of college-level courses. Emma has earned 18 A pluses, 26 A's and 1 A minus. She ranks #1 in her class with a 4.511 g.p.a. As a cap to these achievements, she is a Commended Scholar from the National Merit Scholarship Program. Outside the classroom Emma was not only a year-round, 3 sport athlete but also served as senior captain both of the RHS Track & Field and Cross Country teams. In the winter Emma played on the Co-op hockey team where she was JV captain. Emma was also a 3 year member of the Symphonic Band and a student representative on the Richfield School Board. Cross Country coach Jessica Okey wrote, "Our team has a wide range of abilities, but Emma helped everyone feel like they had a place and could achieve their own growth and improvement." And, Emma wrote, "Leadership, to me, is all about inclusiveness. A sense of community is what builds a great team or a great school. And I've enjoyed the opportunity to play a leadership role in our community." It appears that being inclusive is what goes on in a valedictorian's mind.

Emma plans to attend the University of Minnesota in the Twin Cities majoring in Engineering

ATHLETIC AWARD

(Athletics, Academics, and Leadership)

Chase Androff



We congratulate Chase on his achievements both in academics and athletics. Chase ranks 17th in his class with a 4.03 g.p.a. He has won 4 Academic awards throughout high school. Chase has studied German for 4 years, most recently College-in-the-Schools German as well as CIS Physiology, Physics and American History. Chase has also studied AP World History and AP Calculus. In athletics, Chase served as captain of Spartan Football team this year, he wrestled varsity in the winters and played baseball in spring times. He also ran baseball clinics and football camps. In the community Chase has worked at Davani's Pizza and Caribou Coffee. Chase wrote, "I believe that being enrolled in Richfield High School as a student and athlete has built me to become a better individual that I'll continue to still be throughout my life."

Chase plans to attend Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter majoring in Exercise Science

Elizabeth Melssen

Elizabeth ranks #3 in her class with a 4.44 g.p.a. and is a two-year member of the National Honor Society. She achieved these high scores in classes both at RHS and through the Post Secondary Option in college. At RHS she earned A's taking AP courses in World History, Language and Composition, Calculus and Biology. She also took College-in-the-Schools courses in Physics and American History. Outside of these courses, Elizabeth served as captain both of the varsity swim team as well the synchronized swim team. In the community, Elizabeth works through Community Education program at the Richfield pool where she teaches swimming lessons and is a lifeguard. She wrote, "In the athletics of my high school career the opportunity to be captain really helped me to gain the leadership skills I will need in the real world." And her swim coach Marc Hamren wrote, "Liz has proven to be an outstanding effective teacher who is great with kids. She truly believes that the students in her class will succeed and communicates that belief to them."



Elizabeth plans to attend University of Minnesota Morris majoring in Biology

TOP SCHOLAR

(Top 10%)

Maxwell Krueger

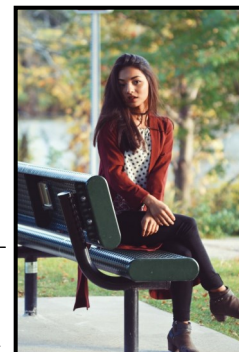


Max will graduate ranked #2 in his class with a remarkable 4.5 g.p.a. He has been on the A Honor Roll every semester from 9th through 12th grade. In addition to curricular honors, Max has played hockey and tennis for four years. In hockey he received the Darby Hendrickson MVP award, the offensive player of the year honor this year, and won the Gene Olive Award for having the highest g.p.a on the team for the past two years. On the tennis team Max won all-conference honorable mention as a junior and served as captain for the past two years. With all of these demanding activities combined with a most rigorous academic course load, Max believes that the skill he has honed throughout high school is time management. He's learned to balance school, sports, family, work and friends. He wrote, "...it is not the easiest thing to do, but through a few attempts, I was able to work out a plan that led me to be successful."

