

D E C E M B E R 2 0 2 2 / J A N U A R Y 2 0 2 3

Riverside Public Schools

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<http://www.riversideps.org>

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**RIVERSIDE PUBLIC
SCHOOL**

Cedar Rapids, NE | Spalding, NE

Please refer to the Riverside website at www.riversideps.org for updated calendars, live feeds, news, and much more!

**From all of us here at
RPS, we wish you and
your families the happiest
of holidays and all the
best in 2023!**

Riverside Public School



Home of the Chargers



From the Desk of the Superintendent

By Ms. Stephanie Kaczor

From the Desk of the Superintendent

Ms. Stephanie Kaczor

Hello Winter

In the past few weeks, we have welcomed several cold and windy days that give us a warning that winter weather is near. Having to determine late starts and early dismissals is in our near future. On the occasion that inclement weather could cancel or postpone a school day, families will continue to be notified by our Riverside notification system where you receive a phone call or text message. If your phone number has changed since the start of the school year, please call the school office. Information will also be posted on our Facebook page and on all major television stations. Our decisions will always be based on the best interest and safety of our staff, students, and families.

Riverside Ward Changes from the Election

The Riverside Board of Education is currently composed of two wards: Ward 1 is made up of representation from the original Cedar Rapids school district with 5 members. Ward 2 representation includes 4 members from the original Spalding Public school district.

Members	Term Exp.	Ward
Pres. Brian Swerczek	2024	1
V. Pres. Karen Penne	2024	1
Sec. Kallen Ryan	2022	1
Treas. James Molt	2024	2
Terry Glesinger	2024	2
Dan Ray	2024	2
Dee Schalk	2022	1
Tom McPhillips	2022	1
Chris Slevin	2022	2

This past November, on election day, voters at the polls approved the removal of wards within the Riverside district. This will take effect at the 2024 election. At that time, Riverside district will be one district where all registered voters can vote for all board member openings, not just those from their ward. This also means, starting in 2024, anyone from the entire district can run for the board of education. You no longer have to run for a board seat in the ward where you reside.

Important upcoming calendar reminders

New changes to draw to your attention:

- December 12– Holiday concert for HS and elementary students at the CR site
- December 19– Holiday concert for MS and elementary students at the SP site
- December 21– PK-12 last day of 1st semester with a normal dismissal
- December 22– Make up day 8 AM-1 PM for students who have incomplete work or behavior referrals
- December 23-27– NSAA Sports moratorium (no practices or students allowed in the gyms)
- January 5– Classes resume for all PK-12 students at the regular time.
- January 16– NO SCHOOL DAY for PK-8 students due to staff in-service. It will be a normal school day for 9-12 students.
- January 30– NO SCHOOL DAY for PK-8 students due to staff in-service. It will be a normal school day for 9-12 students.

Riverside Committees

To stay in compliance with Rule 10 all public schools must have a variety of committees that serve the school. These committees meet regularly and help to maintain a safe and orderly school that follows the rules and regulations set forth by the Nebraska Department of Education and the Federal Government. To be in compliance each school must have a Continuous School Improvement Team (CIP), Safety Team, Crisis Team, Wellness Committee, Threat Assessment Team, and an American Civics Committee. These different committees are designated to focus on different facets of our school system, but ultimately work together to provide a safe and educational environment for all our stakeholders.

The Continuous Improvement Team is the steering committee in the school improvement process. This committee guides the planning, implementation, evaluation, and renewal of continuous school improvement activities to meet local and state goals and priorities. The main goal of the process is to improve student learning. It is a continuous process that encompasses the idea that improvement does not have a starting and stopping point, but is ongoing. The process is looked at every five years by an external team that reviews the progress and provides written recommendations.

