

# Ritenour NEWS

A Ritenour School District Publication | June 2014

## Ritenour Celebrates Class of 2014

More than 4,000 family and friends congratulated Ritenour High School's Class of 2014 as graduates received their diplomas on May 31. The graduation ceremony took place at the Chaifetz Arena on the campus of Saint Louis University. The evening capped a year filled with numerous achievements.

The Class of 2014 was made up of nearly 350 students. It was the 96th class to graduate from RHS. Valedictorian Xavier Islam and Salutatorian Taylor Eschbacher delivered the commencement addresses.

Islam and Eschbacher led the 2014 class that boasts 24 President's Education Award recipients, 23 Gold R students, 70 qualifying for the A+ scholarship program and numerous other scholarship recipients. Twenty-one students graduated with Summa Cum Laude honors for attaining a 4.0 to 4.4 grade-point average; 26 attained Magna Cum Laude honors for earning a 3.5 to 3.9 grade-point average; and 50 earned Cum Laude honors for a 3.0 to 3.4 grade-point average.

To help further their education, the graduating class earned nearly \$2.6 million in scholarships, grants and other financial aid.

### Congratulations, Class of 2014!



View additional photos and a video of the 2014 Ritenour High School Graduation Ceremony by scanning this code on your smart phone.

Visit [ScanLife.com](http://ScanLife.com) to download the reader app.



(From top, clockwise)

The Ritenour Class of 2014 celebrates graduation on May 31 at the Chaifetz Arena at Saint Louis University.

Nearly 350 students made up Ritenour High School's 96th graduating class.

During their commencement speeches, Salutatorian Taylor Eschbacher (right) and Valedictorian Xavier Islam urge their classmates to hold strong to their high school memories and to move forward by paving a path of greatness.

#### Valedictorian

Xavier Islam

#### Salutatorian

Taylor Eschbacher

#### Senior Class Officers

Jimmy Dinh—President

Amethyst Dawn Gordick—Vice President

Rebecca Marie Smith—Secretary

Chrissonia Anquinette Melton-Davis—Treasurer



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# Ritenour Celebrates Successful School Year, Looks to the Future

## Superintendent Dr. Chris Kilbride



***"I'm proud of the hard work that occurs in Ritenour schools every day. We have a dedicated team of teaching, support and administrative staff working together to meet the needs of Ritenour students and families."***

***-Dr. Chris Kilbride***

The end of a school year is always a special time. We look back at our successes and look ahead to continuing improvements for the future. I'm proud of the hard work that occurs in Ritenour schools every day. We have a dedicated team of teaching, support and administrative staff working together to meet the needs of Ritenour students and families. As I made school visits throughout the year, it was exciting to see active, rigorous teaching and learning taking place.

There is nothing more precious than the gift of spending time together over the summer. We must remember that children remember more about the things we do with them and less about the things we do for them. Take advantage of every moment with your children or grandchildren and remember to share the gift of listening, which can be easily overlooked.

We are in the midst of a time of significant change and uncertainty in public education in the state of Missouri. June marks the one-year anniversary of the decision of the Missouri Supreme Court to allow students in unaccredited districts to transfer to a fully accredited school district.

As a result, the dialogue among school leaders and the media over the course of this school year has been dominated by school accreditation and school transfers. In this time of

uncertainty, we have worked hard to keep our focus on *Every Student* we serve, *Every Day*. It is crucial to focus our efforts on that which we can have greatest impact—the achievement of our students.

On May 31, we celebrated the 96th graduating class of the Ritenour High School. Students are leaving our district prepared for success in college or a career. Nearly 350 graduates will pursue courses of study or careers that will make a difference. Whether pursuing a two- or four-year college, military or the workforce, our Ritenour students are prepared to lead a life of personal integrity and fulfillment. This could only be achieved through the efforts of a committed staff.

We talk about producing leaders this community deserves. Our hope is for our graduates who return after their study to become the next generation of teachers, mayors, members of local government and Ritenour parents. The ultimate compliment to an organization or to the community is for graduates to return, making a commitment to the next generation.

While it's rewarding to look back at another successful Ritenour school year, we're already busy preparing for the first day of the 2014-2015 school year, which begins for all students on Thursday, Aug. 14. With the continued support of our families and community, I know Ritenour students will accomplish even more in the years ahead.

## Notices and Policies

Each year, the Ritenour School District provides parents, students and community members important information about federal and state regulations. The notices are related to students' rights and privacy, district policies and other educational procedures, including requirements for the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

These notices are published on the Ritenour School District website—[www.ritenourschools.org](http://www.ritenourschools.org), and are available in all school offices. Copies are also mailed to district parents prior to the first day of school.

