



The Kahok Current

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Third Quarter

Collinsville High School
Home of the Kahoks



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Last year our teacher-led Freshman Vision team was challenged to find a way to equip our ninth grade students with the academic and social skills they need to be successful in high school. In a large high school like CHS it is imperative to ease students' transition from middle school. We reviewed many programs but were most impressed with the *Freshman Focus* program because the majority of the activities are facilitated by student leaders.

We are proud to announce that next year's freshmen, the Class of 2013, will enjoy the benefits of this innovative program. Many schools have tried "advisory" or "mentorship" programs—some with success, some without. In some ways, *Freshman Focus* is like these programs, but it is different in one significant way: Structure. Each day of the entire school year is structured with specific

objectives, lesson plans, and activities that every freshman in the high school will complete. *Freshman Focus* is designed to address a myriad of topics essential to every ninth grade student's social and academic success in high school. Lessons cover such topics as the importance of school spirit, using the media center, learning effective note taking and study skills, getting along with others, writing college applications, and much more.

A key component of *Freshman Focus* is mentorship. The structure of the program is essential in order to make effective use of daily time and establish credibility; however, built into *Freshman Focus* is the opportunity for ninth grade students to learn from and model the behavior of respected teachers and upperclassmen. A group of four student leaders and one

teacher mentor is assigned to every twenty freshmen in the ninth grade class. The teacher mentor and student leaders then work together to deliver *Freshman Focus* content. Some lessons are led by the teacher, others are led by the teacher mentor and student leaders together, and many are taught solely by the student leaders. The *Freshman Focus* curriculum is divided into ten modules that begin with the start of the school year and conclude on the last day of school. The modules are grounded by specific objectives that cover the many social and academic issues and topics that ninth grade students need to be aware of in order to be successful in high school. The modules are also designed to build from one to the next in both content and intensity.

-Eric Flohr
Principal

The 2009 After Prom Party Needs Your Help!

The PARENTS IN ACTION Committee of Collinsville High School is planning the 24th Annual After-Prom Party. The party will be held after the prom (11:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m.) on Saturday, April 25, 2009, at Camelot Bowl in Collinsville. There will be no admittance after 1:00 a.m. **There will be bowling, food, soda, and attendance prizes provided free of charge.** The cost to put on this event is approximately \$3000. Donations from parents, civic organizations, and area businesses make this party possible. **Any Col-**

linsville High School Junior or Senior and their guest may attend. (All attendees will have to show a school ID or driver's license at the entry and exit doors.) They do not have to attend the prom in order to attend the After-Prom Party.

This annual event is held to offer our teens a safe and fun atmosphere on prom night. It is only made possible through volunteer efforts and the donations of parents, civic groups, and businesses in our community.

Please consider supporting this worthy event. If you would like to make a donation, please make your check payable to PARENTS IN ACTION, and send to Barbara Riley at 512 Summer St., Collinsville, IL 62234. If you would like to volunteer to help that night or if you have any questions, please call Linda at 344-4382 after 5 p.m.

-Linda Strittmatter
PARENTS IN ACTION

Character Education Survey Help

We need your help!

All of the schools in Madison County have been offered the opportunity to work with Cooperating School Districts in implementing The CHARACTERplus® Way, a process designed to improve schools by providing a more caring environment for students. A partnership of school, home, and community, CHARACTERplus® emphasizes positive character traits by integrating them into everyday classroom activities.

Our school is one of the schools participating in this federally funded grant. As part of the grant, we are asking you to take a few minutes to complete a survey. It will take only about fifteen minutes to complete. The survey questions focus on your feelings toward school.

The parent survey data will be summarized, along with student and staff information, for use in program planning. Your response to the survey is confi-

dential. The information is very important to us, so we are asking that you please complete the survey today if possible, but no later than February 27.

Completion of the survey is voluntary. Responding to the survey constitutes your consent for us to use the information for district and school planning.

You may go to the Collinsville Unit #10 District Website for a link to the survey website by following the directions below.

Thank you for your assistance.

*-Mr. Eric Flohr
Principal-Collinsville High School*



Survey Directions:

1. Go to our website www.kahoks.org
2. Click on the **CHARACTER EDUCATION PARENT SURVEY** link
3. Click on the **Click here for the Madison County "The CHARACTERplus Way" parent survey**
5. Home Page - Click on the bubble next to the word **Parent.**
Type in School ID: **1000001**
Type in Password: **Prt1001**
Click **Log In**
6. Next Page - Read the directions for the survey, click **"To Begin Click Here,"** and continue the survey
7. Last Page - Click on the **SUBMIT** arrow.

Thank you for your time and help.

State Testing Coming Soon!

