

TALLULAH FALLS SCHOOL ON CAMPUS

MAGAZINE

FALL/WINTER 2023



THE TFS
LOWER SCHOOL
OPENS & WELCOMES
Class of
2032

2023 MID-MESTER
EXPERIENCE
PAGE 10

TWIN RIVERS
CHALLENGE
PAGE 8

SUMMER AT
QUANTICO
PAGE 26

2022-2023
TFS DONOR LIST
PAGE 29



Class of 2024

LAST FIRST DAY

The class of 2024 began their last first week of school with the annual senior sunrise breakfast. The warm sun gave them a colorful welcome as they gathered to embark on their year together. Throughout the first weeks of school, they decorated their parking spots with creative chalk drawings and painted the class rock, which included several prints of their hands and feet. Throughout the year, they will continue to enjoy special moments as a class as they prepare for the end of their journey at TFS and take steps towards their future endeavors.





Dr. Larry A. Peevy
President and Head of School

David Chester
Assistant Head of School

Kim Popham
Upper School Academic Dean

Carol Madden
Lower/Middle School Academic Dean

Sonya M. Smith
Executive Director for Advancement

Brandi Wood
Director of Creative Services

Elisha Boggs
Director of Communications

Brian Carter
*Director of Sports Communication
and Digital Media*

Photography Contributors:
Elisha Boggs
Crump Photo
Stephanie Dorantes
Austin Poffenberger
Strawbridge
Brandi Wood

On Campus Magazine is published three times a year by the Advancement Department of Tallulah Falls School.



201 Campus Drive
Tallulah Falls, GA 30573
706-754-0400
www.tallulahfalls.org

CAMPUS NEWS

- 02** Letter from the President
- 03** Growing a Community Atmosphere
- 03** New Faculty & Staff Spotlights
- 04** Sense of Community
- 15** One Act Competition
- 15** Tallulah Talks Podcast
- 18** Middle School: In the Classroom
- 19** Water Polo
- 28** Dual Enrollment
- 33** Fall Formal

FEATURES

- 04** From Small Town to Big Sky:
Flannery Hogan
- 05** Alumni Spotlight: Sharon Durkan
- 06** Lion Diamond Child: Jimmy Sandi
- 07** Alumni Spotlight: Gabe Farris
- 07** Alumni Spotlight: Lucia Alexander
- 08** Twin Rivers Challenge Recap
- 10** Mid-Mester: Class of 2024
- 12** Mid-Mester: Class of 2025
- 13** Mid-Mester: Class of 2026
- 14** Mid-Mester: Class of 2027
- 16** We Are Family: 4th Grade at TFS
- 26** Off Campus: Summer at Quantico
- 27** Off Campus: Filter the World
- 29** TFS Donor Spotlight
- 32** Feels Like Home: Ball Family at TFS

SPORTS

- 20** Middle School Fall Sports
- 21** JV Fall Sports
- 22** Varsity Volleyball
- 24** Varsity Cross Country



Twin Rivers Challenge t-shirt design contest winner - Skylyn Yaskiewicz of Sky Valley, GA



THE POWER OF SHARING

We love sharing our stories with you through each issue of our On Campus Magazine. There is power in sharing our lives together and sharing how the lives of our students, teachers, faculty and staff impact each other and the world around us.

We are sharing cultures. Students from 28 countries share their lives with each other in this place. Together, they learn about other cultures and other ways of thinking. This broadens their thought process and acts in many ways to solidify the powerful philosophies they develop as they grow.

We are sharing in the educational process. Our students have the best teachers, the best equipment, and the best facilities. We teach a curriculum that builds as students continually expand their knowledge. Starting in fourth grade, TFS students begin building a strong academic foundation. As part of that curriculum, juniors and seniors have the opportunity to take up to 22 college classes on campus as part of their daily classroom experience before they graduate.

We are sharing experiences. Throughout the year, students travel together to different venues and destinations. Our upper school students participate in our yearly Mid-mester experience - a week-long experiential learning opportunity designed for each grade. Our lower and middle school students travel to museums, outdoor venues, and places like the Georgia Aquarium and Chattanooga.

Daily, students are participating in activities like athletics and fine arts. Whether on the field, on the courts, on the stage, on a mountain top, or at the potter's wheel, they share their talents. Every student has an opportunity to develop to their greatest potential; through those opportunities, they continually find ways to share with each other.

I want to ask each of you to join us in the power of sharing. One of the most important things you can do to help others understand the Tallulah Falls School story is to use the power of social media to share with those you are connected to worldwide. When you receive updates - our stories through Facebook, Instagram, or other social media, help us tell the story by sharing it with your friends. Also, please share this magazine with your family and friends that visit during the holiday season.

Our entire TFS family wishes each of you a very Merry Christmas and the best of health, happiness and success in the New Year!



Jerry A. Peery

PRESIDENT AND HEAD OF SCHOOL

CREATING A COMMUNITY ATMOSPHERE



JEREMY STILLE
LOWER/MIDDLE/UPPER SCHOOL
ASSISTANT ACADEMIC DEAN

Jeremy Stille has moved into a new position as Assistant Academic Dean for the lower, middle, and upper schools. Stille assists with new teacher mentoring, discipline, curriculum alignment, and observing teaching methods throughout the school community. He also facilitated the upper-school Mid-mester experience. Stille comes to this position with 11 years of classroom teaching experience, including four years as a teacher in the TFS upper school history department.

"We are excited to add Jeremy to our administrative team," said President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy. "He will be a tremendous asset to the TFS community in this position."

Stille earned a specialist degree in leadership from Columbus State University in 2015, and he completed the GISA Emerging Leaders program in April of this year. Throughout the spring, Stille met with members of all the departments at TFS in preparation for the position. "I have had a chance to work with and observe all of the teachers," said Stille, "I can serve as a conduit of communication between the lower, middle school and the upper school."

Stille guides teachers with their curriculum development, classroom

instruction, and pedagogy. "I enjoy talking with teachers about how they engage students and try to find innovative ways to keep students motivated, thinking critically, and forming their own understanding of the curriculum."

Stille facilitates connections among teachers to work across disciplines to share pedagogy and find ways to engage their students. In addition, Stille is implementing a new mentor program for new faculty to help them acclimate to the culture and the diverse population at TFS.

Stille also advocates for students to ensure that they are seen and heard. He aims to help them find their voice and have buy-in within the TFS community. "We are concentrating on specific themes that will help to develop the community and the culture of the school," Stille said. "Students get involved, and it helps them to see that their voices are heard and respected. Students feel like TFS is a safe space, a place where they feel welcome."

Stille believes that as TFS grows, it is important to develop a community atmosphere where everyone is welcoming and willing to have conversations. "Helping each other becomes the goal," he said.

NEW FACES AT TFS



D'ARCY FLANDERS

As an English teacher, D'Arcy Flanders loves how her students can get involved with projects and ideas and pull prior knowledge and experiences into their studies. *The Great Gatsby* is one of her favorites to teach. "It has everything: love, regret, passion, mystery, and it is so well written," said Flanders. Flanders loves everything about TFS: the students, her fellow teachers, and all the resources available to students.



CAILYN COOK

Cailyn Cook had great music teachers who made her want to teach music. And now, she is watching her students fall in love with music. "When they figure out what they are doing, their face lights up, and they catch it," said Cook. "Here at TFS, I see the students strive to do good work consistently, and when they are passionate about something, they work towards that goal."



BRIAN LONG

Brian Long's teaching career began in 1989, but this is his first year at Tallulah Falls School. Long teaches eighth-grade American and Georgia history. Long and his students have been studying the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Articles of Confederation. "It is important that our young people know the documents that formed our country," Long said. "Through this, they become informed and engaged citizens." Long enjoys the family atmosphere at TFS. "It is a wonderful climate to work in. It is an unbelievably unique community – we all serve together."



SENSE OF COMMUNITY

TFS welcomes Allie Audet as the new student life assistant. Allie has worked at TFS for 11 years. Before moving into this position, she was the upstairs girls dorm counselor for eight years and worked as the head dorm counselor for two years.

As the student life assistant, she helps boarders navigate dorm life, academics, after-school activities, and all things associated with coming and going from the school.

Audet plays an integral role in the lives of TFS boarders, offering support and guidance with problem-solving, showing them how to access resources, and helping them to build overall life skills. She loves watching them grow and transform, gain independence, and step into leadership roles. "I like to be a part of their life," said Audet. Students rely on

Audet, and she counts on them.

Every year, when the students graduate, Audet gears herself up to say goodbye. "I had 24 seniors last year," she said. "It had a big impact on me when they graduated. I've been with them for six and seven years."

She shared some of her memories from life in the dorm: "The third or the fourth year I was here, there was a huge snowstorm. School was canceled. The boarders decided to do a talent show," said Audet. "The kids ran it – they spent the morning planning. Every kid had a talent. Everyone cheered each other on. It is always great to see the kids come together."

"I love working with kids. I love working with people and the sense of community," she said. "For me, it is home."



ALLIE AUDET
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
FOR STUDENT SERVICES &
MALLORY

Audet's service dog, Mallory, helps out too. She brightens up students' lives and has an overall calming effect on students and staff. "She brings light," said Audet.

FROM SMALL TOWN TO BIG SKY



Flannery Hogan ('20) is a sophomore at Colgate University in Hamilton, New York. She will complete a degree in astrogeophysics in the spring of 2026. Hogan thrived in the small school environment at TFS and knew she wanted to find a smaller school to further her studies, which led her to Colgate. "It has been a good fit," said Hogan.

Some of her coursework includes mineralogy and astronomical techniques. "Having a strong background in chemistry, biology, and English from Tallulah Falls School has given me a leg up in the classes I take now and a broader view of STEM subjects in general," said Hogan. "I never took geology at TFS, but when the principals come up in my classes, I definitely know more than people that have always studied geology or physics."

Over the summer, Hogan worked for the geology department researching iron and oxygen isotope deposits in abandoned mines from the 1900s in the Adirondacks. She also traveled to Arizona and Utah with the geology department, where they spent two weeks studying landforms and the general formation process.

Hogan has several work studies on campus. Throughout the year, she is conducting research on Martian geology. "I will use remote mapping systems to look at landforms on Mars," said Hogan. "The final outcome will be getting to present at a conference in the spring in Texas."

In her spare time, Hogan hosts a radio show on WRCU, Colgate University's student-operated radio station.

Hogan plans to attend graduate school and pursue a career in planetary geology research.

ALUMNI AFTER TFS



SHARON DURKAN

BOSTON CITY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 8

Sharon Durkan ('10) became a fierce advocate at a young age. When Durkan joined the TFS cross-country team as a seventh grader, she saw the beauty in northeast Georgia. At the same time, cross country coach Scott Neal instilled in his runners that they were to leave no trace and to pick up trash they found on the trail. "I realized that our resources are finite and that we need to do everything we can to preserve them," said Durkan. And that is when she started The Planeteeers - the first recycling program at TFS. "The mission was to make people more conscious of what they were using every day and to take personal responsibility for objects that are not renewable," she said.

Durkan didn't stop there. She noticed that not all TFS students had equal computer access to do their homework. She spoke to the President and Head of School, Dr. Larry A. Peevy about getting laptops for every student. "We met with the women's club and explained why we needed them," said Durkan. "It was my first experience advocating for the interest of others."

Durkan explained that when Dr. Peevy arrived on campus, he realized students' voices were powerful. "He listened to me and took my advice," said Durkan. "He went as far as to advocate for what I was advocating. We found shared priorities. He empowered us." By the time she graduated, students had laptops.

