Summer rolls around every year. When the bell sounds at 3:30 on the last day of school, it is summer as far as students are concerned. However, for the year 2025, summer officially began on June 20th. With the start of the season, we ask the question: what comes to mind when CCS students think of summer? Summer is when we spend Friday nights at the movie theater and gaze at the deserted main street after the movie concludes. We make waves when riding jet skis at Enders, and we purchase snacks at the local shop, Laker's. We cruise down the streets of small town Imperial that we know like the back of our own hands. We swing through the green courses at the Country Club trying to golf all nine holes. Some of us work through our summer at the local Hill's Family Foods or Sweden Creme. We work long hours all to build up enough funds to eventually frivolously spend, given the next opportunity. We know it's summer when we're gathered around the fire, roasting marsh mellows -the sweet, smoky flavor that *is* the taste of summer. There are those who camp in sheer tents and sleep beneath the stars. When at the swimming pool, you will see daring kids work up the courage to do a trick from the diving board, but end up doing a belly-flop instead. There are those who love to bake in the summer's sun, all to achieve a darker tan. As soon as the school bell rings, Summer offers students with opportunities to make memories.

However, when over-sized loads of semis role into town, strapped with vendors and carnival rides for the Chase County Fair, students know to savor their summer, because it is coming to an end. During fair week, we chow down on the greasiest food and beg our friends not to ride those rides at the fair, because we're guaranteed to puke. Other students participate in 4-H competitions or spend their night screaming along to the lyrics at an ear deafening concert. Then before we realize, the luxury of our free summer days quietly fizzles away come the end of the week. Returning to another year of school is often described as the end of the world but, as we'll come to understand through this yearbook, it continues. We switch our tactics by gearing up for football, and, as a team, we take charge. We slide into the season of softball by stealing bases and making the throw. We dive for the save in volleyball, and take on the extra laps for cross country, because this is our summer taking on a new form. We display our school spirit by dressing up for game themes, and even more so during homecoming week. Whether it's with thick face paint or frilly tutus, students are proud to be a CCS Longhorn. As we grow to accept our class schedules and after school practices, the thought of summer slips from our minds. This year, the last day of summer fell on Saturday the 20th, a day after the Homecoming dance. But what's important is that the memories remain, and we know another summer will soon come again.

Yelling from the school bleachers, sophomore **Gigi Schaufenbuel** encourages the football team to make a touchdown during the first home game. The theme for the football game was Camping Out in the End Zone. "I like sophomore year, because it's in the middle. It's not stressful; I'm just chilling," said Schaufenbuel. (Photo by: Miranda Spady)

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SUMMER...

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