### Notices and Policies:

- Anti-Discrimination Notices (American with Disabilities Act/Section 504, Sexual Harassment/Title IX and Age Discrimination Act of 1975/Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964)
- Asbestos Notice
- Complaint Resolution Procedures
- Homeless Rights Notice
- Parents Right to Know Notice
- Protection of Pupils Rights Amendment (PPRA)
- Safe Schools Act
- Services and Rights for Students with Disabilities
- Student Records/Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Notice

For copies of these notices or more information, please call Ritenour Student Services at (314) 493-6070.

## RITENOUR Board of Education



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# Gary Spiller: Meet the Other Side of the New Ritenour High School Principal

Ask Gary Spiller to describe himself, and the first two words he uses are “husband” and “father.” Married to Kelly Spiller for almost 12 years, the couple enjoys raising their two children: Kaylee, age 5 and a rising kindergartner, and Bryce, age 9 and an upcoming fourth-grader.

“I love spending time with them,” says Spiller. “Family is very important to me, and I’m very involved.”

Spiller officially becomes principal of Ritenour High School (RHS) on July 1, 2014. Just prior becoming a Husky, he had spent the last three years as principal of McCluer High School and five years before that as an assistant principal at McCluer North High School in the Ferguson-Florissant School District. He also was an educator and administrator in the Los Angeles area and a history teacher at Lutheran High School North in St. Louis.

Outside of family, Spiller is active in his church and is a keen fan of collegiate sports. Mizzou? No. How about Concordia University in Nebraska, where he was a four-year basketball player and two-time NAIA Academic All-American while earning a bachelor’s in secondary education? Or perhaps he claims to be a Pepperdine University Waves fan since he earned his master’s in administration there? Not even close.

“I’m a University of Illinois fanatic,” says Spiller with a huge smile.

But on a more serious side, Spiller

says a career in education has always been his calling. He says it’s a way to give back for the many years that teachers and coaches believed in him even during times when he didn’t recognize what his dreams could be.

“There was Dr. Micah Parker at Concordia who said to me, ‘You’re very smart and a good basketball player; you can be an Academic All-American,’” says Spiller. “He really believed in me, and he helped me to realize that I could excel in both the classroom and on the court. He was very inspirational.”

During his years in the small Metro-East Lutheran High School, his P.E. teacher and basketball coach, Dave Schoedel, was the steady influence in his life. Spiller also owes a lot to his kindergarten teacher, Ruth Brubaker, who followed his entire educational career “telling me how proud she was of me.”

But in addition to his teachers and coaches, there is one more person who rises to the top: Mary Voss, Spiller’s mother and confidante. “She has been my champion – the first one to believe in me, and the person who pushed me to no end.”

As a first-generation college graduate in his family, he knows what it takes to navigate an uncharted path and the importance of a support system. As a high school principal, he is passionate about helping students overcome the fear of the unknown and giving them the



*Gary Spiller, new principal of Ritenour High School, and his wife, Kelly, and children Bryce and Kaylee.*

*Photo by Dinnius Photography.*

skills they need to be successful in college and a career.

“It has always been in me to lead and to serve, to make a difference and leave a legacy for our youth,” he says. “You can’t do this job without a heart-head combination. Students have to know you are in their corner.”

For RHS, Spiller says he is a believer in people over programs. “When we educate with our hearts, we can give our kids a brighter future.”

He is excited about being part of Ritenour High School’s rich traditions, strong foundation and the many possibilities for its future.

“My main message is for our students to continually dream bigger, work harder and achieve more,” says Spiller. “If your dreams don’t scare you, they’re not big enough.”



## Ritenour Board of Education Elects Officers

The Ritenour Board of Education re-elected Gary Stein as president and Bob Young as vice president at its April 10 meeting.

Stein, a member of the Board since 2003, is serving his second year as president. Young also has served on the Board since 2003, with most of his tenure as president or vice president.

Penny Degardin, Tom Drennan and Ruth Greco, who were elected to the board in the April 8 election, were sworn into office at the meeting and

will serve three year terms.

The Board recognized and thanked outgoing director Michael Aitken. Elected to the Board in 2011, Aitken served with distinction for three years and was the board’s delegate to the Special School District Governing Council.

*(left to right) Ruth Greco, Penny Degardin and Tom Drennan, who were elected to the board on April 8, were sworn into office by Board of Education Secretary Michelle Clover.*



# Ritenour's Parents as Teachers Program Continues Serving Young Families



During a personal family visit through Ritenour's Parents As Teachers program, Ritenour Parent Educator Sharon Harter talks about the developmental milestones a mother can expect with her infant.

