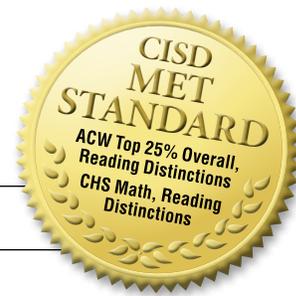


# CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

COMMERCE ISD E-LETTER • MAY 9, 2014



## CHS's top 5 percent honored by Rotary Club

Commerce High School's top five percent students were honored for their academic achievements during a luncheon sponsored by the Commerce Rotary Club. Dr. Ricky Dobbs, Texas A&M University-Commerce, was the speaker at the event which was attended by students, parents and Rotary Club members.



*Shown top row left to right are Sammy Elwell, Spencer Sullivan, Mac Robinson, Jacob Fairweather, Madison Shaw. Second row from top: Michael Elwell, Jackson Singleton, Andres Cadena, Nicole Barrett, Catie Wells. Third row from top: Philip Weiss, Shelby Patterson, Laney Davidson, Logan Talley, Chelsey Beane and Luke Hooten. Front row includes Campbell Reid, Jacey Sturch, Amelia Martin, Sierra Patterson and Emily Gruver.*



## Stand up to stop bullying

Fifteen-year-old Lizzie Sider talked about being teased and ridiculed while she was in elementary school and how she dealt with it during a presentation at CES. She encouraged students to take a stand to stop bullying. She also sang her debut single, "Butterfly." The Oklahoma student takes her message to students across the country.

## Three seniors head to Honors College

by David Bush, CHS English teacher

It's spring again in Commerce and spring is a time of change. For three Commerce High School seniors, that change is coming in the form of a full scholarship to Texas A&M University Commerce. Ahnaliese Bell, Shelby Patterson and Logan Talley are set to begin their first semester at TAMU-C as members of the Honors College, a highly selective group with a rigorous application process and high academic expectations for its members.

Honors College Students are expected to have a minimum ACT score of 27 or SAT of 1200, graduating in the top ten percent of their high school class. Additionally, the program looks for students who exemplify the spirit of leadership and community consciousness, as well as refined talent and an eye for time management. They pick only the cream of the crop for the 200-strong band of hardworking and high-achieving students.

All three young ladies are looking forward to the challenges ahead, already the kind of individuals whose actions have surpassed the average. Logan Talley says that "the Honor's Program was a perfect fit for me, as I wanted to stay close to home and push myself academically."

The Honors College provides a focus on readying students for more than just good grades, with an emphasis on "students to think critically and creatively. In addition to the core courses, students attend a series of colloquia and complete a thesis project (typically) in their major area." Students tour museums, art galleries, and participate in Honors classes exclusive to the program. Students are encouraged to think of their career plans from day

one to build the relationships and skill sets necessary to excel in their future fields.

Senior Shelby Patterson recalled her interview experience. "One thing that really stood out to me was how much interest Dr. (Ray) Green and Dr. (Eric) Gruver showed when they asked about my career plans," she said.

"I wasn't just another number in the crowd. They were planning on investing in me. That in itself meant the world to me; I can honestly say I'm excited to be a part of that family next fall," Shelby said.

Logan has her eye the field of human performance where Shelby plans on a career in equine science and Ahnaliese is looking at a future in freelance illustration.

Like most things in life, hard work is rewarded with more hard work. Luckily for Honors College students, that hard work comes with a meal plan, book stipend, and "sweet, new digs."

"Looking forward to the free tuition," Ahnaliese was excited

to find out that "the housing is awesome!" Her path to the Honor's College began just after she joined Upward Bound, a program that helps many young high school students to develop interests and skills related to higher education.

"I had just been going to class – I had no idea that I could even find out what my class rank was! I was shocked to find out that I was 15th. Since then, I studied hard and set goals. My hard work has definitely paid off!"

As these young ladies set off, we wish them all the best and a bright start to an even brighter future. □



*Three CHS seniors will attend the Texas A&M University-Commerce Honors College in the fall. Pictured left to right: Ahnaliese Bell, Shelby Patterson and Logan Talley have received full scholarships to the rigorous program.*

## Seniors visit Pensacola's National Naval Aviation Museum

Senior trips once were annual rites of passage for high school graduates. In recent years as costs rose, the distance and duration of these final classmate getaways were shortened. That is until Commerce High School Principal David Welch brought to CHS his desire to let students experience the world outside Commerce and a \$20,700 donation from the J.W. Bagley Foundation.

A total of 68 CHS seniors and six sponsors took two charter buses to Pensacola, Florida, over the weekend. The group left at 10 p.m. Friday, April 26 and returned Monday, April 28 at 8 p.m. Students and sponsors could not have been more pleased at the outcome.

With the Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola as their destination, students “kept learning and learning,” according to senior Brittany Davenport. They were excited to cross the Mississippi River, see the U.S.S. Alabama battleship, play on the beaches in Pensacola and attend an IMAX movie about fighter pilot training.

“It was a good, well-rounded trip,” Principal Welch said. “Everyone we met was very complimentary of our students. At the restaurants, the hotel and the IMAX theater, I couldn’t have been prouder of our students,” he said.

Senior Ty Reynolds said they ate good food on the trip at Ruby Tuesday, Bryce’s Cafeteria and Wayne’s Diner. He said it was different from food he was accustomed to in Commerce. He also said there was a sense of camaraderie among students on the trip. “The togetherness made us come together,” he said. “I talked with people who I had grown up with but had never spoken to before,” he added.

Welch wants to continue trips for upcoming senior classes. According to Welch, this first successful trip set the tone for many more to come.



*Seniors traveled by charter buses to Florida where they visited the National Naval Aviation Museum and played on the Pensacola beach.*

## Teen leaders spotlight child abuse

Students in Teen Leadership class at CMS helped spread the word about child abuse prevention during April. The students drew posters and pictures to raise awareness of the potential dangers. Students and teachers were awarded prizes such as blue ribbon stress balls, water bottles, suckers, gift cards and large pizzas donated by Domino’s. The pinwheels lining the front of CMS brought attention to their mission, according to teacher Nakita Sharp.



# CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

*Sondra Feduccia's third grade students designed and planted plant creatures as they studied the life cycle of a seed. The project begins the unit on ecosystems where students are required to tell where their creature lives, its adaptations and food source. They will create "Chatterpic" stories using an iPad app so their creature can narrate.*



## Fifth graders focus on Survivor Science STAAR review



*Students worked in groups to develop a model of photosynthesis.*



▲ *Students constructed a thermos and competed against one another to develop the best insulated container, reviewing conductor and insulators of energy during Survivor Science STAAR review week.*



◀ *Students played vocabulary twister as part of the Five Minute to Win It challenge.*