

Central Academy of Technology and Arts

Cougar Chronicle

Volume 1; Issue 10
October 13, 2013



Central Academy Families

Good evening CATA families! We hope that you have enjoyed your three day weekend and that students return to us tomorrow ready for learning. Congratulations to our chorus students, fourteen of whom earned a place in the Union County Public Schools All County Chorus. The performance was last week and it was wonderful. Senior volleyball players were recognized at their last regular home match. We certainly thank them for their dedication of time and talent to Central Academy. Other Senior Night dates are listed under athletics in the Cougar Chronicle. We wish tennis, cross country, and volleyball luck as they move on to their sports' playoffs this week. Thank you to our CATA and Monroe ROTC students that presented our country's flag this past Friday night at our home game. Great job!

Benchmark assessments will occur in World Language, Biology, English 2, and Math 1 classes this week. Check the Cougar Chronicle for dates. Students in the classes to take the benchmarks were informed over the past couple of weeks and have been preparing. Benchmark assessments allow teachers and students to see how students are progressing through the curriculum. PSAT will be given on Wednesday. The Theatre program will perform the play they will be taking to NCTC on this Thursday night at CATA. Be sure to check it out.

Next week is homecoming week and Spirit Week. Events are listed in the Cougar Chronicle. Friday night of that week, October 25th, will be our Homecoming football game and all CATA families are invited to participate in a great Homecoming BBQ and tailgate. Plates are \$8 and we hope that you will come and tailgate with us before the game, or swing by the stadium to pick up your meals to take home. It will be a great night, and one that will rally our CATA community. Plates are available for purchase in the front office or online starting this Tuesday 10/15. Proceeds benefit the Band and Athletic programs at CATA.

Our Athletic program is sponsoring a fundraiser to provide for our athletic needs. You can purchase a discount card from an athlete or online, starting, on Tuesday, to get discounts through next August at Bojangles, Burger King, SweetFrog yogurt, Zaxbys, Subway, Moes, Sonic, CiCi's, - just to name a few. Please support CATA students by purchasing one today and start saving.

We hope that you will take time to read through the Cougar Chronicle to see the great things happening at CATA. This week we highlight students, the Pre-engineering Academy, and Speech and Debate Team. Congratulations to our Debaters who participated in their first tournament this past weekend. Way to go Cougars!

Have you forgotten an assignment recently? See the technology section of the newsletter to see how to get an agenda that syncs with both your chrome book AND your cell phone. You will never forget an assignment again!

The Cougar Chronicle, our Facebook page, in addition to our website, will be the main form of communication from school to home. At CATA we will continue to work toward Leading the Way so that your child can lead the way in the future! Go Cougars! - Mrs. Kim Fisenne, Principal

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(704) 296-3088 (Phone)
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<http://cata.ucps.k12.nc.us>

Look for text that is blue and underlined. This text is hyper-linked to the corresponding information available on the web. Click on the text to be taken to the corresponding webpage.

Union County Public Schools All County Chorus

The All County Chorus is an annual event that both middle and high school students are invited to audition for. This prestigious event was held at Wingate University this year in the Batte Center, which typically hosts plays, singers, and other cultural arts events. The auditorium itself is beautiful, and this past Wednesday, it was also filled with beautiful singing from students throughout Union County. Central Academy had fourteen students make the chorus. What an honor for each student and for Central Academy. The night consisted of middle school students singing in a chorus first, followed by the high school all county chorus singing selections such as, Gloria by Mozart, Gate Gate by Tate, and Sit Down Servant by Twine. What a great night for all!!



Students in All
County Chorus:

Katie Starling,
Gaige Robinson,
Megan Morris, Ra-
chel Love, Kevin
Kent, Sean Sharpe,
Morgan Miller, Jes-
sie Sperry, Daniel
Morrison, Alyssa
Sherrin, Amina
Faye Maddie Sed-
berry

Not pictured: Dy-
tasha Wadsworth
and Noah Kujawski

~Class of 2014~Seniors



Graduation Day: Thursday, June 12, 2014 at Winthrop University in Rock Hill
3:00 pm

Important Dates

- **October 19** – Open House for Duke's Pratt School of Engineering. 8:00am -3:15pm. Register at admissions.duke.edu.
- **October 24th** - Wells Fargo will be on campus to provide juniors and seniors with college planning and financial aid resources. A representative will be here from 2:00 - 3:30 to discuss and hand out these materials. If you are interested, please sign-up in guidance by October 22nd.