The Ritenour Parents as Teachers (PAT) program is celebrating its 30-year anniversary during 2014-2015 school year.

PAT serves families with children from birth to age 5 that helps parents know what to expect at each stage of their child's development, teaches parents to be good observers, and provides fun and educational ways for parents to play with their child. PAT also offers free developmental screenings and activities for parents and children to do together.

During the past school year, parent educators made 1,372 personal visits to 319 families with a total of 437 children. The program provided health, vision, hearing and developmental screenings to 546 children at the Ritenour School for Early Childhood Education as well as at area day care centers and

preschools. Bi-lingual services are available for Spanish-speaking families.

Any Ritenour resident who is pregnant and/or has children under age 5 can participate in PAT. Call (314) 493-6240 for more information or to enroll in the free program. Kindergarten screenings will be conducted throughout the summer for incoming Ritenour kindergartners. Appointments for personal visits with parent educators will begin after Aug. 14, 2014.

## Ritenour Names 2014 Hall of Fame Inductees

Three outstanding alumni have been selected for the Ritenour High School Hall of Fame Class of 2014. In addition, Lee Engert has been named the Hall of Fame's fourth recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award.

The 2014 Hall of Fame inductees are:

**William (Bill) Sullins Jr.** | Class of 1956; Retired Vice Chairman of Commerce Bancshares, St. Louis

**Stephen Trauth** | Class of 1970; Senior Systems Engineer, Assurance Technology Corp.

**Glenn C. Westover** | Class of 1964; Retired national award-winning science teacher

**Lee Engert** | Lifetime Achievement Award: Longtime RHS teacher and baseball coach.

Friends, family and the entire Ritenour community are invited to attend the induction banquet, which will take place during Homecoming weekend on Friday, Oct. 10, 2014 in the Ritenour Auditorium, 9100 St. Charles Rock Road.

Tickets can be purchased by calling (314) 493-6080.



The Ritenour Hall of Fame was established in 1997 to honor graduates who have demonstrated outstanding professional achievements, civic involvement and community service. The portraits of Hall of Fame and Lifetime Achievement honorees are displayed in the lobby of the Ritenour Auditorium.



## Mark Your Calendars

**First Day of School (PreK-12):** Thursday, Aug. 14, 2014

**Black & Orange Day:** Saturday, Aug. 23, 2014, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Ritenour High School  
Join the fun with family activities that include game booths, raffles, cakewalks, a parade of Ritenour High School athletes, cheerleaders and marching band.

**Homecoming Football Game** vs. Parkway North: Saturday, Oct. 11, 2014

# No-Cost Lunch Available to Ritenour Families during Summer Break

Community groups in the Ritenour School District are joining together to help make sure every child has access to a meal this summer. Lunches will be available on the dates below free of charge for families living in the Ritenour School District.

Many of the locations will offer fun activities, including games, prizes and visits by the St. Louis County Bookmobile. Transportation to the lunch sites is not provided.

Thanks to the following partners that are making this community lunch program possible: Ritenour Child Nutrition Services, Operation Food Search, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, St. Louis County Library, and New Horizons, Harmony United Methodist and West Side Baptist churches.



**The following locations are offering lunches free of charge this summer:**

- 1. Kratz Elementary School**  
4301 Edmundson Road  
St. Louis, Mo. 63134

  - Dates: June 16 – July 18 (Monday – Friday)
  - Times: 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
  - For more information call (314) 493-6080 or visit [www.ritenourschools.org](http://www.ritenourschools.org)
- 2. Iveland Elementary School**  
1836 Dyer Ave., St. Louis, Mo. 63114

  - Dates: June 16 – July 18 (Monday – Friday)
  - Times: 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
  - For more information call (314) 493-6080 or visit [www.ritenourschools.org](http://www.ritenourschools.org)
- 3. New Horizons Presbyterian Church**  
serving lunches at:  
**Marion Elementary School** cafeteria,  
2643 Sims Ave., St. Louis, Mo. 63114

  - Dates: June 17 – July 17 (Tuesday and Thursday only)
  - Times: 10:45 a.m. – 12 p.m.

**New Horizons Presbyterian Church,**  
9424 Everman Ave.

    - Dates: July 22 – Aug. 12
    - Times: 10:45 a.m. – 12 p.m.