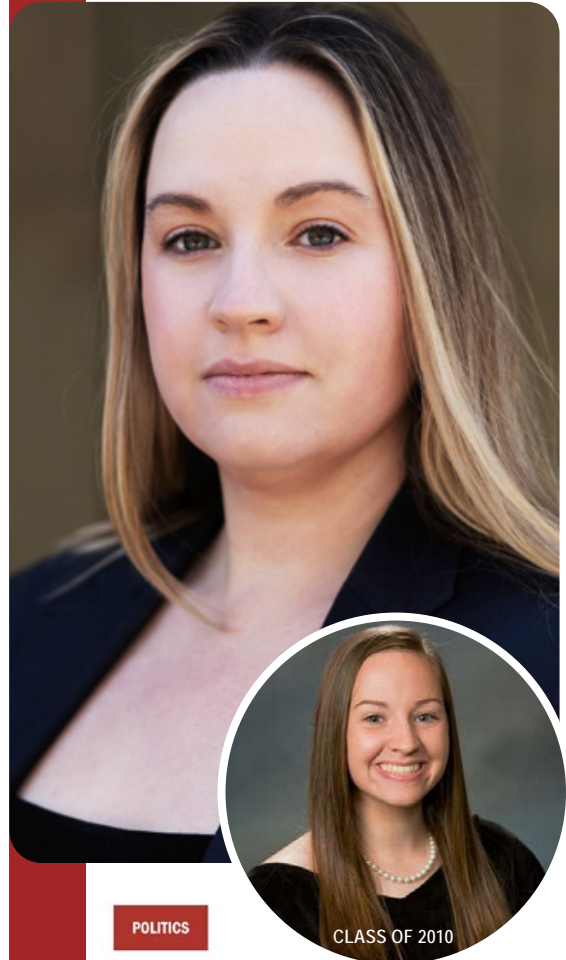
For Durkan, TFS created a culture where she felt she could advocate for people and good causes. "It is what creates TFS pride, the fact that students feel like valued community members," said Durkan. "The experience of being able to be a leader at a young age is specific to TFS; that doesn't happen at every school."

Durkan was president of her senior class and the TFS National Honor Society. As president of NHS, she coordinated the adoption of two families for Christmas and Thanksgiving, over \$3,700 for the American Heart Association Hoops for Heart program, and enough money to buy a cow through Samaritan's Purse. "Sharon's leadership was felt across campus," said coach Scott Neal.

Durkan took those strong leadership skills to Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, where she graduated in 2014 with a B.A. in government. After college, Durkan became a behind-the-scenes advisor to many local politicians in Boston and was heavily involved in grassroots activism, fundraising, and organizing for local leaders. Eventually, she ran her own business, consulting for elected officials. After ten years of political experience, Durkan had the opportunity to run for Boston City Council.

On July 25, Durkan was elected to represent District 8 on the Boston City Council, where she represents some of the oldest institutions in the country - District 8 is home to Fenway Park and TD Garden. Durkan found that the people in her district are interested in quality of life issues. She has prioritized fighting for affordable housing, climate policies, and neighborhood services for her constituents.

Durkan is always looking for the opportunity to get involved on a level where she can make a difference. "TFS instilled that in me," she said. "I had so many mentors pour themselves into me, I left with the impression that I really could make a difference in this world, and now it is all happening."



POLITICS

CLASS OF 2010

Boston City Council District 8 special election: Durkan crushes Haywood

Political fundraiser Sharon Durkan handily beat Suffolk County prosecutor Montez Haywood with a 40% margin.



JIMMY SANDI CLASS OF 2007

Jimmy Sandi ('07) made a surprise visit to English teacher Terri Bogan's ninth-grade classroom on Monday, August 21. Sandi presented Bogan with his recently published book, "Lion Diamond Child - Fragments of the Past." It is his life's story of growing up in Sierra Leone during the Blood Diamond War in the 90s. He recounts his journey between the ages of four and 12.

When he was ready to write his story, he remembered the senior portfolio he wrote for Bogan's class. The assignment was to tell his life story, giving tribute to people who supported and walked with him – to look at the challenges he had faced and how he overcame them. He took that portfolio piece and started writing.

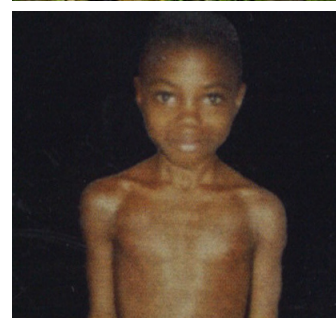
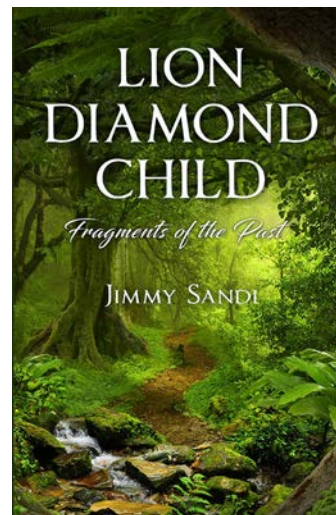
His story is a story of not giving up. It is a study of himself - a search for identity as he processed the things he experienced. As a result, he came to understand the trauma and the PTSD that he suffered. He recounts what he went through, what he suffered, and how he overcame it. He explained to Ms. Bogan's class that it is not always easy, and he has faced struggles and challenges.

Sandi continues to receive positive feedback from those who have read his book. "I was originally writing the story for myself, and I wanted to have it for my daughter to read someday," said Sandi. "But I am having fun interacting with people and connecting with people through my story that I never imagined would even read it." People from Sierra Leone, living all over the United States, have reached out in support and relate to his experience - something Sandi did not expect.

During his visit at TFS, Sandy took time to encourage Bogan's ninth-grade students. "I still remember those vocabulary assignments," he told Bogan's class. "Those expand your vocabulary and take you far," Sandi said. "The work you do in this class applies to life; it reflects what happens when you leave here."

For Sandi, TFS was an amazing place. He enjoyed the school and all the nature surrounding it. "TFS gave me experiences I would not have had otherwise. Skiing, rafting, tubing - these memories stayed with me." Bogan remembers Sandi as a student with a gentle nature – a student others would seek out. "He was always positive, always optimistic," said Bogan.

Bogan has taught at TFS for 32 years. She tells all of her students, "Everyone has a story to tell," and Jimmy Sandi is sharing his story. What is his story? Never give up. His book is available for purchase on Amazon.



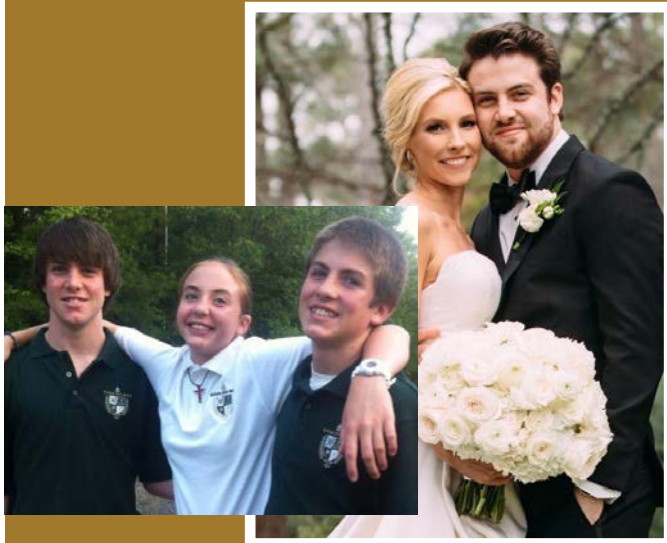
Book Excerpt

Peace is God's greatest gift in life, but we tend to forget that other realities exist around us when it is given. It is very hard to share the burdens of those who are far away, but there is a widespread saying back home that says, "Rain does not fall on one person's doorstep." What lies opposite of peace is a viral beast always looking to spread until it consumes all there is to consume. Its dark and mysterious presence is felt by nature, animals, and human beings of all ages.

Knowing all that I know now, I believe that perfect days are closely followed by storms, just as peace and harmony are followed by destruction. The warning signs are always clear, but the distraction of the present makes people too busy to notice or grasp the severity. To be completely honest, it takes someone special to deeply care about far and unrelated events. But those who have experienced similar situations can easily relate to a certain degree and sympathize.



Scan the QR code to purchase your copy of *Lion Diamond Child*.



GABE FARRIS

CLASS OF 2014

It didn't take long for alum Gabe Farris ('14) to figure out what Tallulah Falls School was all about. He came in as a senior and immediately felt welcome and a part of the TFS community. He quickly discovered that at TFS, the objective is to teach students how to learn. "The first time I felt like I really learned how to learn was at TFS," said Farris. "Having that going into college was huge because learning how to learn is one of the most important life skills. It set me up to do very well in college and to jump into the workforce. I still use that same kind of mindset."

The biggest thing that stuck out to Farris was how welcoming everyone really is at TFS. "Sports were such a big part of school for me," said Farris. "I spent a lot of time with Coach Neal. You don't find people like Coach Neal at the high school level. He is a lot of fun, but he is a very serious man. It taught me to be serious in certain situations – to know when it is time to get serious about certain things."

Gabe was serious about pursuing a career in finance. When Gabe graduated from TFS in 2014, he attended Barton College in Wilson, North Carolina. He was able to graduate early from college with a B.A. in business administration. He went straight into the workforce at Southern Bank in North Carolina. Farris was promoted out of management training to begin working as a lender. From there, he was promoted to branch manager over two banks.

Soon after, Farris was hired to do accounting for a Jersey Mike's franchise based in Raleigh, North Carolina. It is the largest franchise in the Jersey Mike's system with 69 locations. Farris is responsible for accounting, payroll, human relations, and more. "From the time I started until now, we've added over 20 stores. In the last payroll, we paid 1,090 people."

Farris says he uses a calculator for everything. "It is fun because accounting and finance are a mix of many jobs," said Farris. "I have the freedom to do the accounting, but I get to mix it with finance looking forward." Farris has the freedom to look at numbers and make suggestions. "It is a lot more fast-paced than banking, which I like," he said.

In 2019, he earned his MBA from East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina. Farris has been married for three years to Baillie. In their free time, they like to travel to unique places. They recently traveled to Japan.

Farris' advice for current TFS students is this: "Enjoy life. Enjoy the place where you are. Have fun. Enjoy learning new things. Be in the moment," said Farris.



LUCIA ALEXANDER

CLASS OF 2022

Discovering opportunities at every turn, Tallulah Falls School alum Lucia Alexander ('22) enthusiastically pursues ways to stay involved in her community. Alexander is working towards an honors degree in marketing at Kennesaw State University.

As an honors student at KSU, she has the advantage of meeting people in different marketing professions so that by the time she graduates, she will have plenty of experience. Alexander currently works as the marketing and communications assistant for the Kennesaw Sports and Recreation Department.

On campus at KSU, Alexander serves as the diversity equity and inclusion chair for her sorority, Zeta Tau Alpha. In her role, she ensures that each group within the sorority feels valued and heard and that her sorority highlights its diversity. She is also the secretary for faith-based group Kennesaw Episcopal Campus Ministries.

While at TFS, English teacher Kelli Bly encouraged Alexander to get involved and to stand up for what she believes in. "I think about her a lot," said Alexander. "She taught us to look at life through different perspectives and to adapt."

And that is just what Alexander did. She ran cross country, participated in Youth Leadership Habersham, served as the vice president and historian for the National Art Honor Society, served as an ambassador, was a member of the Global Citizens Awareness Panel, was a presidential scholar, and was a member of the recycling club.

For Alexander, the top tool that TFS gave her was how to be a good leader and how to motivate and work with different groups of people. "Through cross country, I had to learn to adapt my leadership," said Alexander. "Different types of people respond differently."

In addition, Alexander took 29 hours of dual enrollment courses at TFS. As a result, she began her sophomore year at KSU with nearly enough coursework to be classified as a junior. "I learned how to manage my time," said Alexander. "When I was doing a lot of dual enrollment hours, it was stressful, but it paid off because now I can balance school, work, and extracurriculars, and it is not breaking my back."

Alexander has a message for TFS students: "Take more time to understand each other's cultures and experiences, and understand how they shape each person differently. Expand your mindset - it will enrich your human experience," said Alexander.



TWIN RIVERS CHALLENGE



A record number of cyclists participated in the Twin Rivers Challenge hosted by Tallulah Falls School on Saturday, October 28. Over 170 cyclists from across the Southeast rode 25, 46, or 70 miles through the northeast Georgia mountains with glorious views of the region's lakes, rivers, and brightly colored autumn leaves. The event drew local and visiting riders, adding more than \$85,000 to the school's scholarship fund.

"This is a great event for our school and the cycling community. More than 140 corporations, organizations and individuals contributed to the scholarship fund to support TFS students," said President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy. "We are thrilled that the Twin Rivers Challenge has become a major draw for cyclists across the Southeast!"

Ron Cantrell Construction, Inc. covered all expenses, returning as the presenting sponsor, and Springer Mountain Farms sponsored the post-ride meal. "This strong partnership with Ron Cantrell Construction Inc. and Springer Mountain Farms pays for all expenses and allows all other sponsorships and rider registration fees to be directly applied to student scholarships," Peevy said.