ACT Test

Register On line at ACT.org
 October 26 Register by September 27
 December 14 Register by November 8

SAT Test

Register On line at Collegeboard.org
 November 2 Register by October 3
 December 7 Register by November 8

Seniors, Check your email!!!! Guidance counselors are currently communicating with seniors through their email accounts. Seniors have received their first senior newsletter which is jam packed with the college application process.

Scholarships:

- Wendy's High School HEISMAN - If you are an athlete, apply for the Wendy's Heisman scholarship at www.wendysheisman.com.
- Congratulations to the following seniors who have been selected by the scholarship committee to represent CATA in the prestigious Morehead-Cain Scholarship Program: Paige Finney; Joe Hinkle; and Grace Wallace. (Any senior that meets the criteria for the scholarship may self-nominate.)

College Visits: Go on line and check the college web site for the visitation dates. You may visit three colleges a year; bring something back stating you were involved in a college visit, and the days are excused.

Seniors – Remember that November 1st is the priority deadline for most colleges. Make sure your college applications are in ASAP!

****New SAT prep course** – Lindewood Learning is offering SAT prep classes from 10/29 – 12/3 for \$250. If you register before 10/25, you will receive \$10 off! For more information, please visit www.lindenwoodlearning.com

Thank you

To our Senior Volleyball Players!!!

Congratulations and thank you for your leadership and dedication. This past week, we recognized our Senior Volleyball players and their families. Being a student athlete takes a lot of dedication and time, not only from the student, but also from their families. We recognize that and appreciate all that they have done to make CATA the great school that it is.

The following Senior players were recognized: #2 Sierra Walters Middle Hitter/Blocker; #5 Brianna Holton Middle Hitter/Blocker; #14 Paige Finney Outside Hitter; Kara Bush Statistician/Media Specialist.

Thank you to Coaches Angie Bush and Doug Mayhew for your dedication as well. Go Cougars!!!



**Central Academy
- Cougar Spirit
Got Spirit??
Yes, We
Do!!!!**



COUGAR ATHLETICS

If you have questions about athletics or want to volunteer to help with athletics, please send an email to Athletic Director, [Mr. Jay Niessner](mailto:jay.niessner@ucps.k12.nc.us).

Volunteers Needed: Please visit our sign up genius website to sign up to help with concessions at home Football and Soccer games. Volunteers are needed for all games in October. The website is:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084FA5AD2EA02-concession>

Varsity Results:

Cross Country: No events this week

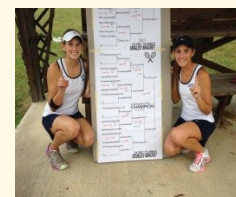
Football: CATA 14 – Monroe 46

Soccer: CATA 2 – Parkwood 0, CATA 3 – Monroe 0

Women's tennis: CATA 6 – Parkwood 3, Rocky River Conference Tournament: Kaley Williford and Rachel Nance Doubles Champions! Olyvia Thomas 3rd in Singles, all three will advance to Regionals!

Rachel Nance and Kaley Williford Rocky River Conference Champions!

Volleyball: CATA 3 – Forest Hills 1, CATA 1 – Parkwood 3



Winter Sports: Official Start Date: October 30th, 2013

Any student athlete who is planning on trying out/participating in a winter sport needs to have a **current physical** and **insurance waiver** on file with their coach or with Coach Niessner. Students must have these forms on file before they can begin any offseason workouts. All forms can be found on the CATA website under athletics. If you have any questions you can email Coach Niessner at: jay.niessner@ucps.k12.nc.us

Upcoming Events:

Monday 10/14:

Volleyball @ Forest Hills 5:00 pm

1st Round Rocky River Conference Tournament,

Admission \$6.00

Varsity Soccer **HOME** vs. West Stanly 6:00 pm

Tuesday 10/15:

Cross Country @ West Stanly, Rocky River Conference Championships 4:30 pm

Wednesday 10/16:

Varsity Soccer @ Mt. Pleasant 6:00 pm

Thursday 10/17:

JV Soccer @ Providence Day School 4:00 pm

JV Football **HOME** vs. West Stanly 7:00 pm

Friday 10/18:

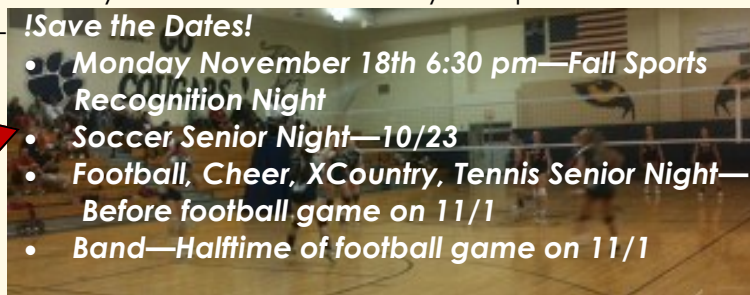
Women's Tennis 2A Regionals @ Lexington High School 2:00 pm

Good Luck Olyvia, Rachel, and Kaley!

Varsity Football @ West Stanly 7:30 pm

!Save the Dates!

- **Monday November 18th 6:30 pm—Fall Sports Recognition Night**
- **Soccer Senior Night—10/23**
- **Football, Cheer, XCountry, Tennis Senior Night—Before football game on 11/1**
- **Band—Halftime of football game on 11/1**



Spotlight on Tennis

Monroe Central Academy defeated Parkwood 6-3



Singles

Kaley Williford (MC) d. Meredith Little (PW) 6-0,6-0
 Rachel Nance (MC) d. Erika Morelock (PW) 6-1,6-1
 Olyvia Thomas (MC) d. Ashley Belk (PW) 6-3,6-3
 Brooke Aytes (PW) d. Kendall Yelverton (MC) 6-4,4-6,(9-7)
 Terra Greene (PW) d. Romina Painter (MC) 6-2,6-4
 Morgan Ryan (MC) d. Leanna Pope (PW) 5-7,7-5,(7-5)

Doubles

Williford/Nance (MC) d. Little/Morelock (PW) 8-2
 Thomas/Yelverton (MC) d. Aytes/Greene (PW) 9-7
 Belk/Pope (PW) d. Medina/Garcia (MC) 8-1

Important Dates!!!

Cougar Pride

- * Congratulations to the Men's Soccer Team for their winning record this season!!!
- * Congratulations to Paige Finney! She was chosen by her peers as the Daughter's of the American Revolution (DAR) Good Citizen. She will represent CATA in the DAR's scholarship contest.
- * Congratulations to the following seniors who have been selected by the scholarship committee to represent CATA in the prestigious Morehead-Cain Scholarship Program: Paige Finney; Joe Hinkle; and Grace Wallace.
- * Dr. Gundersen for being named the 2013-2014 CATA Teacher of the Year!!!!
- * Rocky River Conference Tournament: Kaley Williford and Rachel Nance Doubles Champions! Olyvia Thomas 3rd in Singles, all three will advance to Regionals! Rachel Nance and Kaley Williford Rocky River Conference Champions! Way to go Cougars!!!
- * CATA Theatre and Arts program and our own Mr. Larry Robinson, are mentioned in an article about the Two-prong return of theater to Union. Check it out at http://issuu.com/nancystephen/docs/union_lifestyle_oct_nov_2013



Yearbooks—Be sure to buy your yearbook!!!!
Yearbookforever.com

Parent access to grades through the Parent Portal on PowerSchool

Parent access to grades requires a new Username and Password. To obtain the information, parent or legal guardian must bring photo ID to CATA. For your convenience we are hosting an evening Parent Portal username pickup on Wednesday 10/16 from 4:00—7:00 pm and on Monday 10/21 from 4:00—7:00 pm. Parents may also pick up their username and password during regular office hours, from 7:30 am—5:00 pm. Parent Portal is scheduled to be accessible to parents in UCPS on Wednesday 10/16. Please remember that you must show a photo ID to get the username and password. We will also be asking you to verify contact information when you come in, so if you have any changes to emergency contacts, please bring them with you. Thank you.

The Cougar Canteen is now open for business every afternoon from 3:30-3:45. Items for sale include Coke products, Powerade, water, chips, popcorn, cookies, and candy. CATA Spirit wear is also on sale in the canteen through the end of September. The Cougar Canteen is located outside the gym and is sponsored by the Band Booster Club at CATA!



Junior College to Do List

College Preparation Checklist for Students and Parents of all ages: [Click here](#). And [Click here](#).

What should a junior be doing to prepare for college? [Click here](#).

