

The Rocket

Rockcastle County High School

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RCHS remembers 9/11

BY KYLA FRENCH

September 11 is remembered as one of the worst days in American history. It affected everyone from Mt. Vernon to San Francisco, and schools everywhere, including Rockcastle County High School, commemorated 9/11 with special presentations and moments of silence. The pledge was read, the National Anthem was performed, and even Rockcastle Representative Danny Ford visited RCHS.

"When I think of 9/11, I think of the greatest tragedy our country has ever encountered," said Rep. Ford. "I do think that America had a strong response, and has a stronger spirit of patriotism and unity."

RCHS teachers involved in the program felt the impact of 9/11 strongly during the presentation.

"People are bonding together like they haven't in years," said Keith Taylor, JROTC instructor. "If Osama bin Laden tried to change our country, he did. But I don't think he likes what he did and he never realized just how strong Americans are and can be."



Audrey Burke

JROTC color guard members Adam Stallsworth and Ross McLure presented the nation's colors at the 9-11 remembrance ceremony. In addition to the presentation of colors, the program included guest speaker Representative Danny Ford.

The RCHS chorus also sang several patriotic songs during the program.

"It [9/11] woke America up," said choir instructor Letha Hembry. "We were very happy to perform, and our thoughts and prayers are with the families."

Students are also feeling the impact of 9/11 throughout their lives.

"It was tragic," said Courtney Hale, who sang her rendition of "God Bless the USA" at the program. "I'm glad the school took time to think about it and I realize we shouldn't take anything for granted."

Students are also thankful that the program was held in honor of 9/11.

"I think it was great that the whole school got together to remember September 11," said sophomore Surprise Stallsworth.

Sophomore Ben Graves added, "It was very informative and appropriate for the time."

Nametags intended as help, not a hindrance

BY KYLA FRENCH

Everyone has been left behind with the introduction of new teacher nametags at RCHS. Since they arrived in early September, teachers have been bombarded with questions about why they have them, why they wear them, and what purpose they serve. Most teachers can't even answer their students' questions.

Principal John Hale says the nametags were brought in to identify staff to visitors and freshmen, but the main reason they were distributed was for visitors to the building at after-school activities.

"They need to know who's trustworthy in the building," says RCHS staff member Myrna Childress. "It's a good security precaution."

Hale also says there are no guidelines for wearing the nametags.

"It's completely voluntary," he said. "I do encourage it, though."

However, there are some problems with the new nametags. Most teachers say they are uncomfortable and can get in the way of their classroom routine. Teacher Polly Abney and Library Media Specialist Janet Wells say they can't wear them.

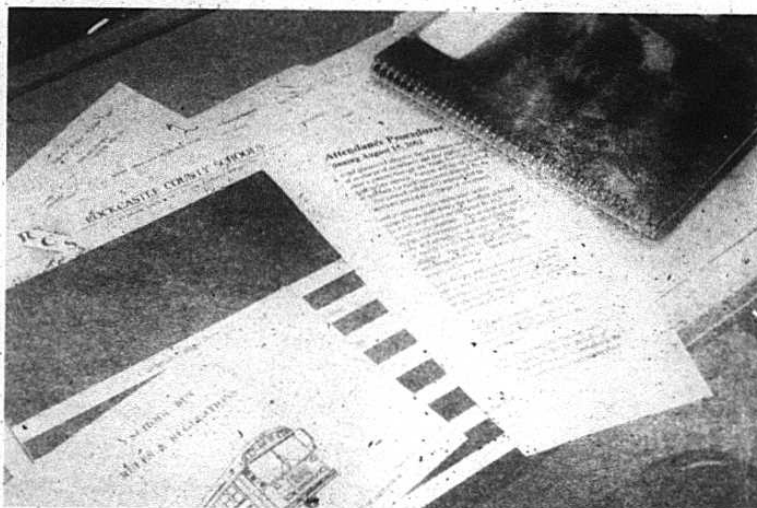
"I have to use a set of several keys which I carry on my necklace. There's no room to put the nametag," said Abney.

Freshmen also say they didn't need the nametags.

"I already know who most of the teachers are," said freshman Michaela Bryant. "The ones I didn't know I figured out on my own."

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School Days at RCHS



Audrey Burke

The first day can best be summed up with one word--forms. Bus information, lunch forms, crisis forms, student information forms...However, change always comes with the beginning of the new school year. This year it came in the form of a new attendance policy.