

Melissa (Raber) Davis



1. What activities were you involved in as a student at RVHS?

Mrs. Davis was involved in Softball, Marching Band, Concert Band, Band Council, Choir, Student Council, National Honor Society, and 4-H. She was also a Basketball Statistician.

2. What or who was influential in your life that drove you towards your career field?

Mrs. Davis's path to Graphic Design was not a clear one. She remembers having an assignment in an RV German class where she had to create an advertisement for a product. Hers was whitening toothpaste. She drew with markers, printed, cut, and glued on clip art and "designed" her very first ad. Mrs. Davis was proud of her final product and her ability to layout the information. Frau Hoffman (her favorite teacher) said it was the best in the class. She thinks that ignited a spark that this may be something she'd be good at. Mrs. Davis never took Art in High School, but she feels creativity runs in her blood. She always loved to watch her mom paint and craft and create when she was growing up. When deciding on her major for college, she remembers her Dad suggesting Graphic Design as a promising field. She knew she would enjoy using creativity, so studying Fine Art seemed to be the right fit. Her Graphic Design professors at OU encouraged her effort and drive, and insured her she was on the right path.

3. What are your career and job responsibilities?

Mrs. Davis is currently a stay-at-home mom and does freelance graphic design work. In addition to that, she has an online Etsy shop where she sells her digital designs and some other hand-crafted items. She sold String Art on her site and that led to hosting local String Art classes to teach others the craft. As a Graphic Designer, she gathers information from the client to evaluate their project, research and think through those ideas, generate multiple creative designs, and then perfect a final product.

4. How did River View lay a good foundation for your success?

Mrs. Davis's wonderful teachers at River View taught her about the value of education, perseverance, and hard work. Her activities, directors, and coaches taught her the extreme importance of teamwork. She learned early on how important it is to be a good friend and in return be surrounded by a group of great friends.