



RCCA GRADUATING CLASS OF 2023

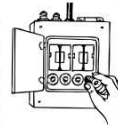
ARTICLES WRITTEN AND PRESENTED BY RCCA NEWSPAPER CLUB
- THE GRADUATION ISSUE -

ARTICLE WRITTEN BY ASHTON BEVERLY



Ashton Beverly has been a student at Ross County Christian Academy from kindergarten through 12th grade. Ashton claims that the teacher he was impacted by the most during his time at RCCA was Mr. Ray; "He has always made learning math fun, and the way he teaches makes even those who find certain concepts hard to grasp quickly understand them". The MADE rallies and the time spent mentoring over at the Brookside campus are among Ashton's favorite high school memories. After graduation, Ashton plans to pursue a degree in social work/counseling at the University of Rio Grande while running cross country and track for the university.

Fenton Browning has attended Ross County Christian Academy from preschool through 12th grade. Mr. Ray impacted Fenton the most during his time at RCCA; "He really helped me to understand math in my own way and showed me how to enjoy it a lot more as well as being a great person all around". His favorite high school memory was getting accepted into the electrical program at Pickaway-Ross CTC. For his future plans, Fenton intends to continue working for the Ross County Maintenance Department.



Jada DeGarmo has attended Ross County Christian Academy from third grade through 12th grade. Jada's favorite high school memory was her first day of Nursing School; She started orientation in October 2022 and says it was super important in her growth and career. Her favorite year in high school is a toss up between junior and senior year. "Junior year was definitely way more fun than senior, but I've learned and grown so much in my senior year. I'm in nursing school and pursuing my dream job, so that tops having fun to me." For her future plans, Jada intends to continue nursing and become an RN.





STUDENT TESTIMONY

Although I was raised in a Christian household, I grew up with two religions. Around the time I was born, both of my parents practiced Islam. My dad's side of the family isn't from the states. In fact, he's from Senegal. Senegal is a west african country that is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean. 97% of Senegal's population identifies as Muslim. For this reason, it's common for students in classes there to be trilingual or even speak four to five languages before adulthood. The common languages of Senegal are French (official language), Wolof, and Arabic. (Other common ones include Pulaar, Serer, Diola and Mandingo.)

This is why my name has a silent "K" even though in the states, the name 'Khayta' would be pronounced differently. I used to be ashamed of my culture because of my name. Although I knew people didn't mean any harm by it, it always kind of hurt when people couldn't say my name right. Especially in my junior/senior year, when people suddenly knew my name when I started carrying my camera with me. So, I ended up pronouncing my name to someone or correcting them on it almost every day (especially with work).

Being a bystander to hatred towards Muslims was one of the things that stuck with me from a young age. I am Christian, but my dad's side is not. I've watched my dad be blamed for 9/11, be stared at for his dark skin, mocked for his accent, and publicly embarrassed for praying to Allah.

WRITTEN BY KHAYTA DIONGUE, JUNIOR/SENIOR AT RCCA ZION CAMPUS

At the Ross County Fair in 2022, I worked the fair booth with my dad. My siblings Posan, Adjaah, and Mohammed immigrated to the US at this time. Adjaah was made fun of for her hijab, and Posan was called a terrorist. Students I recognized from other schools would walk by and call Posan famous black rappers names. Others made ignorant comments about how there was no water in Africa, or how they were poor- but in actuality they saw the US as the poor country.

During their second week in the US, they endured much more, and noticed the difference in how we treat people here. In Senegal, the community is viewed as rich in love and knowledge. However, they described the US as similar to a community that is rich literally and selfish. (Disclaimer: They have grown to love the US and have never "hated" America. They love the states, however they endured a lot in their early experiences.) I say all of this because witnessing these things taught me to be much more thankful for the experiences I've had here. By no means have they all been great, but I want to honor God with my life, and part of that means to be thankful for it.

