

## Coventry HS Graduation

# After 4 years of work, friends ready to move on Coventry High's top two students reflect on careers and achievements

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COVENTRY — After a long, but rewarding and fun four years of high school, Coventry High valedictorian Kayla Dwyer and salutatorian Kristy Archambault are ready to walk down the aisle and be handed their diplomas as graduates of the class of 2014 from Coventry High School.

Along with their classes, both have been heavily involved with volunteer work and helping others around them both during and after school hours, as well as part time jobs and sports.

"Community service is some thing that I was raised doing in my family," Archambault said. "I volunteer for organizations and I love to help family and friends when they need me."

### CHS GRADUATION:

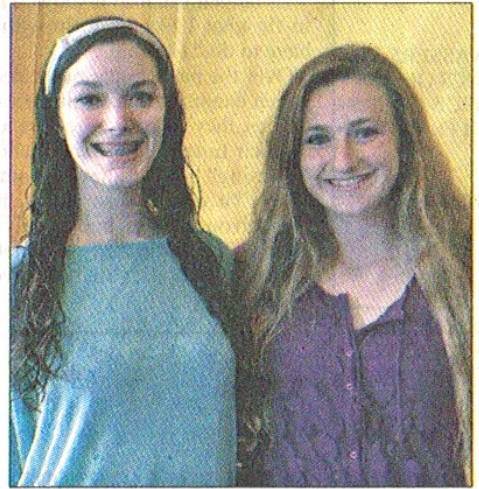
Tonight, 6 p.m.  
The Ryan Center, URI

"I really enjoy volunteering as well," Dwyer said. "Part of that enjoyment, like Kristy, comes from helping my family and friends."

Because both are at the top of their class of 2014, much of their focus was on honors classes and academics but they both found ways to relieve stress brought on by their heavy academic caseload.

Both agree the common stressors have been finding the balance between work, play and

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Kendra Leigh Miller • Daily Times

Friends since freshman year, CHS valedictorian Kayla Dwyer and salutatorian Kristy Archambault are happy to begin the next phase of their lives.

# Friends since freshmen, top 2 at CHS ready to go

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class and learning, on a daily basis, about time management.

"I ran whenever I was stressed," said Dwyer, who has a passion for running and was on the cross county and track teams all four years. "It really helps me to find my center and calm down."

Archambault finds her center by helping others.

"I try to take things one step at a time," she said, "I also have a lot of to-do lists."

Dwyer credited her sport to helping her learn time management.

"It helped because it showed me how to fit what I like to do in with what I have to do," she said.

Over the past couple of weeks, in between exams and last-minute responsibilities, they've had some time to reflect on their time in high school and find it "amazing" how far they've come.

"We've changed so much, not just through our classes, but as individuals," Archambault said. "My work ethic has certainly changed; I'm more invested in

what I do.

She has memory boxes from each high school year. Lately, she's been looking at the items in those that she finds special and reflecting on when those events or moments occurred.

Growing up, both girls have also had great support from their families.

Dwyer credited her parents and grandparents who taught her to give it 100 percent, regardless of the task.

Archambault credited her family and one of her mentors, her Kindergarten teacher, with whom she does volunteer work.

"It wasn't so much of anything she ever said to me, it was in her attitude and her always being happy and I try to emulate that," she said.

Once the fall rolls around and it's time for the next step, Dwyer will be attending Brown University to study molecular biology.

Archambault, meanwhile, will attend the University of Rhode Island to study nursing to be a pediatric nurse practitioner.