How to get a great letter of recommendation: [Click here](#).



Around Campus... (for all home and away sports times, see Athletics section)

The CATA website Calendar is a great resource—please see that on the [main page](#).

Hands Helping Others Canned Food Drive begins (10/7—10/18).

HOSA Fundraiser 10/14—11/1.

Carve it Up Pumpkin Contest 10/7—10/21.

Monday, 10/14—Teacher Workday—No school for students -pm—Soccer @ Home

Tuesday, 10/15— am 8:00 YCI meeting (Mr. Robinson's room); English 2 Benchmarks; Spanish and German Benchmarks; pm—3:45 FTA Meeting (616); HOSA meeting (604); Hands Helping Others (523)

Wednesday, 10/16—report cards distributed; am—PSAT exam; pm—Advisory meetings; 3:30 Debate Team (Ms. Cochran's room); Art Club (102); Environmental Club (620) Adopt a Highway Cleanup; 4:00 NCTC Play Rehearsal; 4:00—7:00 Office—Parent Portal—password pickup—must show ID.

Thursday, 10/17—am 8:00 FCA Huddles (Sholar and Gundersen's rooms); Biology Benchmarks; pm—NCTC Play; 7:00 JV Football @ home

Friday, 10/18— am—Math 1 (Algebra 1) Benchmarks;

Upcoming Dates:

Week of 10/21—Spirit Week (M-Pajama Day, T-Opposite Day, W-Twin Day; Th-Tacky Day; F—Spirit Color Day)

Monday 10/21—Fall Band Concert 7:00 pm; Parent Portal Password Pickup 4:00—7:00 pm in main office

Monday 10/21—11/8—Band Citrus Sale

Tuesday 10/22—Powder Puff Football Game

Wednesday 10/23—Site Base Team Meeting

Friday 10/25—Homecoming Football Game; CATA Community BBQ

Saturday 10/26—Homecoming Dance

Driver's Education—Sign Up Now!!

Driver's Ed classes must meet the minimum number of students or the class will be cancelled. Please sign up early so that classes are filled and do not have to be cancelled. If we have to cancel a class, the student will be moved to the next scheduled class. Refunds are not permitted. The fee is \$55.00 for all classes starting in or after October. A student must be at least 14 1/2 years old on the first day of class. Classes will run Monday through Friday from 4:00-6:00 pm. To sign up please contact Ms. Tammy Tweed in the guidance office **as soon as possible**.

The next class is Nov. 12th—Dec. 10th. Most Fall athletes should be able to take this class. Feb. 18- March 14; March 17- April 9



9th YEAR GUIDANCE INFORMATION

Ninth Grade To-Do List:

Ask most seniors what they wish they could do over to get ready for college and they would reply with two statements:

- Made better grades in my 9th grade and 10th grade year
- Been more active in community service and extracurricular activities

Hopefully, you will not make those two mistakes!

Here is a list of things you should be doing to prepare for college admissions and scholarships in your senior year:

- Make the best grades possible. Colleges only see your final grades from 9th, 10th, and 11th grades; they do not see your report card grades.
- Try to challenge yourself by taking honors level classes, and if your teacher recommends them, AP classes. (Advanced Placement-college level/college credit classes)
- Get involved!!! Extracurricular activities might not influence college admissions, but they are a deal breaker when it comes to scholarships.
- You need community service hours. Keep a calendar and every time you do something to help someone and you are not getting paid for it, mark the time and the service on your calendar. Do your research! You need to be looking at colleges and scholarships now. Go to www.cfnc.org to research any NC college. To research out of state colleges, just google the name of the college.
- If you do not do well on standardized test, start preparing for the SAT and ACT now. You can go online to collegeboard.com for study questions. See your guidance counselor for study information.
- Watch your actions!!! Don't do anything foolish that could negatively influence your recommendation for college. Be a rule follower.

Need help with anything? Have questions? See your guidance counselor.

Things to know:

- You must pass three out of four classes to get your driver's license. You can only miss 7 days in a class. If you miss more than 7, you do not pass the class. (Doctor notes are waived BUT you have to complete and turn in a waiver form).

How to calculate your GPA:

CP	Honors	AP
A=4	A=5	A=6
B=3	B=4	B=5
C=2	C=3	C=4
D=1	D=2	D=3

Divide the number of quality points by the number of classes; that answer is your GPA.