Safety and Security Team: The Riverside School Safety and Security Committee includes representatives of staff, parents, and the community. The committee meets at a minimum annually to prepare and/or review safety and security plans and procedures, including emergency plans and procedures. The four standards of the Safety and Security team are as follows:

- 1) Prevention: Aimed at preventing incidents
- 2) Preparedness: Targeted at limiting incident casualties, destruction, and chaos
- 3) Response: Intended planning to respond to an incident
- 4) Recovery: Designed actions to return the climate

Threat Assessment Team: The Riverside Public Schools Threat Assessment team promotes a safe school environment that focuses on the prevention of concerning situations to maximize the safety of our school. The Threat Assessment Team evaluates whether situations or behaviors are a threat to the safety of individuals or the school. The team determines if those behaviors exhibited are concerning and of low, moderate, or high concern of targeted violence occurring toward others or oneself. Threat Assessment is a key preventive measure to assess the credibility of a threat and manage that threat.

Crisis Team: The Riverside Public School's Crisis Team is responsible for implementing the response plan at the time of a crisis. The Crisis Team communicates and manages a crisis situation, as well as, implements recovery plans post-crisis.

Wellness Committee: The Wellness Committee is staff, board, and community members. The committee meets annually to discuss compliance with the local wellness policy. The committee focuses on creating an educational environment that promotes the physical and mental health and wellness of all stakeholders.

The Committee on American Civics: The Riverside Committee of American Civics is staff and board members and work together to promote the teaching of American History and Government in school. They hold no fewer than two public meetings annually, at least one when public testimony is accepted, and work at making sure our school system is meeting the statutory responsibilities of Nebraska School Law 79-724.

Social/Emotional/Behavioral/Learning (SEBL) Committee: The Riverside Public Schools SEBL Committee is composed of trained teachers that promote building knowledge, capacity, and increased support for SEBL/Mental Health supports for staff and students. They promote and implement resources to promote a positive school climate and student/staff well-being.

Data

The 2021-2022 Nebraska Department of Education state data has been released and **Nebraska scored well**, especially when compared to other states. These results are a testament to the dedication and perseverance of our educators, students, and families. No other state scored higher than Nebraska in fourth-grade math. Only one state scored higher in eighth-grade math. Only three states outscored Nebraska in fourth-grade reading and only seven states scored higher in eighth-grade reading. On a local level, Riverside received great news about student achievement growth during the 2021-22 school year in the most recent assessment ratings released from the state last week.

Nebraska students in grades 3-8 and 11 were tested using the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) in English Language Arts and Math. Three levels of proficiency were determined for each student in grades 3-8 and 11 based on test performance: Developing, On Track, and Advanced. The percentage of overall proficiency in meeting state standards was calculated based on the scores of students achieving the "On Track" and "Advanced" levels. Riverside's results are as follows:

Content Area	Riverside Overall Proficiency	State Overall Proficiency Average
English Language Arts	57%	47%
Math	65%	46%
Science	83%	66%

The data from the educational accountability system, AQuESTT, gave Riverside very high marks in several categories.

District Entity Breakdown	Classification (4-Excellent, 3-Great, 2-Good, 1-Needs Support to Improve)
Riverside School District	3-Great
Cedar Rapids Elementary	3-Great
Spalding Elementary	4-Excellent
Riverside Middle School	3-Great
Riverside High School	2-Good

Nebraska's purpose of statewide annual assessments continues to provide comparable data to identify outcome gaps; empower educators, parents, and families with data to inform education planning and decision-making; help evaluate academic programs across districts and schools; and prioritize additional funds, resources, and supports to the schools, educators, and students who need them most.

We are beyond excited that our Riverside students are rated well above the state average in all tested content areas of math, science, and English Language Arts. We will celebrate our success and continue striving for growth from all our students and staff. The AQuESTT report on the classification of schools and district assessment results is available at <https://nep.education.ne.gov/>.

