



# The Academy News

## From Mr. Rose's Desk

It is certainly an exciting time at the Academy at Central. We are fully immersed into the 2<sup>nd</sup> grading period and I want to encourage all students to push themselves further than they have previously to raise achievement and master their coursework. Everyone is excited for our Thanksgiving holiday. I want to encourage each of you to enjoy time with friends and family and recharge for learning when you return!

Our Academy needs each and every person to work together if we expect to reach our goals this year. Goal 1 is to increase the percentage of students passing the End of Course (EOC) tests. To do so, all students need to focus on academic improvement and mastery of course objectives. Passing the EOC's are also crucial to meeting Graduation requirements for a North Carolina diploma. Goal 2 is to raise our attendance percentage to above the district average. So far this year we have 28 students with perfect attendance! And many more who have only missed one or two days. Remember, the first step to success is showing up! Goal 3 is to involve parents more in the academic planning and progress toward college and career goals. Currently, Ms. Cardwell our counselor and Ms. Harrington our Career Development Coordinator are planning a sched-

ule to meet with each academy student and their parent to review course work and opportunities for the future! We look forward to implementing this event at the beginning of 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.

As we approach the holiday season I encourage all of us to take time to reflect on our good fortunes and to find ways to reach out to those who need our support. Please consider contributing to our canned food drive that will assist families in our High Point Community! Academy seniors are also planning on another yard sale in December to raise money for special programs and events. You are welcome to donate items for the sale and volunteer your time to help make the event a success!

It is my continued pleasure to serve as your Principal. I know that if we stay focused on the results that we desire, we can do it, together. Happy Holidays to all our Academy families!



## Write For Us!

Students, this is your newsletter and we need your help with it. The journalism club is looking for submissions to print in the newsletter.

Maybe you don't think that you are a very good writer, or perhaps you don't want people to read your stuff. Either way, we can work with you. If you have trouble with writing, hey, we'll proofread it and help

make corrections. If you don't want people to know that you wrote something, that's OK, we'll keep it anonymous.

The bottom line is that we need more students writing in the student newsletter. If you have poems, stories, opinions, sketches, news, whatever, please come see Mr. Littleton in room T-25. Don't be shy.

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### Dates To Remember:

- Winter Break - 12/22/08 - 1/02/09
- Exams Begin—1/16/09
- Martin Luther King Holiday - 1/19/09
- Semester Ends - 1/23/09
- New Semester Begins - 1/27/09

# Kids Today: The Cafeteria

By The Resident Curmudgeon

When we were planning this newsletter, the staff decided to make a lot of noise about the high school cafeteria. OK, the lunch ladies are mean, more than often rude, and seem to make up random rules designed just to make students' lives miserable. OK, the food is not always appetizing, is rarely healthy, and is occasionally pretty darn gross. So what?! There's a reason that school cafeterias are stereotyped as being revolting; it's the norm.

You young folks just don't know nasty cafeterias. Why, when I was in middle school, we had the nastiest cafeteria in a 12 county area. Even the roaches brought their lunch from home (they had tiny little lunch boxes). To make matters worse, my mother refused to pack my lunch. She insisted that I eat at the cafeteria every day. Why social services didn't intervene, I'll never know. God knows, I prayed for it. Our cafeteria was so bad that the health department rated it at a C, and it stayed at a C for four years.



The food was so nasty that our band director would cook and eat possums in the classroom rather than eat in the cafeteria. POSSUM! Do you know how nasty burnt possum belly smells? Not as bad as our sloppy joes, I can tell ya.

Rude lunch ladies? Ha! Our lunch ladies would drop food on the floor, then put it on the plate and dare you to complain. They still beat students in those days, and the rumor was that the cafeteria manager, Mrs. Cratchett, learned to cook either in a Nazi POW camp or in the state penitentiary, where she served time for manslaughter. You kids have got it easy, with your clean silverware and your hairless spaghetti. Mrs. Cratchett is looking down from heaven (or, more than likely, up from someplace else) and laughing at you bunch of whiners. Me, years of cafeteria food, round after round of non-fatal food poisoning, and Lord only knows how many environmental contaminants have given me the immune system of a demigod. Kids today have no idea how lucky they've got it!

# Virtual School Might Be For You

By Taylor Hodges & Forrest Littleton

I (Taylor) think that virtual public schools is a great way for students to get some classes out of the way in their free time. If you maybe have gotten behind in school and skipped some classes that you shouldn't have, than I'd suggest you take virtual classes to be able to easily make them up. With online courses you can do your work whenever it's convenient for you, so if you have something come up that is more important to you at the time you can go do it, and come back and finish your class work. The only complaint I would really have about the virtual courses is that if you need help with something, it's hard to receive assistance from a live teacher that will make sense to you. For this reason, math classes are usually difficult

to do over the internet. Classes that would be ideal are English classes and ones like Success 101, which can be easy As if you put forward any effort.

