

SHARK ENCOUNTER

NO.11
FEB.

STUDENT LIFE

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Photo by Ava Wersinger

STUDENT LIFE

Vocal Valentines

By: Taylor Day

Valentine's Day is an important day for students at Riverview High School, especially those in Chorus. Every year, chorus has students dress in Valentine's Day themed outfits and sing love songs in different classes around campus. It has been a tradition for years and has brought joy and excitement to many. Many of the performers have specific songs they like to perform, as they get a funny reaction or it makes them feel happy. "I like to perform the song Never Gonna Give You Up by Rick Astley because it's just so funny to see people's reactions as soon as we start singing and they realize they're getting Rickrolled," said Cavan Leahy, 12. Participating in small events like these can make you feel great and confident, especially knowing that you're making someone's day a little bit better. "It always made me happy to participate in Vocal Valentines, I got to spread love, whether it was platonic or romantic," said Angelina Arnaez, 12.



Photo by: Taylor Day



Photo by Sara Ramar



Photo by Sara Ramar

The Witches Princess Play

by: Sara Ramar

The Witch's Princess play is a 2-hour long play presented by our advanced theater program on Feb 20-22. This play is about a kingdom being cursed, and the only way to lift the curse is to slay the witch. Although, when Princess Alessandra's father, the king, offers her hand in marriage to the knight who can slay the evil bog witch and lift the curse, the Princess decides to sneak out and assemble a crack crew of the deadliest monsters in myth and legend to help her slay the witch to avoid marriage. However, the Princess discovers the monsters aren't what they seem, and neither is the witch, or the curse, or the kingdom. "The play is a rollicking and wild quest of magic and adventure," said Morgan Hornback, 10. When speaking to the audience they all stated how much they enjoyed the play and how they loved seeing the plot unravel before them. "My favorite part of the play was when the courier brought out the speakers and started dancing behind the fight, I don't have a least favorite part of the play because the entire play was amazing," David Harbaugh, 10. The audience also loved the shocking plots twists throughout the play. "I loved when the plot twist was revealed at the end," Chloe Rutkowski, 12.

Scholarship Field Trip

by Emma Hillgruber

Friday, Feb. 21 marked the 4th annual Scholarship Fair. Students were able to look at different scholarship opportunities, from different colleges/universities. "I wanted to go so that I could really branch out and find new colleges and things that I might not have looked at before," said Morgan Hornback, 11. The fair tried and helped students into finding colleges of whatever they want to take. "I really what to look into FCS," said Hornback. Students are given the opportunity to look into colleges. "I'm looking for anything in a psychology Major or cardiovascular technology and I know FSU and UCF have very good programs for that," said Alli Mckinley, 11. College and Career counselor Ann Griffin hosted the scholarship fair. "The fair went really well, there were quite a few schools that were available to the students to be able to get information and resources from. Some of the schools offered on the spot scholarships," said Griffin.



photo by Sara Ramar

Department of Education

by Brianna Cookson

The Department of Education was founded Oct. 17, 1979 to ensure that everyone is given access to an education, as well as to improve the quality of education nationwide. The Department of Education directly assists the president in creating laws regarding education, as well as implementing the ones already made by Congress. Naturally any of the decisions made will directly affect all students including those at Riverview. This makes it important for students to understand what it is, how it works, and how it affects them. AICE Government students commented what they knew about the DoE.



photo by Brianna Cookson

"I know that it's very, very vital in providing structure and funding to the education system," said **Matthew McDaniel**, 12.



photo by Brianna Cookson

"I'm mostly conflicted between removing it completely or keeping it where it is. States shouldn't be completely unchecked when it comes to education, but it also shouldn't be completely controlled," said **Liam White**, 12.



photo by Brianna Cookson

"Out of 10 I would probably give it a four. For education itself I mean, it was what it is, but I feel as especially at a public high school level it's not good, for a basis of what it could be," said **Preston Davila**, 12.

SHARK SPORTS

Soccer Regional Finals

By Isabella Jolley

Riverview High School Boys Soccer team made it to the regional finals. "It was a really big deal because coming from the team we didn't have the best season last year, but this season we connected. We had a good season and we had a good run," said Felix Rodriquez, 11. Players worked hard leading into next season in order to go the next step. "I think putting more people in the back to better stop the goals," said Anthony Tickles, 10. Congratulations to the boys' soccer team for playing great in regional finals.



Photo by Isabella Jolley

First Track Meet

by Madyson Demian

Track and Field attended their first meet Feb. 11 at Durant High School. Many talented athletes showcased their talents by performing their events and also creating a possible performance record. Brayden Thorpe, 10, said, "I ran a 400, and a 4x4. I feel great and I got a new pr, I hope to pr every meet, although I wish I transferred to the school earlier as I felt that set me back." Athletes tend to get a feel of how the season would go during conditioning, but if the athlete didn't attend conditioning it could be a major delay in their performance. Julian Arthurs, 12, said "It feels good to be back in season, I pr in long jump and I got a lot of support from people being there and my coaches supporting me."