For more information call (314) 427-0841
- 4. Harmony United Methodist Church**  
2730 Walton Road  
St. Louis, Mo. 63114

  - Dates: June 9 – Aug. 8 (Monday, Wednesday & Friday only)
  - Times: 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
  - For more information call (314) 428-6524
- 5. West Side Baptist Church**  
3545 Wismer Road  
St. Ann, Mo. 63074

  - Dates: July 2 – Aug. 6 (Wednesday Only)
  - Times: 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
  - For more information call (314) 429-0865
- 6. St. Louis County Library**  
10267 St. Charles Rock Road  
St. Ann, Mo. 63074

  - Dates: June 3 – Aug. 15 (Monday – Friday)
  - Times: 12 – 1 p.m.
  - Free for children ages 2-18
  - For more information call (314) 994-3300

## Ritenour Elementary Schools Host College & Career Fairs

College & Career Fairs have expanded to Ritenour elementary schools to give students a jump start on thinking about their future.

Students at Iveland, Kratz, Marion and Wyland elementary schools had conversations this year with representatives from area colleges as well as experts from a variety of career fields during their fairs.

The gymnasiums at Marion and Iveland were set up with booths with representatives from colleges such as Mizzou, Lindenwood, Truman, William Jewell, Harris Stowe, Maryville, University of Missouri-St. Louis, St. Louis Community College, Saint Louis University, St. Louis College of

Pharmacy, Maryville, Southern Illinois University, Greenville and Vatterott.

“Most fifth-graders at the beginning of the year could not name a local college,” said Assistant Principal Amanda Connelly. “Now students are talking about which college they might attend and what major they might have.”

Experts from different careers such as engineering, music, health careers, floral design, food service and others also answered questions from students during the fairs at Wyland, Marion and Iveland elementary schools.

At Kratz, professionals from different career pathways provided demonstrations during classroom visits. Students had the opportunity to ask questions and seek a



deeper understanding of five career pathways during their visits with professionals: helping, fixing/building, health, business and creative pathways.

*Marion Elementary students ask a college representative from St. Louis College of Pharmacy about the types of courses they would take, the cost of school, how to get scholarships and what college life is like during Marion's College & Career Day earlier this spring.*



*Renowned U.S. Army Ranger & Ritenour High School*

# Cory Remsburg



Sgt. First Class Cory Remsburg, a 2001 Ritenour High School graduate and honoree of President Barack Obama's 2014 State of the Union address, paid a visit in April to see some of his favorite Ritenour High School teachers who he keeps in touch with through social media.

Although Remsburg's Husky pride still shines strong when he enters the building of his alma mater, the pride from his teachers and current students for his service to his country shines even brighter.

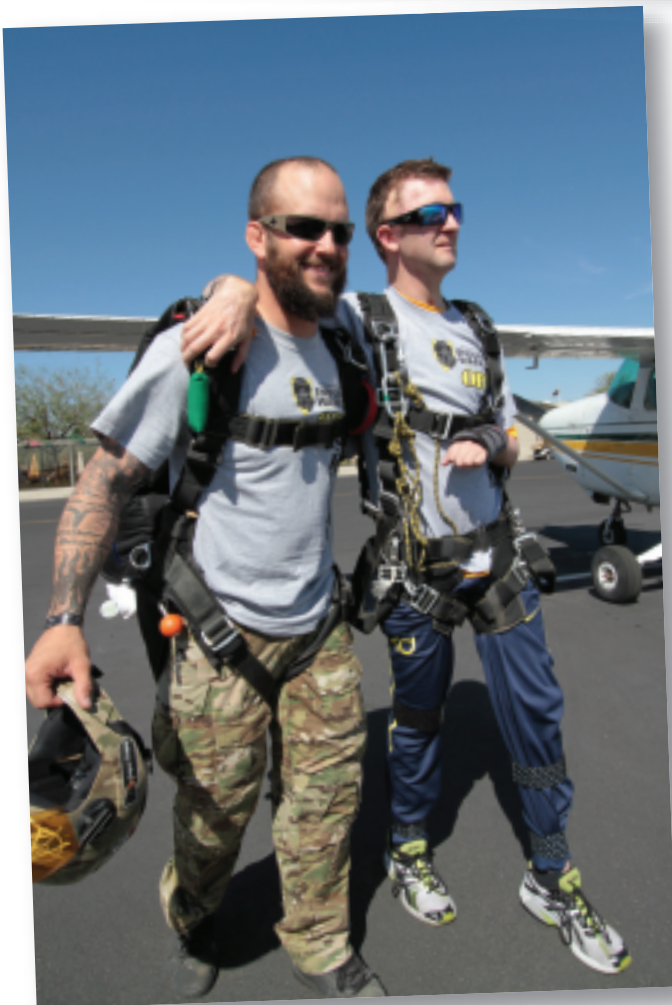
Remsburg has become the face of U.S. wounded warriors who recover in their own communities across the nation. Remsburg, a soldier with the elite U.S. Army Rangers, spent more than 3 months in a coma after being injured in 2009 by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan during his 10th mission overseas. Remsburg and his troop were securing a landing zone for a helicopter when a roadside bomb detonated and threw him into a canal.