Beyond the fundraising goal, a great ride and an overall positive experience is top priority, said Executive Director of Advancement Sonya Smith. "This year, the weather was beautiful, and we had the biggest turnout to date. It was a delight to see so many cyclists participate."

While some riders took the challenge for the first time, some cyclists have participated in all nine rides. A volunteer scholarship committee shared the TFS story with the community – these passionate ambassadors coordinated the fundraising effort. The scholarship committee chairperson for the event, Dr. Judy Forbes, provided community connections to help raise funds.

"The Twin Rivers Challenge brings the community together in support of TFS students and the scholarship program," Forbes said. "The fabulous weather, the peak of fall leaf colors, and the help of volunteers gave riders a fabulous day for a ride. We are very thankful for our presenting sponsor, Ron Cantrell, and the many sponsors who make this event so rewarding."

The Twin Rivers Challenge decade ride is set for Saturday, October 26, 2024.





RON CANTRELL CONSTRUCTION, INC.
DESIGN BUILDER



TWIN RIVERS
CHALLENGE

Thank You to our sponsors for making Tallulah Falls School's ninth annual Twin Rivers Challenge a huge success for student scholarships.



Tallulah Sponsors



Northeast Georgia
Medical Center
HABERSHAM



BOARD OF
TRUSTEES



NorthGeorgiaLawyers.com



Soque Sponsors



Burton Sponsors

A Plus Compliance Fire Protection • Allied Interior Services • Bleu Canoe, LLC • Blue Level Services, LLC • Chick-fil-A Cornelia
Citizens of Georgia Power (Tallulah Falls Chapter) • The Clayton Tribune • Complete Comfort, Inc. • Duvall Automotive • ECN Construction, LLC
ECN Consulting and Construction Co, Inc. • Engineering Management, Inc. • Ethicon • Eubank Family Dentistry, LLC
Habersham Chamber of Commerce • Bruce Harkness, Attorney • Harry Norman REALTORS Luxury Lake and Mountain • Hatchett for Georgia
HL Trash Monkey • Life Point Medical • LTG Painting • Mama G's Italian Restaurant • McAllister Tree Co, LLC • MCG Mechanical Inc.
Mixon, Mixon, Brown and Tench CPAs • Mt Yonah Contracting, LLC • The Northeast Georgian • North Georgia Credit Union
North Georgia Technical College • Old Towne Pub • Omega Technology Group • Peach State FCU
Pro Turf & Landscape Maintenance, LLC • Quality Automotive • Rabun County Bank • The Randall Family
Raymond James & Associates, Kenneth C. Johnson • Melanie Sims, MD • Frank Su • Linda Thomson • Tida Nails & Spa • Town of Tallulah Falls
Trophy Landscape • United Community Bank • Vivacity Tech PBC • White County News • Wood's Mercantile

Rabun Sponsors

22one Realty Co • 7 Hills Fire Protection Co., Inc. • Acree Oil Company • Adam J. Harkness & Associates • Alderfer Family • Amanda Stewart Shield Team
American Janitorial Supply • Anderson & Sons Roofing & Construction, LLC • Bavarian Brook Rentals • Bluegraphics • Brother John's Subs
Cantrell Orthodontics • Carl Patterson Flooring • Carter's Royal Dispos-all Inc. • Cedar Cove, LLC • Chattahoochee Professional Door • City Barber Shop
Committee to Elect Judge Brian Rickman • Crossroads Cafe & Catering • Deal's Appliance Service, Inc. • Constance and Hugh Dillingham
Dialed Bicycle Garage, LLC • District 10 State Representative Victor Anderson • First Citizens Bank • Foothills Land Design, LLC • Forward Rabun
GFWC Sylvania Junior Woman's Club • Gotta Go Portable Toilets • Habersham Car Wash Systems • Habersham Chamber of Commerce • Habersham Drug
Hall & Co. • Habersham Retreat • Hall County Farm Bureau • Hammock Realty North Georgia • Happy Jack Graphics, LLC
Hillside Memorial Chapel & Gardens • Howard Brothers Hardware/Outdoor Power of Lula • J.R. Painting & Wallcovering • Kennlock Construction, LLC
Kinetic by Windstream • LP Service, Inc. • Dr. and Mrs. Ronald MacBeth • Maintenance Supply Center • Milton Martin Toyota • Mountain View Home Builders
Mully's Nacoochee Grill • Northeast Georgia Signs & Service, Inc. • Perry Gas Company • Piedmont University • Pinnacle Bank
R.K. Adams Law • Rogers Strategies, LLC • Dr. Jana Rose • South State Bank • Southern View Energy, Inc. • Tatum Tutorial & Consulting • Thornton Brothers, Inc.
Tim Simmons Grading & Hauling, LLC • Toccoa Machine Products • Toccoa Falls College • Turnerville Garden Center • Viewsonic



Mid-mester

EXPERIENCE

On an early morning in September – before the sun rose, students headed west for the Grand Canyon, north to New York and Tennessee, south to Charleston and the Florida Coast, and to local destinations during the second annual Mid-mester experience. Throughout the week, students engaged in hands-on learning opportunities, connecting them to real-world situations and each other.

Seniors who traveled to New York visited the Rockefeller Center, museums, Radio City Music Hall, Little Italy, the Brooklyn Bridge, and Central Park. They also attended Broadway plays and participated in a Meet the Artist Workshop and an Improv and Theatre Workshop. “Leaving our little county and going to a place where millions of people don’t even know we are there and being surrounded by every kind of person on earth exposed us to a bigger perspective of the world,” said theatre teacher Jonathan Roberts.

Other seniors participated in career explorations or job shadowing.

The Career Explorations group took interactive tours at the Fox Theatre, Fernbank Science Center, the High Museum of Art, the Atlanta Botanical Gardens, the Georgia State Capitol, and Truist Park. They also met with

the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and participated in Playshops Interactive Experience at the Atlanta Shakespeare Company. “I liked how passionate everyone who showed us around and told us about their work was,” said Allie Phasavang. “I learned that I don’t have to know what I will do in the future – there isn’t pressure to have to know right now– like at the Shakespeare experience, they didn’t know that is what they wanted to do, but that is what they now do and with passion.”

Seniors who job shadowed interned at hospitals, real estate agencies, fish hatcheries, engineering firms, law offices, and more. Angelina Kim interned with Big Boy Head Gear apparel company. “I learned that so much goes into the clothing industry -- from finalizing a product, managing, and negotiating,” said Kim. “I learned so much through this experience.”



GRAND CANYON EXPERIENCE




CAREER EXPLORATION IN ATLANTA



CAREER INTERNSHIP



NEW YORK EXPERIENCE



**“EXPERIENCE, TRAVEL —
THESE ARE AS EDUCATION
IN THEMSELVES.”**

— EURIPIDES

“The Grand Canyon beats it all. It is hard to imagine something so huge without ever seeing it beforehand. Then you see it, and it is still hard to imagine it. Of all the trips I’ve been on, it had the best sights I have ever seen. The fact we were in it and on top of it just put into perspective how massive it is. We hiked over 45 miles, and with every single one, it was a crazy different experience. We were down inside the canyon, and the same day, we were at 2,000 feet elevation.

From the Grand Canyon to the Dunes to the Milky Way, we saw so much that we can’t see around here. After seeing it all, coming back here helps me see more. I have an even bigger sense of all of God’s creation.

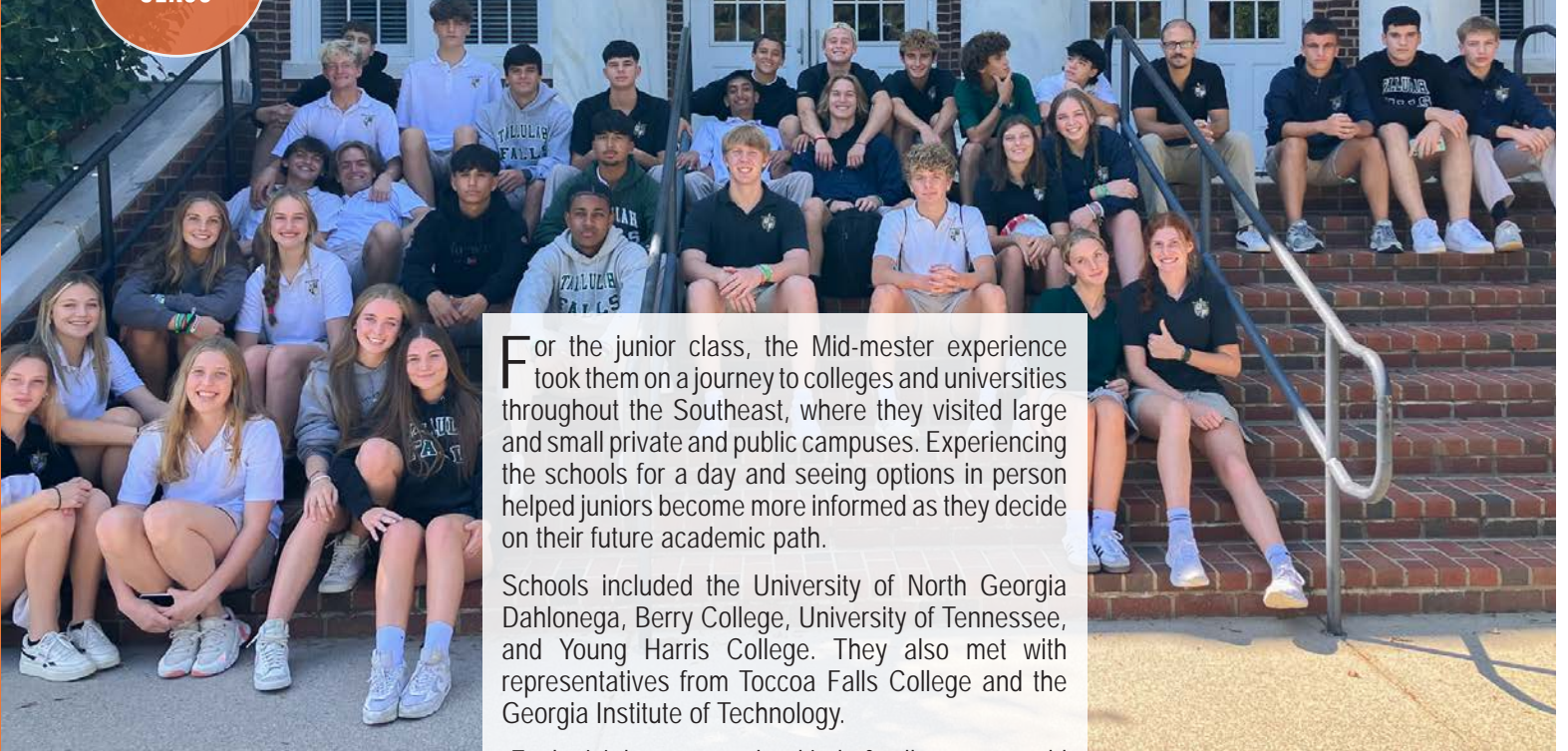
It was good to get out of the school building and see the world differently. It puts our lives into perspective. It helps me see more in my world, more in the people around me, and more in the world around them.”

Experience by Senior Marc Crotta

JUNIOR CLASS

Mid-mester

EXPERIENCE



For the junior class, the Mid-mester experience took them on a journey to colleges and universities throughout the Southeast, where they visited large and small private and public campuses. Experiencing the schools for a day and seeing options in person helped juniors become more informed as they decide on their future academic path.

Schools included the University of North Georgia, Dahlonega, Berry College, University of Tennessee, and Young Harris College. They also met with representatives from Toccoa Falls College and the Georgia Institute of Technology.

"Each visit let us see what kind of college we would like," said Madison Dampier. "Seeing a variety let me know that I want to go to a bigger school where there are a bunch of people."

At each place, they saw students engaged in student life and their studies. "The University of Tennessee is a beautiful, vast campus, and there are never-ending activities available," said Lizzy Wannier. "I could picture myself as a student there, and the food is good."

