



the music

melodies that made our moments

I remember my friends Ella, Sophia and I would stand behind a banner at the beginning of movement one. We all knew the lyrics so for a while we'd sing the lyrics of the song until there was a tempo change that signaled we had a set before we went out, at which point we'd start counting. We stood there until set nine or 10 so if the band was repping one through nine, sometimes our coaches would let us sit down. There was this one practice where all of the rifle's got to sit, and one of our coaches, Blair, took a photo of us, and it looked like an album cover," Ally Kelley '26 said.

At the winter concert, held at St. Andrew's Church, the lights dim and all the choir members stand around the sanctuary holding their candles. When I start singing 'Silent Night,' I feel emotional and get full body chills because the sound is so beautiful and it's also the last time singing in the church I've grown up in with the people l've grown up with," Claire Yeater '24 said. general coverage check out the classes, clubs and things we did november: 50 every moment of every summer: 6 december: 58 day *august:* 12 september: 20 winter holidays: 62

january: 68 homecoming: 24 february: 84 performing arts: 32, 72, 102 *march*: 94 october: 34 wish week: 98 your halloween: 38

Ali Gustafson, Shea Thompson and I were sitting outside the back of Castle View High School during a workshop over the summer. I remember how hot and windy it was; we used a couple of rocks as paperweights to hold down our spread designs and inspiration. I don't know exactly why it happened, but in that moment, in the sun and the wind--away from the stuffy, enclosed workshop--we finally put our theme into words that actually expressed all the thoughts and feelings we were having 'in this moment and nowhere else.' We all smiled and nodded our heads; out of the years that I've been on yearbook staff, I think that's the first time our theme has actually clicked and resonated so much with me." Chloe Farson '25 said.

Our Wish Weeks are something iconic. You can literally feel the excitement through the school as everyone comes together to support the kid. I love how uniting the event is, too. It doesn't matter what grade you're in, who your friends are, or even what your grades are, we all just care about making the life of one kid better. It really puts things into perspective. We're all just trying our hardest, and Wish Week tends to cultivate that feeling and celebrate it," River Brown '25 said.

The student body and teachers are very welcoming and are happy to welcome new people into our school. They also encourage others to be their best selves. Whenever you need help, [Nikki] Dobos will always try to help in any way she can. She will give you solutions by proposing new ideas and strategies. It's nice to have a teacher who will help you through high school because if you are ever stressed it is [good] to be able to talk to someone you trust and enjoy talking to," Brennen Wood '27 said.

athletic coverage experience the sportsmanship and summer: 6

august: 16 homecoming: 26 september: 28 october: 40

january: 74 february: 90 march: 104

reference people divider: 110 sophomores: 170 find people where juniors: 186 they are in the *clubs:* 112 seniors: 202 book & nowhere sports teams: 128 **ads:** 224 8188 faculty: 14.6 freshmen: 154 *index:* 340 colophon: 348

Rock Canyon's greatest appeal for me has always been its welcoming and curious community. I've had the opportunity to go to a school that was closer to my home, but I chose Rock Closer to my nome, but I chose Rock Canyon over that because I truly belong here. As a Jag, I have access to the most wonderful and encouraging teachers and have considered my school friends as a second family. Because of Rock Canyon's academic standards, I had to take Chemistry, a subject I knew little and cared little about. I've fallen deeply in love with Chemistry and Rock Canyon has only served to help me pursue my new passion through its AP course and extracurriculars like Science Olympiad," Dora Ratisev '24 said.



in this *moment*

opening: 2 autumn divider: 10 winter divider: 48

title page: 1 spring divider: 82 colophon: 348 closing: 350 parting: 352

seasons changed and semesters passed, but we were here through them all

november: 54 skill that made us december: 64 a "sports school"

The Homecoming game was so fun to hang out with my friends. In the student section, there's just this chaotic community type of feeling that you only really get at large games and events like that. I love the "P-A-R-T-Y" chant because it's fun to yell at the other team and when they yell back. The party is never on their side, it is always on ours. We did end up getting stomped on by the other team, but I still had a great time," Nathan Groom '25 said.

The first time I went to a sporting event, I was cheering at a football game. I remember not understanding football but I cheered and smiled anyway. It was really rough though, because a lot of us had no idea what we were doing because we had never been to a game," Elena Joe-Pfeifer '27 said.





2024 black & gold

volume 21

rock canyon high school

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population

2295 total students 542 freshmen 586 sophomores 589 juniors 578 seniors 180 staff

a moment of glory

Flanked by teammates Sienna Pillsbury '24 and Emily Feiman '24, shooting guard Brooke Harding '25 shoots the ball at the Denver Coliseum during the Great Eight playoff game against Valor Christian Feb. 29. It was the first time in school history that the team made it to the Great Eight. For students to play at the Denver Coliseum is an experience that they don't have amywhere else. "We really wanted to prove people wrong. Not a lot of people believed in us this year, so the fact that we made it to the Great Eight was amazing," Harding said. photo by: s. thompson

NOWHERE *else*

1. kate shupe '24, wish kid kiki, door tour, march 1 photo by: i. orner 2. sydney noble 26, honors chemistry lab, oct. 31 photo by: r. benson 3. senior students, back to school assembly, aug. 18 photo by: e. lemeshewsky



moment

The moment you walked in for the 7:40 a.m. start, shock was the emotion that greeted you on the first day of your freshman year.

When I walked in on the first day of school with everyone, my reaction was to freeze. My jaw dropped. It was crazy loud, and with everyone there, you couldn't get through the halls," Addie Dimon '27 said.

Whether it was your first moment seeing this year's new paint and carpet, going to Prom at Mile High Station and learning about aviation or architecture at Legacy Campus, or it was your last moment seeing each new painting of the rock and lighting up with the fire labs in chemistry, nowhere else created memories like we did.

The year was filled with moments of awe as we watched Jaylyn Luber '27 twirl a lit baton, cried during the performance of "I Never Saw Another Butterfly," saw varsity football raise the Jaguar flag as they ran through the blow-up and clapped for Alexis Savas's Seminar as they aced Trivia Bowl Finals and won.

days, back-to-back snow days, vehicle accidents and the chaos of the parking lots.

I'll never forget the time I got hit by a car walking in the parking lot. You don't go to RC unless you get hit by a car," Lindsey Thomsen '24 said.

Our academic triumphs traditionally defined us, but this year, out of nowhere, we were good at sports. Boys golf, boys cross country and poms each brought home state championship titles. Football made it to the playoffs against Arvada West and Ralston Valley, Unified wiffleball started their first season and boys rock climbing took second in the state. Boys basketball faced off against ThunderRidge in the Great Eight and girls basketball headed to the Great Eight for the first time in school history.

Our moments of victory became something worth celebrating with cheers, streamers and parades, even as we had to take moments to come face-to-face with our losses: overtime defeats, fights of frustration, fall deductions, chances at making history taken away in a moment.

Whether celebrating or grieving, sometimes, it was forgetting to take a moment, always rushing to the next class, activity or sport.

I'll never forget the time I tripped up the stairs in the 9000s pod and spilled my drink everywhere because I was in a rush," Maddison Sova '24

The rush that pushed us to sometimes miss the fun moments as we balanced the new Black, Gold and Jag schedule, club and career fairs and honor society requirements. The same rush that made you forget to hit "submit" by 11:59 p.m., forget to buy your Route 23 Homecoming shirt, forget to reload your water gun for Senior Assassin.

(11) never forget the time I tried to get my Senior Assassin target [Sam Cuthbert] out during Senior Sunrise because when I tried to spray him with the water gun, there was no more water in it, and everyone in the grade saw," Addie Jaeger '24 said.

Not knowing how to do everything perfectly, yet living in the moment anyway.

The first time I went to a sporting event, I was cheering at a football The moments where everything paused: two feet of snow in less than two game. I remember not understanding football but I cheered and smiled anyway. It was really rough, though, a lot of us had no idea what we were doing," Elena Joe-Pfeifer '27 said. "We had never been to a game. It was cool that I could watch [my friends] play even if I didn't have any idea what was happening."

> The moment of shock at 1:35 p.m. Jan. 11 when phones across the school collectively vibrated with a message: Senior Assassin was banned on school grounds. The moment of excitement as you were welcomed by Link Crew for freshman orientation or were greeted by a screaming Student Council during a spirit week.

