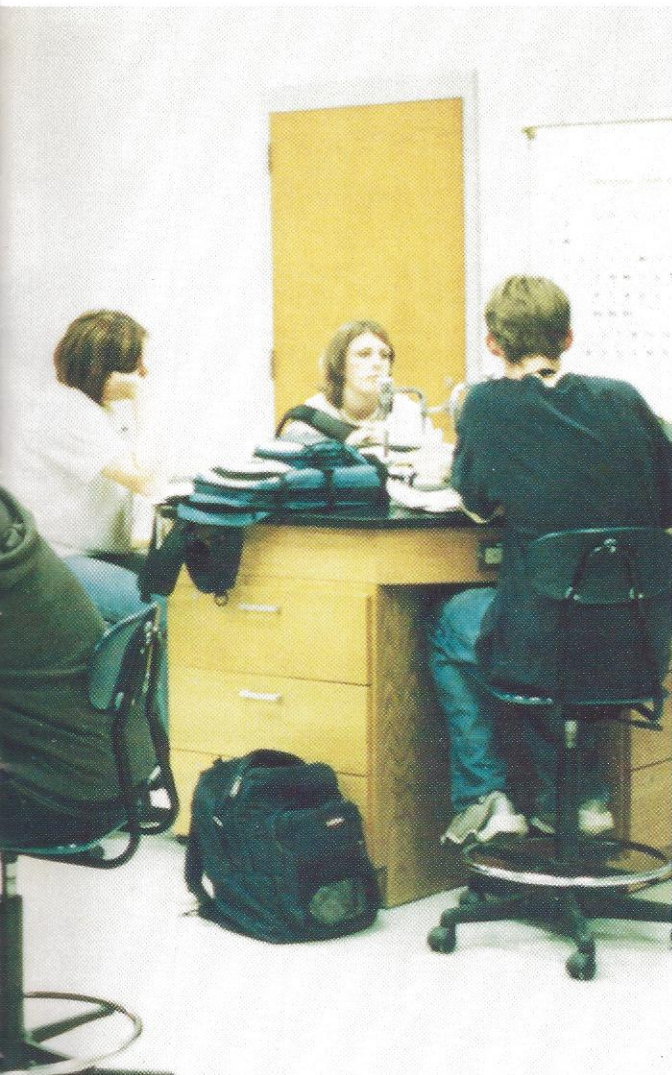


What's Happening

A New Year, A New School

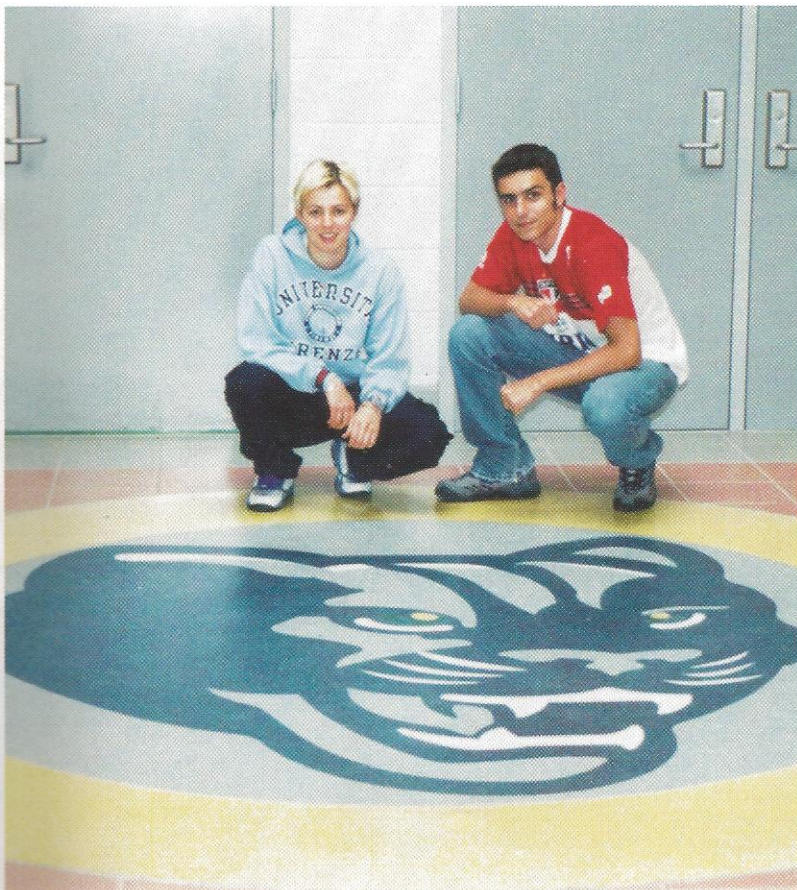


In the 2002 - 2003 school year, Ruffin and Walterboro merged to produce one of the top sixteen largest high schools in the state. Unlike past years, the freshmen were separated from the rest of the school. They attended school in the new Freshman Success Academy. "It's great to be in high school! There were a lot less people in middle school, but high school has a lot more activities and opportunities," freshman **Josh Johnisee** said.

The school received many new students, including foreign exchange students senior **Gabriel Pompermayer** from Brazil and junior **Laura Zoepf** from Germany. Other new students included those who previously attended Ruffin. "Being new at Colleton County High is an experience which has so far proved to be enjoyable. There are very nice people and teachers here, but there are also some rude people. The whole educational atmosphere is different. I feel the consolidation was a good idea, and many of the conflicts have been subdued. We are finally starting to get along," sophomore **Emma Johnson** said.

In order for the new school to succeed, many changes had to be made to the old school environment. The old main office area transformed into the guidance offices, and the administrative facilities moved into a new addition. With all of these new offices came glowing new furniture and fresh paint on the walls. The huge cougar emblem on the floor made the school shine with Cougar Spirit. "The Main Office was my favorite place in the school because it had so much room, and it was so unique," sophomore **Thomas Kittrell** said.

- Lauren Nettles



Start your Engines! The new student parking lot floods with students shortly before the bell rings to go home. Students filled forms out letting the school know that they would be picked up by their parents. In the first few weeks, these lucky students left school seven minutes early every day.

Cougar Fans. In the lobby of the new main office, foreign exchange students, junior **Laura Zoepf** from Germany and senior **Gabriel Pompermayer** from Brazil, stopped to admire the large Cougar emblem on the floor. This was the students first year here.