



ROCK CANYON HIGH SCHOOL 2023 black & gold

ROCK CANYON HIGH SCHOOL
highlands ranch, colorado

black
&
gold

2023
VOL.
20

CUSTOM ENDSHEET
Both-DFB ENDSHEET
PAPER STOCK: 280 SNOW
INK: 317 PROCESS
APPLICATION(s): SOFT TOUCH

UNFLINCHING

8 RESOLVED
SUMMER

12 DETERMINED
FALL

54 ENDURING
WINTER

88 UNDAUNTED
SPRING

120 REFERENCE
PEOPLE 120
CLUBS 316
TEAMS 334
INDEX 352

FLIPPING OUT, WITHOUT FEAR

Kyrie Gallegos '23 finishes a back tuck to hype up the student section before the varsity football game vs. Chaparral Sept. 15 at Echo Park Stadium. The Varsity Cheer team lined up on the sidelines to welcome the football players onto the field before the game. "My favorite part is screaming as loud as I can as they run out," Gallegos said. "It's fun to get them hyped up as they run out." The Jags easily defeated Chaparral 35-6, winning their fourth straight game.

photo by: a. nandy

UNFLINCHING

BLACK & GOLD VOLUME 20

ROCK CANYON HIGH SCHOOL
Andrew J Abner, principal

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POPULATION	2357 TOTAL STUDENTS
578 FRESHMEN	605 SOPHOMORES
589 JUNIORS	585 SENIORS
172 STAFF	

RESOLVED

BEHIND THE SCENES

RCTV member Kaylee Eubanks '24 interviews Cade Miller '23 about the final High School of Business class March 23. Miller, along with other class members, visited RCTV to explain their current project, which included the creation and marketing on a product of their choice.

photo by: r. synk

You walk into the school on your first day of freshman year. So many people, so much support, so many new opportunities.

The school, which feels like a city in a building, is covered in decorations. Suddenly, the butterflies begin, and the nerves hit you. It's time.

You look over and see your Link Crew leaders waiting to show you the way—some with silly hats, others with Hawaiian leis for their freshmen to wear. At that moment, your Jaguar journey has begun.

"Link Crew helped me to prepare for what Rock Canyon is about and how educationally supportive it is. Rock Canyon has so many opportunities that Link Crew also gave me the chance to know about, since I was able to hear about it from the upperclassman first hand," JJ Nielsen-Meyer said.

Yes, we have school dances, yes, we have spirit weeks and yes, we have school chants.

But in the jungle, we have the senior handprint wall.

We have "the rock."

We have the Golden Boys, every year, leading us to be the number one student section in the state.

We have the "whose house?" chant.

It's our house, and it always will be.

"The overarching Jaguar spirit is that we're smart, we're intelligent, we're hard-working and we are setting all of ourselves up for an incredible future," Principal Andy Abner said.

With 30 National Merit scholars—the second highest number in Colorado—and 30 AP courses—some of which are filled to capacity—

our academics are high-priority.

But it doesn't end there.

Classes like Fire Science, EMT and Criminology; Ceramics, Choir and Business—our CTE, arts and media classes are just a few that lead students to real future careers.

"In Criminal Justice, we are learning about the different law enforcement careers that people can go into and the procedures of the law. In the class, I was able to learn about different job options for after high school and college. I think it is really great that Rock Canyon provides these programs for students. It helps educate students on the law and jobs in that field before they decide in college," Mackenzie McJunkin '24 said.

While some may stereotype us as "everyone gets an A", it's about

more than that. Not everyone has straight A's and 4.0 GPAs. Or, maybe some do.

"I have a 4.6 GPA that I have been working for since freshman year," Anthony Chui '23 said. "I'm really proud of being Salutatorian. I worked really hard to get to this point, and now my hard work has paid off. Even though I am not first, I still feel like being second is a big accomplishment. In the end, I am glad I worked as hard as I did to get to this point."

With all the programs, opportunities, hard classes and rigorous work, not all of our Jaguars can be Valedictorian, but everyone can be a part of the family. No one has to be afraid to be a part of the jungle—we are all resolved to do our best.

story by: a. nandy, c. bauer

COMPETITIVE

IT ALL STARTS HERE

Varsity captain Alex Durbin '23 walks onto the field at the start of the game against Cherry Creek Sep. 1, at Halftime Help Stadium. The jags defeated the bruins 2-1. "There's a lot of adversity that we battle through and we came out on top and that made that feel that much better," Durbin said.
photo by: o. matteucci

With too many of our students and teams to mention reaching playoffs, some of which made history for our school--from our first football playoff win to girls volleyball, boys golf, and wrestler Sammy Mobly '23 all taking second in state--our students weren't afraid to fight on the field, the court, the mat or anywhere else.

Adversity doesn't stop or limit our students.

We come together as a student section to celebrate our athletes, even if we have a test, quiz or timed writing the next day.

For some of us, it doesn't end at lacrosse practice or Improv Club, but at the job we work after school and the internship we volunteer at for community service hours.

"It's really hard [balancing school and Cheer]. There is a lot that goes into it, like making sure I stay on top of my work. Sometimes

it's hard to be motivated, especially when there's so much going on. It's such a busy life, but since college is coming up, that keeps me motivated to keep going," Izzy Harris '24 said.

We balance school, jobs, sports and activities, and we do it fearlessly. We come together through all the pressure, so much so, we have the 9News Swag chain to prove our unity, compassion and spirit. Jaguars take our passions to the next level, no matter the stress, the pressure or the challenges.

"We have a passion for learning, a passion for growing, a passion for doing our best. We're competitive as heck, we want to be the best, we expect to be the best," Abner said.

We bleed black and gold--we're competitive.

story by: a. nandy, c. bauer

UNFLINCHING

"It's a great day to be a Jag!"

That loud, powerful, echoing voice on repeat booms, welcoming students every morning. With a coffee in his hand, the door held open, and a smile on his face, Abner is home.

When we walk through those doors each morning, we each take our own paths. But, at the end of the day, we always join together in the Jungle.

"Being a Jag is more than just going to this school," Student Body Vice President Tyler Conybear '23 said. "It means showing up and supporting others in what they do, whether it be a sport or academics, or if they're going through a hard time. It means balancing a difficult academic load with an amazing extracurricular life, regardless if you participate in clubs or not. It means going to events, supporting our Wish Kid during Wish Week, cheering on seniors as they leave, and cherishing every moment until you get there."

We celebrate games and performances despite looming tests and anxieties. We are unafraid.

We circle around the bonfire, hug the Wish Kid, park our cars in the same spots and share the same desks.

We grab onto each other in times of excitement, celebration, and hope, and again in times of fear, uncertainty and unknown.

We come together, no matter what is going on. Whether it's the year after Covid-19 and we're exhausted, if it's been a long year of school vandalism and bathroom passes, or even if we're all fed up with broken air conditioning and broken wifi, we all come together to grant the Wish of one special kid, and we do it best.

We don't settle for granting just our Wish Kid's wish, we've granted over 100 others, too.

We come together to a new extreme, and we do it, with confidence.

We do it, and we don't blink once.

"Ever since I left, I had regretted that I left. I learned a lot and I learned a lot about myself," Abner said. "It means the world [to be back]. I love you guys. I love being back. It's my happy place. The most important lesson I learned is that I want to be here, that I want to be at Rock Canyon High School through the remainder of my career."

We did it all, together, and we did it, **unflinching.**
story by: a. nandy, c. bauer



LEAVE YOUR MARK
Student Body President Myles Rubin '23 signs the Children for Children wall at Make-A-Wish Colorado March 8. Student Council visited the local chapter of Make-A-Wish to meet the 2023 Wish Kid, Fidel, for the first time. While they were there, they had the chance to sign the Children for Children wall, which is dedicated to Wish Weeks held throughout the area.
photo by: r. synk

"GOING INTO OUR PERFORMANCES WHETHER IT BE AT ASSEMBLIES OR A GAME OR COMPETITION, GOING IN, I WAS UNAFRAID BECAUSE I KNEW WE HAD SUCH A GREAT TEAM," LEAH CROSS '24 SAID.

DETERMINED

This FALL...

- GENERAL COVERAGE:** 16,17,18, 19,24,25,26,27,36,37,38,39
- SPORTS:** 22,23,28,29, 30,31,42,43,44,45
- FALL SOCIAL MEDIA:** 14,15
- PERFORMING ARTS:** 20,21
- HOMECOMING:** 32,33,34,35
- FALL SPORTS STATISTICS:** 46,47
- FALL CALENDER:** 48,49
- BE REAL:** 50,51

FRIDAY NIGHT FUNK

At halftime, Seniors Cameron Cooke, Kylie Woolley and Arianna Levy perform at a home game against Denver East Sept. 9. Poms performed the "Funk Mix" by Bruno Mars, with only learning it three days prior to performance. "It was a bit stressful performing it after learning it so soon, but halftime is always enjoyable," Cooke said.

photo by: a. nandy

“PEOPLE DON'T REALIZE HOW MUCH WORK IS PUT INTO TECH FOR THE MUSICAL. THE HARDEST PART IS HAVING TO DO YOUR JOB, WHILE EVERYONE ELSE IS DOING THEIRS,” ELSA SWANSON '25 SAID.

REVIVING

THIS SPRING...

SPRING FASHION: 90, 91

GENERAL COVERAGE: 92, 93, 94, 95,
104, 105, 106, 107

SPRING ART: 96, 97

SPRING SPORTS: 98, 99, 100, 101,
102, 103, 108, 109, 110, 111

PERFORMING ARTS: 112, 113

WISH WEEK OPENING DAY: 114, 115

UNFLINCHINGLY COLORADO: 116,
117, 118, 119

COLORFUL CREATIONS

Members of the “9 to 5: The Musical” cast freeze as colorful lights illuminate silhouettes at a dress rehearsal March 27. The show featured many colorful lights and about 20 quick changes -- more than any show they've performed before. “Opening night [is stressful], making sure everything works together,” Stage Manager Kayla Mumpy '23 said.

photo by: c. bauer

CLIMBING TO THE CLOUDS

The Colorado sunset ends another day Sept. 10 appearing from the clouds that filled the skyline visible from the second tallest 14er in Colorado, Mount Massive. No matter how wide the horizon, how big the storm, we were ready to face it--unflinchingly.

photo by: s. callahan

UNFLINCHING

WAVING TO THE CROWD
Student Body President Myles Rubin '23 holds a microphone to Fidel as he waves to the gathered crowd during Walk for Wishes April 1. Wish Week was dedicated to funding Fidel's wish to meet LaMelo Ball.
photo by: r. synk

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