Throughout high school, my greatest fear was being alone. It wasn't like something I thought about all the time or anything, but it was in the back of my head here and there. I felt really accepted my freshman year by people who I knew well and loved. However, that friend group was not a part of God's plan for me. I had a lot of "healing" to do and my mental health became significantly worse my sophomore year. It wasn't until this school year that I finally became myself.

Along with other upperclassmen at RCCA, I feel like being with four other people every day helped me focus on myself and be more "real" or "transparent" with others. There was no natural competition to see who's the coolest or the funniest. We all became even better friends over time. My friends, family, mentor, and teachers all supported me more than ever before which helped me realize that I can be proud of who I am every day, and that no matter what anyone else may think of me, I will always know not only that I am flawed, but that I was created by God.





Khayta Diongue has been a student at Ross County Christian Academy from kindergarten all the way through 12th as a junior/senior in high school. The teachers who impacted Khayta the most were Mrs. Hambrick and Mr. Ray because of their encouragement for her to always try her best. She also thought Mr. Ray's perfect circles were cool and Mrs. Hambrick's stories about her kids. Her favorite high school memories include all of the drama/theater performances that the school has put on, Kahoot! games during sophomore year, and filming basketball season. Her favorite high school year was her junior/senior year; "I finally felt confident being myself and got to express my passions more than ever!". Khayta's future plans include attending NYU (Tisch School of The Arts) while majoring in cinematography and photography.

Trace Dixon has attended Ross County Christian Academy from preschool through 12th grade. Mr. Ray is the teacher that has impacted Trace the most during his time at RCCA; "He really helps me understand math and is an overall prime example of how a teacher should be." Some of Trace's favorite memories at RCCA include the school mission trips and the school's homecomings/proms throughout high school. After graduation, Trace plans to attend Shawnee State University majoring in biomedical sciences hoping that it will lead to getting into a Med/PA school.



Micah Geise

has been a student at Ross County Christian Academy from kindergarten through 12th grade. Mr. Ray has impacted Micah the most during his time at RCCA; "I don't think I'd know nearly as much math as I do today if I didn't have him as my math teacher". Micah's favorite year in high school is a toss up between junior and senior year; "I didn't really enjoy freshman year because COVID took out the majority of my baseball season and we had to wear masks for most of sophomore year, so junior or senior year is probably my favorite". After graduation, Micah plans to play baseball at Lake Erie College and is still undecided on his major.



Garrett Hayward has attended Ross County Christian Academy from fifth grade through twelfth grade. Mr. Jude impacted Garrett the most during his time at RCCA; "He is teaching a class that is very important in the real world." Garrett says his favorite high school memory is going to be the upcoming Kings Island trip that the seniors are taking after graduation. The year of high school that Garrett enjoyed the most was his senior year because, "It was the shortest". For his future plans, Garrett intends to enter straight into the workforce.



Rylan Patrick has been a student at Ross County Christian Academy from first grade through twelfth grade. The teacher that impacted Rylan the most during her time at RCCA was Mrs. Hambrick; "she impacted my life by showing me how easy it is to just be kind to others, and I wish her the best". Rylan's favorite high school year was her senior year; "I was able to learn how to be more independent, and my limited classes made me cherish what time I did spend learning". After graduating, Rylan plans to attend Ohio Christian University majoring in psychology.



SENIOR CLASS GALLERY





Teacher Spotlight Student Spotlight

WRITTEN BY KAMDYN NOBLE

WRITTEN BY ISABEL MINTON

This interview was done on Friday, April 28 . It was conducted on Dennis Ray, a mathematics and Bible teacher. He was interviewed by Kamdyn Noble.

This interview was conducted on Monday March 1, 2023 by RCCA Newspaper Club member Isabel Minton. This interview took place at Zion Baptist Church, the RCCA high school campus. Minton asked senior, Trace Dixon, a few questions about his experience with attending RCCA and his future plans. Dixon is a well rounded student who deserves a spotlight!

K:Hello Mr. Ray would you like to introduce yourself?

R:My name is Dennis Ray.

K:What do you do at this school?

