

## Reach High Scholars Program

Press Release

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### Raymond High Graduate Pursues Teaching Career



From Raymond, New Hampshire, to Saratoga Springs, New York, to Memphis, Tennessee, this young man aims high and reaches his goals. His drive and passion make him an ambassador of Raymond High School and the Reach High Scholars Program.

Only three months out of college, Jon Lemay, a member of the Raymond High School Class of 2011, has recently embarked on a teaching career at the Lausanne Collegiate School, a private, co-ed International Baccalaureate (IB) school in Memphis, TN. There he teaches Composition Dynamics, Creative Writing, and 9<sup>th</sup> grade English. Additionally, he is the faculty adviser for the school's literary magazine.

Lemay graduated from Skidmore College last May with a Bachelor of Arts degree. While at Skidmore, he also served as the Editor of *Folio*, the school's art and literary magazine. Not unlike when he was a Raymond High School student, Lemay fully immersed himself in his passions throughout his college career.

While a Raymond High School student, Lemay was a member of the Reach High Scholars Program, and he attended the Phillips Exeter Summer School, and the St. Paul's Advanced Studies Program.

Lemay attributes much of his drive as a college student and now a high school English teacher to his experience in the Reach High Scholars Program. When considering the payoff of his time in the RHSP, Lemay cites awareness of opportunities and experiences. He realized these opportunities were within his grasp and he had a “fair shot at them.”

“The people at the forefront of the RHSP played a vital role in encouraging me to take advantage of everything that RHS has to offer in addition to supplemental experiences like summer enrichment programs--experiences that, in addition to making me a more viable candidate for admission to a selective college, were life-changing and really, really fun,” says Lemay. He also recalls the RHSP as a space for like-minded people with similar academic and personal values to “come together, encourage one another, and celebrate each other’s accomplishments.”

When he reflects on his experience at Raymond High School and with the Reach High Scholars Program, Lemay feels grateful for the opportunities it has afforded him thus far, but he highlights that it was the people who helped shape him. “More than anything,” he says, “I remember the people who helped me get to where I am today and the sense of support I felt during a time when I could have felt very overwhelmed and helpless. At a time when the college application landscape seems so impossibly competitive, having a peer support system like that is nothing short of invaluable.”

Specifically, Lemay recognizes his Honors English teacher at RHS, Deirdre Doyle, as someone who made a lasting impact on his life. “She never failed to give me that extra push when it all seemed like too much to handle.” He also feels grateful to “plenty of other incredibly supportive teachers, such as Liz Koch and former RHS teacher Kristin Ozana.” Lemay’s gratitude does not end there. Reflecting on his high school career, he views Sue Spinney and Debbie Harmon (also parents of RHSP members) as instrumental in helping him reach his goals. While he was at RHS, they headed up the SAT boot camp and were “enormously helpful both as SAT tutors and as supportive presences in the college application process.” Reach High Scholars Program Chairman John McDaniels left a positive impression on Lemay as well. Lemay describes this role as “seminal.” “He’s kept me plugged in to what’s going on with the program and the high school in addition to presenting me with opportunities to give back to RHS.”

Looking toward his future, Lemay plans to teach in private schools for a few years and eventually go to graduate school where he would like to pursue an MFA in

Poetry. He is also open to other degrees and courses of study within the realm of literature, and would like to eventually teach at the college level and “never stop writing.”

Jon Lemay continues to give back to RHS as he serves as a positive role model to all students and young people alike.

To learn more about the Reach High Scholars Program, visit the website at:  
<http://reachhighscholars.org> .