Board of Education

A special thank you to Mr. Tom McPhillips, serving 13 years, and Mrs. Dee Schalk, serving 8 years and will be retiring from the Riverside Board of Education in January. Tom and Dee have participated on numerous committees during their tenure. We greatly appreciate the time, guidance, and leadership they provided to the staff, students, and the entire Riverside Community. In January we will welcome the two newly elected members to our Riverside School Board- Christy Yosten and Ryan Robinson.

The month of January is School Board Recognition Month in Nebraska. Thank you to the 1,700 locally elected volunteers who make up the Board of Education for Nebraska's Public Schools and ESUs. Through their leadership, innovation, vision, and engagement, they make Nebraska a better place to live.

A special thank you to our Riverside Public School's Board of Education for your dedicated service and support to our students, staff, families, and patrons of the Riverside District!

Nebraska School Board Appreciation Month

Dan Ray, Brian Swerczek, Kallen
Ryan, Tom McPhillips, Jim Molt,
Chris Slevin, George Glesinger,
Karen Penne, Dee Schalk



President: Brian Swerczek, Vice President: Karen Penne,
Secretary: Kallen Ryan, Treasurer: Jim Molt, Dan Ray, Chris Slevin
Terry Glesinger, Tom McPhillips, Dee Schalk

Training Offered to the Riverside Community

CRAKE

(Civilian Response to Active Killing Events)

Riverside will be hosting a training/seminar provided by the Nebraska State Patrol on December 22nd at 1:00 PM in the Cedar Site main gym. This training is open to the general public and for students in grades 6-12 only if parents accompany them as this is a no-school day for Riverside. It is intended to help participants better react to an active shooter or an active attacker. It is intended to teach participants general strategies to reduce the chances of injury and increase their chances of survival. The training/seminar lasts 60-90 minutes.

Blood Drive

The Riverside Public School hosted an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Wednesday, November 16th in the main gym of the school. Students and advisors from Student Council, FFA, FBLA and National Honor Society sponsored the drive. Many people came to give blood with 60 whole productive units being collected. The goal for the day was 60 units.

The following people came to give blood and we thank them for their time and efforts: Brian Cornwell, Larry Miller, Holly Carraher, Carol Ryckman, Ryan Seamann, Dean Seamann, Levi Redwine, Addie Murphy, Mark VanDeWalle, Carol Towey, Diane Buettner, Maddie Thober, Brenda Frey, Lee McPhillips, Karen Hargadine, Robert Ballweg, Sammi Molt, Shelli Swerczek, LaTravia Dobson, Dalton Rankin, Lisa Hamling, Amber Armatys, Terry Brown, Thomas Schule, Carol Haschke, Chet Dodds, Diane Martinsen, Doris Bourn, Emma Loeffler, Paul Haschke, Allison Rankin, Malisa Ragar, Kyle Berger, Mitch Glessinger, Nanda Armatys, Nicole Rutten, Steve VanDeWalle, Elizabeth Keehn, Steve Karmann, and Elizabeth Greger.

Students that helped call, worked at the head table, helped in the canteen or made sandwiches were Kayce Martinsen, Emma Rankin, Maria Moseman, Ashtyn Heikes, Maddie Thober, Damein Roan, Jack Molt, Marissa Langer, Colton Bernt, Lily Metz, Averi Fulton, David Lozano, Kaimyn Rutten and Sadie Baldwin. The advisors and teachers that supervised and organized were Tiffany Holka, Calen Choyeski, Lacey Berger and Lisa Hamling.

Thank you to the Riverside Community for another wonderful blood drive. The next Riverside Community blood drive will be January 13, 2023 in Spalding at the city auditorium.

The next community drive will be February 10, 2023 at the Parish Center in Cedar Rapids. Hope to see you there!

Math Day

On November 17, 2022, students from Riverside High School attended the University of Nebraska Math Day in Lincoln. Students enjoyed participating in quiz bowl matches with other schools. The team went 2 wins and 3 losses on the day. Students had the opportunity to also do math challenges and tour the city campus. They also experienced lunch at the campus dining hall. Those attending were Sadie Baldwin, Jack Molt, Damein Roan, Maria Moseman, Aidan Choat, Myles Moseman, Turner Heikes and high school mathematics teacher Lisa Hamling.