Photo by Madyson Demian

SHARK COMMUNITY



Photo by: Briyana Smith

Fair Day

By: Serenity Scott

From Feb. 7 to Feb. 14, Tampa held its annual State Fair at the Florida State Fairgrounds. Students had Fair day off on Friday, Feb. 14, 2025. Fair Day was all about going to the fair and having fun. Many students went to the fair on Friday. "The fair was fun; I enjoyed the rides and the food," said Oliva Germany, 9. The Fair was all about good food. Many different cultures and sweet treats are sold at the fair. "The Birria Tacos were so good they melt in your mouth," said Nyla King, 11. The fair allowed students to hang out with friends and family, but it can be a rest day too. "I didn't go to the fair, I did skincare and rested on my day off it was really needed," said Tre Smith, 9.

Memorial Story

by Lylliana Wyatt

Following the recent loss of Seth Todd, a student here at Riverview, the school's Fellowship of Christian Students and staff came together to organize a memorial service, offering students a space to grieve and find comfort. The club, known for its focus on fellowship, wanted to bring students together to support each other and find strength in their community during hard times, "Basically it started with a burden to tell others about life, honestly, after a friend passing away that's a teenager. You value and see life differently," said Giovanni Cintron, 12. The memorial was planned by club members who knew him and wanted to do something special in his memory. Their goal was to honor him while also giving students a place to come together, share their feelings and remind each other that they're not alone in their grief. "It's difficult to lose a friend but at least everyone's been helping each other," said Isabella Thais, 10.

While the loss is deeply felt, the club remains committed to fostering, caring and connecting to the school community.

FFA Fair Day

By Makelia Peart

Riverview High School FFA students recently participated in the Florida State Fair. Many FFA students put in hard work all year by taking care of their animals every day to make sure they're in their best shape for the fair. Ava Wersinger, a freshman, participated in the fair by being a Sheep Exhibitor, showing sheep from Feb 14 to Feb 16. Wersinger had been in the FFA program since she was in middle school. "I think that it's a really good learning experience, it teaches you responsibility and a bunch of different other things. It's really educational, it teaches you about agriculture and how important it is, and it's fun," said Wersinger. Savana Bourgeois, a senior, participated in the fair by showing her Market Pigs from Feb 6 to Feb 9. Bourgeois grew up on a farm and has been around Agriculture her whole life. "It just felt like a lifestyle to me," said Bourgeois.

Photo by Ava Wersinger



SHARK HIGHLIGHTS



Photo and story by Briyana Smith and Natalie Ashline

Jenny Sharp is a Spanish 2 and AICE Spanish teacher here at Riverview. “I really enjoy interacting with the students and them getting to learn to work with the material,” said Sharp. Even with teaching a different language Sharp always tried to keep students engaged. “I try to have purpose in all the things I assign or that we do together,” Sharp said. Being able to work with kids is an important part of teaching, Sharp said, “I enjoy working with kids, high school specifically. I just don't know what it is, it's what I do, it's what I like doing.”

New Assistant Principle

By Mordecai Shackleford

As of Feb. 3, Riverview High School welcomed a new Assistant Principal of Student Affairs, Danielle Weigand. Have you ever been interested in knowing what our A.P. do throughout the day?



Weigand has general AP duties but also has to be prepared for any or all events or situations on campus. “My job is kind of a jack of all trades, master of none,” she said, “basically I deal with students on their worst days. I also deal with and try to coach our teachers in instructional practices,” Weigand said. Weigand handles many aspects educationally speaking but, she also plays a supportive role. “I just support wherever I can, whether that's office, staff, students, even the teachers who need support, and parents who are looking for guidance. So, I deal with kind of a little bit of everything,” Weigand said. Weigand was in her tenth year of being in the field of student support and education as she entered Riverview High School. It's important the RVHS community give her a warm welcome with open arms. “Has been great, I'm really enjoying Riverview so far... I'm a month in, and I just have had nothing but good experiences,” Weigand said.

Announcements

RIVERVIEW HIGH SCHOOL
MATH HONOR SOCIETY

MATH TUTORING

Got a MATH problem?
We're here to help you solve it.

Tuesdays and Thursdays during
ALL 3 lunches

- YOU MUST GET A PASS FROM ROOM 406 BEFORE SCHOOL EACH DAY THAT YOU WANT TO ATTEND TUTORING
- EACH SESSION IS LIMITED TO 15 STUDENTS SO PICK UP YOUR LUNCH PASS EARLY!!!
- LAPTOPS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE
- STUDENTS MUST BRING WORK FROM THEIR MATH CLASS

Riverview High School

FINS TUTORING

Media Center 3:45-4:45

AFTER SCHOOL: TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

Great Opportunity to work on Credit Recovery

Tuesday: Math
Wednesday: General help in areas needed
Thursday: College Readiness/SAT/ACT

Student Closet

We are accepting donations!
Donations must be new or practically new items like the following:

- clothing (girls and boys, all sizes)
- shirts
- pants
- socks
- hygiene products
- school supplies
- etc

Are you a RVHS student in need? Let us know!