Remsburg's journey to recovery has been closely followed by President Obama and by his teachers and classmates from Ritenour High School. After sustaining a traumatic brain injury that required a metal plate and caused blindness in one eye and partial paralysis, Remsburg is now walking more than a mile at a time in therapy and training his support dog, Leo, so he can eventually live independently in his own home in Arizona, said his father, Craig Remsburg, who escorted him during his RHS visit.

Currently, Cory Remsburg lives a mile from his parents in Gilbert, Arizona. Although he lives alone during the day and cares for himself, a parent stays with him at night for now.

Cory Remsburg's busy schedule requires him to juggle two calendars filled with daily appointments that include four to six hours of rigorous speech, occupational and physical therapy, doctor appointments, service dog training and a plethora of travel opportunities for honored appearances. His service dog assists him during daily outings. Leo, himself, is a rescue dog (a mutt coined by the Remsburgs coined as "a Dutch Shepherd") originally fostered by his sister in North Carolina.

Remsburg has become accustomed to the media and cameras wherever he travels, with his most recent interviews with the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *People* magazine, CNN, and the major television networks. He has been the guest of honor at the Indy 500, a St. Louis Blues home game and the recent 70th anniversary of the Invasion of Normandy in France with President Obama. Nevertheless, Remsburg reminds his fans that he doesn't want the limelight to be on him.



# g Visits Alma Mater

“These are all very special opportunities that come up, but it’s Cory who makes the final decisions,” his father Craig Remsburg said in a recent phone interview. “He does this because he wants to convey the message that servicemen are still in harm’s way, and if he can motivate, encourage and inspire others, he feels that this is what he is here to do.”

Although he was escorted through RHS in a wheelchair during his visit, a firm handshake with teachers and students proved the tremendous progress he has made since he started his recovery.

“You’re getting around better and better every time I see you,” said Ritenour High School Band Director Hadley Haux. “I think of you all the time.”

Remsburg was an accomplished percussionist with drums in the Ritenour band while in high school and went with the school’s jazz band in 2001 to play in Germany. He and Haux reminisced about the excitement of that trip before going into the freshman brass and percussion class to meet students.

Craig Remsburg says that the Ritenour community holds a very special place in his son’s heart, and still keeps the posters with well-wishes from RHS and RMS students that were sent to him shortly after he was injured.

Cory Remsburg has benefited from the outpouring of donations from the local Joshua Chamberlin Society, which is helping to fund the construction of a handicapped-accessible home where he plans to live independently near his parents’ house in Arizona. Those wishing to support a wounded warrior organization, can send donations to this organization at P.O. Box 8475, Olivette, Mo. 63132 or by visiting [www.stl.chamberlainsociety.org](http://www.stl.chamberlainsociety.org).



*(Clockwise from left)*

*(top left) Sgt. First Class Cory Remsburg is congratulated by fellow Army Rangers after receiving a Purple Heart and Bronze Medal in 2012.*

*(top right) Cory Remsburg stands with Jerry Nolan, a family friend and Ritenour High School activities director, during a visit to RHS in April.*

*(bottom right) Ritenour High School band student Christopher Green shakes Remsburg's hand during the soldiers visit to RHS.*

*(bottom middle) Remsburg is all smiles after receiving a Purple Heart and Bronze Medal in 2012.*

*(bottom left) Remsburg and a tandem skydiving instructor walk to an airplane for a jump in February 2014.*



# Ritenour Honors Award Winning Employees, Retirees



(Above Top) Diamond Circle Award recipients included: (back row l-r) Jared Martin, Emily Gabrisch, Meghan McNulty, Jennifer Strathman and Becky Hibbits; (front row, l-r) Melissa Wortz, Eleanor Koenig, Stacey Wilson, Ashley Overton and Kristen Chapman.

(Above) Special awards went to: (l-r) Rachel LaFata, First Class Teacher; Eleanor Koenig, Teacher of the Year; Debbie Brennan, Employee of the Year; and Sara Luesse, Make-A-Difference Award.

(Right Top) Jerry Nolen and Laura Conley were honored for their 25 years of service to Ritenour.

(Right Bottom) Retirees who attended the event included: (back row l-r) Charles Swalley, Jeanne Schober, Brenda Eckert, Mary McFarland and Sue Seymour; (front row, l-r) Sue Perez, Carolyn Leeman, Catherine Sieveking, Patti Cloud, Deb Harder and Jon Webster.