When I walked into school on the first day of Wish Week, I wanted to scream in excitement. It was so cool and you could tell how hard they worked," Aspyn Motarjeme '27 said.

The moment senior Student Council members Leah Sheahan and Matthew Oros traded places to reveal that we shattered our Wish Week record by raising over \$94,000 during Wish Week and the moment we responded, the bleachers of the jungle erupting into cheers with a standing ovation.

These moments, and more, brought us together and made it a year worth remembering. These moments made it our year.



002 spread by: c. farson, e. lemeshewsky, r. semmer opening 003 wish week | honors chem. | back to schoo lassembly



written by: c. bauer, c. farson, a. gustafson, s. thompson

There is nowhere else like the Jungle. This is our place, where of my friends. It truly takes my mind off things," Maren we experience moments that cannot be replicated, moments that we will never forget.

There's nowhere else like the Jungle, wandering around the large school and navigating the corners and hallways of all the the next class, cutting through backpacks and bodies with no pods to find your place.

When I first walked into the high school, I remember thinking it was so big. I was worried I was never going to memorize my classes," Allie Moroni '25 said.

This school is big, and its students are boisterous. Nowhere else do you encounter the intimidation that you experience on your first day, navigating the vast hallways, searching for where you belong.

Nevertheless, we find our place.

When I am at school, I spend most of my time at the track. It's where I get to run and hang out with some Cecil '27 said.

Nowhere else do we shove through a sea of people to get to time to lose

The first thing I picture is the upstairs hallway absolutely packed during passing periods. I think of the amount of times I've had to push my way through people to get to Nowhere else has our students, who succeeded in moments my next class.... I know I don't find that anywhere else," Chloe Farson '25 said.

Nowhere else has a principal like our own Andy Abner, who greeted us every day with a warm smile and the famous words, "It's a great day to be a Jag." Nowhere else did seniors show up 72 Jaguars were recognized with Continental League Honors that first day of school, ready to pose in senior pants as part of for band, choir and orchestra, and got the chance to perform the tradition

• I will never forget the time my friends and I pulled into

the school parking lot on our last first day of school to take pictures in our senior pants because we knew this was the last first day of school picture we would get together," Mackenzie McJunkin '24 said.

Nowhere else can you find the taxidermy jaguar that surveys the Commons with our opponents in its teeth, nor the jaguar statue that grants us good luck for our finals. They are ours.

we'll never forget. CyberPatriot team members Philip Dobranowski '24, Lee Guiberson '24, Johann Schmidt '24, Ty Sloan '24, Kaiden Potter '24 and Nakul Choudhary '25 took first in the State and competed at Nationals.

at Boettcher Hall. Aditi Avinash '24 won first place in the Translational Medical Science category at the International Science and Engineering Fair, Aditya Khanolkar '25, Dane

1. varsity football, echo park, aug. 31 photo by: h. rozen 2. evelyn pugh '27, kelsey hanson '27, ellie lambert-gorwyn '25, avery engwer '27, homecoming parade, sept. 21 photo by: i. orner 3. reid finch '24, feeder parade, sept. 20 photo by: b. cartwright

Zitzlsperger '25 and Kiefer Duval '26 qualified for DECA Nationals and Claire Bauer '24 won Student Journalist of the Year.

"P-A-R-T-Y" chants to persist as long as they do.

61'll never forget the time of my first basketball game

Noah Jadd '26 qualified to wrestle at State, Mac Terry '24 was selected as second-team All-State and Continental League's All-League first team and Chaz Barnett '24 was announced as a Gold Helmet finalist. Our student section is authentic, bringing energy and noise that we will find nowhere

else but the Jungle. There are a lot of student sections, but Rock Canyon's is the best. No matter the distance or obstacles we must jump through to get there, we show up in theme, '26 said. full of spirit, ready to cheer for our teams no matter if we are winning or losing," Avery Witmer '24 said.

Nowhere else does enough school pride exist for the



because it was packed and the party chant lasted two periods of the game," Kelsey Pringle '26 said.

