

# Letting The Ride Begin...

The heart is where heroes are proudly standing, flags are waving, and people are praying; the pride in our nation stands free.

This year we began a different ride than we had anticipated. We started school as innocently as we had ended it. We looked forward to football games, school dances and long academic days. But we were awakened on September 11 from our everyday dreams as our nation faced a threat never thought of before... terrorism.

Now, face to face with the roller coaster of our lives, we begin our ride to the peak by excelling in academics. Is it the rush when the problem solved is correct or the shiver down the spine as the test score brings a smile to a teacher's face that makes academics so exciting?

Furthermore, a chill fills

us as we take pride in our school and make the ride happen in sports. Jumping over every obstacle and leaping into the end zone, we experience one of the greatest thrills: confidence.

As the community joins hands after the September tragedy, we help those who are suffering. Organizations donate money, Ashley supporters buy T-shirts, while the student body breaks open their piggy banks and raises almost five thousand dollars for the Red Cross, proving once again that population doesn't matter, only the size of our hearts.

So let the ride begin: As you turn the pages of this book you will see how Ashley high school buckles its seatbelts, pulls down the latches and Lets the Ride Begin!

-Jill Cermak

*Our journey may start off with a tragedy, but we pick up the missing pieces and cruise ahead to a year full of excitement.*