Kindergarten News (Spalding Site)

The kindergarteners and first graders are working hard at "Bee'in" good Chargers. Three of the rules we are following in our classroom are: Be Ready-to listen and learn, Be Respectful-treat others the way that you want to be treated, Be Responsible-make good choices. They were working towards a pajama day which happened at the end of November. We also colored feathers on a turkey to earn a Movie Day that went into December.

In Math the first graders have learned about place value and now are learning different strategies for addition and subtraction. The kindergarteners have learned about flat shapes and are also beginning addition and subtraction.

In the Weekly Readers we have learned about Fire Dogs from long ago, to not Waste that Pumpkin, it has many uses. We also learned about Veterans Day and the different branches of the service, and then what it would be like if "You were a Bat". We also are very Thankful for everything we have, especially our Families.

We are all looking forward to the Holiday Season and then celebrating the 100th Day of School in January. Happy Holidays to All from Mrs. Ray's Classroom!

Third Grade News (Cedar Site)

In 3rd grade, we can't believe it is almost time for the end of the semester. Time flies when you are busy, and we have been! We are working hard on learning our multiplication facts. Most of us have 2s, 5s, and 10s facts down and are working on the harder facts. Some of us are mastering those pretty quickly as well! In Science, we just finished a unit about fossils. Even though we weren't around when the dinosaurs lived, we can find a lot of information about them from studying their fossils. We can tell what they ate, what kind of skin they had, and the habitat that they lived in. We have some amateur archaeologists in our class who would be happy to tell you all about it!

Spanish Class Newsletter Fall 2022 by Señora Armatys

We've been busy practicing and improving in Spanish reading, writing, listening and speaking. Here are some things the students had to say about the first semester.

In Spanish class this year we have worked heavily on reading, writing and comprehending different situations in Spanish. For example we read "El Nuevo Houdini" for a couple weeks, and worked on speaking in past tense. I think that I have improved on writing in past tense, and reading more difficult words much faster. I have enjoyed being able to read in class and understand what is being said without it having to be slowed down! Victor

In Spanish class, I read a novel, wrote stories, and worked on duo lingo and senior wooly. I have improved in being able to form my own sentences and remembering the definition of Spanish words. I enjoy being able to talk in a different language. Fernando

I have done a lot of activities during Spanish class this year. From reading El Nuevo Houdini to coloring. I have improved by learning more past tense, and just improving my Spanish vocabulary everyday. I have enjoyed how we are doing more things either as a group, with groups, and by ourselves. It's just nice that whatever we do gets changed everyday, so it's not just the same all the time. Mar

In Spanish class, I have learned a lot of past and present tense verbs, and a lot of words that would be used everyday. I have improved at talking in class and forming complete sentences. I enjoy Senior Wooly and reading books together in class. Tatiana

In Spanish we have read a novel. I feel like the novel has helped me comprehend what we are learning by answering questions and talking about it in class. I've enjoyed watching Senior Wooly videos because they are '*muy interesante*'. Margarita

I have worked on the novel and duolingo in Spanish class. I have improved my vocab. I enjoyed the novel and I also like the 15 point talking tests. Carlos

Some of the things I have done in class are improving our Spanish vocabulary. Some of the ways I have improved in Spanish from last year is I can talk and say more detailed sentences in Spanish on my own. Something I enjoyed about Spanish was the Spanish bingo. Cruz

Hola Mrs. Armatys

A few things I have done in class are Duolingo, Senior Wooly, and the class activities. The things we do have helped me improve in class with my knowledge. From the first time I walked into this classroom to now, I feel like I have got a lot better with the language. I have enjoyed the things we do for assignments that make class enjoyable. For example, when we do games such as the basketball game, or even the games we do for duolingo. All these things have played a part in where I am now. AF