Colleges look at your GPA, SAT/ACT scores, class rank, and how challenging your courses have been for admissions. For merit scholarships, colleges look at the above *plus* what you've done with your time (ie: Extracurriculars).

The guidance counselors will make sure we have you in the required North Carolina admission classes, but what you do with your classes and your time is totally up to you.

Big dreams usually require determination, a good attitude, and lots of hard work.



Class of 2016—current tenth graders

Reminders—

If you are struggling in a course, talk to your teacher about how you can improve your grade. By talking with your teachers you may be able to gain insight about where they think you can make improvements—study time, tutoring, note taking, attention in class, are just a few examples.

Create study groups with peers in your classes. Reviewing information will help in your understanding.

Review your notes each night. Use your text or your teacher's moodle page as a resource. Study for exams in advance—the night before an exam should be reserved for review only.



Student Life

Club Leadership Council— Clubs discussed a school-wide club community project to address global water needs!! Way to go!! If your club was not there—see Mr. Howard asap to get on the info mailing list!!!! This will be used for the school wide club community project and for spirit info!!! In addition, Mr. Howard will need info from your club—so email him today!



Club—spotlight—Speech and Debate

The CATA Speech and Debate Team just completed their first tournament. Our debaters Angela Florez, Nidia Angeles, Joe Hinkle, Zac Curtis, Thomas McCorkle and Nathan Heyde did a phenomenal job in their first tournament. The team learned so much and were so inspired by the talent around us. Joe Hinkle and Zac Curtis were bumped up to Varsity and put at an even more difficult level and we are so proud of their effort at the Varsity level.

A special shout out to both Mr. Navey and for Ms. Cochran for coaching our kids and helping them get ready. A special thanks to Joe Hinkle for the leadership and example you set for the underclassmen in our group.

What is next for our Debaters? We have several new faces we expect to see and we may be looking to attend the November 23, Asheville, NC tournament. This is exciting progress for our CATA Team!!! Those interested in joining – please talk to Ms. Cochran and Mr. Navey.

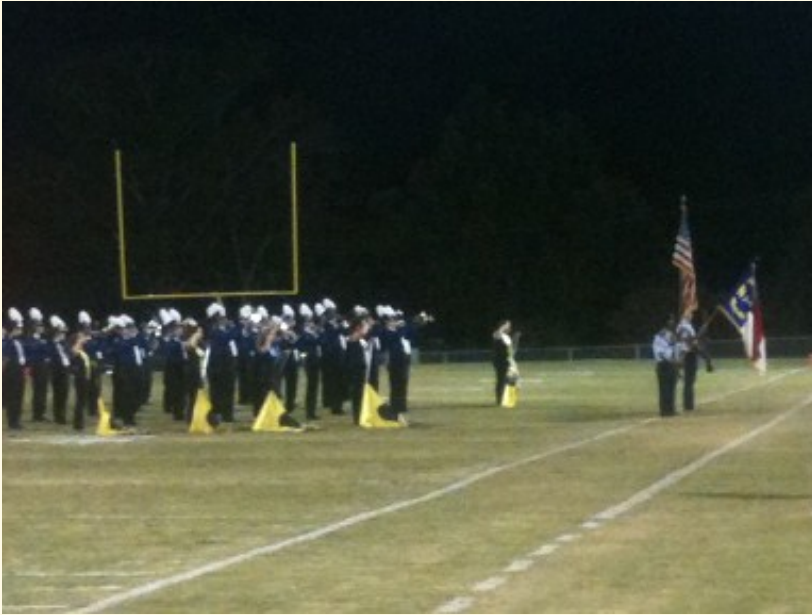
What can Speech and Debate do for you? It can build your critical thinking, your presentation skills, your self-confidence, and your problem solving abilities. This is an extracurricular activity that draws on what you have learned in school, what you learn on your own through research, and is an activity that colleges and employers pay attention to!



Central Academy and Monroe High School ROTC present the flags at this past week's home football game.



Students at CATA can participate in ROTC while enrolled at CATA. Students go each day to Monroe HS during the school day to fulfill their educational needs in the ROTC curriculum. This partnership has proven quite successful in allowing access for more students in UCPS. This past week the ROTC corp from MHS and CATA presented the flags at the home football game. Congratulations and thank you to all of our students in ROTC. A special thanks to the CATA Band of Blue for playing our National Anthem at each home football game.



