

VOL. 1, ISSUE 1 · FALL 2023

Richmond Academy Alumni & Friends Newsletter

OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE RA ALUMNI & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

About the Richmond Academy Alumni & Friends Association

REBECCA SAVOY ('22)

Richmond Academy has welcomed people into its "family" for over 100 years. Established in 1911, the school has maintained its academic excellence and exceptional spiritual atmosphere, but has also has gone through many changes. In order to keep the RA family (which includes all past and present students, teachers, parents, friends, and other supporters) up-to-date on current events and happenings, the school board is revitalizing the Richmond Academy Friends & Alumni Association! This newsletter will serve as a way to communicate updates and keep the community informed about the school. Thank you for supporting Richmond Academy!



Is there anyone you know who should be part of the RA Alumni & Friends Association? Send them this link: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/PNo9W0x/alumniandfriends

THIS ISSUE:

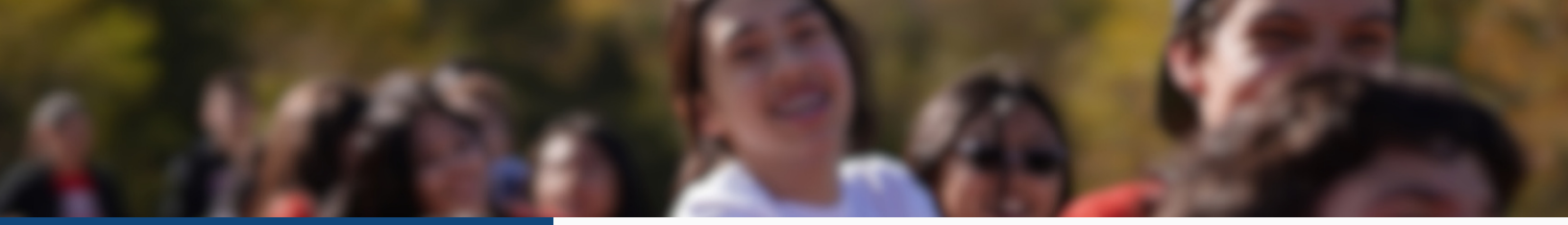
Introduction to Association
PAGE 01

Principal's Message
PAGE 02

Timeline
PAGE 03

Alumni Spotlight
PAGE 04

Upcoming Events/Projects
PAGE 05



"OUR THEME FOR THE YEAR IS **'PURPOSE.'** IT'S BASED ON PROVERBS 19:20-21, WHICH REMINDS US THAT GOD'S PURPOSE ULTIMATELY PREVAILS."

Principal's Message

MRS. ROBIN BANKS

It was 96 degrees on Wednesday, August 16th, the first day of the 2023-24 academic year at Richmond Academy. Despite the unseasonably high temperatures, all 132 students were ready to be back at school. Our first day was full of excitement and opportunities to connect with old and new friends. In keeping with the RA tradition, we ended the day with a school-wide handshake in the gymnasium. Immediately following the handshake, everyone enjoyed a refreshing popsicle while socializing on the playground.

For the first week of school, the teachers had the students engage in team-building challenges and activities. These activities reinforced the classroom expectations and routines. The high school students had the chance to participate in a team-building day at the river that included games, water sports, and a picnic lunch.

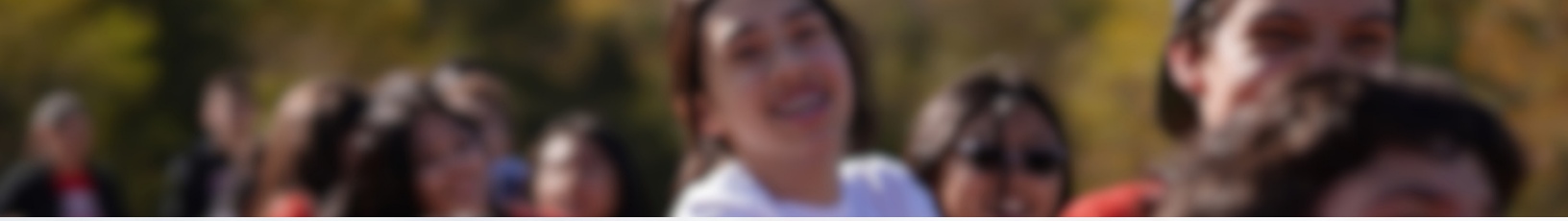
Our theme for the year is "Purpose." It's based on Proverbs 19:20-21, which reminds us that God's purpose ultimately prevails. We are off to a great school year of "Loving, Learning, and Living in Christ!"