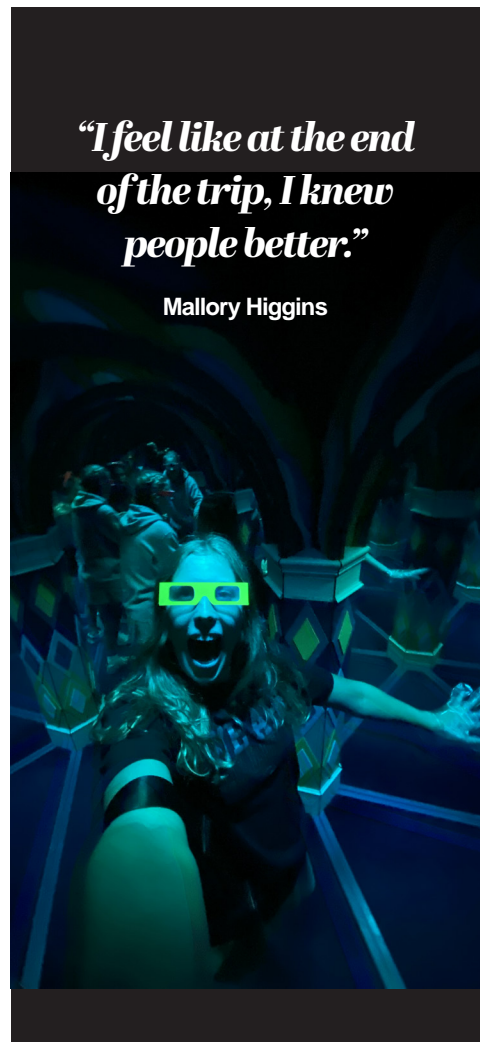
Several students found an unexpected treasure when they visited Young Harris College. The tour guide took them through the dorms, where they could visualize themselves living in a dorm. While they were there, Young Harris students were setting up a campus-wide sleepover. They were setting up tents and making a bonfire. This gave students a feel for the student life atmosphere at a small college.

Berry College's natural setting and strong academic and sports programs are attractive to TFS juniors. "There is so much open space and wildlife there, and the buildings are beautiful," said Miah Gragg. "I like how it isn't in a city."

Along the way, they spent time at Dollywood and the Pigeon Forge Snow Park. "I enjoyed the Dolly Parton's Pirate Voyage dinner show," said junior Mallory Higgins. "It was nice to be able to all hang out together. I feel like at the end of the trip, I knew people better."

"I feel like at the end of the trip, I knew people better."

Mallory Higgins



The sophomores traveled to historic Charleston, South Carolina, to experience encounters with the past, the diverse culture, and the intricate ecosystem. Their trip was packed with opportunities to see their studies applied across disciplines.

They visited Boone Hall Plantation, the Culinary Institute of Charleston, Patriots Point, the Avian Conservation Center, the Old Exchange, Charleston Market, and Fort Sumter. They also took the Barrier Island Eco Tour and a Pirate Walking Tour.

"I have a better understanding of history. It brought it to life," said Sarah Lundy. "On the U.S.S. Yorktown, we learned how they lived on the ship: we saw their bedrooms, the medical room, and the control room."

For Carsyn Griffis, it was an enlightening experience to learn about the pirates and figure out historical connections while walking along the cobblestone streets in downtown Charleston.

Students learned about the challenges facing birds at the Avian Conservation Center, and then as they sailed the ocean on the eco tour, they saw those birds of prey flying overhead: a red-tailed hawk, a turkey vulture, a spectacled owl, and a yellow kite.

The boat excursions were a highlight of the trip. They sailed the coastline, enjoying time together and viewing wildlife. "I loved taking the boat out on the ocean and playing on the beach," said Marissa Kinsey. "We really got to know each other during our time together."

SOPHOMORE CLASS



"Mid-mester provides our students with a unique learning opportunity outside the classroom. They experience firsthand how the curriculum they are learning in the classroom is applied across occupations and careers."

- Jeremy Stille



Class of 2026



FRESHMAN CLASS



The freshman Mid-mester trip to Florida provides students with the opportunity to learn more about space exploration, marine life, and the early exploration and settlement of the Florida coast. Students also spend time together over meals and hanging out at the pool or beach most evenings. "It was a great trip, and I enjoyed getting to know the students on a more personal level," said teacher Justin Pollock. For freshman Asia Molodynska, it was an unforgettable experience:

I am from Poland. When I came here in August, it was my first time in the United States, and when we went to Florida, it was my first time to see the ocean. When we got there, we went to a restaurant on the beach. There was a great view of the ocean and the birds at the restaurant. We ate crab legs. I liked trying new food.

The next day, we visited the Kennedy Space Center. It was an amazing experience to take the Atlantis tour and talk to a man who went to space. He answered our questions and told us about his job.



We also went to Marineland and took an estuary tour. We learned how to rescue dolphins that have been beached. We did tricks with the dolphins. Every one of us had time with the dolphins. I even saw an alligator in the river – oh my goodness, I had never seen an alligator!

On the trip, I met a lot of new people in my grade. It was my second month here in the United States and at TFS. I didn't

even know how many freshmen there really were. I got to talk to people and meet them. It was great to spend time with them.

I was so happy to be in Florida. I wanted to see as much as I could in the four days. I will never forget about it, and I want to go back. Everyone has a dream, and the dream can come true. When I was in Florida, it was a dream come true.



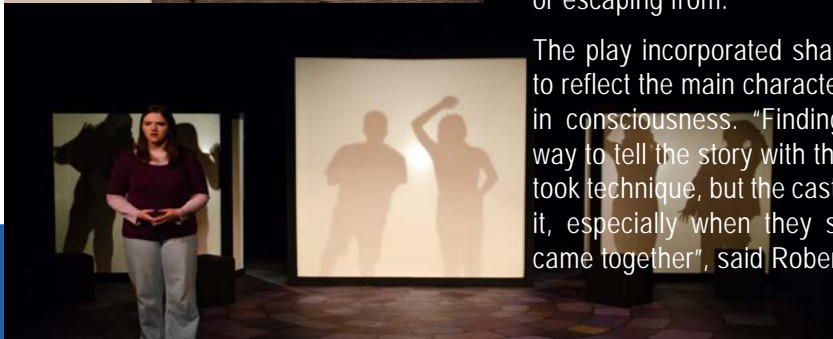
Class of 2027



JOEL BOURLET
ALL-STAR CAST

One-Act Play

TFS players took the audience on "A Deep Poetic Journey Into Something" in the Gertrude Long Harris Theatre. In the one-act play, senior Anna Reece Akers played Jane, a high school girl desperately attempting to live outside the box - to find a journey into something but instead finds herself stuck inside and taking a journey into nothing. "The story is about boxes," said theatre director Jonathan Roberts. "Boxes she was in and out of and trapped in or escaping from."



The play incorporated shadow boxes to reflect the main characters' change in consciousness. "Finding the right way to tell the story with the shadows took technique, but the cast embraced it, especially when they saw how it came together", said Roberts.



KATIE
ANDERSON
ALL-STAR CAST



Seniors Nnamdi Ezunu and Grace Stout, along with junior Grayson Penland and sophomore Molly Rickman, are the voices, the creators, and the producers of the podcast TFS Talks. "They handle the booking, the script writing, the interviewing, the recording, the editing, and the publishing," said instructor Joel Cox. He explained that podcasting goes beyond the interview. "The more comfortable we are with each other, the safer they feel when it is time to interview. It makes the conversations more organic," Cox said.

Podcasting has provided multiple avenues for this group to grow as they collect stories from across campus:

"It lets us see a different side of people," said Penland.

"It has helped my conversation skills a lot," said Rickman.

"I have overcome the insecurity of hearing my own voice," said Stout.

"Learning to use ProTools has helped me become comfortable using editing software on multiple apps," said Ezuno.

"We get to see a different side of people," said Penland. "We learned it takes tremendous dedication to be a dorm counselor - they work a lot of hours." The group is currently working on material for their sixth podcast.



Welcome

TO OUR TALLULAH FALLS SCHOOL FAMILY



W elcome to our fourth-grade class – the newest addition here at TFS, along with teacher Sandy Crenshaw. After the class starts with the pledge of allegiance, they begin their lessons with a language study – how words work together, and magically, it shows the students how they can work together. The class reads “Fire Flies” by Julie Brinckloe. Crenshaw pulls a sentence from the story, and each student identifies a part of speech with the group to build shared understanding. The story becomes their story – their experiences. They are participants.

Within the conversational learning environment, even the change between tasks is a chance to practice manners, kindness, conversation, and discipline. “Class, class,” calls Crenshaw. “Yes, yes,” the students enthusiastically respond and prepare for their next lesson.

Students move to work on opinion writing. After a brief lesson, Crenshaw says, “Okay. Ready. Teach.” Without further instruction, students turn to each other and share what they have learned before opening their Chromebooks to write. “Go ahead and write your opening paragraph. I am going to do the same,” says Crenshaw. Students write an opening paragraph about their opinion on roller coasters, pandas bears, fiction books, softball, brothers, and cookie brands.

“It is amazing how much we learn,” says Nolan Earp. They are exploring the history of the United States government, the Constitution, and the Articles of Confederation. “I like getting to learn about all these cool things that have happened in the past,” says Earp. Bonham VanDoornum enjoys math. “It gives me a very educated structure in my brain,” he says. “Multiplication just blows my mind.”

The fourth graders take physical education and fine arts classes as part of their exploratories. “We get to do fun activities like go outside and play kickball and volleyball,” says Talley Turpin. In fine arts class, instructor Jonathan Roberts introduces students to artists, theatre, and song; together, they emulate artists’ ideas.

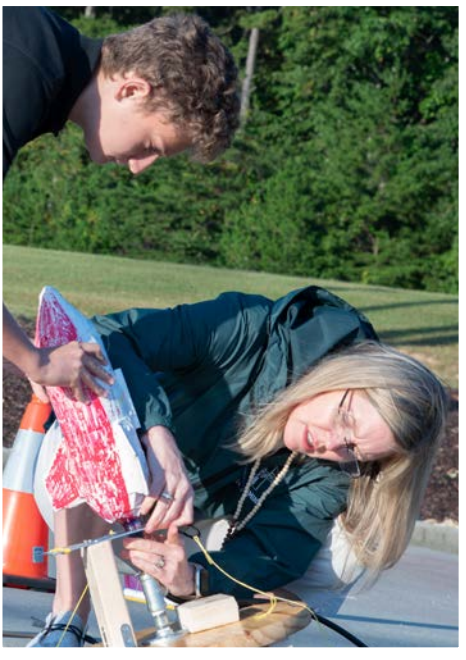
“Class, what is rule number five?” asks Crenshaw. “Make our dear team stronger.” Their voices are a part of a community devoted to discovery and growth. “We are trying to be a team. It can be hard to get along,” says Maizee Fleming. But they know how to practice growing. “We say kind things that only build people up and don’t tear people down, and we are friends with everyone,” says Oliver Radford. “If someone needs help, then you help them and work as a team to get things done.”

Beyond the classroom, the fourth grade regularly takes experiential learning field trips. They have visited Tank Town, the Children’s Museum of the Upstate in Greenville, Georgia Mountain Falconry, and Uncle Shucks Corn Maze. “We got to hold a falcon!” declares Allegra Perry.

“Ms. Crenshaw has a strong background, years of experience, and a personality that relates well with every student,” said President and Head of School Dr. Larry A. Peevy. “When the 15 outstanding fourth graders arrived, they came to us ready to learn. The combination of their personalities and backgrounds with Ms. Crenshaw has sparked an exceptional learning environment. With these two powerful forces combined, we have immediate success.”



LOWER/MIDDLE SCHOOL



Blast Off

The STEM class and STEM instructor Ashley Dumas designed, built, and tested air-pressure powered bottle rockets. They gathered data and analyzed the results to determine which designs performed the best. This process led to their understanding of how ballasts and fins work to stabilize and increase the distance of trajectory. Lincoln Hicks' rocket won the longest trajectory with an impressive 190 feet. Owen Earp and Quinlan Flanders tied for second with a launch of 155 feet. And third place was Max Pulliam, with a distance of 141 feet. The main goals of STEM class are to plan, execute, and analyze solutions to a challenge. The group put the four C's of STEM education to work: critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity.



The Archaeological Dig

Seventh-grade history classes conducted an archaeological dig created by teachers Amanda Rogers and Jonathan Roberts. Students experienced the intricate aspects of an excavation. They built a grid before searching for artifacts and noted where they found each relic before moving it to another area for further study. Artifacts included pieces of pottery, bones, coins, and beads. "We can piece together the past and see what it tells us," Rogers explained to her students.





