

Dear Seniors:

Many subtle changes have occurred during this, our senior year, and many more are yet to come. Changes in the way we spend our time, who we spend our time with, and the amount of freedom our parents allot us are the biggest changes thus far. However, as we approach this holiday season, those pesky, subtle changes will be sneaking up on many seniors.

Do you remember what you asked for last Christmas? Clothing, a hot c.d., or a Play Station 2 probably topped many wish lists. This year is different though. The material possessions that we couldn't live without during our younger teenage years are proving to be useless as we venture on to higher education. No longer will we ask our parents for \$150 boots, a Britney Spears poster, or new drumheads. We now have to think about things we will need after we are pushed out of the nest.

Many seniors who will be attending college have requested dormitory items such as area rugs, lap tops, and cordless phones. Those who are a bit more concerned with money are asking for gas cards, cash, and vanity items they can stock up on now so they won't have to buy them during the first months of school.

When my mom asked me what I wanted for Christmas this year, I told her that I wanted microwave-safe dishes and a blender. Those gifts should go well with the bath towels my sister is getting me, the bed sheets my best friend has promised to me, and the computer I'm buying myself. Though these gifts aren't as magical as those I've received on past Christmases, I know that when I'm out on my own, I'll have all I need to survive on.

Subtle changes. We're growing up. Our interests and concerns are changing. We're beginning to realize that whether we are going on to a college, vocational school, or our first apartment, our present residence and all within can not go with us.



Grading policy change would be positive at RCHS

BY SHENA MCKINNEY

I believe that changing the grading policy at RCHS will be beneficial and helpful to the school and student body in many ways. By changing the grading policy students might be more likely to pass each class if only one grade was issued. Having only one grade per class every semester could help students to bring their grade up a couple of points, maybe to make a letter grade difference. This

would result in less failures and more students would be passing.

This new grading policy could also help students' GPA become higher. For example, is a student made a B in a class the first nine weeks, but the second nine weeks made an A, their overall GPA would drop due to that B they received during the first nine weeks. If grades were just issued every 18 weeks, students could bring up their grades

and have higher GPA's.

Scheduling for all students would also be easier and less complicated. The guidance counselors would have less to worry about and could help students get the classes they need by looking at their individual transcript.

I think that the grading policy at RCHS should be changed. It would be very helpful and it can benefit many students, as well as our school, in numerous ways.

The Rocket

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Letters to the editor should be submitted to Ms. Susan Norton in Room 115 or Room 115. They must be signed and limited to 250 words or less. The staff and adviser reserve the right to edit any letter, or refuse to print it.

The Rocket is published six times a year by the journalism class at Rockcastle County High School. All stories and ads are prepared using the Macintosh and LaserJet 2100M and printed by TSC Web Printing, London, KY.

It Rocks...

- ~ Drinking hot chocolate on cold, snowy days.
- ~ All the new presents waiting for you under the tree.
- ~ Vacationing in warmer states.
- ~ Seeing family members who only come in once a year.
- ~ Snooping through your Christmas presents.

It Reeks...

- ~ Scorching your tongue while drinking your hot chocolate.
- ~ Unwrapping the same homemade sweater every year.
- ~ Not being able to catch your flight because of snowstorms.
- ~ Fighting off your great-aunt as she tries to pinch your cheeks.
- ~ Finding underwear and socks.