

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

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Pride Prep Academy opens to area freshmen

Imagine your child graduating high school with 36 semester hours of college credit – tuition free. That is the opportunity presented to ninth graders in Hunt County schools this year by Texas A&M University-Commerce and Commerce High School.

Of the 14 students enrolled in U.S. History through Pride Prep, 12 are from CHS. Parents from Lone Oak and Boles drive their children to the 7:35 a.m. class three days a week and hurry them to their home campus 45 minutes later.

CHS teacher Matt Brewer is the instructor for the dual-credit class and he says the expectations for the freshman are the same as for juniors and seniors taking dual-credit courses he teaches.

“These students are some of our top students. They took Algebra I in the eighth grade. They are ready for the rigor required,” Brewer said.

Rishi Nippani, a CHS student, said the class was challenging, but exciting.

“We use technology a lot in this class. We get our assignments and we turn them in through our devices,” Maggie Robinson said.

The students agreed that more students would want to participate in the Pride Prep Academy as soon as they could. Barriers such as being in the Academy and not able to participate in band have been taken away.

When asked if the students felt like trailblazers or guinea pigs, Nippani said he felt like a trailblazing guinea pig.

Brewer said that he and his class represent the pilot program and they want to set a good example so that this opportunity continues for even more students.

Tuition is paid by the district for CHS students. Other districts may choose to pay for their students to attend.



Freshmen in the first Pride Prep Academy class are proving to be ready for the rigor of college courses, according to their instructor Matt Brewer.

Free breakfast for all ACW students begins

On Friday, October 14, breakfast was offered free to all ACW students. CES has served breakfast free to all students for several years and administrators, along with Chartwells Food Service Manager Gene Weinkauf, determined ACW students should get the same morning nutritional boost.

Students are encouraged to arrive between 7:15 and 7:45 a.m. to receive their morning meal.



CES celebrates during Back-to-School Ball

CES students received the royal treatment at the second annual Back-to-School Ball.

Principal Diane Stegall says students are excited to dress up and celebrate each year. The Ball coincides with their study of fairy tales and students get an opportunity to socially interact with others.



Students who were top sellers of raffle tickets to benefit CES programs were named Mr. and Miss CES for their grade level.



The CMS Student Council welcomed Mr. and Miss CES students to their campus for a visit and lunch.

Lady Tigers pink out in win over Howe

The Lady Tigers volleyball team showed its support for breast cancer awareness during its game with Howe High School. Varsity won 25-1, 25-12, 25-12. Their record for the season is 8-0.

Coach Shelley Jones joined CHS this year after coaching in Cumby.



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Students in Sawyer Colvin's Principles of Human Services class are shown practicing basic hand stitches and how to sew on buttons. Each student designed a mini monster by decorating it with different hand stitches and buttons.



Several students have finished reciting their multiplication facts in Carol Adams' math groups at ACW. Individually, they win a Sonic meal ticket, a slap bracelet, a photo on the wall of honor and a good note home through Class Dojo. Their win also counts toward a class win. If their class finishes first, they win a pizza party!



ACW news crew debuts

Getting the ACW campus off to a good start each day, the ACW news crew presents announcements, birthdays, weather reports and a joke of the day. Teachers Sheila Waits and Whitney Fox are facilitators.



CMS/CHS choirs hold inaugural concert at A&M-C



The CMS choir, led by Candice Clayburn, a graduate student at Texas A&M University-Commerce, gives students another outlet to showcase their talent and interests.

Fans are encouraged to "pink out" for breast cancer awareness and "Back the Blue" to support law enforcement at the varsity football game on October 21.



Alderman, Tremmel provide hometown leadership

When these two graduated from CHS, who would have thought they would return to lead CISD, the district where they attended school from kindergarten to 12th grade.

Superintendent Charlie Alderman and recently appointed Assistant Superintendent Patricia Sosa Tremmel are back, ready to merge their knowledge of Commerce with their expertise in educational leadership which they gained in positions with other districts in north and northeast Texas.

Tremmel received her bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from Texas A&M University-Commerce. She began her teaching career as a fifth-grade teacher at ACW. After three years, she took a teaching position with Garland ISD where she quickly joined administration as a principal. She was named GISD's Principal of the Year during her 13-year stint there.

Her next move took her to Richardson ISD where she was a principal at an elementary magnet school.

She wanted to come back to her roots for her next career move. Her network of family, friends and Texas A&M University-Commerce colleagues was an incentive for her return.

After a "phenomenal" first week, Tremmel said she was glad she could return and give back to the community where she was born and raised.

"I know I can grow and work alongside Mr. Alderman and work toward accomplishing his vision for the district," she said.



Superintendent Charlie Alderman (left) and Dr. Patricia Sosa Tremmel are set to work on many new initiatives during the coming year including soliciting community input for a graduate profile and working extensively with Texas A&M University-Commerce in a mutually beneficial partnership.

CHS inducts 49 into National Honor Society

