

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

COMMERCE ISD E-LETTER • SEPTEMBER 16, 2011

Campuses salute local heroes

A tragic day in our history was remembered as campuses found age-appropriate activities to commemorate 9/11.

CES students lined the hallways tipping their hats to hometown heroes including the City of Commerce firefighters and police officers, Texas A&M University-Commerce police, the Hunt County Sheriff Dept., emergency medical personnel, the Texas Department of Public Safety and CISD Police Chief Joe Venable.

ACW students cheered a caravan of police, fire and emergency vehicles traveling in front of their school.

Commerce Middle School discussed heroism and what it means in small groups.

CHS circled the flag pole as the Boy Scouts lowered the flag to half mast and Principal Virdie Montgomery reminded students why we commemorate days like 9/11.



**Exemplary
Expectations**

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

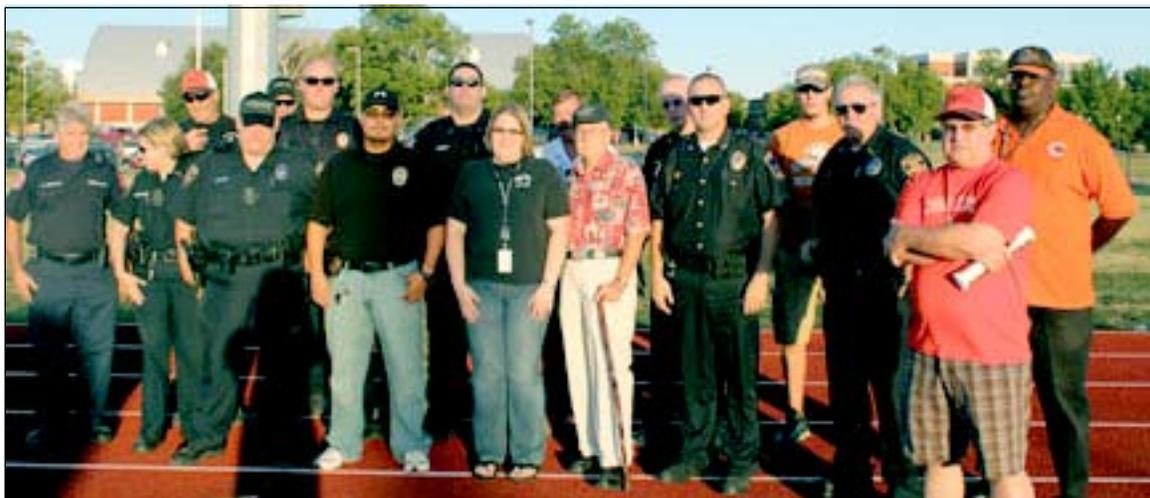


Local heroes honored under Friday night lights

Local heroes were honored during pre-game activities of the CHS-Princeton football game Friday, Sept. 9.

Police officers, firefighters, emergency medical personnel and the military received a show of appreciation from fans as they were led onto the field.

The CHS band joined with PHS band on field for the playing of the national anthem. Scenes of the tragedy in New York on 9/11 accompanied the song "God Bless the USA" on the giant video screen.



CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Retired teachers give books

First graders received a gift from the Northeast Texas Retired Teachers Association — a book of their very own.

Members of the organization gather books each year to give to children.



First graders in Melissa Towne's class receive a book from Nelma Dodd and Bettina Zvanut.

Middle school students learn to 'Negotiate'

CMS students and teachers work with a new curriculum each Wednesday called "Negotiate." The program teaches students how to interact with one another using good manners and respect and then deal with issues common to students of their age.

Principal Patrick Just said the program piggybacks off of Rachel's Challenge and helps students understand that one little positive decision on their part can get others to do the same thing.

Small groups made of up students from each grade level meet weekly during the 70-minute tutorial period.

"We are basically teaching students that they should care for everyone," Just said.



Sixth-grade reading teacher Sherry Rector offers a handshake to a student in one of the first "Negotiate" classes.

New for 11-12

CES

- Jeanne Lay named principal
- Reading Recovery teacher added

ACW

- Math and reading specialist teachers added
- Boys & Girls Club moved to ACW and through collaboration with ACW teachers and Communities in Schools academic emphasis increased.
- Math and science teaching project through TAMU-Commerce

CMS

- Negotiate curriculum to enhance Rachel's Challenge program
- Dr. Eric Gruver from Texas A&M University-Commerce teaching eighth graders history
- Choir offered

CHS

- Food science for science credit
- Health science program online collaboration with Cooper ISD
- Ipad COW (classroom on wheels) has classroom set of Ipad for teacher check out



Eighth-graders are encouraged by CMS Principal Patrick Just to step up to become leaders on campus.



Band members gear up for a great year.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

First day of school 2011-2012

PreK students learn to lunch

Imagine that you are four years old. You are asked to line up, travel to the cafeteria (whatever that is) and proceed through the line picking up a tray. Next you find your spot with the class on the longest table you've ever seen. After guessing what you are eating, you try to open the tiniest milk carton ever. The sights, the sounds and the smell of the lunchroom are foreign but after a few days, it all comes second nature to the tiniest Tigers.



All hands on deck to help pre-kindergarten students learn how to get their trays.



'It's cheese pizza. Nothing will fall off.'



'Piece of cake! I'll have this down by Friday.'



"I missed school, especially my computer classes."



Even with the heat, it's good to get outside on the first day of school. ACW students take to the hoops during recess.