The Ritenour School District is proud to honor Eleanor Koenig, an English teacher at Ritenour Middle School, as the 2014 Teacher of the Year, and Debbie Brennan, office professional at Ritenour High School, as Diamond Circle Employee of the Year. The district also named nine other teachers as Diamond Circle recipients, an honor given to teachers who best exemplify the Ritenour School District's commitment to quality education and service. Additionally, Sara Luesse was honored as this year's Make a Difference Award recipient for her excellence in working with Ritenour students with diverse needs, and Rachel LaFata was named this year's First Class Teacher for being an exemplary first-year teacher. All award recipients, including 25-year employees and retirees, were recognized at the district's annual honors dinner on May 22, 2014.

## 2014 Diamond Circle Teacher of the Year

**Eleanor Koenig**, Ritenour Middle School

## 2014 Diamond Circle Employee of the Year

**Debbie Brennan**, Ritenour High School

## 2014 Make A Difference Award

**Sara Luesse**, Iveland Elementary

## 2014 First Class Teacher

**Rachel LaFata**, Iveland Elementary

## 2014 Diamond Circle Award Winners

**Kristen Chapman**, School for Early Childhood Education

**Emily Gabrisch**, Buder Elementary

**Becky Hibbits**, Iveland Elementary

**Ashley Overton**, Kratz Elementary

**Meghan McNulty**, Marion Elementary

**Jared Martin**, Marvin Elementary

**Stacey Wilson**, Wyland Elementary

**Melissa Wortz**, Hoech Middle School

**Jennifer Strathman**, Ritenour High School

## 25-Year Employees

**Laura Conley**, Hoech Middle School

**Jerry Nolen**, Ritenour High School

## 2014 Ritenour Retirees

**Helen Vroman**, Hoech Middle School

**John Dunavan**, District Maintenance

**Jon Webster**, District Maintenance

**Barb Morris**, Iveland Elementary

**Patti Cloud**, Buder Elementary

**Sue Seymour**, Ritenour Middle School

**Deb Harder**, Kratz Elementary

**Valerie Lauer**, Marion Elementary

**Charles Swalley**, Ritenour High School

**Brenda L. Eckert**, Ritenour Middle School

**Sue Perez\***, Ritenour Middle School

**Lori Baker Bolt**, Hoech Middle School

**Carolyn J. Leeman**, Ritenour High School

**Mary McFarland**, Ritenour High School

**Jeanne Schober**, Wyland Elementary

**Catherine Sieveking**, Hoech Middle School

*\*2013 retiree*





# RITENOUR | SPOTLIGHT



*Pictured is the RHS group who completed the Go! St. Louis half marathon: (front row l-r) Lindsey Mahn, Shelby Beile, Keyur Patel, Alexis Steiniger, Anna Schmidt and Karina Hernandez; (middle row, l-r): Louise Haar-Chapman, Taylor Robertson, Halei Rochus, Maloree Khan, Courtney Rogenhofer, Junie Haux, Maddie Stiebel, Jinkal Patel and Penni Martin (back row, l-r): Zach House, Austin Albert, Sunny Dinh, Sydney Grimm, Ellie Preis, Xavier Islam and Erin Batye. Not pictured are: John Rodenberg, Rishabh Patel and Edwin Guerrero.*

- Congratulations to 23 students and two teachers from **Ritenour High School** who finished the Go! St. Louis Half Marathon on April 6 through the Students on the Go! Program. RHS teachers and program sponsors Louise Haar-Chapman and Penni Martin supported the students throughout their training and also completed the half marathon, setting new personal records.

- **Iveland Elementary** fourth-grader **Breanne Stock** earned first place in the 2014 Southeast Missouri Writing Achievement Awards for the Essay category. Her essay was judged against other fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders from throughout Missouri.



- Three schools in the Ritenour School District received high honors from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for their Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) programs. For the third consecutive year, **Marvin Elementary** received the Gold Award. **Ritenour Middle School** and **Iveland Elementary School** each received the Silver Award.

- **Ritenour High School** senior **Xavier Islam** was selected for the 2014 Missouri Scholars 100, a statewide program that honors Missouri's top 100 academic students in the graduating class of 2014. He was honored in Columbia, Mo. on April 27. Senior

**Taylor Eschbacher** was selected as an Honorable Mention student for this statewide program, which is sponsored by the Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals.

- **Ritenour High School** senior **Donshel Beck** signed a letter of intent to play basketball for Southern Illinois



University-Edwardsville next fall.

