

# CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

COMMERCE ISD E-LETTER • JUNE 18, 2012



*Superintendent Blake Cooper presents Valedictorian Rachel Montgomery her diploma.*

## CHS graduation held for 93 students

The time-honored tradition of graduation was held for 93 Commerce High School seniors June 1 at the TAMU-Commerce Field House.

Principal Virdie Montgomery welcomed the audience of family and friends and the graduates marched through the rows of faculty ushering their way into the event, which marks a milestone in their lives.

Montgomery recognized retiring social studies teacher, Steve Scroggin, as the graduates solemnly turned on cue to honor him.

Valedictorian Rachel Montgomery and Salutatorian Jalyn Holt presented their speeches. Students were greeted by school board members as they crossed the stage to receive their diplomas from Superintendent Blake Cooper.

Cheers rang out as graduates tossed crepe paper in the air at the conclusion.



*CISD Board of Trustees prepare to congratulate the graduates June 1. Pictured left to right are President Willie Blow, Secretary Randy Starks, Ted Oats, Gabe Wittkopf, Russell Armstrong and Vice President Bob McLeroy.*



**Exemplary  
Expectations**



*Director of Curriculum Julia Robinson (right) presents ACW Principal Wes Underwood with some super hero tools he will need in his new position at Greenville ISD. Administrators gathered to wish him well in his new position as Secondary Curriculum Supervisor. Underwood has served CISD for 10 years.*

In other personnel news, CHS Principal Virdie Montgomery has accepted the position as principal of Wylie High School. Montgomery was an assistant principal at Wylie before coming to CHS four years ago.

## *iPad initiative*

### **Massive shift to technology offered at CHS**

As schools move from textbooks to technology, many school districts are purchasing or leasing laptops or other digital devices for students. Commerce ISD has chosen another route to ensure high school students have access to the internet's abundant instructional resources.

Every high school student will have the opportunity to purchase an Apple iPad 2 at a reduced cost. The device is the student's property to use at school and at home and it is theirs to keep when they move or graduate.

District administrators negotiated a lowered price of \$379 for Apple iPads and the Commerce Schools Educational Enrichment Foundation has committed \$30,000 to reduce the price of each iPad to \$300. Parents may purchase the iPads outright for \$359.75 or finance through a local bank. Guaranty Bond Bank has offered to finance 200 devices at a low percentage rate over six months. A down payment of \$100 is required to cover taxes, insurance and a bank processing fee.

Superintendent Blake Cooper believes Commerce ISD has a unique plan to allow students to own their device. "We believe students will take care of their own equipment better than if we just give it to them," he said.

"We just couldn't see using taxpayer funds to purchase the devices. We've had a great response to the initiative thus far," Cooper said. "We know students respond well to technology. These devices help engage our students in learning and we expect academic performance will improve because of them," Cooper added.

Several parent meetings were held in late May and early June to explain the initiative.

If parents choose not to purchase a device, students will be able to access technology using other devices available in their classrooms.

The District is preparing to lower the cost for parents who have multiple children at CHS by offering iPads for \$150. An "I Give for iPad" campaign will solicit funds from other community sources including businesses and individuals. Residents are encouraged to donate to the "I Give for iPad" campaign by making contributions to the Commerce Schools Educational Enrichment Foundation directly. Donations earmarked for iPads should be designated as such and mailed to the CISD Administration Building at 3315 Washington Street.

Several teachers in core subject areas have volunteered to shift to this new mode of instructional delivery. For the change to be successful, the teachers are attending intense training in using iPads as instructional tools conducted onsite by Apple.

CISD staff will also have an opportunity purchase iPads for personal use through payroll deduction.

*"These devices help engage our students in learning and we expect academic performance will improve because of them."*

# CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

## TEACHERS of the YEAR



CISD Teachers of the Year--  
Elementary Teacher of the Year  
Beverly Galyean (ACW), left,  
and Glenda Henderson (CHS),  
Secondary Teacher of the Year.



Campus teachers of the year  
included Clayton Minor, CMS,  
and Heather Kilgore, CES.

## End-of-the-year recognition for CISD staff

# SERVICE AWARDS



**5** CISD employees with five years service included (left to right)  
Valerie Roberson, Sondra Feduccia, Trecia Harrell, Mark Blankenship,  
William Pemberton, Scott Lawson, Erin Ballotti, Patrick Just, Joe Venable,  
Christine Beard and Johnny Kirkpatrick. Not pictured is Erskin Melton.



**10** 10 Years—Sonya Mathews, Benny Chambliss, Samantha Bland,  
Wes Underwood, Jacqueline Amos, Karen Davis, Alice Gunter  
and Brock Mitchell



**15** 15 years—Deanna Hays, Jodee Anderson, Shawn Bronson  
(represented by wife Tina) and Donna Lunsford.

# CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS



*Service awards went to Harriet Williams (35 years), Colin Curtis (25 years), Beverly Galyean (20 years), Lisa Coffey and Sherry Rector (35 years) and Janet John (40 years).*



*Retirees, which included Monte Ashcraft, Debbie Dunham, Dewey Taylor, Steve Scroggin, Beverly Galyean, Alice Gunter and Myra Beadles, were honored with special gifts.*



*STAR award winners included Kim McCarty, Devia Rodgers, Leslie Spradling, Jayson Campbell, Nancy Nation and Renee Johnson. STAR awards are presented to employees in auxiliary services who provide exceptional service and are selected by district employees.*