Water Polo for all ages

Eighteen Tallulah Falls School lower and middle school students participated in the inaugural Youth Water Polo Afterschool Club. Students improve their swimming skills and learn the basics of a new sport in a fun, friendly, competitive way. "It is a perfect fit for our students," said Natatorium Director Katie Ralston. "I am always trying to find ways to bring students to the pool, and this is something that we have not done before at TFS."



The program advocates swimming as a sport, builds interest in other aquatic activities, and helps students achieve their swimming goals. Fifth grader Charlotte Hatcher enjoys hanging out with her friends and doing her favorite thing - swimming. "Coach Butler taught me everything I needed to learn. He taught us the eggbeater kick, which is a really hard way to tread water, but it makes me stay up longer when I hold the ball," said Hatcher.



A favorite PE activity for upper school students is inner tube water polo. It mirrors regular water polo, but players are not treading water, so they can maintain a high level of energy throughout the game. It also minimizes contact – the inner tubes act like bumper boats. "It is a challenge, but it is fun, and I like being able to be in the pool," said junior Brooklyn Reed.

ENTIRE MIDDLE SCHOOL LEARNS TO SWIM

Dr. Peevy's vision is for all TFS students to have a foundation in swimming. Two years ago, the school started the American Red Cross Learn-to-Swim program with the fifth and sixth grades in the 2021-2022 school year. Then, the incoming fifth graders and the eighth grade participated in the Learn-to-Swim program in the 2022-2023 school year.

By the end of the 2022-2023 school year, the entire middle school had been through Learn-to-Swim. The program incorporates

water safety as an integral aspect of the course, and TFS has certified water safety instructors teaching the classes. In addition, scuba diving instructors from the Aquatic Explorers Society come and teach students how to snorkel.

Currently, the new fourth graders and the incoming fifth graders are participating in the Learn-to-Swim program.

"Once the entire middle school had the basics of swimming, we were able to

springboard into multiple aquatic activities," said Natatorium Director Katie Ralston. "We can now do activities like water polo and synchronized swimming. It has also helped to build the TFS swim team, especially the middle school swim team."

"The benefit of proficient swimming and water safety lasts a lifetime. TFS students are fortunate that they have the opportunity to participate in activities," said Ralston.

SEASON RECAP FOR TFS MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS

CROSS COUNTRY

Runner-up finishes in the Tri-State Championship in early October was a culmination of a season marked with improvement and hard work for the MS Indians and Lady Indians. The team's schedule contained 10 meets in a little under two months.

TFS competed in several Tri-State meets prior to the Championship run at Summit Charter. Overall, the girls had four runner-up finishes in Tri-State meets, and five top-5 finishes at meets overall. The boys had a couple of first-place finishes at conference meets and also recorded five top-5 finishes.

The girls were often paced by Mia Kerr, the leading runner for the Lady Indians in seven of the 10 meets. She had five top-10 finishes individually. Mary Kate Ball led the Lady Indians three times and had six top-10 finishes. That duo, along with Lily Denard (four top-10s), were consistent throughout the season.

The Indians featured Avery Chatman, who finished as the Tri-State Champion individually and was runner-up in three other meets. He was the leading runner for TFS in the final six meets of the season. Sam Belk and Owen Earp each had a couple of top-5 finishes, and others such as Sebastian York and Peter Greiving were near the top of the pack.

VOLLEYBALL

Teams that have short-term memories and refuse to go down without a fight are dangerous. The MS Lady Indians, led by coach Natasha McEntire, personified grit and determination throughout the 2023 season, which ended with a runner-up finish in the league and noticeable improvement by nearly every individual.

TFS opened the season at a Habersham Central preseason jamboree with a large number of inexperienced players taking the court. From there, the girls experienced immediate success, improving with each set and match. The A-Team started out winning its first three matches, while the B-Team earned splits in each.

Four times throughout the season, the A-Team had a string of three or more wins in a row. The B-Team picked up steam throughout, winning back-to-back matches in early September. All told, the Lady Indians' A-Team went 11-7 in the regular season, while the B-Team was 3-5-5.

In the season-ending tournament, the Lady Indians dropped the first set of their opening match with Franklin County but won the next two sets to claim the match. A win over Madison County came next, avenging a prior loss against the Red Raiders. That pitted TFS against Hart County in the title match, where the Lady Indians fell 2-0.

The Runner-Up finish in the North Georgia Volleyball League came with a final tally of 13-8 — a full three wins better than a year ago.

TENNIS

Tallah Falls School knew they had something with the middle school boys team specifically heading into 2023. After walking off the court last season as runner-up in the Southern Mountain League and returning a significant portion of their lineup, TFS was viewed as the front-runner this season on the boys side. The girls lost their entire lineup from their semifinals team, so this was viewed as a learning year for the young up-and-coming players.

The boys embraced the challenge of being the team to beat and went 11-1 all the way to hoisting the championship trophy after a win against Habersham. Reilly Cox, competing at 1-singles for a third straight season, was 10-2 while taking on the best the league had to offer each match. Elijah Pinney was 10-1 at 2-singles, and Jackson Davis went 9-3 at 3-singles. The doubles combo of Christian David and Fenn NeSmith ended with a 10-2 record at 1-doubles, while the 2-doubles lineup featured many combos but combined to go 9-2. Dylan Johnson was in on seven of those wins, Max Pulliam was part of six wins, and Maddox English four.

The boys went 8-0, rolling through the season until a minor hiccup in a 3-2 mid-season loss. After that, the Indians rebounded to win out, taking the league by storm. The Indians' stretch of great play included a 5-0 win over Banks County to close the regular season. The significance and rarity of the win was every line taking an 8-0 win. That set the tone for the tournament, where TFS earned a first round bye then avenged its loss to Rabun Gap in the semifinals before the win over Habersham.

The Lady Indians had an all-new look this fall with several players getting their first competitive tennis experience. Catherine Harris played at 1-singles, while Emma Ivester anchored 2-singles and Lexi Gibson and Gabriella Oliver spending time at 3-singles. Doubles lines were often changing, but players like Elizabeth Stafford, Erin Sweat, Veronica VerBerkmoes, Tara Shyrock, Lilli Whittle, and Gibson and Oliver all showed signs of improvement. The girls ended their season with a first round appearance in the SML tournament and a 1-10 overall record.

Both teams are poised for more success in the future. Though Cox moves to the high school level, a great portion of the boys and girls lineups will remain intact.



Avery Chatman, 8th



Reilly Cox, 8th

For over a month, the JV Lady Indians had put together a stretch of perfect play that resulted in a 13-match win streak. That was a snapshot of the season for TFS and instilled confidence in the young team as it went on to an Area Runner-Up finish for a second straight year.

The Lady Indians, guided by head coach and 2021 grad Rebekah Jennings, made a quick turnaround after an 0-4 start. It took a tri-match win in mid-August over East Hall and Johnson to get the ball rolling, and it didn't stop for some time. In the next outing at a Gainesville tournament, the Lady Indians dropped the first two matches before rebounding to win the next three to claim the Silver Bracket Championship.

By the time area/region play began, TFS was in great shape. The communication and energy of the team continued to improve, and by September 11, the girls had reached 10 straight wins after beating Athens Christian. Defeating Elbert County and Barrow Arts & Sciences Academy ran the streak to a dozen. The win streak

hit 13 before being snapped on September 28 against Prince Avenue Christian.

TFS entered the Area Tournament as the top seed. After a win over BASA to reach the finals, TFS closed out the season in the next round. The Lady Indians had several standouts, including Shelby Whisnant and Kiersten George who routinely led in serving, coming up with big kills, digs, and blocks. LB Kafsky, Julia Smith, and Ryleigh Wilson also had a big impact, along with eighth-grader Ca'Rin Swinton, who filled in due to injuries and shined in her first look at high school volleyball.

TFS ended the season with an overall record of 17-8.



All this season was about was learning the game, having fun, and building a solid foundation for the future of the Tallulah Falls softball program. But Coach Jo Kimbrel and her Lady Indians team did more than that - they won a lot of games.

In 2022, the program began with a handful of girls interested in playing softball, and TFS played in a non-counting, unofficial scrimmage in Habersham. Fast forward to Fall 2023, and TFS had a legitimate team of 15 players, including seniors Tahj Charlton and Allie Phasavang. The girls also had a home field to play on and a full JV schedule ahead of them.

The season opened with back-to-back 15-0 losses before a 17-6 loss in which the offense began to figure some things out. Still, TFS was 0-5 with 11 total runs scored against 70 runs allowed. On August 28, the Lady Indians took a giant step with a 9-6 win in their home-opener against East Jackson.

Back-to-back losses followed against Hart County, but the next stretch of play was pivotal to the program. The Lady Indians won a wild home game against Rabun County, 25-17. Then came a 12-6 win over Cedar Shoals again at home, then at their place 19-4. A win in the home finale against Barrow Arts & Sciences Academy by a 13-12 score was secured on a Phasavang walk-off hit. But it didn't stop there.

A 17-0 road win at East Jackson included a no-hit shutout thrown by pitcher Callie Craver, who earned all six wins

in the season. That led to another crazy battle with Rabun in which TFS won 24-15 for a sixth straight win and getting to .500 at 7-7. The team lost to Commerce in the season finale but finished at 7-8 overall. The first season included going unbeaten at home (4-0), throwing the first no-hitter and shutout, first walk-off win, the 6-game win streak, and even turning the team's first-ever double play.

With only two seniors moving on, the young team is in a great position to build off this success and improve heading into 2024.



Tahj Charlton, Senior

Allie Phasavang, Senior

TFS INDIANS VOLLEYBALL

It was yet another 'Sweet' season for Tallulah Falls. The volleyball program has made getting to the state tournament a given, and into the Sweet 16 a habit. This year's Lady Indians squad had an early bullseye on their back after winning the state title the year before. While the new-look lineup took some early shots, it didn't take long for the girls to get hot and make a great run to the state tourney.

TFS secured a third-ever 30-win season, going 30-15 overall. That included a record 13-match win streak and winning 70 sets, the 2nd-most in school history. Along the way, the Lady Indians tallied six wins against top-10 ranked opponents. The biggest win of all happened in the Area Tournament against rivals and #10-ranked Prince Avenue Christian. The 3-0 victory earned TFS its second straight Area Championship.

It was part of the historic win streak that began on September 8 against Jackson County (TN) in the Rocky Top Tournament and ended at home on October 12 in a non-region warm-up for state against Morgan County. The Lady Indians then rolled to an easy 3-0 win over Aquinas in the opening round of the state tournament, reaching the Sweet 16 for the fourth consecutive season and fifth time overall. In total, Tallulah has gone to the state tournament nine straight seasons.

In the Sweet 16, despite being up 2-0 on the home court against a powerful Mt. Vernon team, TFS dropped the decision 3-2, ending the season. It wasn't the ending the girls had hoped for, but the season remains one to remember.

Senior Addy McCoy was named Area Player of the Year and was 1st Team All-Area with fellow senior Katarina Foskey. McCoy set a school record with 146 aces and also became the all-time leader with 329. At one point, she led the entire nation in aces. She added 312 kills as well, becoming one of only seven players in TFS history to reach 300 kills in

a single season. Foskey had 357, the 2nd-most in a single season. She also notched 41 blocks, 3rd-most in a single season. Junior setter Chesney Tanksley (723 assists) was All-Area 2nd Team, along with sophomores Kate Gary (318 digs), Rebecca Heyl, and senior Ashlyn Yaskiewicz. Senior Skylyn Yaskiewicz was an Honorable Mention, and coach Matt Heyl earned his second straight Area Coach of the Year award.

The Lady Indians graduate McCoy, Foskey, the Yaskiewicz twins, Claire Kelly, Iva Ristic, and Julianne Shirley. Despite an upcoming roster rebuild, TFS still has a core returning to build around.