Student Association Pastor Angelica Ovilla-Lopez, class of 2025, greets the class of 2034.



First day of school traditions: school-wide handshake and popsicle celebration.



First Quarter Timeline

Richmond Academy has been busy lately! Here's a brief recap of what we've been doing.



First Day

Mrs. Simons' class is in for a "super" year!





Team Bonding

The elementary students enjoyed creative team-building activities.



Marina Day

The high school took a trip to a marina to enjoy the last few days of summer.





Family Fun Day

RA families enjoyed water activities, a bouncy house, and a Kona Ice truck!



Pastors Breakfast

Our local pastors served a delicious breakfast to the students.





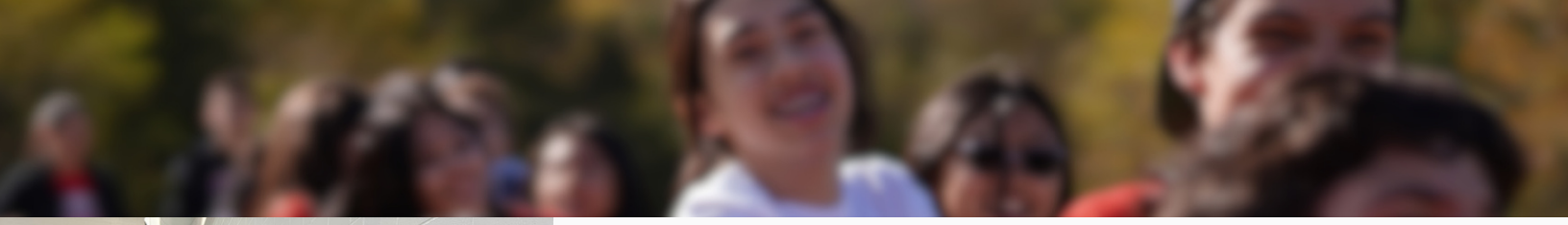
Spiritual Academy Leadership Training

Some of the high school leaders went to Camp Blue Ridge to learn about leading in impactful ways.



Horizons Trip

The high school toured Andrews University, Kettering College, the Ark Encounter, and the Adventist Historic Village.





"MY TIME AT RA HELPED GUIDE ME IN MAKING BETTER DECISIONS IN LIFE BY ENCOURAGING ME TO ALWAYS KEEP A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE."

Alumni Spotlight

AUDREY KRAMER PALAU ('17)

This quarter's alumni spotlight highlights Audrey, a graduate of Richmond Academy who recently came back to join the faculty.

Q: How many years did you study at Richmond Academy and when did you graduate?
A: I went to Richmond Academy from 1st grade to 12th grade, but I also attended the Patterson Avenue Pre-K daycare. I graduated in the class of 2017...the best class.

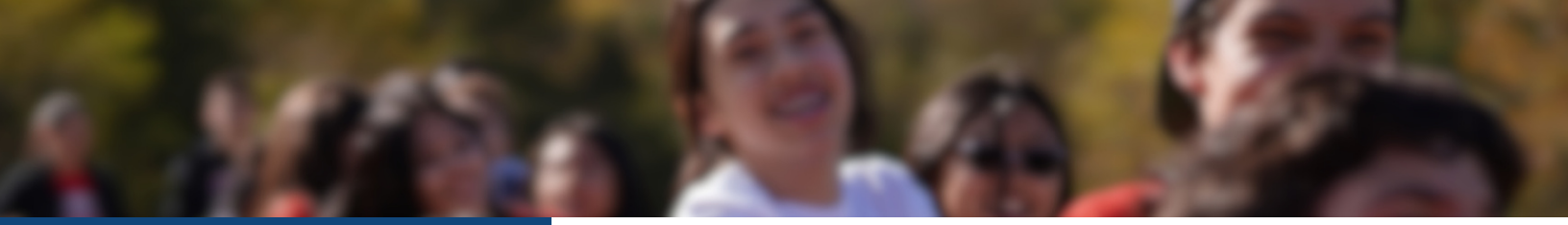
Q: What is something you will always remember from your years at RA?
A: I think something that has become important to me as an adult are the friendships that I made. I know that is not always the case, but to this day my high school classmates are my close friends and that is really special to me. I will always remember all the amazing trips and activities we did together and the memories we made.