I have done so much Duolingo in Spanish class. I have heard "Nugget Up!" so much. I have improved my Spanish vocabulary. David

We've learned about the vocabulary . I've enjoyed duo-lingo and senior wooly. I've enjoyed playing quiz let live. I feel like I've improved talking and speaking in Spanish. José

I have learned Spanish. I have improved in speaking Spanish. I enjoyed speaking Spanish. Horacio

1 thing I've done in Spanish is senior wooly, I think I have improved a lot in saying it out loud. I enjoy duolingo. Roberto

We have learned more advanced vocab in Spanish over the last semester, like action verbs. I have improved my Spanish vocab. I have enjoyed playing the basketball game. Paco

hello Mrs. Armatys

I have done a lot and I think I improved a lot on Duolingo and I enjoyed the bingo and the games we do. Sincerely, Josefina

recognizing Spanish words and speaking Spanish - Tomás

I have learned a lot of spanish and when I first started I never paid attention and it showed, but I have improved a lot over the passed couple of weeks, and I really like the mini games we play in this class Juan

I have done lots of stuff such as learning new words and played games. I have improved on talking in front of the class and speaking more in Spanish. I have enjoyed that I am not frustrated as much because I know a little more. Abigail

In Spanish class, I have improved my comprehension. I have enjoyed doing Senior Wooly and Duolingo. AS

I learned a lot more words than I knew before. I really liked how it was not just sitting and listening. Raúl

In Spanish class we have learned many things about different places. I have become a better Spanish speaker and writer. I have liked learning about all the different places. Jorge

I have learned many terms and how to write advanced sentences. I have improved on speaking. I enjoy doing duolingo. Catalina

Student Work From Mrs. Vandewalle

Junior Poems (following the meter & rhyme of Edgar Allan Poe in "The Raven"):

Sunsets

by Maria Moseman

To find solace at the day's end, one must look to the sun's promise
For to descry the chaos of colors, one's soul can find rest

As the clash of clouds chose to asunder, all marvel in wonder
Humanity, under the Creator's triumphs truly blest
Finding escape under the Creator's triumphs truly blest
Luring dreams as light fades west

Supine Stars

by Lily Metz

Shine may the bright scattered stars in the universe as they disperse,
For they glow brilliantly in the sky on this splendid night.
Thus humanity knows not how divine, to hold close and enshrine.
Must their supine image lie depleting in this awful plight.
Thou ot' not decline the passing of time in this awful plight,
Even if it feels not right.

Growing Up

by Marissa Langer

Do not wish your life away, you will long for it all back someday
Soon on my own, scared to be alone; in the blink of an eye
Never caring, not knowing soon it'd be tearing us apart
How fast we've been growing, inevitably, we've learned to lie
Since we've all been growing, inevitably we've learned to lie
Wanting back time we can't buy.

Losing and Longing

by Ashtyn Heikes

Sometimes sorrow seems to overtake you, wishing for you to break
Figuring out how to fathom this, everything is delay
I wish you were here, so I go to your grave and try to behave
I try to be brave, but I cannot take all of this away
I want to find you, but I cannot take all of this away
Where are you is all I say.

Basketball

by Billy Glesinger

Shooting, dribbling, jumping with the ball, the games are always brawls.
Everything about it fills me with joy. The games are a war.
The games are always a beating on every opponent's meeting.
People we're always defeating. The game I couldn't love more.
Every team competing. It is the game I couldn't love more.
The game I'll always adore.

Children by Colton Bernt

Driving through the center gate, thinking thoroughly with much debate
Do I have everything? My brushes, my boots, and my blower?
Proudly Prancing towards our pen, each animal wants a perfect ten
Into the ring we go, seeking rewards, I am not over
Now it's goodbye after seeking rewards, I am not over
Tears breaking our composure.

