

## College bound: Black River students ready for next step

Black River students wait for the beginning of their commencement ceremony Friday night at Black River.

By STEPHEN KLOOSTERMAN

The Holland Sentinel

Posted Jun 05, 2010 @ 05:30 AM

Holland, MI —



Black River Public School is nearing its goal of having 100 percent of its graduates into a four-year college or university.

More than 80 percent of the class of 2010 will attend a four-year college or university in the fall.

Starting with the class of 2011, acceptance to a four-year college will become a prerequisite for graduation, in accordance with the charter school's college-prep focus.

"The goal is to get everybody accepted into a 4-year university, and I feel like we could have done that this year," said Superintendent Shannon Brunink. "They've actually earned over \$2.5 million in scholarships, and that's just 59 kids."



**ONE GRADUATE'S STORY:** In the cutthroat world of college sports, it's common for students to switch high schools to jockey for a chance to play on a varsity team and possibly impress a college coach.

But Black River senior Rebecca Alice is the exception to that rule, managing to swing an athletic scholarship at a Big Ten college, even while attending relatively-small and academics-heavy Black River.

Alice said that she started to draw attention of recruiters while playing hockey on a club team in Grand Rapids. She had played indoor hockey as early as first grade, with the season running from August to April.

She'll attend Ohio State University with athletic and academic scholarships — she's also the class salutatorian — to play defense on the college's hockey squad.

**OVERHEARD:** "Be wise. Use your parents and teachers as sounding boards for decisions as you grow older."  
— Board member Ruth Crouch



“It is a perfect time to go to college and get some training for a career, when there are so few employment opportunities.” — Art Teacher Peter Middleton

“We moved the field, the soccer goals, out to the parking lot. We just re-created the soccer field out on the front parking lot. Everyone in that group were soccer players. It was (a prank) that was good, but wouldn’t hurt anything.”

— Senior Auston Marineau, describing a senior prank, a favorite high school memory

CLASS OF 2010: A total of 59 graduates participated in commencement exercises on Friday, June 4.

TOP GRADS: Valedictorian Hannah Selig, Salutatorian Rebecca

Allis.

Copyright 2010 The Holland Sentinel. Some rights reserved