

ACHS CLIMBS STEPS TOWARDS NEW POLICIES
 ARE THE STEPS TOO STEEP?



Photo courtesy of Sydney Klocke
TAIL GATING: ACHS fans cook food while cheering on the varsity team during the football game against Wacuonda. ACHS won the game 42-0.



SENIOR SUMMIT

Students express lack of school spirit

By Liz Whitehurst

Lots of students love going to Antioch Community High School on Fridays; everyone is eager for the weekend to begin, athletes are pumped for their big games, and the student body is speckled with cardinal and gray. More than most days, many students feel like they are a part of the ACHS community on Fridays. However, some students simply don't feel a part of that school spirit community. Maybe they, like Julie Bariamis ACHS junior and student athlete, just don't feel they are about school spirit. "I play the sport. That's good enough for me," she says. Bariamis plays football, basketball and throws for the track team. Maybe they feel wearing cardinal and gray expresses a conformist attitude, not school spirit. Dan Rohrmayer, an ACHS junior, is one example. "I'm not going to conform to the school spirit...phoney baloney.... I'm not going to conform. That's not me." Either way, Laura Greg, ACHS sophomore, says "It shouldn't be forced." Whatever the reason, many students don't want to participate in the activities ACHS has set up for expressing school spirit. By joining these existing organizations and forming new ones based on our interests, maybe we can each make ACHS a better place to go to school. Maybe we can even make it someplace we are proud to call our high school. And maybe if we start today, we can do that before we start calling it our Alma mater

Extracurricular activities ≠ only sports
By Liz Whitehurst

So what's a kid who doesn't want go to games or wear cardinal and gray to do? Before rejecting school spirit as something for jocks only, students can look for other ways to express school spirit. One fairly easy way to do that is to look into some of the organizations at ACHS that are looked over. One such organization is the B.E.S.T. Robotics Team. According to Greg Johnson, team sponsor, points out that "part of the scoring is based on school spirit and sportsmanship exhibited at the contest November 2." The team competes in competitions in which each school's team is given an identical box of odd parts, fasteners, materials, and a radio controller for motors and asked to build their own robot. Another way to express school spirit without conforming is to join the Environmental Club. According to Mary Johnson, club sponsor, "The environmental club has always actively represented the school in the community by helping the forest preserve maintain their public areas by buckthorn cutting, roadside cleanups and cleanups on the Chain of Lakes. Last year and this year the club will be... focusing on improving the recycling program at the school. All of these activities not only help the community, but also improve school spirit by showing that ACHS students can make an impact." Students on Student Council have an opportunity to have a big impact on school spirit. According to Joy Edge, Student Council sponsor, "Student council is designed to allow students to promote spirit by planning activities, being the center of coordination for assemblies and other things like dances and money drives... We also provide the opportunity for students to communicate with the administration- working to create a good environment." Therefore, Student Council is yet another way for students to express their individual school spirit. Another organization at ACHS, Sigma Alpha Delta, is sponsored by Tim Noonan. Noonan says "the purpose of Sigma to unite those students who believe in making good decisions and holding to a healthy lifestyle." This relates to school spirit because, as Noonan says, "the more students hold to those tenets, the better they feel about themselves, their community and their school." In another organization sponsored by Noonan, Freshmen Advisory, "the upperclassmen... have an opportunity to truly welcome the incoming ninth graders to our school and to help them feel comfortable." This helps all classes to express school spirit.

Senior summit allows ideas to be heard

By Sean Beverly

While lower-classmen were testing, a group of 88 Antioch seniors fashioned a list of ideas that may change the way that Antioch Community High School looks at its students. After listening to an hour-long inspirational speech, the seniors were broken up into small groups to discuss issues having to do with school spirit with staff mediators. Some of the ideas that came out of these small group discussions will start showing up around the school, and others at school-sponsored events during this school year. One of these changes, brought on by new principal Dr. Jon Crawford's eagerness to show that he really wants to make a difference around the school, came in the form of a student-only cheering section at home football games. This was one of the most popular topics at the summit, as students felt that in some cases, they were actually being discouraged to cheer for their home team. The next of two changes that have been made to school policy is the addition of daily sports announcements. These announcements, which were also a popular summit topic, alert students to game results, as well as inform them of upcoming competitions. It's clear that these changes won't be the last. Dr. Crawford and the rest of the ACHS administration are looking into implementing many more of the ideas that were presented at the summit. Among these is the return of the school mascot, more freedom for students during their free hours, and more frequent pep rallies. Though some ideas are targeted exclusively at seniors, such as the possibility of seniors displaying their ID's to walk the halls during class time instead of passbooks, many of the ideas brought forth at the senior summit may lead to changes that will affect the entire student body. Now that the doors have been opened for students to have a role in some policy-oriented decisions, look for ACHS to change into a much more student-friendly environment.

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Photo by Andy Pruski

WE ARE WINNING BUT SHHHH! ACHS fans work hard not to get too loud at the home game against Wacuonda. Many think a mascot could liven things up.

Designed by Carrie Strickland and David Schmelzer