Nowhere else was named the top-scoring district in the Denver Metro area. Nowhere else does academic excellence persistently remain at the forefront of students' priorities, expecting excellence, achieving high marks just to repeat the process.

In Chem Honors, I got the second quiz we ever took back and I did way better than I thought. I was so happy at that moment, but then I kinda shrugged it off and went back to do what I was doing," Ridihi Bandla

It is about maintaining that academic excellence, then escaping--to Ziggi's Coffee, to Daniels Park, to the mountains. Our spots, nowhere else.

I'll never forget the time I lost one of my skis while NOWHERE else

skiing because I was at the top of the mountain, and my ski went cruising down the run without me and I had to ski on one foot all the way down to get it. My sister was laughing at me and was no help at all, while my dad went chasing after the ski to make sure we didn't lose it," Alyssa Cook '25 said.

Nowhere else had all these moments, and more. Nowhere else has this book. Nowhere else has you. Through it all, you were here, in this moment

the elite-8; "It feels cool to be in the Elite-8 since it's never been done before [by our girls basketball team]. After winning our Sweet-16 game, I was so excited...to see all our hard work pay off," Emily Feiman '24 said.

on the mountain AT ALL times

sticky snow

Senior Kayla Catalano sticks her tongue out to catch snowflakes on the Winter Park ski lift Jan. 26. Catalano skipped school to snowboard after Winter Park received over three inches of snow. "None of us had a ton of work to do that day, so it was worth missing for the amount of snow they got," Catalano said. photo by: j. horan

skiing is believing

Ryan Scherrer '25 skis off a jump during winter break Dec. 28. Scherrer skied down the Woodward terrain park at Copper Mountain to practice and perfect his tricks. "My favorite part of the day was when we went to went into Union Park. I got to do a lot of side hits which made it really enjoyable, Elijah Nguyen '25 said. photo by: c. farson



students frequently spend their

free time at the mountains,



stick 'em

Varsity hockey player Easton Stockert '25 skates toward the puck Dec. 9 against Resurrection Christian. photo by: o. matteucci post-up

Emma Wennberg '27 waits for the 2. pass while at the post position against Horizon Dec. 8. photo by: c. butler

3 wrestling wrath Senior Josh Dominguez prepares to wrestle against Valor Jan. 31. photo by: k. pringle



Once I started the season, I thought wrestling was all about how tough you are physically, but then I realized it was about how mentally tough you can be," Dominguez said.



in this Season WE AIM for victory

athletes compete in winter sports & end up winning big



p.m. boys basketball tipoff against thunder ridge

dly





leaving the beach

JV golfer Calvin Stotler '25 uses a sand wedge to practice getting out of the trap at Lone Tree Golf Course Aug. 30. Temperatures during practices reached the low nineties as JV and varsity golfers practiced at the range and chipping green. "My favorite strategy to get out of the sand is to use a wide stance, to open up the face [of the club] just a little bit, make sure to put about 60 percent of my weight is in my front foot and come down at the ball to pop it up and out," Stotler said. photo by: a. gustafson

COMPANY MARKET CONTRACTOR



3:15 p.m. when many after school practices start

in this *club* WE SUPPORT others





students express themselves through their participation in clubs and activities

rock-star climbers

Emerson Yu '24 climbs a rock wall during one of her last regular season climbing competitions Jan.20. Students participate in the American Scholastic Climbing League whose goal is to connect climbers in a positive atmosphere with healthy competition. *photo by: i.orner*

all smiles for the club fair

Asmi Patil '26 poses with her poster for the Girls' Persist club during the club fair Aug. 23. Girls Persist is a safe community for teenage girls to work together to improve public speaking skills, collaboration, and STEM based problem solving. *photo by: r.kim*

get hyped



- Will Rosenmeyer '24 blows kisses to the Highlands Ranch crowd after an interception Sept. 28. photo by: o.matteucci fire and ice
- Maxx Menzies '24 skates across the ice dring the second game of the season Dec.9. photo by: o.matteucci



refuel

Ashley Carter '27 takes a water break during track preseaon training Jan. 24. *photo by: m.cecil*

sports recap:

- varsity:
- Boys Golf: State Champions
- Boys Soccer: 4th 4A/5A
- Boys Tennis: 10th 5A
- Boys Cross Country: State Champions
- Football: 3rd 5A South Metro
- Flag Football: 5th 5A
- Girls Swim: 9th 4A/5A
- Girls Volleyball: State Runner-up
- Softball: 10th 5A







at this *school* WE fight sports com the differen many tough

sports compete throughout the different seasons battling many tough competitors

reference 111 reference divider



the editors IN chief girl bosses of the year



ali austafson Whether buzzing from caffeine, speaking gibberish or maeking speeling musteaks, Ali Gustafson '24 could be found either working in The Lab or flying in an airplane friends to designing in grids for the majority of the year. Her along those five years. As she constant hugs, screams, bouncing worked her way from staffer to an any and everyone who asked, and country music encouraged the staffers to (hopefully) submit and sassy side-eyes won Gold their content to the Drive (often out of fear) and collected awards from national Best of Show placements to wins in almost every category at the state level. Despite her lack of geographical knowledge, Ali will go on to study aviation at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and own the skies. Buzz buzz!



shea thompson

rule over the school.

Since seventh grade, Shea Chloe Farson '25, the human Thompson '25 has devoted dictionary and woman of classical herself to yearbook, learning lessons ranging from making Editor-in-Chief, her pink Adidas ensuring spelling was correct Circles and led the Black & Gold to multiple Pacemaker Finalists, All-Colorados and many more. Shea will continue working as an

chloe farson



literature, stepped up and became an EIC halfway through this year. Even then, Farson was always the one helping and AP format was followed. Her intelligence, organizational skills and serial killer handwriting kept the classes in order and our heads on straight as she collected Best EIC next year as she wraps up her of Show placements and made the staff proud. Chloe will continue working as an EIC next year as she pursues her path to world domination



wait A moment

The twenty-first volume of the BLACK & GOLD yearbook was produced during third and fourth periods in room 4113 at Rock Canyon High School in Highlands Ranch, CO. The book was printed by Jostens Inc. in Clarksville, TN. Peter Griffin was our Publishing Service Representative and Amanda Worley was our Account Executive. This year, the staff of the BLACK & GOLD was composed of 52 members, 19 of whom were rookie reporters, with only 10 members being editors. Nevertheless, we were determined to create a full book of 352 pages and as much coverage of all athletics, activities and academics as possible.

THEME AND DESIGN

When the brainstorming began at a Jostens Yearbook camp hosted by Castle View High School this summer, we sought to stray entirely from our traditional theme. After prior years composed of chaos and endless responsibilities, the editorial board acknowledged that the student body was desperate for a moment to slow down. Our school excels in academic and athletic pursuits. Nowhere else do these moments occur, and we wanted to emphasize that. Our inspiration was drawn from magazines containing

elegant fonts and photos and designs with "breathing room." Our color palette, sourced from book tabs with deep colors, was intended to be intense yet subtle. Embedded within nowhere, we discovered now and here and employed those words to place further emphasis on being present. The continuation of a moment is implied by the ampersand because it is this moment and everything else. To reflect upon the moments that may be overlooked, the folio quote draws us back to these moments throughout the year. The fine lines serve organizational purposes.

COVER, ENDSHEETS, AND PAPER

The cover of the BLACK & GOLD is Custom Process Color Lithograph with a custom full lid embossing dye. The lamination is Jostens Grit. The endsheets are custom Process printed on Oxford White #268 stock. The pages of the BLACK & GOLD are printed on 4/4 Process Color with Bleeds on 100[#] Premium Matte Text paper.

TYPOGRAPHY AND COLOR

All body copy was set in Filosofia OT Regular. All headlines were set in Gazzetta Light in all lowercase, Meno Banner Semi Bold Italic in all lowercase, Ampersand with 30% opacity, Gazzetta ExtraLight in all caps and Meno Banner Bold in all lowercase, and subheads were set in Gazzetta Light in all lowercase. Lead-ins were set in Meno Banner Black Italic. Pulled quotes are used throughout the book and are set in Simplicita Pro Regular. We used a color palette that included a darkened version of every color in the rainbow, inspired by book tabs. The palette caught our eye with the

colorful yet calm, muted hues.