Murphy's Law
By Addie Murphy

Sometimes it makes me want to cry, so hard that I will want to die
It follows me everywhere, the shadow of the law loomed
While wanting to prepare, for the outcome I just could not bear
Please let my soul tear to the law I am surely doomed
I do not wish for myself to the law I am surely doomed
In my casket I am fumed.

Without
by Maya Roa

They always tend to hide from reality feeling the best when feeling empty
Always being happy, laughs and butterflies until I met depression
Always tend to be dealing with adult problems only wanting to be leaving
Purpose lacking, feeling empty with no manifestation
Emotions missing, but smiles showing manifestation
Is nothing but aggression.

Dance Team
by Gabrielle Swanson

Set in stance, the routine we've practiced becoming the half time dance
The rhythm of our bodies, tense and nervous showing the beat
Emotions run right before the dance performance: anger, sadness
The feeling of this as the last time, feeling heartbreak, defeat
It's over, it's done; it's the last time, feeling heartbreak, defeat
I no longer feel complete.

Finding Myself
by Kaitlyn Walz

Love is funny in a way that you feel everything except grey
I hate everyone except him; I can't see anyone else
He deserves more than me for I could never be what he may need
I overthink to the point of combustion I hate myself
What if I am nothing what if what if what—I hate myself
Within him I find myself.

Untouchable
by Maria Moseman

I gripped the edge of the porcelain sink in an attempt to try and steady myself. He was doing it again. I could feel my own soul and consciousness slipping away as he attempted to take over yet again. I thought he could give me everything I ever asked for, everything he promised me, but it turns out the devil doesn't bargain with mere mortals. I felt his presence as

he whispered in my mind, *one last time...one. last. time.* I struggled to fight him, but within minutes everything went black. That's what he said every time.

When I was finally able to regain some of my own mind back from him, I tried to decipher where he had taken me. I could still hear him and feel him in my head; he wasn't gone just yet, but I suppose he never is. He never allows me to know what he does or what he makes me do when he has control over my mind, unless he wants me to watch what horrors he has made me commit. I find myself inside a dark, haunting building, and that only makes me want to escape even more. The only windows inside are on the ceiling, which is built of glass. It allows every luminous ray of the moonlight to shine in. It's a full moon tonight. What a coincidence. From what I can tell by being inside the building, it's just one huge room. There are no walls attempting to create a different room, although there is lots of equipment inside. The machines look like ones used in an old factory; I would estimate that this factory of some sort hasn't been used in 15 plus years. Even though I should be caught terrified, I can't help but feel the thrill of the puzzle he puts me in. All I wanted was to feel wanted and have a purpose, and I'm not alone anymore. It seems as though the more frequent these "possessions" happen I find myself giving into this corrupted wickedness; I'm not scared anymore, and he knows it.

As I begin to take in my surroundings, attempting to find what exactly he wants me to, I find a figure in the corner of the room. Although the glistening moonlight shining in the building is dimmer than I would prefer, I can still make him out. The man is a tall figure with short brown hair, and as I saunter toward him I can make out his face as well. The first feature I notice is his eyes. My grandmother always used to tell me, "if at any time you need to understand a person, know their true intentions, look into their eyes. I know many people think it's misleading, but eyes are truly the window to the soul." His eyes were brown. I find brown to be the most unloved color of eyes; everyone assumes they are the most average and boring eye color, but if you look closely, you can find that unique pattern and tint of different color in every individual with those "boring" brown eyes. They're always described as dirt, chocolate, or mud, but, over the years, I've noticed that they represent mixed colors of fall leaves, and when they come in contact with the sun's rays, they look like golden pools of honey. When I look into his eyes, all I see is sorrow and rage. I must admit, though, he's the handsome type; his narrow-angled jawline fits into his muscular body shape. His eyes weren't the only fascinating thing about him though. His smile. It wasn't a smile; it was more of a grin or smirk. The kind that really made you wonder just how many people he's actually killed, but for the couple seconds I saw him, I realized he's probably lost count.