Q: How did your experience at RA help prepare you for college and the real world?
A: My time at RA helped guide me in making better decisions in life by encouraging me to always keep a Christian perspective. It also helped me choose my relationships and friendships wisely. I think RA pushes students to dream big and have an attitude that anything is possible.

Q: What have you been up to since graduating high school?
A: I attended Southern Adventist University and graduated in 2019. I then moved to Spain and worked as a caretaker and then became a teacher at a language academy. After coming back to the states in 2022, I worked in transitional foster care as a bilingual teacher before coming to RA.

Q: What's your current position at RA, and what factors influenced your decision to work there?
A: I am teaching Conversational Spanish, Spanish I, and Art. I am also supervising the after school care program. I was looking for a change and was excited when this opportunity arose.

Q: What changes have you noticed at Richmond Academy since you were a student?
A: Of course there have been changes, but as long as Christ stays first, last, and best at RA, it will continue to shed light to the community. The staff continues to do a great job and the uplifting parental support is what makes the school grow and flourish. The next generation of leaders needs to be taught of the battle between good and evil so they will be prepared to stand strong as followers of God and I know that RA will continue to strive for this.



Upcoming Events:

November 4: Student Association Church Service

November 11: Bells/Choir at Richmond Evangelistic Center

December 2: Christmas Concert

December 7: Carols, Cookies, and Cocoa

Dates are subject to change. Check out our live calendar at https://www.rasda.org/calendar/



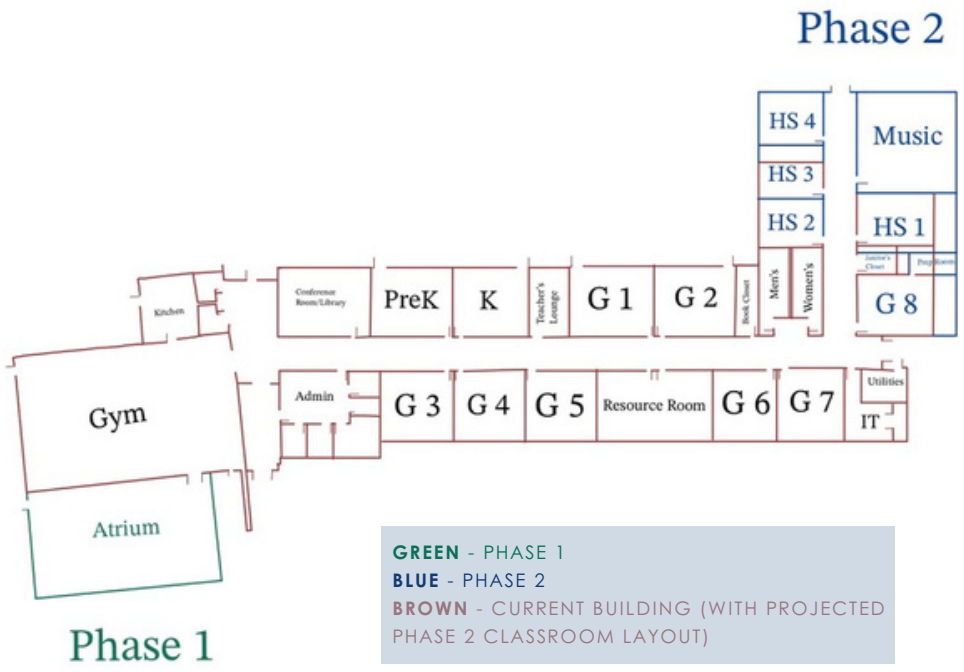
Building Projects

DEDICATED DINING AREA AND ADDITIONAL CLASSROOMS

It is hard to believe that this is already our ninth school year on our (new) campus! During that time we have been blessed with steady enrollment increases and, thanks to our many faithful supporters, the ability to pay off our mortgage. The blessing of increased enrollment comes with the dilemma of needing more space. The Richmond Academy board is planning a two-step solution to this dilemma.

Phase 1 - Dedicated Dining Area - Students often eat lunch in the gym, as there isn't a dedicated indoor dining area. This limits the availability of the gym for other activities and creates wear and tear on the gym due to tables, chairs, etc.

Phase 2 - Additional Classrooms - The enrollment increase trajectory suggests that, in several years, more classrooms will be required in order to provide an optimal learning environment for students. This project would provide for a single room for each class, Pre-K through Grade 8, four high school classrooms, and a larger music room.



We Want to Hear From You!

Have any alumni-related questions, comments, or updates? Contact us at alumni@rasda.org!