Katarina Foskey



Ashlyn Yaskiewicz



Kate Gary



Scan the QR code to read the full feature story

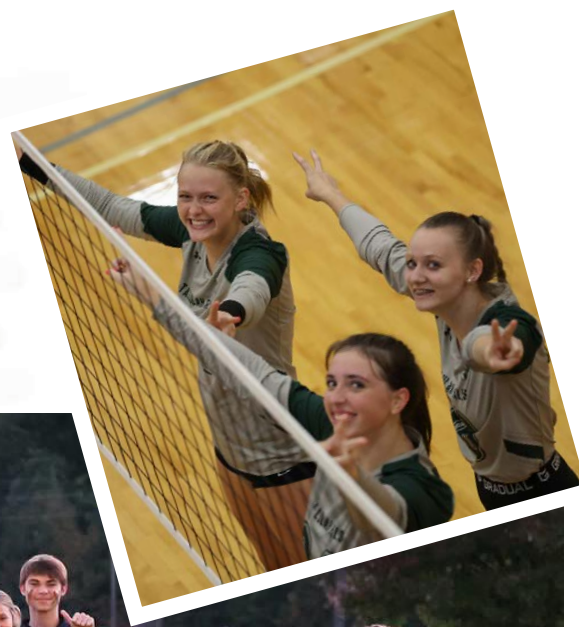
Queen of Aces

703 KILLS (3RD ALL-TIME)
329 ACES (SCHOOL RECORD HOLDER)
300+ DIGS
64 BLOCKS (4TH ALL-TIME)

AREA PLAYER OF THE YEAR IN 2023
2-TIME ALL-STATE SELECTION
2-TIME ALL-AREA 1ST TEAM HONORS

PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS IN MCCOY'S VARSITY VOLLEYBALL CAREER AT TALLULAH FALLS SCHOOL (2020-2023):

- 107 WINS
- 2022 STATE CHAMPIONS
- 2 AREA CHAMPIONSHIPS ('22, '23)
- 4 STATE PLAYOFFS TRIPS
- 4 SWEET SIXTEENS OR FURTHER RUNS
- 2 SEASONS WITH #1 STATE RANKING
- 24 WINS VS STATE-RANKED OPPONENTS



TFS INDIANS

CROSS COUNTRY

Throughout the 2023 cross country season, Tallulah Falls saw nearly every runner experience personal-bests. That translated to a team that was determined to outperform expectations each and every meet, regardless of the course.

TFS put together a memorable season, battling against tough competition, both weather extremes, and everything in between. Coach Scott Neal guided runners to embrace the pain that comes from running to your limit, then advancing past that threshold.

In the region meet, TFS qualified both teams for the state meet. The Indians came in fourth, earning a fifth consecutive state berth. The Lady Indians came in third to take their third straight team state appearance.

Once at state, Tallulah Falls improved on its forecast finish, as the girls placed seventh for the best finish in Lady Indians' history. The boys came in 13th, improving upon last year's 17th-place finish.

Freshman Avery Keim had a stellar season, leading TFS at region (7th) and state (31st). Classmate Olivia Henderson (9th at region) and junior Josie Chesser (Region 12th; State 32nd) were instrumental to the team's success, as well as Sara Bailey, Dani Prince, Delaney Johnson, and Carsyn Griffis among others.

Junior Timothy Beck and freshman Teagan Penland paced the boys throughout the season. Beck finished fourth at region and 38th at state, while Penland was 11th and 47th, respectively. Jackson Shadburn, Ryan Anderson, Alvaro Garcia Breton, Gavin Simmons, and Oier Linera Mallea all competed at state and were among the team leaders.

With only six total seniors moving on, the returning runners next season will have a chance to build off this season's success.



Avery Keim, Freshman



Jackson Shadburn, Senior



Teagan Penland, Freshman



Timothy Beck, Junior



Dani Prince, Senior



TF S Athletic Director and Cross Country Coach Scott Neal believes in pushing his runners beyond their performance towards the underlying mission: to be GREAT. He focuses on being mission-driven by developing character, competence, and competitiveness, hosting GREAT events, and creating a season of significance.

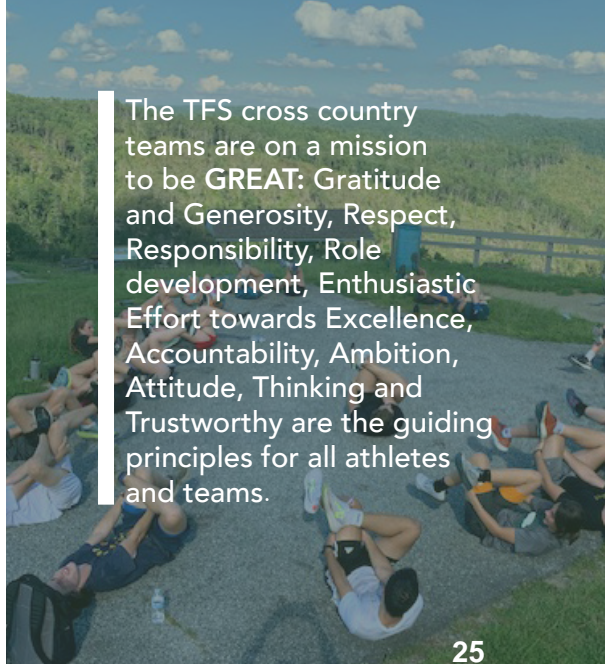
Neal provides opportunities and roles for the team to learn how to host and coordinate GREAT events and build leadership. "Students see beyond themselves and past their immediate community – they become global citizens," said Neal. "We compete, and then we collaborate." The team had several opportunities throughout the season to implement the mission.

In August, the team hosted the Gorge to Beach Experience. The event included a 3K race, a friendly run at Tallulah Gorge, and a swim at Tallulah Beach. Seven teams enjoyed pizza and popsicles together at the end. Junior Timothy Beck spearheaded and managed all aspects of the event. "I wanted it to be unique – to be that we were runners, not teams. I hoped to achieve community with other teams – where we are more allies and friends than competitors."

On September 5, the team hosted approximately 400 harriers from about 20 schools at the annual Cookies and Quotes Cross Country Festival, where all runners receive a bag of cookies with encouraging quotes, and the Harrier Harvest on October 17.

"The other teams like the uniqueness of our meets," said senior Eli Damron. "We have messages we share with them on the course. It gives them a boost of confidence while they are running." At the end of the Harrier Harvest, winning runners were recognized and given a pie made by TFS families.

TFS cross country meets are different. "At every meet, we do something special for the other team, said senior Dani Prince. "Runners from the other teams walk away with more than just results from a race."



The TFS cross country teams are on a mission to be **GREAT**: Gratitude and Generosity, Respect, Responsibility, Role development, Enthusiastic Effort towards Excellence, Accountability, Ambition, Attitude, Thinking and Trustworthy are the guiding principles for all athletes and teams.

Over the summer, one teen from every state flew to Washington, D.C., for the 2023 Youth Leadership Program hosted by the FBI National Academy Associates, Inc. (FBNAA), a non-profit law enforcement leadership network. Tallulah Falls School's Madeline Martin was one of them. For eight days, Martin participated in intensive instruction at the FBI Academy.

With only five hours of sleep a night, the physically taxing part of the experience was hardest for Martin, but she learned from it. "We woke up at five every morning and went to the track to exercise," said Martin. "The entire basis of the exercise program is to be able to run the Yellow Brick Road the last day." For members of the FBI, the run is 6.1 miles – Martin and the group ran a shortened version at three miles. "At the end, we rang a bell," said Martin. "I felt really accomplished. The point wasn't to win, the point was to help everyone get through it and work together as a team. Everyone finished, and no one got hurt."

Their coursework and classroom instruction focused on current issues and provided tools that enhance individual core talents. Program courses and presentations covered things like fundamentals of leadership, fitness, nutrition and resilience, time management, values and choices, social media and internet survival, firearms training, forensics, and more.

Several squads shared demonstrations with the group. "The bomb squad taught us what different bombs looked like," said Martin. "We watched the dogs in action as they sniffed out bombs." They also learned about the hostage rescue team and received firearms and active shooter training. The group also visited the FBI Tactical Emergency Vehicle Operations Center. "They drove at 130 m.p.h.," said Martin.

Martin plans to pursue a career with the FBI. "Crime and investigation really interests me," said Martin. "I want to help people, and I don't want my job to be boring." For Martin, the experience showed her all the different ways that she can be a leader, how to be aware of bad forms of leadership, and how to get past it.



SUMMER AT QUANTICO



FILTER THE WORLD

How a TFS class sparked one student's entrepreneurial spirit.

Fidel Ayala Vasquez, a junior at TFS, saw an opportunity and took it. At 13, Ayala took the initiative to promote his family's filtration business, Commercial IF. "My dad has been working in the filtration business for over 35 years," said Ayala. His commercial filtration system is a distributor in Latin America, but Ayala knew there was a market in the United States. "We started a market study, specifically in northeast Georgia," he said. "There are multiple businesses that require filtration specific to this area – wineries, breweries, pharmaceutical and healthcare industries are expanding, and there is potential business."



Last year, Ayala took Jennifer Cox's entrepreneurship class. When Cox assigned students to create a dream business plan, Ayala was ready for action. The class was commissioned to find market size, distribution and merchant channels, and the challenges they may face entering the market. "Fidel gave a pitch in class and then created a business plan based on the business," said Cox. "I saw right away that he had big plans for his dream business and was confident in his ability to create something that could benefit others."

"I had already created a company – Commercial IF. In entrepreneurship, I was able to continue to develop it," he said. "I reached out to a guy who knew about wineries. I got contacts and spoke with them and told them what the company was about and that we would like to work with them."

"Mrs. Cox paid attention to me and what I had as a goal," said Ayala. "She helped me reach that goal and know what I wanted for my business." The class helped Ayala to learn how to be a leader, to be confident, and to make decisions with confidence.

Over the summer, Commercial IF received an invitation to the Filtrix Conference held in Cancun. Each year, distributors present success cases. In August, Ayala traveled to the conference with his dad. "He wanted me to go, as it would be a great opportunity to get to know distributors from all over the world and to keep learning about the filtration business," said Ayala. "I presented two success cases: one from the United States and one from Mexico."

Ayala discovered that making connections is crucial to the business. "There is a saying we have, 'Don't make your client your client, but your friend,' and that is what we went to do," said Ayala. He connected with representatives from Germany, Mexico City, Colombia, and Switzerland. "They all taught me something I didn't know," Ayala said.

Currently, Ayala is working on getting clients to grow the business, making some sales, and learning about the business itself. "I want clients to see me as more than just a kid selling filters but someone who is a professional entrepreneur working to grow the business," he said. "I want to sell the filtration and solve clients' problems by distributing top-quality products."

DUAL ENROLLMENT

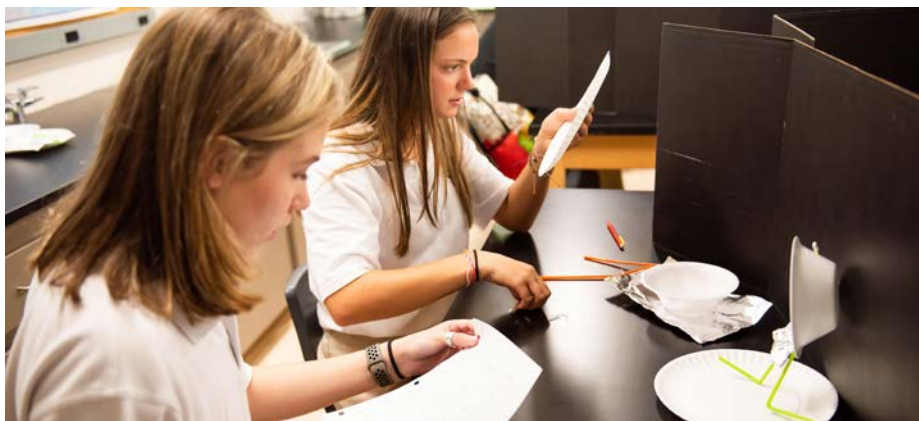
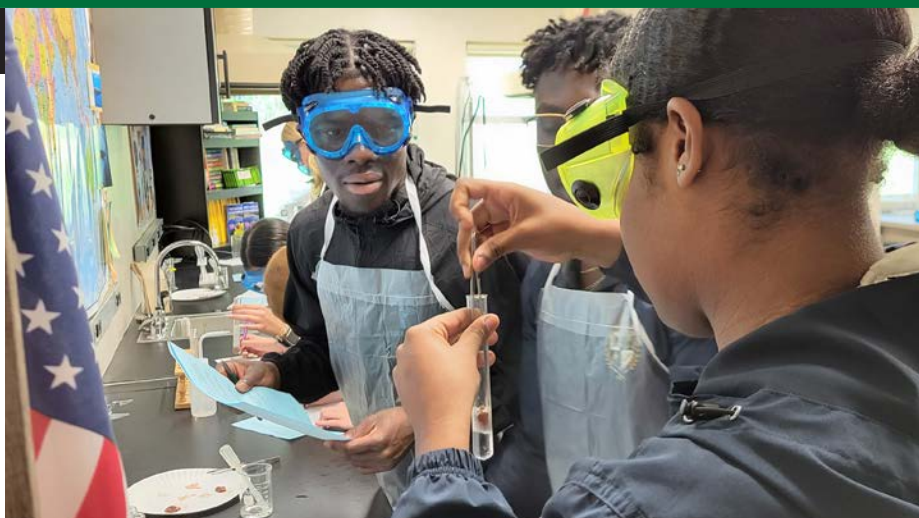
COLLEGE COURSES WITHOUT LEAVING CAMPUS

Dual Enrollment, a college acceleration program available to TFS Upper School students, allows students to take college courses to earn credit for both high school and college. "The courses challenge me," said senior Reese Wilson. "They give me a good idea about what classes will look like in college. I will graduate with 14 college credits."