That's all I can process about him before he comes at me with a knife in his hand. I evade his strike with ease, surprising myself, as the devil whispers softly in my head, *I've taught you more than you realize, darling. This man has*

murdered, raped, and tortured more women that you can imagine in ways not even the most egregious inhabitant of hell has dared. I'm caught believing these accusations, and fury starts to rise in me. All about this man is true, and I know you believe. For you saw it yourself in his eyes, his smile. Didn't you my dear. I've brought him to you in hope you will deliver to him what he deserves. What does he deserve? What shall you do to show him the amount of suffering he has bestowed upon countless mortals? This man deserves to die. I know this has become a test, but at this moment in time, I have a feeling I'll pass with flying colors.

The man keeps coming at me with perfect strikes every time. My mind seems to simultaneously know what to do as I find myself searching for any type of weapon lying on the cold concrete floor of the abandoned building, but I find nothing. That was my biggest mistake. As I'm searching, he manages to find an opportunity to sink his knife deep into my stomach. While my mind struggles to process what has just happened in the past millisecond, I'm caught listening to his declaration of power: "I do believe this is your cue to attempt to run, young lady. I've done impossible things your small, innocent mind couldn't possibly imagine, and your lucky self has found yourself stuck. In here. With me."

I'm bracing for the excruciating pain I know is coming, but, as I wait, I feel nothing. A couple seconds pass, and I wonder to myself if I'm just in shock. Feeling risky, I slowly pull the smoothly edged hunting knife from my abdomen, and I can't help myself but laugh. I hear myself ask the man, "Was that supposed to hurt?" The look on the man's face is priceless. I would guess many people know that the devil's main goal is to find what one fears and use it against them, but not many know how to find what they fear. It's quite simple really. All you have to do is find what they value; people fear things because they value them, and I could see the triumph in this murderer's face vanish as I pry his knife from my stomach. This man fears his death, and his worst nightmare is about to become a reality. How ironic considering he killed countless innocents.

When his knife has finally broken free of my body, I feel the non bleeding wound slowly stitch itself up, and I notice just how much I enjoy this: the feeling of the devils' power inside me, knowing I'm untouchable. "You honestly believe that I'm going to run, that I should be intimidated. I have no need to run because you see, I'm not stuck in here with you." I can see the strength he once held in his eyes disappear, and I force through his pathetic attempts of fighting back and pin him up against the chilling, rotting wall, holding his own knife against his throat. "You're stuck in here with me."



My Forever First Choice

By: Emma Rankin

**We were once eleven, now six years passed.
All moments filled with shows, ribbons, and treats,
Each time a breath of fresh air, what a blast.
My feet in the stirrups, my mind at peace.
Life continues, but he remains my joy,
Shows pass, five state champions in our name,
Top five at World's all because of my boy.
When patterns went wrong, he was not to blame,
Each show, he left a grin from ear to ear.
This high state felt like just the beginning,
Daily improvement, oh how I adore,
His warm heart, a superior feeling.
Now older, all turned into memories,
My retired boy put shows to a cease.**

In Memory

By Alexia Staub

I lie on my soft bed as rain pours down
My cat joins my side, wanting attention
She has always been there, stopping my frown
With her and the rain, there is no tension

They tell me cats are cruel, mean, unloving
But she never showed any nastiness
She tolerates everyone's loathing
And she tries to give people happiness

With her peace and quiet, I nearly dozed
She rubs against my face soft and gentle
So I stroke her fur with my eyes closed
These moments are always sentimental

Because she is no longer here with me
But forever in memory with thee.

HISTORICAL EAST COAST

BY MADDIE THOBER

EVERY SUMMER GOING TO THE OCEAN,
RUNNING QUICKLY TO THE FLAMING HOT SAND.

MEMORIES FLOODING ME WITH EMOTION.
SLOWLY TOUCHING THE WATER WITH MY HAND.