The state mandated Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE) is scheduled to take place at Collinsville High School on April 22 and 23 for all juniors. This two day testing event is critically important to the students of Collinsville High School and our

entire community.

A great deal of time and practice has gone into preparing our juniors for this testing event. Numerous incentives will be provided to those students who meet and exceed state standards in the tested areas. All parents of

juniors will be receiving an informational newsletter very soon in the mail.



Collinsville High School Night at Busch Stadium

Mark your calendars for April 21, 2009! That's Collinsville High School Night at Busch Stadium. The St. Louis Cardinals will be taking on the New York Mets at 7:15pm. Our own CHS choir will also be singing "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" during the seventh inning stretch! The mighty Kahoks will have an entire outfield terrace reserved section for the game.

The cost of each ticket is only \$16. A large portion of the ticket price will be donated back to Collinsville High School to support both student and staff appreciation activities during the upcoming school year. Tickets must be purchased **in advance!** Tickets can be purchased via the order form below or purchased in the Main Office at the high school. For more in-

formation about getting tickets for the game, please contact Kyle Gordon at kgordon@kahoks.org or Eric Flohr at eflohr@kahoks.org. We hope to see Kahok nation at the ball park on April 21 to support our choir and show the crowd that we are the "High School of Champions!"

Collinsville High School Night At The Ball Park Order Form

Name: _____
 Street Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Telephone Number: _____
 E-Mail Address: _____

Number of Tickets Ordered: _____ x \$16 per ticket = _____ Total Amount Enclosed

Please make all checks payable to **Collinsville High School**

Please return order form and payment to:

Collinsville High School
 Attention: Cardinal Game Tickets
 2201 South Morrison Avenue
 Collinsville, Illinois 62234



Important Dates To Remember

- February 12: No school, Lincoln's Birthday
- February 16: No school, President's Day
- February 24: CHS Choir Prism Concert
- February 28: CHS Band Spaghetti Dinner
- March 2: No School, Casimir Pulaski Day
- March 18: CHS Winter Sports Night
- March 28: CHS Choir Car Show
- March 27-29: Kahok Roundball Classic Basketball Tournament

- April 9-13: No school, Spring Break
- April 25: CHS Prom
- April 29: 1/2 Day, School Improvement Day
- May 1: CHS Jazz Night
- May 4: CHS Band Banquet
- May 13: CHS Honors Convocation
- May 16: CHS Graduation, Fletcher Gym



\$\$\$ Five Reasons to File Your FAFSA \$\$\$

Submitting your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) can be a complicated process. From digging through information on your family's assets to decoding income tax forms, filling out the FAFSA is a hassle, so why bother? Here are five reasons why it's worth it.

1. Federal Aid

Do you want some of the more than \$80 billion the federal government provides in grants, loans and work-study programs every year? Federal Student Aid programs are the largest source of student aid in the United States. The only way to be considered for Pell Grants, Perkins Loans, Stafford Loans and more is by submitting your FAFSA.

2. State Aid

Your FAFSA also puts you in consideration for [state financial aid programs](#). Eligibility and deadline dates for these programs differ by state, but they all have one thing in common -- they require the FAFSA. Learn more about the financial aid your state offers its residents at [your state's higher education agency](#).

3. School Aid

Colleges and private scholarship sponsors offer billions of dollars in financial aid. Even if you don't have a high level of financial need, you may be eligible for these awards. Most colleges and many private scholarship sponsors require students to submit their FAFSA to be considered for financial aid. Some school and private scholarship programs are specifically designed for students who were rejected for federal financial aid, so even if you don't think you'll qualify for federal aid, it's a smart move to submit your FAFSA.

4. It's Free

A completed FAFSA will put you in consideration for federal, state, college and private scholarships and it's completely free. The only thing you'll spend completing your FAFSA is a few minutes of your time, and you could get thousands of dollars of financial aid in return.

5. Getting Help is Easy and Free

Not only is submitting your FAFSA free, but it may be easier to complete than you realize. Don't know

how to figure out your parents' net worth? Don't worry. When you complete your FAFSA online help is built into the system, so you won't get bogged down by the form's confusing financial jargon. You can still submit your questions online at the [FAFSA Web site](#) if you choose to fill out the paper form, or you can call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243).

Federal, state and private financial aid can be within your reach when you submit your FAFSA, so what are you waiting for? FAFSA forms become available on or before January 1st each year. Submit your FAFSA as soon after January 1st to have the best shot at financial aid.

Don't just send in your FAFSA and expect the money to start rolling in. Many financial aid programs require additional forms besides the FAFSA, so check the requirements for state, school and private awards to make sure your application is complete.

-John Smith

Guidance Department Chairman



Collinsville High School
“The High School of Champions”
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Visit us on the web at
www.unitten.org