Mr. Littleton and Coach Crompton are both undergoing training in order to teach at North Carolina Virtual Public School. In their training they have found that online classes are a lot different than they were just a few years ago. NCVPS has been actively using 2nd Life technology in their classes and has now invested in creating 3rd Life classes, making many classes more appealing to students who have grown up with gaming technology. Check out NCVPS at [www.ncvps.org](http://www.ncvps.org).

# Standard Mode of Distress

By Stephen Kellis

The Standard Mode of Dress (SMOD) is a dress code used to, among other things, cut down on fights. The thing people think about SMOD is they don't like it and they don't want to wear collared shirts and pants that aren't jeans.

When people don't wear SMOD it causes problems and people fight and are picked on for what they are wearing. Often, if you aren't wearing SMOD you will get told on by someone who is and is mad because you're getting away with it, and then you get sent home. Some people like to play a game,

where they carry around their SMOD shirt and then put it on when they see Mr. Rose. Do you realize how childish that looks? Everything would just be better if everyone wore their SMOD and followed the rules. You won't get in trouble and Mr. Rose likes it better if you wear your SMOD.



SMOD in history: Pimping it old-school.

# Teacher of the Month: Mr. Miller

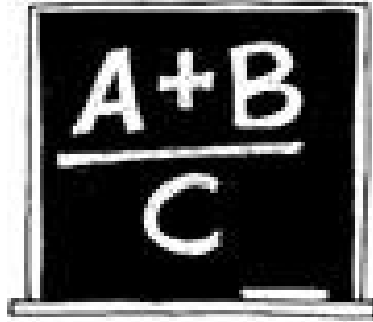
By Vanessa Gallaspy & Tameka Nichols

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December's Teacher of the month is Mr. Miller. During the first semester, Mr. Miller has done a great job of completing The Academy's first-rate math team.

Mr. Miller was selected to be the Teacher of the Month because of the impressive way that he directs the learning in his classroom. He truly is dedicated to what he does.

Mr. Miller is a graduate of Cary High School, where, in addition to being a math superstar, he played baseball and basketball. After graduating from Cary HS, he moved on to attend UNC—Chapel Hill. After college, Mr. Miller spent a bit of time traveling around the



United States and Central America, seeing new sights and learning how people live differently.

Since arriving at The Academy, Mr. Miller has striven to add to the instructional quality at The Academy. He really enjoys the small size of The Academy and the way that everyone knows each other. He believes that everyone has something positive to add to The Academy.

Mr. Miller loves the Christmas season, and this year he is looking forward to getting a special late present. Mr. Miller and his wife are expecting their first child in January.

# What's Hot at The Academy: Academy in Action News

By Humaira Bibi

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Coach Crompton's first period is digital communications; most of the people in that class are seniors who already had the curriculum before, so it was old stuff for them. Having nothing to do they decided to step up the newsletter. They started their own news show for the school. They have improved a lot since the first show - they got better lighting, they moved to a different location, and they got some microphones. The anchors, Keivel Kittrell and Shakemia Barrier, are two of the success stories at The Academy. Each week they ask the teachers if they have any announcements and they try to find something interesting to report. Everyone has a role and if somebody is not here then others substitute. The

show is available at the school website [www.academyatcentral.com](http://www.academyatcentral.com), YouTube, or [www.mogulus.com/academyinactionnews/](http://www.mogulus.com/academyinactionnews/).  
Director- Shanea Williams  
Set/Lighting- Dustin Robertson  
Camera- Donte Ingram and Ja'mar Kirby  
Anchors- Keivel Kittrell and Shakemia Barrier  
Entertainment- Symone Cannady  
Sports- Kim cooper or Susan Ramos  
History Review- Mrs. Crosby  
Club Spotlights- Jodi Guinn

# Game Review: Gears of War

By Eric Moore

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One of the hottest new game releases is Gears of War. Gears of War is a tactical 3<sup>rd</sup> person shooter which puts you in the role of Marcus Fenix, who is a legendary war soldier that fights the Locust Horde in hopes of saving the world. Marcus is part of a military unit called COGS and is the leader of Delta Squad. He is assisted with his partners, Dominic Santiago (Dom) Augustus Cole (Cole) and Damon Baird (Baird).

The Story begins with Marcus in prison for forty years for desertion against his fellow soldiers because of the will to

save his father Adam Fenix. Dominic breaks him out of jail and they try to find the best way to destroy the Locust Horde for good. At the end of the game

I think that Gears of War has an awesome storyline. I loved all of the weapons in the game, especially the Torque Bow (high powered bow and arrow). If the arrow hits the target anywhere it will instantly blow up. The multiplayer was really fun with lots of cool levels to play against your friends on. I give this game two thumbs up.