TRAVELING TO PLACES WITH HISTORY,
LEARNING ABOUT OUR NATION'S BEGINNINGS.

SEEING THE HUGE STATUE OF LIBERTY.
GAZING UP AT THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING.

MAKING MY WAY TO FAMOUS ARLINGTON.
WHERE A HOUSE WAS BUILT FOR A PRESIDENT.
OUR NATION'S VERY FIRST, GEORGE WASHINGTON,
THOUGH WASHINGTON WAS NOT A RESIDENT.

THE HISTORICAL PLACES I LOVE MOST,
FOUND ONLY ALONG THE DESIRED EAST COAST.





Weightroom

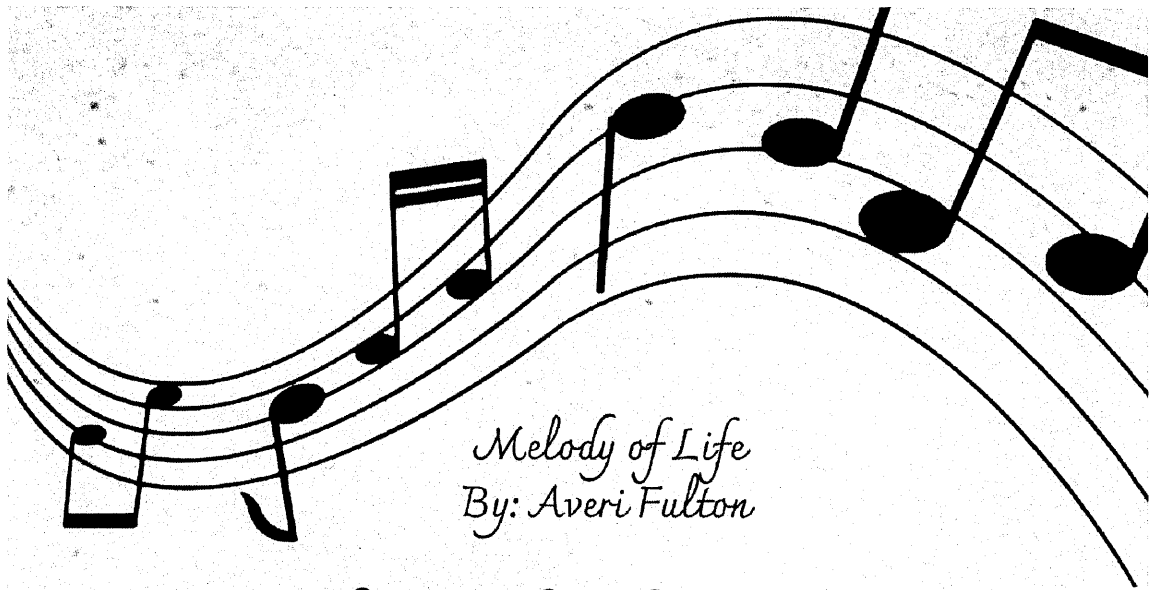
One man's prison, another man's escape.
Working all day and night to be the best.
All this work for a man's mind to reshape.
For the strong minded man there is no rest.

Letting out the heavy air from within,
the battle between man and steel goes on.
but the man beats steel, leaving with a win.
The man fearing he has become a con.

Feeling he had put his body through Hell.
It seemed like it did not want to forgive.
They want his secret, he refused to tell.
He only told them it is how he lives.

The man was able to get in this form,
Because he was determined to perform

by David Lozano



Music expresses what cannot be said.
Setting the mind free and restores the soul.
A way to escape the world seen ahead.
Calming words soothe the brain to gain control.

The music eases the pain from your mind.
A soothing sound flowing for strength to gain.
Clearing your head of everything unkind.
Calming words to clear up the mess and pain.

Having the power to make us smile,
It has ways to carry us back in time.
Brings back memories to think awhile.
In a better mood to keep with the climb.

Always been there to clear and heal your head.
When all else fails music is there instead!

