

The **Academic Excellence Award** is conferred on a student whose academic performance during the year demonstrates remarkable consistency at the highest level of achievement. The intent of the award is to reward those who have rewarded us in the classroom – both students and faculty - who achieve on a level of excellence matched by the values of scholarship we all hold dear, and who study with intensity, motivate themselves and others, and genuinely celebrate learning in all aspects to its fullest.

### **12<sup>th</sup> grade Academic Award**

Intrinsic motivation might be defined as motivation that comes from inside the individual rather than from an external source. For example, a professional basketball player might get their motivation from an internal source, such as a love for the game of basketball, or from an external source, such as the money they are paid to play the game. This senior embodies intrinsic motivation for learning.

She would not argue that percents, letter grades, and GPA's matter to her, but more importantly, she loves the process and the act of thinking, writing, and discussion in and of themselves. Her teachers ubiquitously acknowledge that she approaches her academic life with a tenacity and thoroughness that we see only rarely among students, and that she embodies a quest for understanding not for a grade or a score, but for its own sake.

Many teachers have had this student purposefully stride towards them, with notebook and pencil in hand and a bulldog sort of look on her face. She comes to them not to discuss a grade, but to discuss how to more completely understand. Whether she was trying to master her second or third song for senior recital or struggling with a geologic concept that she missed in the first semester of this year while she was in Ireland, she approaches all disciplines with the same tenacity for understanding. Learning for its own sake will most certainly be a part of her life way beyond CRMS and college.

The class of 2009 academic award goes to **Riley Skinner**, who is on her way to Bennington College next year.

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The CRMS **Community Award** is the highest recognition the school community can bestow on a student. Those who receive the award embody the enduring values that have been at the core of the school since its beginning – respect, responsibility, and excellence. The award recognizes individuals for their responsibility beyond themselves, for their willingness to work for the benefit of all, and for the legacy, through example, that endures in the memories of everyone.

### **12<sup>th</sup> grade Community Award**

From someone who came across as "too cool" as a 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grader, this student has become a student who represents everything good about CRMS. He has grown, he's become more serious, and he has perspective on the school and himself. Over the course of his soccer career he went from fiery freshman, fighting and accruing red cards as if

they were badges of honor to a composed senior who played aggressively and inspired others to raise the level of competition. “This student was a natural leader on Spring Trip; quiet, supportive, confident, respected and appreciated by all.” In the same vein, it was pointed out that, “He was willing to take on any job and would complete it competently. He was able to speak with younger students about his experiences with having made mistakes with a great deal of perspective and maturity.” “On Fall Trip he was instrumental in establishing in students’ minds the value of doing something different with hiking all the way from CRMS to the top of Mt. Sopris. His “yes” attitude was contagious...He makes people want to be better people!” Academically, “He was always a contributing member of geology, to the point that the class always deferred to him with challenging problems.” “He was incredibly mature, kind-hearted, and open-minded in senior English.” In Environmental Literature he was asked to *do something radical* for six days. He and a friend decided to camp up on Tick Ridge, cook over an open camp fire (with wood that they lugged up to their camp at the top of the Ridge), eat only vegetarian. This student’s commitment to seeing the project through, doing an admirable and honorable job and holding himself to the highest standards pushed the rest of the class to *do more* to become more radical.

It gives me great pleasure in presenting the 2009 Community Award to **Noah Johns**, who will be attending college in my home state: Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon.