

## **Community Pride Quotes 2022**

“I started off going to school at Fleetridge Elementary which was three minutes down the road from my house, to St. Regis Catholic School, an international school in Yaounde, Cameroon, and yet I still found my way back to the Raytown school district. I work best in collaborative spaces, where I feel like my voice is heard, and I believe Raytown schools were always open to students addressing any issues they were undergoing both inside and outside the classroom. I am proud to be a future Raytown High School Alumni and give back to my first and most influential community.”

**Awah Asangwe**

“My teachers have taught me to be a better writer, a more critical thinker, and a more thoughtful and considerate person. Ms. Devore, and her newspaper class has even inspired my to pursue journalism as a career.

The classes and extracurricular activities offered throughout my Raytown education have been incredible, allowing me to explore as well as to improve on existing skills. My times as newspaper staff member and editor taught me leadership and writing skills. My National Honor Society experience has pushed me to become a kinder and more proactive person. Scholar bowl has taught me that so much is possible when you try. International Club and five years of Spanish has shown me how to embrace and celebrate other cultures. My art classes have taught me in the importance of expressing myself. My English classes have pushed me to become a more critical thinker and better writer. My science and math classes have taught me that an answer is always there if you look for it.

I look forward to my future at University of Missouri’s School of Journalism and the career beyond, where I will undoubtedly continue to use and value the skills that I began collecting at Raytown Schools as a five-year-old.”

**Paige Atkinson**

“I learned patience, leadership, and most importantly empathy while attending school in Raytown. These attributes will always remain with me for the rest of my life.”

**Je’Zhon Baker**

“My classes, especially the dual-credit classes I took during the pandemic junior year, helped teach the importance of time management skills. Planning and making small steps to get to larger goals are what helped me to succeed in those classes. For example, in Composition I class, the teacher would show us how to break up getting our essays done, so that they were well-written papers. My teacher, peers, classes and activities helped to think outside the box as well. Math classes with their problem-solving and English classes with discussion covered a multitude of topics and opinions. I learned through the education in my Raytown Consolidated District that mistakes are only stepping stones to success and perseverance is an important skill to maintain. I have worth beyond my material achievements.”

**Alyssa Barbee**

“My teachers taught me to be culturally aware and respectful of those around me, recalling the lessons of Dr. King to not judge others ‘by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.’ Raytown teachers have created environments where students feel they are valued and that they belong.”

**Kya Berry**

“Debate has taught me how to articulate my thoughts, listen to others’ ideas, how to persuade, be confident in public speaking, and how to think critically. These lessons, while both challenging and rewarding, have led me to discover my passion for social justice, specifically laws surrounding social justices such as civil rights and equity for all.”

**Travon Bray-Howard.**

“I truly believe that I am a more resilient person *because* I attended Raytown C-2 Schools. In attending these schools and witnessing my peers experience injustice, I have learned the art of advocating for my peers and knowing when it is time to compromise. Most importantly, Raytown Schools gave me a gift that I will protect for the rest of my life: a sense of community in a time where I had none.

Although my time at Raytown Schools is coming to an end, I will keep the community I built here as the pulse of every decision I make. Raytown Schools have instilled the values of the real world into its students. I plan to do my part to make our world a more just place.”

**Breanna Bonner**

“I am proud of the Raytown School district because of the Herndon Career Center. Foundations of Nursing has done so much for me as an individual. As a senior, being able to do this for my last year has been the best experience due to hands-on learning. My residents’ appreciation for me really keeps me going. They have helped me understand that we all will get old someday and will need some support, which is why I strive to provide the best care I can. Eventually, I aspire to be a role model for other nurses so they can also provide the best care possible.”

**Amaya Brown**

“I will never forget the vastly different personality types of the people that I met in school. Having those influences in my life helped me appreciate the work that teachers do for a living. They have to adapt to each student that walks into their rooms, and that would be a challenging feat for anyone. I aspire to be like my teachers. Those individuals have dedicated their lives to helping others see the potential they hold within themselves. They’re the people that give me the confidence to try something new, and take risks.”

**Clara Bryant**

“Each teacher offered insight on topics that were going to be integral to my success in the future. I was taught financial literacy, future planning, critical thinking, creative writing and so much more because of this district. These skills offered me the ability to plan a goal-oriented future. Because of my experience in the Raytown Quality Schools I have become someone who welcomes challenges.”

**Caleb Dillon**

“Some of my best high school memories are from sports. I’m more confident and dedicated. Golf and Swim are more individual sports and that means beating your own score and challenging yourself day by day. I did one year of girls’ soccer which opened my shell to try new things.”

**Carmelita Gonzalez**

“I believe the Raytown Schools have helped me become a more confident, loving, and hard-working person. Especially because I am taking college classes, even with the stress these classes have, Raytown teachers and the Raytown district have helped me understand what it is like to be a college student and how to face the problems I will soon face in college.”

**Annette Guijarro**

“Covid isolation felt like suffocating underneath a large heavy blanket. My mental health suffered, and I felt as if all my opportunities and friends had been sucked away from me by this virus. Although it didn’t happen overnight, I realized that the people around me were struggling as well and were willing to help me. Online bible-studies, meeting with friends virtually for Dungeons and Dragons, sending progressively silly cat videos back and forth allowed me to still feel connected even though we were apart. The camaraderie that I experienced with my cross country team also helped me get through the

quarantine. Struggling up a hill six feet apart from your friends takes a whole new meaning when you've been isolated for so long, and the hard work of cross country helped me cultivate my ability to persevere even further."

**Seth Miles**

I'm proud to be a Raytown High student. It's the complete package. We have a diverse student body, teachers who CARE, and excellent extracurriculars. I feel comfortable in the fact that my peers and I can learn from each other, and we can discuss controversial topics while respecting each other. Raytown has molded me into the self-sufficient and striving young man I am today. I'm comfortable in any space, confident in my abilities, and I *care* about others (something that's been lacking in this country recently.)"

**Cedrick Owens, Jr.**

"I love that Raytown is almost always the underdog. It was definitely evident on the swim team for the years 2018-2021. I will always remember the feeling of rising up with my best friends on the swim team and showing all the other schools that look down upon us that we are just as good as them, that we are not willing to lay down and die, but to fight for everything we can get until we have nothing left. Being a part of all this has helped me to realize that it is important to have goals.

So setting goals has become a fundamental part of my life for everything that I do. Not just in sports, but in my relationships, schoolwork, and religion. I always set goals for myself because that how I have learned to persevere. Always having that light at the end of the tunnel allows me to never stop working until I have made it."

**Dylan Searls**

"I've grown through a district that has helped me learn that I can be a self-made adult through independence and responsibility."

**Jada Shields**

"The expectation to excel in high school greatly contributed to me self-confidence. I was never the type to lead willingly. I preferred to follow a more capable leader than I could ever have been. However, through the leadership positions I was given in theatre and during school, I built up the confidence to lead others into one common goal. I figured out my strengths and weaknesses and used them to succeed in whatever trial I encountered."

**Cynne Soria**

"Extracurricular activities have molded me into the individual I am today. Being on the track and the cross country team taught me to finish the race. Color guard taught me how to interpret music with confidence. It's no easy task throwing a flag pole in mid-air, twirling in a circle and catching the flag in one hand. Cheerleading taught me sportsmanship and to remain in good spirits, win or lose!"

**Maya Thomas**