Max plans to attend the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities and major in Environmental Engineering and Environmental Science

Swopnil Shrestha

Swopnil wrote, "Everything I do in regard to my success revolves around what is most important to me: my parents and my passions." She comes to Richfield from Nepal. She wrote that it was a hard adjustment to American culture and language. Swopnil decided to take rigorous courses at RHS. But, in those classes she felt self-conscious about her minority status. She said that she was afraid to speak, fearing the sound of her own voice. These were challenges for her then, and now Swopnil is "one of those students who make teachers want to be teachers," said Matthew Brown, RHS science teacher. She has earned a 4.0 (unweighted) g.p.a. and a class rank of 9th. Swopnil enrolled at Normandale Community College this year as a Post-Secondary Option student and will graduate this June with 32 college credits. Despite the distance between RHS and Normandale she currently serves as President of the RHS National Honor Society. Swopnil wrote, "I want to go into law and become an immigration lawyer for refugees, and one day I will be senator for Minnesota. I will be a raging fire...lighting those whose fires have been put out."



Swopnil plans to attend Macalester College in St. Paul majoring in Political Science and Pre-Law

AGAINST ALL ODDS

(Any Senior)



Evan Ekholm

Evan wrote, “To some kids, sports was their way out; to me, my way in.” Anxiety troubled Evan as he changed schools but being on sports teams gave him a sense of connection. Led by his parents and coaches he became a four year, three-sport varsity athlete. Football in the fall,

wrestling in the winter and baseball in the spring kept Evan focused and anchored in his RHS life. Head wrestling coach Carl Maiers wrote, “Evan’s quickness to learn and his belief in himself, even in the face of difficulty, is an admirable asset.” Evan has also served in the community as a volunteer at Wood Lake Nature Center, the Richfield Marathon and a local nursing home. His deeper motivations grow out of the sudden death of his uncle, a police officer who died in a high speed chase. Evan lost his uncle but also saw his cousins and aunt devastated in an instant. Evan wrote, “I now appreciate how quickly life can change. I’ve learned that in an instant you can also make good.”

Evan plans to attend Hamline University in St. Paul majoring in Criminology or Psychology

Tram Lam



Tram found a quote from Irish author Oscar Wilde that struck true for her: “Be yourself; everyone else is already taken.” This thought awakened a power within her to take on challenges and measure them by her own standards rather than ones that she imagined others to have. Tram has been on the A Honor Roll all four years. She now ranks 20th in her graduating class with a 4.0 g.p.a. Within RHS activities Tram has found success in the Theater for 4 years serving as Stage Manager as a junior and senior. She’s also been in the Color guard and loves being in the Octagon Club volunteering in the community. Richfield High’s Dr. Bonnie Mueller wrote,

“Compassion is possibly one of the most important characteristics for a nurse to have, and luckily for Tram compassion comes naturally.” Registered Nurse Jo-Ann Frazier-Hansen who works with Tram at Pathways Medical Careers wrote, “Tram is a dedicated self-starter who is willing to tackle hard work. Her compassion and caring for others is a great strength that will enhance her medical career.”

Tram plans to attend St. Catherine University in St. Paul majoring in Nursing

AGAINST ALL ODDS

(Technical College/Community College)



Martin Gana Hernandez

As a senior this year Martin chose to challenge himself academically by taking two College-in-the-Schools courses. His motivations for these challenges come from deep inside. His uncles and his mother see him as a hope that they lost and pray for him to make it come true – stay in school and go to college. Martin wrote, “As a boy most nights I stayed up late waiting for my mom to get home from work because that’s the only time I would see her. It meant the world to me even if it was dark and I only heard her footsteps. I could sleep

knowing she was safe. In the daytime, I could have been in the streets doing bad things but I have bigger dreams. I believe that obstacles are here to pass and make you stronger, they aren’t here to stay.” Martin played soccer for three years and was voted ‘Most Improved.’ His coach Mike Harris wrote, “What impresses me most about Martin is his ability to overcome failure and provide leadership to others. He is an amazing kid.”

Martin plans to attend Dakota County Technical College focusing on becoming an Automotive Technician with an interest in Sport Science.

