

# CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

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*Parents, along with students in tow, attended the districtwide registration held August 4-5 at Commerce Middle School. Parents could verify contact information, get student immunizations up to date, request transportation and obtain class schedules. Commerce Middle School students could also get their textbooks and stow them in their newly assigned lockers.*

*Over 110 new students were enrolled; however, enrollment figures won't be available until the first week of school.*

## Meet the Teacher Schedules

### August 20

CES 5:30–6:30 p.m.

ACW 6–7 p.m.

### August 25

CMS 6–7 p.m.



**Exemplary Expectations**

## Safety enhancements made across CISD

Many projects have been undertaken throughout Commerce ISD this summer to increase the safety and security of students and staff.

New storefront entrances have been installed at Commerce Elementary and Commerce Middle Schools. Glass barriers in the entrance hallways direct visitors to the office area where admittance to other parts of the building can be controlled.

“Our new storefronts look very nice and they will add greatly to keeping our buildings secure,” Superintendent Blake Cooper said.

Later this fall, new technology will be phased in at each school to enable personnel to scan a visitor’s driver’s license and then print out an entrance pass. This process will ensure the identification of visitor’s picking up students and prevent visitors with certain offenses from entering at all.

A new messaging system will also be in place. Called School Messenger, the web-based program will send emergency notifications or simple routine messages via e-mail, voicemail or text. Administrators, teachers and coaches will be able to notify parents and guardians of program cancellations or time changes quickly and efficiently.

Also this summer, all CISD teachers have been digitally fingerprinted by the State of Texas. Fingerprints are maintained in the Texas Department of Public Safety FACT Clearinghouse and the district will be notified of any arrests of its employees. Since January 2008, newly hired auxiliary employees have been fingerprinted and added to the DPS database.

CISD Police Chief Joe Venable has devised regulations for parking on school property and will be enforcing the regulations by ticketing offenders. All school employees will be required to display a school parking permit to help identify vehicles with legitimate school business.

According to Cooper, all of these additions have been made to ensure that students are safe at school. Parents can rest assured that with these systems in place, students and teachers can focus on academic achievement.



*CMS Secretary Gracie Weston shows the new storefront that requires visitors to check in her office before they are allowed entrance to the school.*



*CHS Principal Virdie Montgomery is fingerprinted as required by state law.*

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*Tiger football players found a completely new weight room when they reported for two-a-day workouts.*

## Tigers gear up for season with new weight equipment

As Athletic Director Scott Wells and his team of coaches prepare Tiger football players for the upcoming season, a completely new weight room has been installed which should entice more students to participate in athletics and also help train them better.

"Our weight training program is the cornerstone of our whole athletic program. It's here students learn to improve their work ethic and teamwork and build strength," Wells explained. Wells explained that an upgrade was necessary because the players needed an upgrade in their training mentality.

Approval to purchase the \$65,000 worth of new equipment was given by the CISD Board of Trustees last spring.

Installation took place in July and the strength and conditioning program was in full swing as two-a-days began in early August.

According to Wells, the new equipment provides much more flexibility with double-sided racks and benches and inclines that are movable. The equipment is built by PowerLift, which Wells believes is the best in the country. Before coming to Commerce in July, the company installed equipment for the Kansas City Chiefs.

"We want our kids to have a first class experience and we want our opponents to look at our facilities and recognize that we know how to do things right," Wells added.

All Commerce athletes should benefit from the new equipment with strength and conditioning programs also available to female athletes.



## **New teachers, administrators welcomed to CISD**

Twenty-three new teachers began their duties August 14 at the annual new teacher orientation. They are also invited to attend the Chamber of Commerce Welcome Luncheon August 20 along with new A&M-Commerce faculty.

Commerce High School welcomes 12 new teachers, including five new coaches. **Debbie Jeffcoat**, who comes from Paris ID, will teach social studies and coach softball. New football coaches include **Wesley Cooper** (math), **Steven Miller** and **John Griggs** (social studies) and **Kyle Abshire** (English). Cooper is coming from Springtown, Miller Mabank and Abshire comes from Linden-Kildare.

Leading the ag department will be **Scott MacDonald** and **Chase Tyndell**. Although both are first year teachers, they have life-long experiences in agriculture and strong academic backgrounds.

**Amanda Kimbler** will teach senior English and she comes from San Angelo Lakeview High School.

**Bill Knutson** returns to CHS after teaching math and physics at Cooper High School.

**Rhayma Keith** joins CHS as a math teacher, while **Jason Thompson** and **Wes Roberts** will be teaching science. **Joyce Harris** will divide her Spanish teaching duties between CHS and CMS.

At Commerce Middle School, **Jason Tharp** is the new assistant principal. **Amber Ryser** will be teaching math. Although in her first year of teaching, Ryser was a math tutor at the school last spring.

New CMS coaches include **Robert Wallace**, **John Pullen**, **Jenna O'Neal**, **Sarah Hall** and **Taylor Huffman**.

**Nickie Smith** is the teacher for the newly created life skills classroom.

**Clayton Minor**, who comes from Maud ISD, will teach social studies.

At A.C. Williams Elementary, two new third grade teachers are **Keiondra Simpson** and **Carol Adams**. Simpson begins her teaching career while Adams comes to the district from Quinlan ISD.

After being a Prekindergarten teacher at CES, **Jeanie Putman** will be a fourth grade teacher at ACW.

Commerce Elementary School had no teaching openings but the new position of assistant principal is held by **Diane Stegall**, a veteran ACW teacher.

**Jeanne Lay** joins the district as a secondary curriculum facilitator. Lay comes from Como-Pickton ISD where she has been high school principal for three years. Prior to that, she taught second grade for many years.

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## Opening a brand new school

A. C. Williams Elementary School teachers anxiously awaited the go-ahead so they could finally enter the new school and begin unpacking boxes upon boxes of teaching materials.



*Fourth-grade teacher Laura Finley arrived to begin designing her classroom.*



*New ACW Principal Wes Underwood knows communication is vital as he begins programming school radios for use opening day.*



*Counselor Harriet Williams settles in to her new office.*



*Librarian Susan Patton packed up and shelved over 13,000 books and instructional materials during the move.*

*New teacher Keiondra Simpson stocks the shelves in her supply closet.*