Site Base Management Team—Ann Helms has submitted a statement of interest in serving on the CATA Site Base Management Team. She will be serving as the 9th grade parent representative. Welcome, Ms. Helms.

My name is Ann Helms and, as a parent of a 9th grade student at CATA, I am interested in serving on the Site-Based Management Team. I would like to be actively involved in developing the School Improvement Plan to ensure the continued success of both the students and staff at CATA. I have served in many volunteer capacities in the Union County school system over the past 10 years including PTA/PTO president, vice-president, treasurer and media center volunteer coordinator. I have also served on the Site-Based Management Team for Piedmont Middle School. I have undergraduate and Masters degrees in Engineering plus over 20 years experience in the engineering industry which many provide a unique perspective to this team. I would love the opportunity to share my services to help strengthen student performance and foster an effective educational environment at CATA.

School Safety Reminders

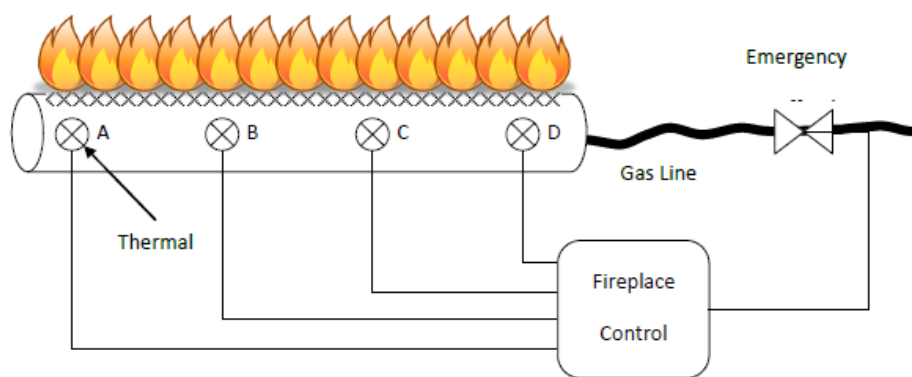
All visitors must enter through the front doors and sign in at the office.

Students coming to school tardy **MUST** enter through front doors only.

Remind your children to **NEVER** open exterior doors and to get an adult if someone comes to an exterior door.

Pre-Engineering Corner

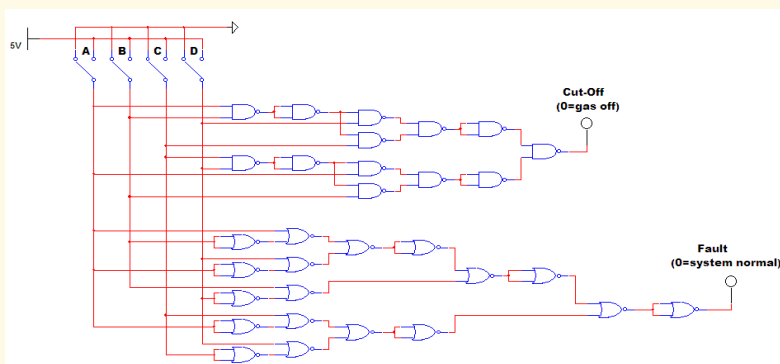
Digital electronics students are redesigning a fireplace control circuit for a residential gas fireplace. The fireplace burner is equipped with four thermal sensors. The sensors are connected to a fireplace control circuit and also to an emergency cutoff valve to keep the gas flowing. The original design of the fireplace control circuit was simple. For the gas valve to remain on all four sensors needed to output a logic one. During field testing it was discovered that variations in gas pressure and humidity caused the thermal sensors to occasionally output a logic zero even when a flame is present, this caused frequent unnecessary shutdowns and constant customer dissatisfaction. For the redesign students will design a circuit where the emergency cutoff valve will remain open as long as three of the four sensors indicate that a flame is present, additionally they have been asked to add a second output indicator to the control circuit.



This indicator will output a logic one when the four sensors do not all agree. This indicator will be used by the service technician to diagnose whether a faulty sensor exists.

To complete the process students will design a combinational logic circuit that meets the detailed design specifications.

Students will use circuit design software, Boolean algebra, and Karnaugh mapping techniques. Additionally students must prepare a conclusion that includes all of their design work and their documentation should be complete enough that a student with a similar knowledge of digital electronics could reproduce their design without any additional assistance.



Example of finished circuit:

Cougar Café News and Information:

- The café menu is available through the website for the traditional line—please [click here](#).
- You can direct specific questions to our Café manager, Ms. Hurst by emailing her at anna.hurst@ucps.k12.nc.us
- Only CATA students and faculty may eat in the Cougar Café during daily lunches.

Want MORE info?? Go to the CATA website, click on Parents and Community, then click on link for the newsletters—the Cougar Chronicle. Past issues are posted there each week!!

PTSO Are you looking to get involved at CATA? Join the Cougar Council, PTSO! We plan events for the teachers and provide resources for students. We would love to have you join us! Please fill out the [information sheet](#) on the PTSO website.

PTSO is continuing to sell CATA senior Yard Signs! Honor your senior CATA student with a great yard sign!!! Contact the PTSO at the email below for more information and GET YOURS TODAY !!!!!



We need new faces to help come up with new ideas and accomplish plans we already have. Please join PTSO and then join us for the meeting!

We also still have some dates left to fill on the monthly staff birthday cake Sign-Up Genius so if you would be willing to bring in a cake for our teachers, please sign up here: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0E4BABAA2AA31-ptso>.

To contact the PTSO, please email us at thecougarcouncil@gmail.com. You may also call the school at 704-296-3088 and ask for Deb Christensen.

PTSO membership - \$10 per family (which includes the student and parents), \$5 per student, \$5 per staff
PTSO is seeking volunteers to help with hospitality/teacher events, and many other areas. Contact thecougarcouncil@gmail.com to sign up

Support CATA when you use your VIC card at Harris Teeter. Link your card to our school's account - #3612. [Click here](#) to re-link online or visit any Harris Teeter store. We appreciate your support!

Rise and Shine!!!!

ALL students and parents should know that the bell time now matches the time on your cell phones. Therefore, students and parents should make an adjustment in your arrival time to school.

Again—the tardy bell will now ring at 8:50— Based on our observations, there will be many students that are tardy because they knew they had that wiggle room due to the school clock being off. As of Monday, October 7, 2013—the clock is now accurate.

Students must be physically inside their classroom to be counted as on time. Remember—the first bell of the day is at 8:40, giving you 10 minutes to get to class. Students and parents should **aim for arrival prior to 8:40 am**.



So—set your alarms a few minutes earlier so you can be ON TIME to school!! Thank you!!!

Technology Corner

If students are experiencing issues, Mr. Simon's office hours are during lunch and he will be in the Media Center. Check with your teacher first—they may be able to help you in the classroom.

CATA Tech Tips

The UCPS Technology Acceptable Use Policy is now located on the CATA webpage. [Click here](#) to be taken to the page. This policy will also come home with your student's report card.

Need to get organized?



AnyDo is a
computer
AGENDA...

Try AnyDo

AnyDo is an extension that allows you to:

- keep track of to-do in sync with your computer and phone
- drag and drop to plan your agenda
- add reminders and never forget a thing
- attach notes, or use them as sub-tasks
- view tasks while offline

For instructions click here: <http://goo.gl/k2FRTb>

Any.Do is an extension that YOU install on your Chromebook!!! It is an agenda for you to use that can sort by date or by subject!!! Never forget your homework again!!!

It syncs your agenda to your computer AND your phone!!!!!! What are you waiting for—Just Any.DO it!!!!!!

CATA Students—In and Out of School.....



Taylor MacLellan has been around bagpipes her entire life. Her father is from Glasgow, Scotland and makes bagpipes for a living. Their website is MacLellan Bagpipes: <http://highland-pipemaker.com/>. On the weekends and sometimes after school, Taylor helps her father make the bagpipes by working on the metal and the lathes. Taylor has been playing the bagpipes for a year. She recently competed in the Highland Games in Charleston, South Carolina. She won second place in the Slow March competition and placed third in March and Piobaireachd. Piobaireachd ("pee-brock") is the classical music of the great highland bagpipe. Piobaireachd tunes are often several hundred years old, dating as far back as the 1400's. It is distinct from the other forms of Celtic music in that it is only traditionally played by a solo piper on the great highland bagpipe. Taylor put on an impromptu performance for several students and teachers on Wednesday, Sept. 25th. Ms. Kopchick commented, "We were all thoroughly impressed with her unique musical talent. My students were blown away by her performance. It was a real treat to hear her play."

