

18 RHS Seniors To Receive Diplomas Friday, May 26

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daughter of Keith Emery and Jenni Rosin; Karter Patrick Jensen, son of Patrick Jensen and Lexie Jacobson; Mason Murray Kadel, son of Trent Kadel and Amanda Kadel; Justin William Kugler, son of Jeff and Tulsa Kugler; Jasmine Rose Marty, daughter of Les and Deb Marty; Sydnie Anna Molter, daughter of Joe and Teanna Molter; Jeremy Louis Rasmusson, son of Kenneth Rasmusson and Jennifer Rasmusson; Katelyn Joe Reber, daughter of John and Heather Reber; Madison Jo Tillman, daughter of Lori and Joe Tillman; Michael Brian Wendling, son of Michelle Wendling and Dustin Vinson; Adriana Jean Willits, daughter of Dana and Maria Willits and Alivia Lyn Zilmer, daughter of Wes and Tara Zilmer.

The 18 seniors is a rather large class by the standards set the past few years. Last year there were only 11 seniors receiving diplomas. That was an increase of exactly one from the 2021 graduating class that had only 10 students graduating. That was a flat-footed tie with the covid year 2020 when there were also 10 seniors that received diplomas in the parking lot during that covid year.

As a smaller school system, the class sizes at Rothsay Public Schools have a tendency to fluctuate wildly. Class sizes have been as small as single digits. They have also hit peaks in recent years of 19 graduates in 2018 and 21 grads in 2016. There are some large classes numbering in the 30s now making their way through Rothsay Elementary.

The 18 seniors in this year's Rothsay High School graduating class began their education careers 13 years ago in the fall of school year 2010-2011. They were a scared,

confused bunch of kindergartners who did not want to leave Mom and Dad to attend classes in a new and threatening environment. They soon found that the teachers were more than happy to assist them and there were many new friends, just as scared as they were, in their classes.

Most of this year's 18 graduating seniors have been in the District 850 school system for their entire education career. A few started classes elsewhere but are finishing their high school education as Rothsay Tigers.

The ones that spent their entire career here in Rothsay have a lot of milestone memories they can look back on. They began their education careers at the old three-story downtown school building in 2010. As elementary students they made the move from downtown to the new, modern school in the fall of 2015. They enjoyed their new, comfortable surroundings for the rest of their education.

The graduating class will also have the distinction of learning under some very trying conditions caused by the COVID pandemic. The virus that swept across the United States would change the face of education. Distance learning from home with a computer and a long distance connection with a teacher replaced classroom time. It was not as good as real class time but they made distance learning work.

Unlike the RHS Class of 2020, this year's seniors got to attend a prom, enjoyed homecoming and snowball festivities and even went through a traditional graduation with family and friends instead of a drive-by diploma handout in the parking lot.



Throughout the town of Rothsay there are photos of each of the graduates featured on pennants suspended from the utility poles. A drive through the business district will give you a view of each one of the 2023 Tiger grads.

The life's lessons that this graduating class has seen will serve them well in the future as they move on to jobs, college, trade school and military assignments. They are well equipped to face the world with resilience, determination and a willingness to view change as a simple fact of life and a new challenge to be met.

They will be equipped to look at the world in a totally different light than did their parents and especially their grandparents, or even a graduating class from a half dozen

years ago.

Superintendent of Schools Wade Johnson has traditionally issued a statement regarding the graduating class. He had this to say. "This year's graduating class of Rothsay Tigers thinks big. I am anticipating engineers, doctors, high line workers and teachers to emerge from this group of graduates just to name a few career choices. Our teachers have prepared them well for their futures and what lies ahead."

This year's graduates are

featured elsewhere in a special pullout section of this edition of the Rothsay Regional Report. It includes their photo, their parents, a list of the activities they participated in and their plans for the future which begins right now.

A journey of unknowns that started 13 years ago is now complete. Those 13 years saw those scared, dependent five-year-olds grow and mature into confident young adults with their entire future in front of them.

For most it will be a happy

transition from dependent teenager into a productive adult. For others it will be a very bumpy road as they are challenged by life's experiences, the unexpected and unplanned obstacles that lie ahead which they must face.

These 18 graduates from Rothsay High School will soon learn that the only thing consistent in life is change. These 18 students who have spent every hour of every school day together for the past 13 years will never assemble together as an entire group ever again.

There will be college, family, employment commitments and assignments to all parts of the United States and even the world. There will be illness and even deaths of class members that keep them from reuniting as a class.

They will never again all assemble in the same place and time has they have for the past 13 years. Some classmates will remain lifelong friends. Others will be forgotten. In that respect they are exactly like every other Rothsay High School Class that has gone before them. And it will be exactly the same for the classes that follow.

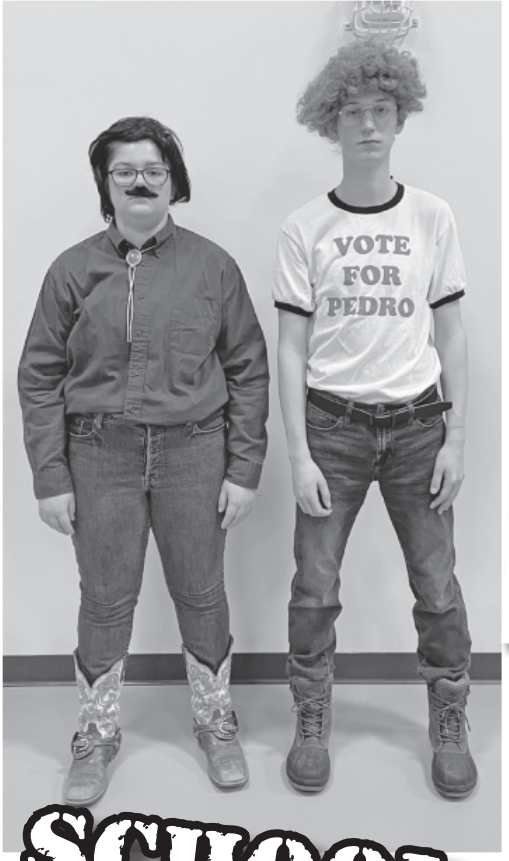
In many respects they are better equipped to go out and face a mean, cruel world than any class that came before them. In other respects, they are the same bunch of scared graduates that are suddenly thrust into adulthood. Some things never change.

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CONGRATS RHS CLASS OF 2023



SCHOOL DAYS



Good Times, Good Friends



Having Fun!



ACTIVITIES



Memories!



Prom!