PUBLISHING AND SALES

Books were sold through MySchoolBucks. Approximately 1600 yearbooks were pre-sold this year, with an additional 100 books available for purchase during distribution. Monarch and Google Drive gave the staff the ability to work together while in-person, and remotely when needed. The pages were turned in using Jostens' Yearbook Avenue submission process.

PHOTOGRAPHER AND PORTRAITS

Staff photographers used Nikon DSLR cameras. Photographs were edited and prepared for submission using Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom CC. Underclass and faculty portraits and most sports teams were taken by Lifetouch Photography. Senior portraits were provided by Keepsake Photography and Monty Nuss Photography at their studio and at school for free to all seniors

AWARDS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The 20th volume of the BLACK & GOLD yearbook was honored with the following awards during the 2023-2024 school year: NSPA Pacemaker Finalist, NSPA All-American, NSPA fifth place Best of Show at the fall convention, CSPA Gold Medalist, CSMA All-Colorado, CSMA third place Best of Show and the JEA First Amendment Press Freedom Award

THANK YOU.

We would like to thank Kristi Rathbun, the singing nerd

we love more than anyone; Jostens, especially Peter Griffin, Amanda Worley, Tina Cleavlin; Monica Brown at the Yearbook Company; Judi Coolidge, Danielle Bell, the staff of The Rock Online, especially Claire Bauer, Abigail Wood, Sanaa Sow, Quinn Barton and Dee Lee; the entire RCHS faculty and staff for letting us interrupt their classes, Donna Rotter, Holly Pennington, Kevin Cary, Cindy Liberman, Maxx Coppage; Jen Henningsen at Keepsake Photography and Cheryl Brown at Monty Nuss Photography; Custodians; RCHS administration, especially our beloved Andy Abner and Ty Clark; our superman tech support Jonathan Riner; Janna Robinett; Jessica Hunziker; Jolene Martinez; Rob Rathbun for his help after March 15; our family and friends for allowing us to spend hours all day and all night to make this book; and our staff members for working to produce the 2024 BLACK & GOLD. We would also like to thank Dominos, Chick-Fil-A, Chipotle, Panda Express and Starbucks for feeding us throughout the year. A MASSIVE thank you to Claire Bauer again, who we cannot thank enough for her contributions and help in finishing this book despite her not being on staff, and to YOU for being in this moment & nowhere else when reading this book.

Spring sports and events were included in an additional supplement due to the timing of printing and distribution of the book.



editors in chief: Ali Gustafson, Shea Thompson & Chloe Farson *adviser:* Kristi Rathbun

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editorial board:

Ali Gustafson Shea Thompson Chloe Farson Elizabeth Lemeshewsky Izzv Orner **Claire Veater** Alvssa Cook Camille Olsen Averv Witmer

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colophon 349 staff | design details

'round the bend

As the last grade to endure COVID-19 in high school finished their last moments in the Jungle, their handmade black and gold leis worn for Senior Nights, Jostens's bedazzled tassels and the collection of cords, pins and the cap earned throughout the years were worn nowhere else. The moments that brought us here, good and bad alike, were important, and from where we stand, the future will be too. But the moments that made this year were worthy to behold, despite how far into the past we remembered or how far ahead we want to see. Some of us may venture to faraway places, while others may remain only 10 minutes away, but the moments that made us "us" will always reside here, in our jungle & nowhere

photo by: a. gustafson

else





all the MOMENTS



our tassels tie us here

With her cap held high, senior Ali Gustafson waves goodbye to all the moments she spent here and looks ahead to the moments to come March 29. As seniors approached the final days of their high school experience, Gustafson spent the fleeting time planning for all the experiences everywhere else in the world. Although she will go on to new places, her tassel serves as a reminder of all the memories she made here and nowhere else. "I will always remember springing down the halls during my late nights spent in 4113 working on the yearbook. I could never forget all of the smiling faces I waved at while shoving my way through the hallways during passing periods. Although I know so much is waiting for me outside of the walls of Rock Canyon High School, I know I will always have a community that I can call family that forever lives at home in the Jungle," Gustafson said. photo by: c. farson

EVERYWHERE *else*

NOWHERE *else*