Information resources from Central Academy include:

Central Academy of Technology and Arts website at : <http://cata.ucps.k12.nc.us/>

Central Academy of Technology and Arts facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/CentralAcademyCATA>

Central Academy of Technology and Arts Twitter at: https://twitter.com/cata_monroe

Central Academy of Technology and Arts Athletic Twitter at: https://twitter.com/CATA_Athletics

Central Academy of Technology and Arts Band page at: <http://cataband.blogspot.com/>

Any other sites are not sites that are sanctioned by the school. We caution parents and families to get current and accurate information from the official sites listed above.

If a school club or school organization has an additional page, please notify Administration so that we can properly authorize the site. Thank you.

Support CATA Athletics—Buy a fundraising discount card today!! Cards cost \$20 and they will pay for themselves after just a couple of uses. And the best part is that the card can be used over and over through next August!!!

Restaurants/Stores include locations all over Union County: **Valvoline; Moe's; Burger King; Taco Bell; Sonic; CiCi's; Zaxby's; Domino's; Tire Kingdom; Pizza Hut; Arbys; Little Caesar's; Bojangles; Snap Fitness; and SweetFrog Yogurt!!**

Cards will be available for online purchase and office pickup or delivery through your student on Tuesday 10/15 and after. Go to parents and community on our website and then click online payments—or [just click here](#). (online option will go live on 10/15) Funds raised go to support the athletic program—all sports. Please buy a card today.

Grade Level Administrators—

9th grade—[Mr. Willie Howard III](#)

10th grade—[Mr. Jeff Pusser](#)

11th grade—[Ms. Deanna White](#)

12th grade—[Mr. Jeff Pusser](#)

Central Academy Families,

Please read the following letter from Union County Board of Education Chairman, Mr. Richard Yercheck.

Thank you.

Ms. Kim Fisenne

Principal

Central Academy of Technology and Arts

Dear Union County Citizens,

Now that the jury has spoken, through its unanimous verdict and its separately issued public statement, it is time to put school funding issues to rest for the benefit of all citizens of Union County, and particularly its youngest citizens, our students and children. The jury's unanimous verdict was issued after sifting through more than 8 weeks worth of testimony and evidence that justified a verdict to support the Union County Schools with an additional \$91,157,139. The evidence supported the verdict, and will go a long way towards meeting the most critical needs of the Union County Public Schools. It will also help us to assure that we comply with the constitutional mandate to provide a sound basic education for all of our children.

Significantly, the evidence and testimony presented revealed that Union County has stock-piled unrestricted fund balances totaling well more than \$210,000,000. There are ample funds available in the county's coffers to fully fund the jury's verdict without touching the county's tax rate. The judgment allows the county, entirely in the discretion of the commissioners, to raise taxes to cover the verdict. However, I want to emphasize that the decision to raise taxes is left entirely to the discretion of the county commissioners. It is not ordered as part of the judgment, nor is it necessary to do so.

While on the witness stand, both County Manager Cindy Coto and County Commission Chairman Jerry Simpson acknowledged that there are county fund balances in the amount of \$139,000,000, of which more than \$120,000,000 is unrestricted. Later in the trial, the County's own forensic auditor acknowledged that there are additional unrestricted fund balances of \$91,000,000. All of this evidence, presented through the county's own witnesses, was based on the County's most recent audit, which ended June 30, 2012. Further testimony by both Mr. Simpson and Ms. Coto demonstrated that those fund balances have only increased since the last audit. In other words, the County's unrestricted fund balances currently exceed \$210,000,000.

It is time for the County to stop trying to tell the citizens of Union County and the Union County Board of Education that it does not have the funds available to adequately support the schools. We call on the County to do the right thing and fully fund the jury's verdict.

Sincerely,

Mr. Richard Yercheck

Chairman

Union County Board of Education

NC Schools and You UNC-TV Program Now Online - *North Carolina Schools and You: What Changes in Our Schools Mean for Parents and Students*, which originally aired on Sept. 19 on UNC-TV, is now online at <http://video.unctv.org/video/2365082029> in case you missed it. As a reminder, *North Carolina Schools and You* is an hour-long show that offers information and discussion around recent important changes in public schools and how parents could be more productively engaged in their children's success. Topics include Teaching and Learning: What Students Are Learning and How; Measuring Performance: New Assessments and Accountability Model; and Parent Engagement: How Parents Can Support Learning.