Mariela Jara

Mariela has dreamed and wondered what she will become. She looked at being a doctor, a lawyer or even an astronaut. But, in her sophomore year she asked herself, ‘What am I passionate about?’ This led her to exploring being a marine biologist, then a veterinarian. In this her senior year she found that she loved working with children. Today she dreams of being a pediatrician. She studied 4 years of Spanish, this year at the College in the Schools level. Mari currently has earned a 3.37 g.p.a. with a 63 class ranking. Outside these academic strengths, Mari has won the RHS varsity volleyball MVP award and is very active the Octagon Club as well as working at the YMCA. RHS teacher Kim Niederluecke wrote, “I have seen Mari grow and mature into a thoughtful conscientious young adult. She has found a way to creatively design a unique path through her years as a student at RHS.” And now Mariela stands on the threshold of her dreams.



Mariela plans to attend Minneapolis Community and Technical College majoring in Liberal Arts

AGAINST ALL ODDS

(First Generation College)

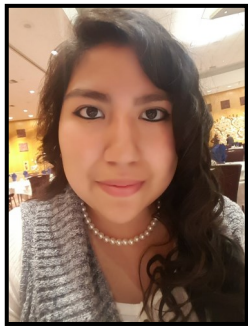
Antonio Maddox

Antonio sees obstacles as motivators. Early in his life, his parents moved apart and away leaving Antonio and his sister with his grandmother and aunt. When the financial demands grew as Antonio and his sister grew, they moved apart and soon the Mingo family of Richfield opened their doors and hearts to these youngsters. Today, Antonio can look back at the shaky foundation of his early years and be thankful for the care and guidance given to him and his sister. During his years at RHS he found success as a two-time letterman in both football and track. He is a three-time letter winner in basketball and was selected to the first team all-conference. In addition, Antonio is a four-time Spotlight on Scholarship award winner. His social studies teacher, Courtnee Floback wrote, "Antonio has great diligence and character in the face of great personal adversity. His devotion to success is evident in all that he does by 'walking the walk and talking the talk.'" Antonio wrote, "God has made a way for me."



Antonio plans to attend Valley City State University in North Dakota majoring in Sports Management

Yesenia Salazar



Yesenia has won a Presidential Scholarship based both on her academic success and her broad involvement in Richfield High School. As a member of the National Honor Society, she ranks 38th in the class of 2017 and has taken many of the most challenging courses including College-in-the-Schools Physics, Statistics and Political Science. Yesenia also won the Rose Rees Award this year for her activity in the Greater Minneapolis efforts that promote world peace and improved international relations. She is serves as a

tutor for students learning English and basic algebra. Dr. Nikki Schiffler, RHS English department chair wrote, "Yesina is a strong member of Dare 2B Real in our school and she is not silent on social issues that need to be addressed."

Yesenia wrote, "My mother and father have been the source of my strength and perseverance. My sisters have been the source of my determination, and my community in and out of school have been the source of my focus and passion."

Yesenia plans to attend St. Catherine University in St. Paul majoring in Nursing

AGAINST ALL ODDS

(Any Senior)

Daisy Montano-Aguilar

Daisy wrote, "My father has been one of my role models since I was very young. He has taught me to always persevere, no matter how big the problem is." So, when Daisy's father passed away two years ago while her family was visiting relatives in San Pedro Tultepec, Mexico, it was an earthquake to them. Since then, Daisy has taken her father's advice to heart. She has maintained a 3.4 g.p.a in and ranks 64th in her class. Daisy has been involved in a program called Genesys Works that trains selective high school seniors intensive Technology skills. Here she is also learning about being a professional. She was 1st place winner in the Urban Regional Economics Challenge and volunteered in the Church of the Assumption. She has also worked for LifeTouch Studios and is a team member at the YMCA in Edina working with younger children. It is safe to say that Daisy's father would approve of her perseverance.



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

Jacqueline Sanchez Vidal



Assistant Principal, Teresa Rosen wrote about Jacqueline: "Her organization, determination and work ethic in the classroom are models for other students to follow. She is a very conscientious student always doing quality work."