Items can go to room 235A or the main office.
Questions: Shelley.Hunsucker@cps.net

SENIOR SLIVER LETTERS

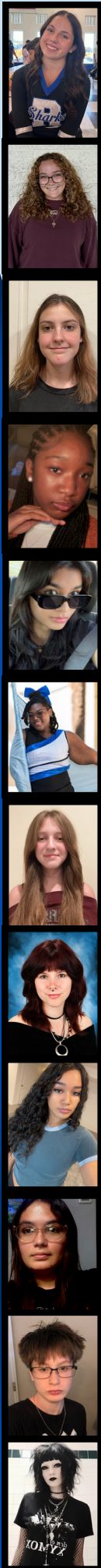
Family and friends can now send notes of encouragement and congratulations to graduating seniors. These will be hand delivered at the end of the year.

- Do not forget to write the students full name on the outside of the letter.
- Letters/ Cards only
- No gifts or monetary gifts

Mail to: 11311 Boyette Road
Riverview, FL 33569
~Ms. Rodrigues
OR
Drop off:
In front office for Ms. Rodrigues (rm. 205)

Due: May 2nd 2025

SHARK ENCOUNTER STAFF



Natalie Ashline is a junior at Riverview High School. She is a former Journalism student and is currently a staff editor of the Shark Encounter newspaper. She is an honor student and a future AP diploma graduate. Outside of school, she has a part time job and enjoys hanging out with her friends.

Briyana Smith is a staff editor for Riverview Shark Encounter. This is her second year in newspaper and her third year in Journalism. During her time in Journalism, she has done interviews and written creative stories. When she is not interviewing or writing she is on the softball field pitching or hanging out with friends.

Emma Hillguber is a staff writer for the Riverview shark encounter in her second year in Journalism. She uses programs like Microsoft and Canva to help make her work. She is in classes such as AP World History and honors class. As a staff writer, she values using techniques and working carefully in order to make sure everything she writes is appropriate and accurate. And when she's not doing any of this she is at home drawing or playing with her two dogs Mocha and Piper and two cats Lafayette and Draks.

Makeila Peart is a staff writer with Riverview high school Shark Encounter. This is her second year in Journalism and her first year doing hands on newspaper work. She focuses on gathering, analyzing, and dispersing news and information around the school. Outside of school, Makeila enjoys Arts of design and traveling.

Sara Ramar is a staff writer for the Riverview High School newspaper. During her three years of Journalism, she would learn how to interview people and how to write and create a story. One year, one of her stories ended up in the online school newspaper. As a staff writer she is getting used to what it will be like to write for newspapers in the future. When she is not tackling journalism, she hangs out with her friends after school and works at her part time job.

Serenity Scott is a staff writer with Riverview High School Encounter. This is Her second year in Journalism. Serenity's role is to take pictures and document stories. She is also in the Riverview Blue Radiance Color Guard. She's in classes such as US History Honors And Communication Technology. She enjoys hanging out with friends and performing at competitions and Football games.

Brianna Cookson is currently a member of the Riverview High School newspaper staff Shark Encounter. She is considered honest to a core as a person and has the ability to properly communicate ideas without causing unnecessary conflicts, which is important to have when writing on current or important events. When not doing newspaper work, she is enjoying art, reading, and just spending time outside and with people close to her.

Taylor Day is a staff writer for Riverview High School's Shark Encounter. She writes stories about current events and is a pensive and creative writer. She has been in Journalism for two years and has improved in writing and communicating with others. She enjoys music, drawing, and taking photos when she is not interviewing or transcribing her work.

Madyson Demian is a staff writer for Shark Encounter News. As this is her first year in newspaper, it is her second year in Journalism. Using her innovative abilities, she contributes to stories by expressing her creativeness on paper. When Madyson is not creating a new story, she is on the field making plays in flag football, or out with friends being nutty.

Isabella Jolly is a staff writer for the Shark Encounter. She likes helping animals and likes to help the earth. Outside of school she enjoys going on walks with my dog, reading books and learning about the government and photography. She also enjoy traveling and learning about other cultures and learning how they live.

Mordecai Shackelford is a junior at Riverview High School. With a past history in writing and graphic design, he plays a role in writing and designing the school's newspaper. In his free time, he likes to skateboard and draw

Lylliana Wyatt is a staff writer for the Riverview High schools Shark Encounter. She is a writer who goes over current/important events around the school. She has been in Journalism for two years, along with previous experience in creative writing. When she is not working on a story, she enjoys listening to music, skating and creating art.