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story by isabel costian

# Taking on the heat

## Despite the heat, RHS breaks tradition by moving its ever growing pep rallies outside.

Although pep rally season got off to a familiar start with the usual groups and athletic teams, there was a twist.

Because of the administration's concern about a safety hazards due to the size of the freshman class, pep rallies will take place on the football field. This allows the entire student body to be involved in the outdoor rallies.

"I am rather excited about the opportunity to continue our inclusive tradition," Principal Charles Bruner said.

False rumors were spread around the school that freshmen would be in the small gym watching a live stream of the pep rally, but the administration eventually agreed to keep the students together.

"Freshmen should experience a good pep rally," freshman Jordan Friley said. "We wouldn't enjoy it if we had to watch it on a screen."

Many freshmen, like Michael Payton, attended the Magnet pep rally as eighth graders last year in the

large gym.

"I felt my first wave of Eagle spirit then," Payton said. "I'm really going to miss the AC inside, but I'm pretty sure we'll still have that same spirit outdoors."

Head Cheerleading Coach Jeff Bivins said that having the pep rally outside would allow more participation from students, larger performances, and possibly new additions like cars on the field.

"We got a great one planned coming up," Bivins said. "I think it's going to be fun."

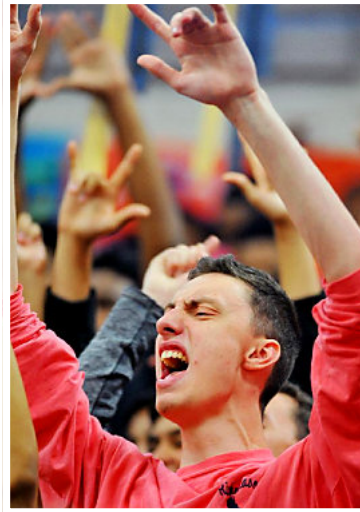
Several years ago the school had a pep rally outdoors. Bruner said the administration is making the upcoming pep rallies more successful than the last outside pep rally through more powerful sound equipment.

"While many may have enjoyed the activity, there was talk about the loss of noise production, which they felt took away from the excitement of the regular pep rally," Bruner said.

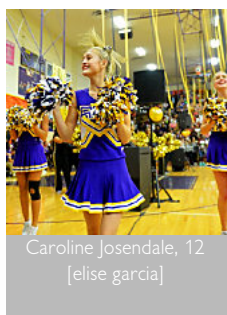
**LEFT:** With his hands in the air, Dylan Golihar screams along with the rest of the senior class in an attempt to win the spirit stick. "The class of 2016 has made it easy to cheer for them since we've been at RHS," Golihar said. "Hype or die." [chase karacostas]

**TOP RIGHT:** Junior Rachel Curran maintains the spirit during the pep rally celebrating the last game of the season versus Highland Park High School. "I think pep rallies are a really important part of being a student here at RHS," Curran said. "It's an incredible feeling having two thousand people watching you perform from the stands." [elise garcia]

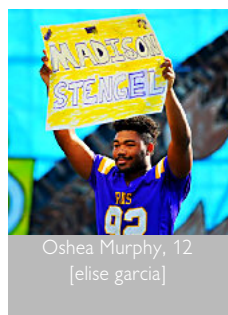
**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Following the theme of 'Eagle World,' based on "Jurassic World," senior Rachel Bunton and junior Abby Gluckman carry out the officer dance routine. "Being a Lieutenant Officer really pushed me past complacency," Bunton said. "Dancing in the front really made me push my performance to a new level." [elise garcia]



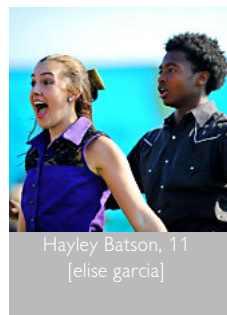
Joseph Muir, 12  
Laurn Raleigh, 11  
[brielle bishop]



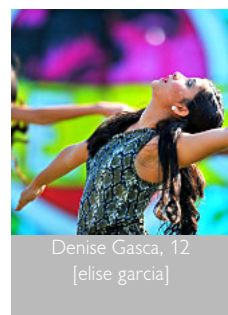
Caroline Josendale, 12  
[elise garcia]



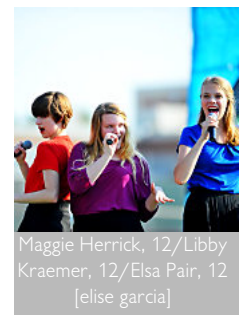
Oshea Murphy, 12  
[elise garcia]



Hayley Batson, 11  
[elise garcia]



Denise Gasca, 12  
[elise garcia]



Maggie Herrick, 12/Libby Kraemer, 12/Elsa Pair, 12  
[elise garcia]





**DURING EAGLE** Guard's skit on a presidential debate, junior O'dell Carson and senior Grayson Sentell reveal the plan for Kanye West 2020. "Being Kanye West was actually pretty easy for me because I am Kanye West," Carson said. "It was an honor to dress as him, and have my lovely wife Kim Kardashian by my side." [chase karacostas]

## what does it take?

The student population of Richardson knows the pep rallies as what they are – **big, bold and exciting**. However, not many know what it takes to prepare for them.

**100** 100 POSTERS OUTSIDE

**3** THREE HOURS OF DECORATING THE DAY BEFORE WITH 80 GYM POSTERS

**FOUR HOURS OF PLANNING IN THE SUMMER FOR SENIORS AND THEIR PARENTS. PARENTS BUILD THE SETS.**

**4**

20 HOURS SPENT THE WEEK BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS TO MAKE POSTERS

**20**

**FOR CHEERLEADERS, PRACTICE STARTS TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE PEP RALLY.**

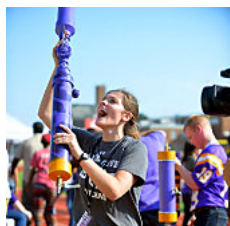
**2**



Lilly Gonzales, 12  
[elise garcia]



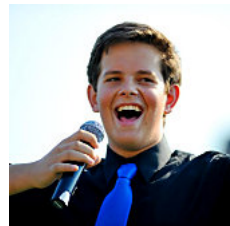
Calvin Herbst, 12  
O'dell Carson, 11  
[chase karacostas]



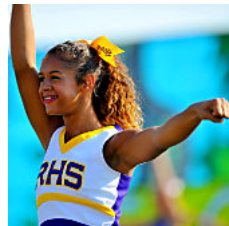
Madison Stengel, 12  
[chase karacostas]



Rebecca Bekele, 9  
[brielle bishop]



James Adamson, 11  
[elise garcia]



Zoe Williams, 12  
[elise garcia]