Athletically, Jacqueline competes in soccer, basketball and track winning several varsity letters. She was selected as soccer captain both in her junior and senior years. She has earned a 3.6 g.p.a. ranking 49th in her class. Her love of soccer began at 9 years old. A few years later she found herself standing in goal for the Varsity Spartans as a freshman. Next year she won all-conference honorable mention. As a junior she won all-conference goal keeper. An ankle injury in

her senior year interfered with her dream of all-state. But, during the setback she said, "The lesson I learned was that if you don't work for things, they won't be handed to you free. In college I will work harder than ever. I will never fail again."

Jacqueline plans to attend Aurora University in Illinois majoring in Human Biology and Spanish

AGAINST ALL ODDS

(Any Senior)

Chatovanaya Walters



Chay's path that led to being the 2017 RHS Homecoming Queen traveled from Inver Grove Heights to faraway Jamaica and then to Richfield. Even though her family was torn apart by deportation and big moving trucks, Chay's parents' devotion to her education brings her to this honored place of scholarship today. Chay wrote that she used school work as

a way to escape her problems. In addition to taking courses in College-in-the-Schools, Statistics, Physiology, Political Science and African-American Male and Female Relationships, Chay played on the RHS basketball team, was head director of her church's youth choir, and was student leader of the year in the AVID program. She has also been a Girl Scout since second grade, and is a member of the National Honor Society. This year she is vice president of Student Government and serves as an aide in the U.S. Congress House of Representatives. Chay's path in life began with twists and turns over which she had no control, but her talents will blaze ones ahead that she will choose for herself.

Chay plans to attend DePaul University in Chicago majoring in criminal justice or psychology

Alexis White

Alexis is determined to grow through hard work and learning from mistakes. She gives credit to her grandmother and her siblings who inspire her to use what you learn to help you grow. In younger years Alexis faced an unstable home life and being bullied at school. But a deeper, stronger voice inside her overcame these forces. Then, her grandmother talked to her about going to college and Alexis listened. At RHS she studied German for 3 years, took pre-calculus and chemistry. Today her g.p.a. is 3.4 and ranks number 65 in her class. Her art work has shown at Normandale Community College and she volunteers and Elder Homestead as well as working a job at Michaels in Richfield. Her dimmer past has changed into a brighter future.

Alexis plans to attend Hamline University in St. Paul majoring in Physics



AGAINST ALL ODDS

(First Generation College)

Hannia (Sharon) Amegee



Sharon won the Presidential Award for Academic Achievement and is the Vice President of National Honor Society. She is also a tutor for students in the AVID program. These achievements have their roots in struggle. Born in Togo on the coast of West Africa, Sharon's family split, some remaining there when the army came to their houses and some fled. That is when she lost faith in God. After living in Ghana for eight years, she later enrolled in Richfield Middle school as a 7th grader. Embarrassed by her accent, she learned English as fast as she could. She borrowed pencils from classmates to create conversation.

Sharon focused her energies and took top level courses in Physics, Statistics and Political Science. She will graduate with a 3.5 g.p.a. ranking #53 in her class. Theresa Rosen, RHS assistant principal wrote, "Sharon is self-directed, competent, hard-working and able to direct others. I have the highest regard for her." Today, she stands before you on the threshold of her future.

Sharon plans to attend the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities pursuing a major in pre-medicine

Kidist Kika

As a shy girl from Ethiopia, she spoke no English and was terrified of school. But she was determined. At age 14, Kidist was asked, "Can you make a difference in the world?" No, she thought. She learned to read at grade level by 6th grade, but the last thing she thought about was making a difference in the world. She focused on earning top grades for the Honor Roll and being a good volleyball player for four years. Then came a program called Students Today, Leaders Forever where she learned the power of serving others as a volunteer. Since then she has volunteered for the Richfield Art Commission and worked at Value Village for ARC as well as Upward Bound, and Breakthrough Twin Cities. During all these efforts, she played volleyball throughout high school. Kidist's confidence grew and she now will graduate with a 3.67 g.p.a. ranking 45th in her class of 2017 and works toward making a difference in the world.



Kidist plans to attend the University of Minnesota in Duluth majoring in Pre-Pharmacy