College chemistry instructor Beth Huebner enjoys problem solving and troubleshooting with her students. "They learn at a higher level, and this prepares them for more challenging content and rigorous course work when they go to college," said Huebner.

With 22 college-level courses offered on campus, TFS students have a unique advantage in preparing for the next stage in their education. Dual-enrolled students who take two to three college courses each semester during their junior and senior years graduate from high school with 24-30 college credits, with the average student graduating with 22 college credit hours. Senior Makhi Edgecombe is currently enrolled in college algebra and college ecology. "I like college ecology because it is entertaining, and I stay focused," he said. "It is so hands on and I am always learning – like how animals are constantly evolving to adapt to their environment."

Students dive into experimentation and analysis immediately after learning the material in college ecology. For one lab, they set up different treatments to test certain factors that impact the population growth of duckweed. In college biology, students explore osmosis by testing the effect of a sucrose concentration. "We can go so much deeper. I include a ton of experiments and analysis – they are really doing scientific work," said college ecology and biology instructor Liz Barraco. "Everything we learn, we practice, and students see how it transposes into real life."



The Dual Enrollment Act, otherwise known as House Bill 444, altered the funding formula for high school students in the state of Georgia taking dual enrollment starting the 2021-2022 school year. Students interested in dual enrollment must meet the SAT/ACT requirements for the University System of Georgia. TFS employs instructors that meet the SACS qualifications to teach college courses. The following college-level courses are offered on campus:

College Algebra 102 or 133	College Government 213
College Biology 114, 124	College Latin 113, 123, 233, 243
College Calculus 334, 344	College Precalculus 116 or 143
College Chemistry 214, 224	College Spanish 113, 123
College Ecology 244	College Statistics 253
College English 113, 123	College U. S. History 233, 243
College Environmental Science 253	

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR DONORS

Whether you made a donation to the Tallulah Fund, through Georgia GOAL or by other means, you have made a significant difference in the lives of TFS students. Your gift creates opportunities that many of our students would not otherwise receive. Thank you for your continued support of Tallulah Falls School. This honor roll reflects gifts made from July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023.

1st Franklin Financial	Dr. Robert Barron	Mr. and Mrs. Max Carnes	Crossroads Pharmacy
Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Acree	Ms. Roxie Barron	Michelle Carnes	Matthew Crotta
Acree Oil Company	Mr. and Mrs. Mack Barry	Carrie Dyer Woman's Club	Cody Crowder
Ms. Marta Adair	Bavarian Brook Rentals, Inc.	Kelly and Chris Carringer	Beth Cruz
Jayro Adriano	Bridget Beaupre	Carrollton Civic Woman's Club	Dallas Woman's Club
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Akers	Dr. and Mrs. Timothy Beck	Brian Carter	Dalton Automotive
Abiodun Akisanya	Bella's on Main	Ms. Shirley Carter	Kyle Dampier
Albany Woman's Club	Mr. and Mrs. Jon Benson	Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Carter	Christy and Stuart Damron
Ricardo Alcantara	Keith Berland	Carter's Royal Dispos-all, Inc.	Michael Dauvergne
Mrs. Ellen Alderman	Milica Berlovan	Cartersville Woman's Club	Mr. and Mrs. Scott Davis
Patsy and David Allen	Bill Austin Aircraft & Yacht Sales	Castillo Family Dentistry	Deal's Appliance Service, Inc.
Mr. John Allender	Blackhawk Flyfishing	Mrs. Elizabeth Chadwick	Deanna and Bill DeFoor
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Almoyan	Bambi and Steve Blackwell	Sarah Chastain	Leonard Delugach
Schaefer Almoyan	Blue Graphics Custom	Chattahoochee Oconee Forests	Renee and Brian Dennis
Amanda Stewart Real Estate	Screen Printing	Interpretive Fund, a field of interest	Alan and Linda Densmore
AmazonSmile	Blue Willow Home & Gifts	fund at the North Georgia	Dialed Bicycle Garage
American Janitorial Supply	Mr. and Mrs. Michael Bly	Community Foundation	Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Dillingham
American Water Services, Inc.	Mr. and Mrs. John Bogan	Chattahoochee Professional Door	Mr. L. Kurt Dills
John Anderson	Ms. Elisha Boggs	Sonya Chesser	Dennis Doggins
Richard Anderson	Mr. and Mrs. E. Kelly Bond	Mr. and Mrs. David Chester	Stephanie Dorantes
Tricia Anderson	Karen Borders	Chickamauga Woman's Club	John Drake
Jeff Angel	Johnny Boring	Chick-fil-A of Cornelia	Ashley Dumas
Anonymous Donor	Mrs. Sandra Borrow	Citizens of Georgia Power, Tallulah	Sheri Dunn
Anthem/Blue Cross and Blue Shield	Perry Bourlet	Falls Chapter	Wanda Dunn
APC Fire Protection	Charlie Bowen	City Barber Shop	Dunwoody Woman's Club
Cynthia Arrendale	Box Tops for Education	Civic Woman's Club of Milledgeville	Duplicating Products Inc.
Ms. Jackie Arrowood	Josh Brady	Donald Clark	Duvall Automotive
Athens-Oconee Junior Woman's Club	Bremen Junior Woman's Club	The Clayton Tribune	Ms. Angie Dyer
Athens Woman's Club	Ms. Alison Brewer	Clermont Trucking, Inc.	ECN Construction, LLC
Amy Atkinson	Michael and Judith Brode	Cleveland Hardware and Builders	Edison Concrete
Atlanta Boat House Inc	Brother John's Subs	Supply Inc	El Jinete Mexican Restaurant
Atlanta Woman's Club	Mrs. Lauren Brown	Mrs. Celeste W. Clotfelter	Engineering Management, Inc.
Allison Audet	Brunswick Woman's Club	Cochran Woman's Club	Billie Jean Erwin
Augusta Aquatics, Inc.	Buchanan Woman's Club	Cody Coleman	Mr. Konreid Etheredge
Augusta Woman's Club	Rachel Butler	Roger M Coleman	Ethicon
Brandy and Rob Aycock	Calhoun Woman's Club	Simeon Conjagic	Eubank Family Dentistry, LLC
Azalea City Woman's Club	Ms. Carolyn Callenback	Brandy and Tim Corbett	Express Med Pharmacy
Brent Baker	Mrs. Haley Cantrell	Cornerstone Animal Hospital	Dr. James H Farmer
Jacqueline Ball	Holly Cantrell, DMD	Mr. John Corwin	Kimberly and Stacy Farmer
Liz Barraco	Mr. and Mrs. Ron Cantrell	Cowboys & Angels Restaurant Bar	Carole Farrar
Barrett Used Cars	Juan Capula	Jennifer and Anthony Cox	Mr. and Mrs. Robert Farris
Mr. and Mrs. Casey Barron	Caring Company, LLC	Joel Cox	Alison Faulkner
Mr. and Mrs. Dewan Barron	Carl Patterson Flooring	Crossroads Cafe	Fender's Car Wash

2023-2024 PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

(L-R): Maggie Rickman, Audrey Borchers, Melody Henderson, President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy, Kasey McEntire, Joanna Radford, Holly Borrow, Heather NeSmith



First Citizens Bank
Mrs. Margaret Fleming
Donna G. Foland
Foothills Land Design
Judy and Bruce Forbes
James Logan Fortner
Forward Rabun
Paul Foskey
Four Corners Woman's Club
Preston Fowler
Wayne Fowler
Mr. and Mrs. James Franklin
Mr. and Mrs. Randy Franklin
The Estate of Christina Freeman
Amy Friedlander
Mark Galloway
Keith Gates
Gateway Fence Company
Georgia-Carolina Radiocasting
Companies

Habersham Retreat
Habersham Swim Team Inc.
Hilda and James Hagarty
Hall & Company of Habersham LLC
Hall County Farm Bureau
Mr. Lowell Hamilton
Hammock Realty North Georgia,
LLC
Mr. and Mrs. Barry Hanna
Happy Jack Graphics LLC
Harbin Lumber Company
Adam J Harkness, Attorney at Law
Bruce Harkness, Attorney at Law
Jerry Harkness, Realtor
Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Harrelson
Mr. and Mrs. James Harris
Mrs. Linda Harris
Stacy Harris
William Harrison

Hillside Memorial Chapel
Hire Dynamics
HL Trash Monkey
George R. Hlavenka
Home Depot
Homestar Financial, the Corey
Cantrell Team
Homestar Financial, the Wendy
Newsome Team
Dani Friedlander Hood
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Houghland
Howard Brothers
Hudgins Steel Co.
Mr. Timothy Steve Hudson
Beth Huebner
Toby Hunter
Insurance Office of America
David and Elaine Irvin
Dennis Ivey

Ms. Patricia Steele and Dr. John
Kleinert
Kroger Gift Services
Elizabeth and Gary Kyle
Jennifer Kyle, Harry Norman Luxury
Lake and Mountain
LaFayette Woman's Club
Mr. Matthew Lander and Ms. Ashley
Dillingham
Ms. Deborah Landress
John LaPish
LaPrade's Marina, LLC
Lavonia Woman's Club
Carrie Layer
Amy and Jason LeBlanc
Ledford & Parker, Inc.
Lorra and Terrell Lee
Rachel LeGrand
Lettie Pate Evans Foundation

2023-2024 BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Back Row (L-R): President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy, the Honorable Brian Rickman, Rick Story, Assistant Head of School David Chester, Board Chair James C. Weidner, Alan NeSmith, Rev. James R. Turpen, Sr., the Honorable Terry Rogers, CFO Rick Anderson
Front Row (L-R): Amy Atkinson, Gewene Womack, Peggy Pruett, Alice "Cookie" Noel, Kim Sekulow, Dr. Judy Forbes, Donna Foland

Not Pictured: Elizabeth Chadwick, Matt McClurg, Ellen Alderman, Kathy Hanna, Barbara McCord, Judy Taylor, Doris W. Alexander, Lucy Willard, Nicole Braun

GFWC Georgia
GFWC Georgia Central East District
Hannah Gibson
Mr. Henry Gillespie
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Gleber
Glen-Ella Springs Inn & Meeting
Place
Gordon Woman's Club
Gotta Go Portable Toilets
Kathryn Grams
Bill and E. Lane Gresham
Tamara Griffis
Linda Groppo
Paul Guest
H. E. Hodge Company
Susan M Haas
Habersham Broadcasting
Habersham Chamber of Commerce
Habersham County Sheriff's Office
Habersham Drug
Habersham EMC
Habersham Medical Center
Habersham Medical Park
30 • ON CAMPUS MAGAZINE

Harry Norman Realtors, Luxury
Lake and Mountain
Karen and Shird Hartley
Hartwell Service League
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hatcher
Lindsay and Jadie Hatcher
Hatchett for Georgia
Dr. Thomas Hatchett
Hayes Family of Dealers
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hayes
Headrick Signs & Graphics
Heartland Woman's Club
Tim and Melody Henderson
Heather Henriques
Thomas and Jenna Hensley
Bonifitio Hernandez
Israel Hernandez
Matthew Heyl
Larry Heyworth
Higgins Construction Company Inc.
High Speed Communications
Highlands Aerial Park
Mrs. Lonna Hightower

