

**CLASS OF 2005**  
**SOPHOMORE NEWSLETTER - WINTER 2003**  
**MRS. COMELLA, COLLEGE ADVISOR**

[http://66.5.3.2/Teacher\\_web\\_pages/Comella/default.html](http://66.5.3.2/Teacher_web_pages/Comella/default.html)

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**Sophomore / Junior Parent Night**  
**Wednesday, February 26**  
**6:30 p.m.**  
**Study Hall - Room 116**

The Sophomore / Junior Parent Night has been changed to next week, Wednesday, February 26. Please inform your parents of this meeting change and encourage them to attend. I will discuss the college search, testing, scholarships, and financial aid. Students are welcomed!

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**2003 College / Career Fair**  
**Tuesday, April 8**  
**Varsity Gym**

Collierville High School will host its fourth College/Career Fair on Tuesday, April 8, in the Varsity Gym. Over 75 exhibitors will attend and students in grades ten, eleven, and twelve are invited to explore different post-secondary opportunities. Students should use this opportunity to ask questions of the exhibitors regarding future employment, salaries, expected qualifications, and college admission requirements.

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**How's Your GPA?**

Each sophomore student now has their third semester cumulative Grade Point Average. Look at your semester report card and you will find the number of classes attempted and the number of credits you have earned. You will also see your GPA. Each **A** is worth 4.0 quality points, each **B** = 3.0, each **C** = 2.0, each **D** = 1.0 and there are no quality points for F's. Keep up with your GPA each semester. Fill in the space below for future reference:

My first semester (this year) GPA is \_\_\_\_\_ on a 4.0 scale.

My cumulative GPA (3 semesters) is \_\_\_\_\_ on a 4.0 scale.

Many colleges look at your cumulative GPA after six semesters of work. You have three more semesters before you can apply to colleges!

**Important Testing Information**

**Collierville High School's**  
**Test Code # is 430410**

**Collierville High School's**  
**Test Center Code # is 194260**

Sophomores, always list your CHS test code number in order for your test results to be sent to the school. When student's forget to bubble this information, they are charged \$8.00 to send the results to the school. We list all test results on the student's individual test card. Colleges look for the best score.

If you are taking a college test at CHS, you must list our test center code: 194260. Remember, if you take a college test at another location you still must bubble in our CHS test code #430410 in order for your score to be sent to CHS. Many times students who fail to bubble in our test code number think that the Guidance Office has their score on file. It is not until the college notifies the student that a score is missing or they fail to receive a scholarship, that anyone knows there is a missing score.

Students are encouraged to check with Mrs. Farmer, the Guidance Registrar, to see if we have received their test results especially when they take a college test at another location.

Students who have taken a challenging course of study for the past two years may want to begin their college testing. Mrs. Nance, the reference librarian, has a program on the computers where students may practice taking college entrance exams. See Mrs. Nance to schedule a time to take a practice test.

**2002-2003 ACT Test Dates**

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>
April 12	March 7
*June 14	May 9

\*not given at CHS

CHS gives four of the five ACT dates. Students who desire to take the June test may take it at another school and bubble in our test code so that we will receive the scores.

To apply on-line go to:

**[www.act.org](http://www.act.org)**

## Classroom Visitations

The following is a schedule of my sophomore English class visitation dates. Students need to be prepared to ask me questions regarding the college process, resume' writing, testing, etc.. Students need to have a blue or black ball point pen when I come to speak to their class. Sophomores will fill out a post-secondary planning survey at this time.

<u>English Teacher</u>	<u>Visitation Date</u>
Albee	February 24
Baker	February 25
Clark	February 21
Frost	February 26
Gregory (Bryant)	February 28
McNeal	March 4

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### Congratulations!

You've just completed the first half of your sophomore year. If you didn't do so hot during the first semester, don't panic. You still have time to whip those grades into shape in the second half of the year. If you're already acing your classes, check out these six tips to help you keep up the good work.

#### **Six ways to boost your second semester grades.**

\* **Practice good reading skills.** Find time to read. Read anything - newspapers, magazines, a good book. Just about anything counts...except the back of the cereal box. Write down words you don't know, look them up, and keep a list of the words and definitions to help build your vocabulary.

\* **Practice good writing skills.** Take some time to write letters to friends and relatives (maybe Christmas thank you notes). The more you write and think about sharing your thoughts and experiences, the easier it will be to do it when it comes time to write your college application essay, or that English paper.

\* **Learn to focus and concentrate.** When it's time to get engrossed in your book or magazine article, find a nice quiet spot where the TV, computer, phone, and stereo aren't distractions. Get comfortable there and get used to reading without distractions.

\* **Psych yourself up for next semester's hard classes.** Studies suggest that if you find a subject boring or uninteresting, you'll have a harder time learning it. Obviously, you don't have to love every subject you take, but convince yourself that you can learn the material, and it'll be that much easier to do it.

\* **Practicing making "to do" lists.** The hardest part of getting organized is getting into the habit of staying organized. If you start making lists of all the fun things you want to take care of each day (call a friend, go shopping, study), you'll get into the habit of organizing your time and using it more effectively. That way, when it's time to go back to school, the process will be second nature to you. You'll also get a sense of how much more you can get done. Don't forget: Put your most important tasks at the top of the list. Cross off each task as it's completed.

\* **Practice creating schedules.** Schedules, like "to do" lists, help you focus your time and energy so you can get more done, and get more of the things that are important to you done. Think about when you work best. Are you a morning person? Or do you think better as the day goes on? Use this insight to your advantage when you schedule activities.

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### **Careers & Colleges** **Your guide to a successful future**

Each sophomore will receive a *Careers & Colleges* magazine when I visit the English classrooms. Please turn to page 6 and take the career assessment to help pinpoint your occupational interests and work styles.

"When Michael Jordan scored more than 60 points in one game, he reported entering a state of timelessness where moments "stood still." We call that state "flow".

When we are in a state of flow, we feel easy and natural. That's how most of us would like to feel in our careers.

What career will put you in "the flow"? There are dozens of career assessment tests designed to help you answer that question. Read this magazine article. It presents a short version of one to start you on the path toward your ideal career.

First, take the **Career Style Mini Quiz** developed by Birkman International, a company that has been in the career assessment business for more than 40 years. Its system lets you visualize your work preferences as a color. The quiz will help you pinpoint your occupational interests and work styles. Then, to go a step further, do the activities at the end of this article that use your memories to explore job roles."

What color are you?

RED - Implementors  
BLUE - Planners  
YELLOW - Administrators  
GREEN - Communicators