Beck, a four-year varsity basketball player, broke two RHS records this year. She broke the record for most points in a season (497) and for the most points in a career, 1,428.

- Members of the **RHS** boys' track team excelled at the state level this spring. The 4x100 meter relay team placed eighth place and consisted of: **Marvin Millett, Trevor Hicks, Marquise Maxwell** and **Irving Moorehead**. The same team took fourth place in the 4x200 meter relay. **Irving Moorehead** also took fifth place in the 100 meter dash.
- Members of the **RHS** boys' tennis team took home several medals from the Suburban North Conference tournament in May. **Sunny Dinh** took first place in fourth singles; **Jimmy Dinh** took third place at second singles; **Caleb Bohlmann** took third place at third singles; **Keyur Patel** took fourth place at first singles; **Christian Hurst** and **Justin Merila**

took third place at first doubles; and **Deion Porchia** and **Nesby Moore IV** took fourth place at third doubles.

- Team Duck Dynasty won the cardboard boat races in the **Ritenour High School** pool on March 6, culminating an exciting e-week. Project Lead The Way students who built the winning boat include **Cadice Markely, Ivan Markley, Dane Markley, Trevor Hicks** and **Zach Macha**.

- Congratulations to **Ritenour High School's** successful winter All-Conference athletes.

Girls' Basketball: **Donshel Beck**, first team All-Conference and Conference Player of the Year; **Jordyne Frost**, second team All-Conference; **Chanel Cooper**, honorable mention.

Boys' Basketball: **Crishawn Torrey**, second team All-Conference; **Austin Chumbley**, honorable mention.

Wrestling: **Adewale Adeoye, Tyler Hearn, Uzain Khan** and **Tyron Welch**, All-Conference; Girls'

Swimming: All-Conference honorable mentions: **Hannah Baker, Sydney Grimm, Kelsey Inman, Alexis Maclind, Imani Ray, Sherita Ray, Alejandra Romer** and **Brittany Swanson**.



- **Ritenour High School** senior **Tyron Welch** (above, with RHS wrestling Coach **Conye Ausar**) took home a second-place medal in the 2014 Missouri State High School Athletic Association (MSHSAA) Wrestling Championship on Feb. 22 at the Mizzou Arena in Columbia. Senior **Adewale Adeoye** was also a 2014 state qualifier.



***Ritenour News is published by the Ritenour Community Services Office in the interest of better communication between school and community. If you have a disability and need this publication in an alternative format, please call (314) 493-6080.***

**Ritenour Community Services**  
2420 Woodson Road  
St. Louis, MO 63114-5499  
(314) 493-6010  
[www.ritenourschools.org](http://www.ritenourschools.org)

# Ritenour Students Earn 2014



## Ritenour High School

**Front row (L-R):** Cadice Markley, Alexis Steiniger, Maloree Khan and Andrea Casaretto

**Second row (L-R)** Raina Norman, Hailey Hogan, Courtney Rogenhofer, Linh Mach and Lynda Tolley

**Third row (L-R):** Xavier Islam, Tatiana Reppert, Carly Neal, Emily Waters, Amethyst Gordick and Stephanie Sontag

**Back row (L-R):** Taylor Eschbacher, Tyler Collier, Jimmy Dinh, John Rodenberg and Zachary Clark

The President's Education Award Program, established by the U.S. Department of Education, recognizes and honors students with outstanding academic achievement. The program rewards students for their academic effort and success.

To receive the President's Award for Educational Excellence, students must maintain a 3.5 grade-point average. In addition, they must place in the 85th percentile or higher in math or reading on a national standardized achievement test and/or receive two

recommendations reflecting outstanding accomplishment in academic courses, community service, extracurricular activities or creativity in visual and performing arts.



## Hoech Middle School

**Front row (L-R):** Shelby Langhorst, Alexis Morrison, Isaiah Murrell-Thomas, Emma Norman, Michaela Reed, Reese Nicole Sherman, Bailey Stock, Tanner Voelcker and Billy Williams

**Back row (L-R):** Logan Causey, Kyle Collier, Tiffany Dinh, Madison Gann, Jonah Gleckler, Celeste Gravitt, Robin Hanley, Devon Hutson, Jenna Hutson and Maronda Williams



## Ritenour Middle School

**Front row (L-R):** Jennifer Pham, Lauren Schutzius, Brianne Walker, Destanie Watson, Caleb Webb, Akpedje Zossoungbo and Reine Zossoungbo