Angela and Joshua Jackson
Wendy and Jeff Jackson
Jacky Jones Chrysler Dodge Jeep
Ram
Mary Jacobson
Kenneth Jarvis
Lee Jeon
JFM Contracting
Jane and Skip Johnston
Junior Woman's Club of Toccoa
Susie F Justus
Kandy Kane Pre-School
J. Shelby and Jane C. Kaplan
James Keenan
Mrs. Mary Lauren Keeny
Katie Keister
Chris and Kathryn Kelly
Kersha Parker Agency LLC
Hyungyu Kim
Jo Kimbrel
Mr. and Mrs. James Kimsey
Kinetic by Windstream
Janie Kissling

Lew Oliver, Inc.
Life Point Medical, LLC
Joseph E Litton
Locust Grove Woman's Club
Lois & Lucy Lampkin Foundation
Benny Long
Sarah Lowry
LP Gas
Barbara and Frank Luton
Dr. and Mrs. Ronald MacBeth
Macon Service League
Macon Woman's Club
Carol Madden
Magnolia Civic Woman's Club
Magnolia Hills Retirement
Maintenance Supply Center
Juan Maldehado
Mama G's Italian Restaurant
Manchester Woman's Club
Marietta Woman's Club
Marvin and JoAnne Martin
Sandra Martin
W. Michael Martin

Martin Construction & Grading, Inc.
 Karen Martinez
 Mr. Harold Mason
 Zeke Masseur
 Mr. and Mrs. Logan Mathis
 Matt Mixon State Farm Insurance
 Maxeys Woman's Club
 McAllister Tree Service, LLC
 Miles McBath
 Leigh-Anne McClellon
 McClure Ramsay Dickerson & Escoe - Marty Escoe
 Mr. and Mrs. Matthew McClurg
 Barbara McCord
 Mr. and Mrs. Steve McDonald
 MCG Mechanical, Inc.
 Jake and Emily McGahee
 McGahee-Griffin & Stewart Funeral Home
 Bernice and Mickey McGuire
 Mega-Motorsports
 Tammy Metcalf
 Millen Woman's Club
 Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Miller
 Simon Miller
 Mills Flooring & Design
 Milton Martin Toyota
 Amanda and Jeff Mitchell
 Joely and Matt Mixon
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Mixon
 MM Professional Group LLC
 Mrs. Nora Mobley
 Mrs. Anne D. Moncus
 Monroe Junior Woman's Club
 Ms. Comell Watts Moore
 Michelle Morgan
 Morris Nursing Home Investments, LLC
 Mr. and Mrs. Randy Morris
 Mr. and Mrs. William Morrison
 Morrow Civic Woman's Club
 Moultrie Federated Guild
 Mr. and Mrs. Travis Mullis
 N G Turf, Inc.
 Rosemary and Clay Nalley
 Nannie Westmoreland Trust
 Dianna and Scott Neal
 Newton County Saddle Club
 Dillyn Nichols
 Jeanna Nichols
 Susan Nichols
 Mrs. Alice Noel
 North GA Grading & Bobcat Services
 North Georgia Credit Union
 North Georgia Foods
 North Georgia Technical College
 North Main Credit Union
 North Side Woman's Club
 Northeast Georgia Medical Center
 Northeast Georgia Signs & Service, Inc.
 The Northeast Georgian
 NSHSS Teaching Grant Global Citizens Awareness
 Old Campbell County Woman's Club
 Omega Technology Group
 One On One
 Mr. Jeff S. Owens
 Stacy Parks
 Kevin Partlow
 Zoe Pass
 Patterson Pump
 Gayle Payne
 Peach State Federal Credit Union
 Peachtree Glassworks
 Dr. and Mrs. Larry A. Peevy
 Meagan and Jonathan Penland
 Perry Gas Co Inc
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Phillips
 Piedmont Metal Processing, Inc.
 Piedmont University
 Pinnacle Bank
 Keturah Pittman
 W Warren Plowden Jr
 Douglas R Plunkett
 Patricia Joy and Justin Pollock
 Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Popham
 David Port
 Ms. Julianna Potteiger
 Mr. and Mrs. George Prince
 Pro Turf & Landscape Maintenance, LLC
 Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Pruett
 Quality Automotive
 Quality Construction Homes LLC
 Rabun County Bank
 Rahab's Rope
 Kathryn Ralston
 Raymond James & Associates, Inc.
 Revival Gifts and Apparel
 Reynolds Woman's Club
 Brian and Maggie Rickman
 Mr. Jonathan Roberts
 Sara Roberts
 Rogers Strategies LLC
 Amanda and Dustin Rogers
 Michael Rogers
 Ron Cantrell Construction, Inc.
 Amanda and Kristian Rosser
 Chris Rountree
 Mark Rowland
 Dr. and Mrs. Stuart Sanders
 Sandy Springs Woman's Club
 Sarah Cornelia Lunquest Memorial Foundation Trust
 Paul Sausa
 Catherine Schappach
 Gary and Kim Sekulow
 Service Guild of Covington
 Dr. and Mrs. G. Paul Shaw
 Shear Perfection Salon
 Ms. Betty Shearouse
 Cristi and Michael Sheppard
 Michele and John Shirley
 Mr. and Mrs. Tim Simmons
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Simms
 Melanie and Chris Sims
 Cheryl E Skelton
 Mr. and Mrs. Harry Slater
 Small Business Access Partners
 Nancy Blount Smith
 Peggy Smith
 Sonya M. Smith
 Tammy Smith
 Sosebee & Britt Orthodontics
 South State Bank
 Southern Geotechnical Consultants
 Southern View Energy Inc.
 Springer Mountain Farms
 Mr. and Mrs. Stanton Stafford
 Mr. and Mrs. William Stafford
 Nathan Stanley
 Kenneth Staton
 Steel Tech Industries
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard V. Stein II
 James Stewart
 Jeremy Stille
 Stone Mountain Woman's Club
 Mr. and Mrs. Rickman Story
 Scott Stroud
 Stephanie Stuefer
 Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Stuk
 Frank Su
 Suburban Woman's Club of Augusta
 Summit Outdoors LLC
 Mrs. Jan M. Swift
 Sylvania Junior Woman's Club
 Sylvester Woman's Club
 Mr. and Mrs. Brandon Tatum
 Dr. Judy Taylor
 TC Electrical LLC
 TFS Swim Team
 Karen and Jason Thomas
 Mr. and Mrs. Pat Thompson
 Linda L Thomson
 Thornton Brothers, Inc.
 Tida Nails
 Tifton Junior Woman's Club
 Tifton Woman's Club
 Tom Tilley
 Toccoa Falls College
 Toccoa Machine Products
 Town of Tallulah Falls
 Trailwave
 Trophy Landscape
 Mrs. Eleanor Troutman
 Mr. and Mrs. James Troxell
 Turner, Wood & Smith Insurance
 Turnerville Garden Center
 Mr. and Mrs. Dan Turpin
 Unicoi Outfitters
 United Community Bank
 Valdosta Junior Woman's Club
 Chrissy and Jim Van Hooser
 Mr. and Mrs. James Vandiver
 Ms. Pamela Vaughan
 Vibez Entertainment Tech
 ViewSonic
 Cynthia Vinson
 Dr. and Mrs. Frank B. Vinson
 Vivacity Tech PBC
 Vote Victor Anderson
 W & W Collision Center
 Rainen Wade
 Jinny and Stephen Hanifan-Wagner
 Ms. Nancy Waldrep
 Carolyn J. Walker
 Jennifer Walker
 Washington Street Centre LLC
 Dr. Sherry and Mr. William Weeks
 Jana Rose and David Wehrstein
 Weidner Law Firm, LLC
 Mr. and Mrs. James Weidner
 Liana Welborn
 Bruce Wells
 Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Wells, Jr.
 Mr. and Mrs. Don Wells
 Drs. Laura and Thomas West
 West Georgia Woman's Club
 Westside Engineering
 White County News
 Herschel White
 Wiley Tire & Automotive, LLC
 Dennis Wiley
 Mrs. Lucy A. Willard
 Mrs. and Mrs. Glenda Willett
 Michelle Williams
 Winder Woman's Club
 Ken and Priscilla Wolfe
 Mrs. Gewene Womack
 Mr. Ray Womack
 Colton Wood
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Wood
 SaraBeth Wood
 Woodbine Woman's Club
 Wood's Mercantile
 Don Woolf
 Nelson B. Wright, Jr
 Mrs. Jiaying Xu
 Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Yates
 Frances S. Young
 Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Zimmerman



FAMILIES LIKE

Home



When Melissa Ball drops her seventh-grade daughter, Mary Kate, at the middle school, she feels like she is dropping her off with family. Mary Kate is the fourth of five children to attend TFS. The Ball's oldest started in 2012, and their fifth will graduate in 2034.

"When we learned about the school's original mission: to educate the children in the area – the mountain kids, we knew this is where we wanted our children to be," Ball said. TFS immediately felt like home for the Balls.

"We came from a Montessori background," said Ball. "We knew we wanted a challenging environment when they aged out of that. We wanted their curiosity to be continually stoked, and TFS does just that." The Ball's desire is to raise solid humans and link arms with others in that formation. In coming to TFS, they have found that individually and corporately.

Their oldest, Madison Ball ('19), was encouraged and challenged by her teachers to dream. "I was surrounded by people that were dreaming," she said. "No one suggested that we settle. I was always told I was capable, more capable than even I knew I was." Being surrounded by a community of driven people who wanted to achieve and push themselves has empowered Madison. "Even though I didn't know my path, I knew I could grow and learn," she said.

The Balls find a balance of rigor and curiosity, combined with ample opportunity for one-on-one help. "If they don't get what they need in class, I am given a list of times to meet with the teacher outside of class," said Melissa Ball.

The family appreciates the open invitation to try new things, especially in sports. Athletic Director and cross country and track coach Scott Neal has coached Madison, Caroline, Austin, and Mary Kate. "He invests deeply in students as people," said Ball. "We have seen their personal formation through athletics."



Madison explained how Neal talked her through struggles with personal principles. "My justice principles were developed through conversations with Coach Neal," she said. "They were about track, but they were not about track. I learned I like to work alongside people in the trenches."

Both Caroline ('22) and Madison chose their path in college based on conversations and the mentoring of the faculty and staff at TFS. "During my junior and senior years, the things that stoked my interests the most – the debates and conversations we had, led me to pursue a degree in political science," said Madison. "They challenged my belief system – I had to learn to think outside the box."

Even after graduation, Madison and Caroline have met for coffee or lunch with people from TFS. "It didn't end at graduation. We are still building relationships with coaches, teachers, and administrators. There is something about the small school vibe that lets me know I am loved and cared for," said Madison. "That personal care and the relationships have allowed me to be successful. TFS still feels like home."



FALL FORMAL



On September 30, TFS upper school students attended the fall formal at the Densmore Farm, nestled in the foothills of the beautiful Appalachian Mountains in Cleveland, Georgia.

Students were glad for the break from their busy schedules to dress up, relax, and spend time together.

Our own IT support specialist, Joel Cox, served as the deejay. Cox brought students into the process of building the playlist for the evening. "We had so much fun dancing. People were screaming the lyrics to the songs," said sophomore Elena Edenfield. "There was something for everyone to enjoy -- dancing, a place to talk, food to eat, games to play, and a photo booth."



TALLULAH FALLS SCHOOL
 P.O. Box 10
 Tallulah Falls, Georgia 30573

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 PERMIT #82
 GAINESVILLE, GA

Parents of alumni: If this issue is addressed to your child who no longer maintains a permanent address at your home, please notify the Executive Director for Advancement of the new mailing address at (706) 839-2021 or sonya.smith@tallahulahfalls.org.



TALLULAH *fund*

SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS' DREAMS AT TFS

Embrace the spirit of giving through our annual appeal for the Tallulah Fund. More than 70% of students rely on financial assistance, turning dreams into reality through donations to the Tallulah Fund. Regardless of size, your support creates a ripple of impact, making a TFS education attainable. Join our TFS Family in making a difference in the lives of our students.

Empower futures, invest in dreams -
 donate to the Tallulah Fund today.



TALLULAH FUND
 GIVING QR CODE

Make your gift using the QR Code, visiting tallahulahfalls.org and selecting "Donate" in the upper right corner, or calling 706-839-2021.