



**Collinsville High School**  
**Home of the Kahoks**

# The Kahok Current

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First Quarter

## Welcome To The High School of Champions

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Greetings Kahok fans! As we look back at the 2007-2008 school year we can be very proud of our outstanding accomplishments in the athletic and academic arenas. **The High School of Champions** made it a year for the history books as we rated among the best schools in the state of Illinois. This is only a short list of the many accolades that we received:

Top 8- Girls Volleyball team- I will never forget the come from behind victory in the regional finals against Edwardsville High School. The emotion from our crowd aided our team to find the extra degree for a huge win that propelled us to the state super- sectional finals.

Top8- Boys Baseball Team- They surprised the state, but no one at CHS was surprised. We knew under the leadership of Coach Trapp and our dedicated athletes, that we would serve notice to the state, that the Kahoks were for real.

Top 8- Boys Soccer- At the state tournament you could see a sea of purple as we sent over 900 fans to the game. CHS won the sportsmanship trophy!

8<sup>th</sup> place Girls Bowling- If you have never been to a state championship series in bowling I highly advise that

you go once. You will be hooked. Pure energy for two days and we came out of it ranked in the state.

10<sup>th</sup> place Boys Bowling- Every year you can count on the Kahoks being a state force!

1<sup>st</sup> place Dance- Two years ago we won our first state championship, last year we actually won in two categories- Triple A kick and Pom/dance. Impressive!

5<sup>th</sup> place music program- With our combined choral and band programs CHS is rated the 5<sup>th</sup> best in the state. Our tradition speaks for itself.

Student Council: We have the largest and only "Gold Council of Excellence" in the state of Illinois.

Not only is Collinsville High School a school that excels in athletics but academics is at the core of our importance.

14 different Advanced Placement Classes- If you want to be prepared for the college leap, CHS offers this rigorous curriculum that a student may qualify for college credit if they do well on the final exam. Last year 81 students took 147 AP exams.

4 Foreign Languages- We are one of

a hand full of high schools that offer four years of Latin.

Collinsville Area Vocational Center- Last year 275 students received more than 950 hours of college credit through SWIC representing 15 discipline areas. Ten students won the Midwest qualifying rally for the international construction challenge. We were also the state champions at the Skills USA in electronics technology and collision repair.

Freshman Vision Team- This faculty led committee is researching ways to equip our freshman with the academic and social skills they need to be successful in high school. They are hopeful to start a program next year that is comprehensive in its scope and structure with a wide range of lessons to help students become fully involved and successful negotiating high school.

Senior Vision Team- This faculty led committee is researching ways to make the senior year more engaging with connections for life after high school. They are pleased to announce that on September 19<sup>th</sup> we will have our first Senior Seminar with a keynote address and six breakout sessions for our seniors to attend.

*Mr. Eric Flohr-Principal*

## School Improvement Plans

Collinsville High School is constantly examining and evaluating how the "High School of Champions" can continue to improve. In order to sustain the gains we have seen over the past year in our ACT and PSAT test scores, we will continue to ensure that study halls always have an academic focus. The math tutor position has been renewed again this year,

and all students seeking additional math enrichment and guidance are encouraged to work with Mr. Christopher Glynn on a regular basis. Also, we will continue to do ACT-like reading modules and will add math and work key modules to the mix this year. Once a week everyone at CHS will participate in the module program. The NBA (Nothing But A's) program will recog-

nize students who attain straight A's for first semester and our newly created "Perfection" program will honor students who attain perfect attendance throughout the school year. We encourage all parents to register on Edline, so you can see the progress your children are making in all of their classes at CHS and use it to communicate with your child's teachers. Together we can continue to improve Collinsville High School.

*Kyle Gordon-School Improvement Chairman*

## Collinsville Homecoming 2008 "Caribbean Nights"



Homecoming 2008 is set and ready to go! This year's theme is "Caribbean Nights." Mark your calendars for Monday, September 29 through Saturday, October 4. Some highlights and dress-up days of the week include:

**Monday, September 29:** Pirates of the Caribbean Day (Come dressed as a pirate)

**Tuesday, September 30:** Class Color Day (Seniors wear purple, juniors blue, sophomores red and freshmen green). Class Clash will take place immediately after school in the commons area behind the school, and the annual Mr. Homecoming Contest will take place at 7:00pm sharp in the auditorium.

