

HardisonInk.com

CKS senior signs with St. Petersburg College



Ashlyn Allen signs with St. Petersburg College on Thursday morning (Dec. 15), flanked by her parents Jimmy and Cheryl Allen.



Story, Photos and Video By Jeff M. Hardison © Dec. 15, 2016 at 9:37 p.m.

CEDAR KEY – Ashlyn Allen, a 17-year-old senior at Cedar Key School, signed an intent to take classes and play softball at and for St. Petersburg College. She is the daughter of Jimmy and Cheryl Allen of Cedar Key.

HardisonInk.com

There was a special ceremony in the CKS Auditorium on Thursday morning (Dec. 15) to honor the graduating senior who will be attending at the SPC Clearwater Campus.



Levy County Superintendent of Schools Jeff Edison tells CKS students to commend their colleague for her attaining her dream and going on to play softball in college.

SPC Head Softball Coach Bre Myers was present for the event. Coach Myers said the program for sports at SPC is for two years, and so there is a need for more recruitment than at some four-year colleges.

For the fall of 2017, Coach Myers has recruited 10 new players, including Allen, who is anticipated to be playing shortstop as well as to be a pitcher.

The other players are from Ocala, Naples, the Orlando area and New Jersey, the coach said.

“I am excited to have her,” Coach Myers said.

Allen said she is excited to be going to St. Petersburg College. She attended CKS from Pre-K through what is now her senior year.

HardisonInk.com



“I love Cedar Key School,” Allen said. “Everyone knows each other.”
As for going to a metropolitan city, Allen said she is prepared for some degree of culture shock.
“It will be a reality check to say the least,” she said.



CKS Principal Joshua Slemp speaks about the athlete who is also a scholar.

CKS Principal Joshua Slemp said this student is an all-around athlete who

HardisonInk.com

participates in track, cross-country, basketball and softball.

Softball is her passion and her coach from the Guardian Fast-Pitch Softball Travel Team was present for the event as well.

She has maintained a 3.7 grade point average, where 4.0 is an "A."

As a result of her hard work, Slemp continued, she is signing for a scholarship at SPC. She is the first student that he knows of who signed for a scholarship in college sports as she leaves CKS.

Allen said she was thankful to be able to go to the college level to play softball.

Levy County Superintendent of School Jeff Edison shared some thoughts.

Edison said Allen chose to attend school at CKS from Pre-K through now.

The superintendent said she should be commended for her accomplishment.

He let the student body who were listening – the 66 high school students and the 71 middle school students present that day – that they could accomplish whatever they want right in Cedar Key.

Some students see the grass as being greener on the other side of the fence, and they move to different schools.

As for Allen, Edison said she should be commended for following her passion and reaching her goals in her hometown.



The star softball player pauses to let the many photographers take her picture with her parents to commemorate the occasion.