R:I teach mathematics- high school mathematics mostly here.

K:What is your role at Rcca?

R:I'm a teacher.

K:How long have you worked here?

R:This is my fifth year.

K:What is your favorite thing about working at Rcca?

R:One of the great things is the smaller classes. It's easier to communicate and get to know students and that kind of thing. Plus- the fact we're open to sharing our faith when we feel led to do that...

K: Might I ask what church you attend?

R: I'm actually a part time pastor at Andersonville Methodist Church.

K:Can I ask what is your favorite worship song / hymn?

R:Oh probably "how great thou art".

K: And what is your favorite bible verse?

R:I like Colossians 3:22 which says that whatever you do you do it as if you're doing it for God not for man; and that you're doing it for him. It keeps you on track a little bit better.

Isabel: How long have you been attending RCCA?

Trace: I've been attending RCCA for 15 years.

I: Who has been your favorite teacher you've ever had while attending this school?

T: Mr. Ray!

I: What has been your favorite thing about attending this school?

T: - the Christian environment.

I: What are your future plans academically?

T: I plan to attend Shawnee State University and major in Biomedical Science.

I: What are you planning on doing to further yourself spiritually once you graduate RCCA?

T: I plan to continue playing piano and singing at church. I also plan to continue participating and serving in the church.



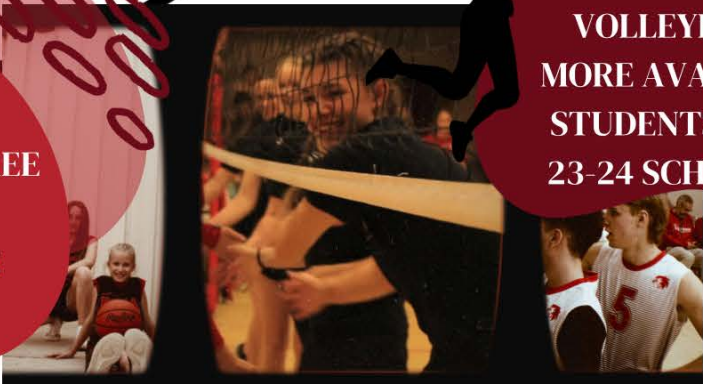
COMIC STRIP!!!!

The Graduation Nightmare

PIECE BY MILLANE BERRY, FRESHMAN



JOIN DRUG FREE CLUBS OF AMERICA!!!



THINKING OF JOINING A SPORT? RCCA ATHLETIC DEPT. HAS BASKETBALL, VOLLEYBALL, AD MORE AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS FOR THE 23-24 SCHOOLYEAR!



JOIN CLUBS! 23-24 SCHOOL-YEAR NEWSPAPER AND DEBATE CLUB APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN!

With the addition of two new clubs to RCCA, we are proud to offer more opportunities and extracurriculars for students. Student-led clubs have been in the works and some are currently in effect. To join next year's newspaper club or debate club, applications can be found in the office or cafe area at the Zion Campus!

If you have any questions, please contact the following:

Newspaper Club-
Advisor, Dr. Josh Cooper
Editor and Founder, Khayta Diongue
rccanewspaperclub@gmail.com

Debate Club-
Advisor, Adam Hill
Founder, Jessie Steinbrook

DO YOU WANT TO HELP WITH STUDENT
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SALES, SPIRIT WEEKS, AND MORE? THEN
YOU SHOULD CONSIDER JOINING THE
23-24 STUDENT COUNCIL!

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ONE SPIRIT.
ROSS COUNTY
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY**

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COMMITTEE!**

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MAKE SURE TO GET YOUR YEARBOOK WHILE YOU STILL
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JUNE 15, 2023!

CONTACT FOR YEARBOOK INFORMATION:
ealgesyearbook@rccacademy.org

STAFF CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS:
NOELLE MCCOY (CREATIVE)
CAITLYN MCKELL (ADS + SALES)
KHAYTA DIONGUE (YEARBOOK PHOTOS)



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AND 23-24
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