**Wednesday, October 1:** Caribbean Day (come dressed in your best tropical shirts, shorts, etc.)

**Thursday, October 2:** Under The Sea Day (come dressed in your beach wear and accessories). The annual Homecoming parade will wind its way through downtown Collinsville starting at 4:30pm. Please bring the little ones and watch the parade!

**Friday, October 3:** Purple and White Pride Day. The annual Homecoming pep assembly will take place. The tailgate party will begin at 6:00pm in the AVC parking lot. Please join us for free food before the game and the first 1,000 people will get a Kahok Rally Towel sponsored by National City Bank. The Homecoming football game kicks off at 7:00pm.

**Saturday, October 4:** The annual Homecoming Dance will take place in Fletcher Gymnasium starting at 7:00pm and the coronation will start at 9:30pm.

Please join us in all the fun for this year's Homecoming festivities. We guarantee a great time will be had by all!

## Parent Teacher Conference Dates Set

Research has shown that parental involvement is the most important factor in a student's success in school. For many parents, that involvement occurs at parent-teacher conferences. Our parent-teacher conferences will be held on October 23 and 24, 2008. Both parents and teachers know that regular and honest communication is essential to student success. The most important strategy for parent-teacher conferences is to be prepared. The following questions may help you to

identify topics you may want to discuss during the conference:

\*What general questions do you have about classroom curriculum, standards, evaluation techniques, or procedures?

\*What specific concerns do you have about your child's academic progress or behavior?

\*What questions or concerns does your child have about school?

\*What do you want the teacher to know about your child?

\*What help can you offer the teacher?

We at CHS also encourage you to be an Edline parent. Please register to become a user of this program that allows you 24 hour access to your child's grades in all his or her classes.

-Katie Ekstrom  
Assistant Principal-Curriculum and Instruction

## Collinsville's Fine Arts Department On The Move!



\*The CHS Drama Club is planning the Fall play! The fall play is entitled *Rumors* by Neil Simon. It is a comedic farce. The plot revolves around a series of lies that guests of a party create to protect the host of the party. As more guests arrive at the party, the lies develop into complicated stories that not even the liars can remember. The play uses physical humor, awkward situations and witty comments to turn it into a comedy. The performance dates are November 6-8 (Thurs.-Sat.) at 7pm in the CHS Auditorium.

\*The CHS Choral program is off to a great start! Two choirs, Mixed Choir and Concert Choir are offered as classes during the school day. The Jazz and Gospel Choirs practice after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays respectively. The first free concert of the year is October 9. The other free concerts are December 19, February 26, March 31, and May 5. The choirs also present an annual Madrigal Dinner. Tickets are required for this extravagant musical and culinary feast, which will be held on December 5 and 6 this year. We hope you can make it to

our first concert and that it inspires you to come to all of them!

\*The Collinsville High School band program was recently ranked in the top five in the state of Illinois! The Marching Kahoks will be performing at half-time during all home Kahok football games. Their first competition will take place on September 13 as they travel to Belleville East High School and O'Fallon High School to take on area schools. Good luck to the band and please come out to see their great performances!

# Collinsville High School's ACT Scores Jump!

The 2008 PSAE scores are in and we are proud to announce that 150 students met or exceeded in all areas of the exam! 13 students exceeded in all areas and 300 students met or exceeded in at least one area. Students who qualified for numerous incentives were notified during the second week of school.

When looking at our scores, the Kahoks made great gains in areas like writing, math, reading and science. Even though we did not hit AYP (adequate yearly progress), there were numerous things to be proud of! Also, our ACT scores have sky

rocketed over the course of the last five years. Our English scores have risen 1.1 points, Math, .9 points, Reading, .9 points, Science, .6 points, and our overall composite has risen .8 points. That is significant progress!