**Back row (L-R):** Gabrielle Anderson, Rickyah Blake, Monica Jara, Julissa Gaona, Conor Hines, Janessa Brewer, Dianni Guerra, Kaitlyn Buresh, Emma Carriker, Nicole Joiner, Brandon Cook, Eric Cook and Elbert Myers





# President's Award for Educational Excellence



## Buder Elementary School

**Front row (L-R):** Parker Kopplin, Isabelle Rohlfing, Kaila Anderson, Blake Simino-Smith, Howard Slaven II, , Sophia Jones, Virginia Sanchez Delgado and Kale White  
**Back row (L-R):** Abbie Adams, Kelby Schiele, Isabella Aubuchon, Faith Boyd, Benjamin Cranmer, Trent Hayden and Heaven Quinn-Johnson  
**Not Pictured:** Dilynn Valos



## Iveland Elementary School

**Front row (L-R):** Damien Cottrell, Ian Wall, Morgan Goodrich, Gerald Fitzgerald and Kameron Deweese  
**Back row (L-R):** Luke Vogel, Daonne Wallace, Ashleigh Johnson-Jones, Allyson Deckard and Caroline Slunaker



## Kratz Elementary School

**(L-R):** Nathaniel Wittman, Claire Hood, Mallory Waller, Rianne Sanchez and Alexander McClelland  
**Not Pictured:** Darrell Bishop Jr. and Stephen Carpenter



## Marion Elementary School

**Front row (L-R):** Kaitlyn Lacavich, Demetrius Lee, Garrett Ratcliff, Tyler Strong, Emma Gaither, Ethan Young and Belarmino Garcia  
**Back row (L-R):** Catherine Aston, Avy Adams-Perry, Addison Barker, Alexander Friedhoff-Hartley, Danelle Wells, Joseph Williams and Brian Hansen Jr.



## Marvin Elementary School

**Front row (L-R):** Chevi Krafft, Madison Secrease, Toni Taylor, Daniel Guffey-Shands, Ryan Holtgrave, Omarien Johnson and Mekhi Wingo  
**Back row (L-R):** Jaiden Drummer, Devin Elkins, Samia Fouche, Kimberly Teoli, Jesse Uebinger, Logan Vance and Kamaryn Kirk



## Wyland Elementary School

**Front row (L-R):** Peter Tran, Samuel Watkins, Jordan Williams, Steven Wilson, Henry Yu and Emma Finnegan  
**Middle row (L-R):** Tylor Krieger, Maxine Bee, Morgan Overbey, Justin Pagayonan, James Rudisill Jr. and Angelica Stumpe  
**Back row (L-R):** Hasset Asfaw, Maxine Bee, Crystal Berri, Sophie Biddle, Isabella Crawford-Greer, Sean Cullen, Annabella Duong  
**Not Pictured:** Ariel Nelson and James Kessel



## Ritenour High School Seniors Recognized for 4.0 Grade Point Average

Nineteen members of the Ritenour High School class of 2014 had a grade point average of 4.0 or better for seven consecutive semesters. That means the students have carried an “A” average throughout their entire high school career. The students were honored at a special luncheon in May where they shared their college plans for next fall.



**Front row (L-R):** Ritenour Superintendent Dr. Chris Kilbride; Rebecca Smith (William Woods College); Andrea Casaretto (Simpson College - Iowa); Maloree Khan (University of Missouri-Columbia); **Second row (L-R):** Alexis Steiniger (University of Missouri-St. Louis or Maryville University); Raina Norman (St. Charles Community College); Candice Markley (St. Charles Community College); Courtney Rogenhofer (Maryville University); **Third row (L-R):** Xavier Islam (University of Pennsylvania); Zachary Clark (University of Missouri-St. Louis); Hailey Hogan (St. Charles Community

College); Danielle Yalli (University of Missouri-St. Louis); Stephanie Sontag (University of Kansas); Elisee Blayi (Washington University in St. Louis); **Back row (L-R):** Carley Neal (Missouri University of Science & Technology); Tyler Collier (Missouri University of Science & Technology); Taylor Eschebacher (University of Pennsylvania or Missouri University of Science & Technology); Jimmy Dinh (University of Missouri-Columbia). **Not Pictured:** Keyur Patel (Lindenwood University); Lynda Tolley (Maryville University).



Sgt. First Class Cory Rensburg, a Ritenour High School 2001 graduate and U.S. Army Ranger, has become the face and voice of wounded warriors nationwide. Pictured is Rensburg with his parents, Craig and Annie Rensburg, at the Ranger Lead the Way Gala in New York City.

## Ritenour’s AMERICAN HERO U.S. Army Ranger Cory Rensburg

Read more about Sgt. First Class Cory Rensburg.....Pages 6-7