

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

COMMERCE ISD E-LETTER • MARCH 2015

CMS students hit the Big Apple, DC

Thirty seventh and eighth graders traveled to New York City and Washington D.C. during spring break. While the list of their stops included the usual monuments and tourist must-sees, sponsor and CMS teacher Rebekah Jacobson said this was a trip of a lifetime for many of the students who were able to experience two major cities of the world along with their friends.

Chaperons, including teacher Andrew Simpson and parents Lea McWhirter and Marie Humphries, along with Jacobson, accompanied students to the White House, the Smithsonian, the National Holocaust Museum, Arlington National Cemetery plus a night tour of monuments along the National Mall.

In New York City, they rode the subway, went to the top of the Empire State Building, and visited Times Square, China Town, Grand Central Station, Central Park and the 9/11 Memorial. They saw “Wicked” on Broadway and were seen on the Today Show.

The students raised money for the trip through different activities including the CMS Marketplace held in their gym.



Alliance Bank debuts spirit card



Alliance Bank is offering a Commerce Tiger debit card for its customers. Every time the Tiger debit card is used to make a signed purchase Alliance Bank gives back to Commerce ISD. Shown left to right are Dari Rodriguez, Alliance Bank service specialist; Gary Rusch, branch president; CISD Superintendent Blake Cooper and Sue Sanders, Assistant Vice President of Alliance Bank.

CLI gets the grand district tour



The Commerce Leadership Class of 2015 visited CES, ACW and CHS during its annual visit during Texas Public Schools Week. Members saw how technology is used on every campus to engage students. They viewed the award-winning short film created by CHS students. They were transported throughout the district on a “yellow dog” and enjoyed lunch in the CHS cafeteria.



First-grade teacher Lauren Veraska welcomed CLI members into her lively classroom.

Spring Events Calendar

School in session	April 6
	May 22
Bad weather make-up days for Feb. 9–10	
The District will seek a waiver for one additional day.	
Athletic Assembly	May 7
Senior Parent Banquet	May 11
Top 10 Dinner	May 19
CHS Honors Night	May 19
Memorial Day holiday	May 25
Graduation	June 5

Bad weather make-up days scheduled

School will be in session on April 6 and May 22 to make up for two days missed in February due to bad weather. The District is applying for a waiver for the additional missed day.



Mark your calendar for CSSEF Boots & BBQ Celebration and Fundraiser Saturday, April 11, 6 p.m., CHS

Become a Foundation Champion for \$200. Tickets available at the Administration Building



Life with a newborn... 'Think it over'

In Sawyer Colvin's child development class, CHS students experience the real-life demands of a parent with a newborn with "Baby Think It Over." Caring for the baby dolls 24/7 is an eye-opening time for these teenagers, according to Colvin.

Just because we **CAN**

Students brought in canned food for the local food bank during a drive that did not promise the normal tangible rewards. Normally, principals launch a campaign for a canned food drive offering a reward of a free dress day or the like. This drive was "Just Because We Can" leaving donors with the satisfaction of helping others.





On March 7, 18 students from Commerce High School competed in the Visual Arts Scholastic Event. This year, in our Region there were 1,255 pieces of art that were judged based on aesthetics of the piece, interview on art history, and the application of the research of the art pieces. CHS received 11 superior ratings. Amelia Martin was chosen as one of the 80 students to advance to the State event.



Western day at CES

After a busy Open House on March 10 when parents and their children crowded the hallways, CES students enjoyed Western Wear Wednesday, a relaxed time the day after when everyone wore western dress and enjoyed cowboy activities. Above, kindergarten teacher Samantha Bland shoots a “selfie” with her students.



At ACW, third-grade ESL students practice their multiplication facts online. Teacher Terrie Thompson said the students love the variety online learning provides.

Testing Calendar

STAAR tests

Grade 4 Writing	March 30–31	Grades 6–7 Math	April 21
Grade 7 Writing	March 30–31	Grade 8 Social Studies	April 21
English I	March 30	Grades 3–4 Reading ..	April 22
Grade 5 Reading	March 31	Grades 6–7 Reading ..	April 22
Grade 8 Reading	March 31	Grade 5 Science	April 22
English II	April 1	Grade 8 Science	April 22
Grade 5 Math	April 20	Algebra I	May 4–8
Grade 8 Math	April 20	Biology	May 4–8
Grades 3–4 Math	April 21	U.S. History	May 4–8