A special thank you goes out to **The Mattea Law Firm** for donating \$2700 to CHS last year to purchase 500 "I Can Dew" t-shirts. Also, thank you to Fantastic Sams, Volkert Associates, First Community Bank, Scott Credit Union, Kaleidoscope Kids, Casual Tees, Ameren, x2 Collision, Kassly Funeral Home,

and Family Eye Clinics for sponsoring the other PSAE shirt.

Plans are underway for this coming year's PSAE tests on April 23 and 24. If you have any ideas or would like to help, please e-mail Kyle Gordon at kgordon@kahoks.org.



## Outstanding Collinsville Kahok Students

\*Congratulations go out to the students pictured to the right who dedicated themselves to achieving perfect attendance during the 2007-2008 school year. They were Kevin Bauer, Hannah Fornerro, Megan Dickey, Erin Cochran, Samantha Godar, and Brittanie Sieling (not pictured). They received a certificate, a "You're Looking At Perfection" t-shirt, and a \$100 gift card to Applebees.



\*Congratulations to senior Leila Houshmand for being named the area's Youth Salute Program's Outstanding Young Leader Award!

\*Congratulations to senior Chad Weeks for taking first place in the double junior trap shooting event at the national tournament hosted in Sparta this summer!

**WAY TO GO KAHOKS!**

## Kahoks Sports Update

Over the summer the St. Louis Post Dispatch ranked Collinsville High School fifth in metropolitan school district sports programs. The Post recognized our achievements last year in boy's soccer, girl's volleyball, baseball, dance team, and boys/girls bowling. Our play last year across the sports spectrum both at the Southwestern Conference level and at state competitions was outstanding and people have started to take notice of

the "High School of Champions". We would like to invite you to watch the Kahoks in action this fall. There are several home football, soccer and volleyball games scheduled. For additional information and schedules, please visit us on the web at [www.kahoks.org](http://www.kahoks.org). We look forward to seeing you dressed in purple and white and cheering on the proud Kahoks!

### Home Football Dates:

Friday, September 19 vs. Edwardsville  
 Friday, October 3 vs. East St. Louis

Friday, October 17 vs. O'Fallon



**COME SEE THE KAHOKS PLAY!**

# Guidance Department Spotlight

## ACT/PSAE Senior Retake

Completion of the PSAE & ACT is required by the State of Illinois for high school graduation.

### **\*Who will take this test?**

Seniors who have not taken the PSAE/ACT, and seniors who wish to attempt to improve their ACT score may retake the ACT at no charge, but they must also retake the WorkKeys. Students **MUST TAKE** both tests for the ACT results to be scored. If students fail to take both tests, the ACT will be discarded

### **\*What will it include?**

The ACT assessment measures the skills necessary for college coursework in the areas of English, mathematics, reading, and science. The WorkKeys assessment measures how well each student is meeting the state standards in English, mathematics,

science, and social science.

### **\*What is the registration deadline?**

All seniors wishing to retake the ACT/PSAE must complete and mail the preregistration material no later than September 19, 2008. Students must have registered and received a voucher to participate in the ACT testing.

### **\*What is the cost and payment deadline?**

Students who complete the pre-registration process will receive a fee waiver for the ACT.

### **\*What if I need accommodations?**

Students who qualify for accommodations must complete the paperwork and mail it no later than September 19, 2008

### **\*When will the test be given?**

-The ACT (Day 1) will be administered Saturday, October 25, 2008 (on-site).

-The WorkKeys (Day 2) will be administered Monday, October 27, 2008 (onsite).

### **\*Where will I take the test?**

Students will take the ACT at a designated site determined by ACT officials. The WorkKeys will be administered at Collinsville High School.

### **\*How long will the test last?**

The ACT will take 5 hours and the PSAE will take 4 hours

### **\*Will there be make up date?**

There is no make up date.

*-John Smith*

*Guidance Department Chairperson*



**Collinsville High School**  
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Visit us on the web at  
[www.unitten.org](http://www.unitten.org)