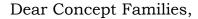


Newsletter Date: January 26, 2023



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL:



Let me begin by wishing everyone a Happy New Year. I also want to thank the staff at TCS for doing such a wonderful job while I was in Africa for the first two weeks of the year. I appreciate their willingness to pitch in and allow me to experience the trip of a lifetime. Let me know if you'd like to see some pictures!

The second semester begins on January 30, 2023. There will be very minimal changes to a handful of students' schedules. We will speak with the students affected before the changes occur.



I am happy to report that TCS continues to have a high degree of interest from prospective students and their families. Our enrollment is currently 34 and I expect to be admitting another two or three students. The good work of our teachers and staff is getting noticed.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that as part of our 50th Anniversary celebration, the Board of Directors created the Dr. Carol G. Tucker Memorial Scholarship, in honor of our founder. Current, private pay families will be eligible for a full-paid tuition scholarship beginning next school year. More information will be sent to you shortly and will be available on our website.

Sincerely, Bill



January 27 - End of 2nd Marking Period

February 16 - 12:00 dismissal; parent conferences at 1:00

February 17 - School closed - Teacher in-service day

February 20 - School closed - Presidents' Day



4 Lessons from Shakespeare

1. We are capable of more than we may realize. Sometimes, we may look at a big goal like putting on a Shakespeare production in front of a large crowd as a monumental and therefore unreachable goal. If we convince ourselves a big goal like this is out of reach, we may not put forth enough effort to achieve that goal.

The TCS students proved that there is another option: to work hard every day, practice repeatedly, support each other, and improve from one day to the next. At the start of rehearsal, some of our students struggled with their confidence on stage. However, as they kept pressing forward and practicing, their confidence grew. Often, as we grow our skills, we grow our confidence. If we wait to be confident to practice our skills, it might not ever happen!

- 2. **Small steps every day can cover a lot of distance.** When asked how he writes so many lengthy novels, prolific horror author Stephen King replied, "One word at a time." Although his response appears humorous at first, it really is true. A little bit every day can add up to wonderful results. On the flip side, the same is true for bad habits!
- 3. **Teamwork makes the dream work.** We can accomplish big things when we work well with others. No one person could have put on our Shakespeare performance by themselves. The production was a true team effort, with directors, actors, stagehands, props, lights, music, and everyone collaborating toward a common goal.
- 4. **Taking positive risks promotes personal growth**. The thing about our 'comfort zone' is that it's comfortable. When we're comfortable, we want to stay there. It's cozy. But when we're cozy, we're unwilling to take positive risks. Now, some risks may in fact be dangerous like jumping into shark-infested waters in a wetsuit made of steaks. Not wise! But taking other types of positive risks can have enormous payoffs.

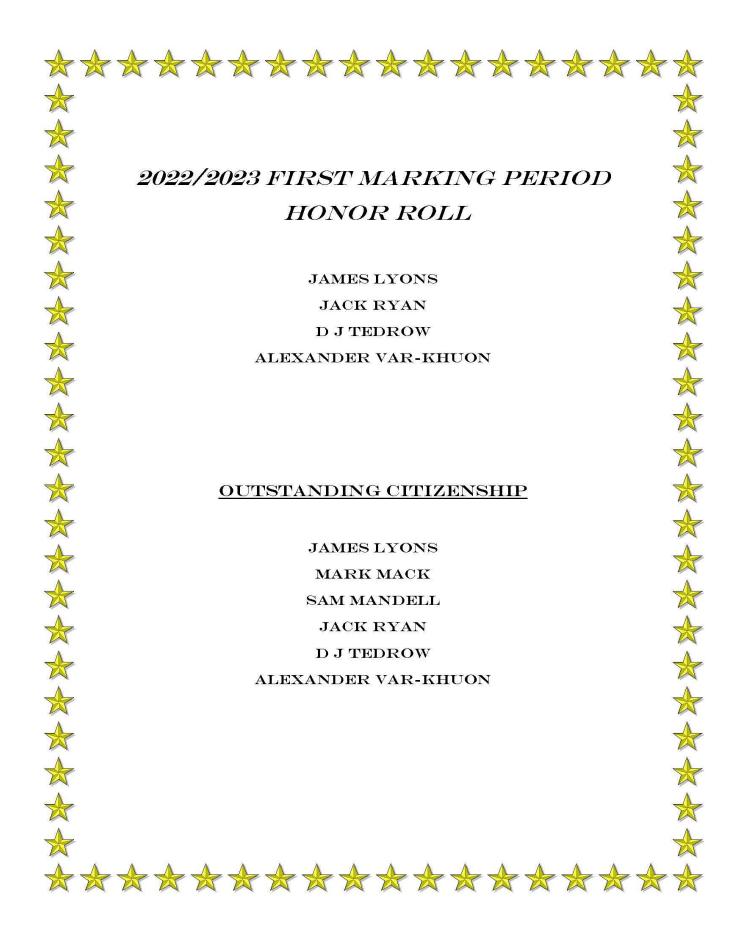
I hope our students can apply these lessons moving forward. They really did do an amazing job and I am very proud of all of them. Students, next time your faced with a challenge that feels impossible, just remind yourself, "This is nothing-I've done Shakespeare at TCS."

-Mr. Schullery



The Concept School Community is happy to welcome Shari Levine as our new Advancement Director. In this new position, Shari will work to find funding opportunities for TCS, assist in recruiting new students, and tell the Concept story to anyone who will listen.

Shari Levine hails from a small suburb just north of Boston, Massachusetts. After multiple trips to Philadelphia in high school as part of the International Relations Club, Shari fell in love with the city and chose to continue her education at Temple University. There she studied Political Science and the Italian Language as well as discovering a talent for writing grants. Her love of travel prompted her to pursue a year of study abroad in Italy and the privilege of traveling all over Europe. After graduating from Temple in 2006 she began working in a law firm just outside of Philadelphia. Within a year she made the decision to turn to education, achieved a M.Ed at St. Joseph's University and has not looked back. Shari has dedicated her professional career to education and the city of Philadelphia. For the past decade and a half Shari has worked as a middle and high school Math/Science/English teacher, a grant writer, a Middle School Administrator, a Math Department Director, and a Testing coordinator. She has dedicated her career to the education and development of the whole scholar by implementing progressive curriculum aiming to engage and invigorate our young scholars' desire for education.



National Honor Society Process for 2022-23



TCS has hosted the Mark Tucker Memorial Chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS) since 2003. For the 2022-2023 school year, the TCS National Honor Society will kick off now, in January!

Background

The NHS is a national organization that promotes excellence in academics, character, community service and leadership. Students in grades 10-12 are encouraged to apply for admission to the NHS if they believe they exhibit excellence in each of these four pillars of the NHS cited above. The TCS NHS program for 2022-2023 will be overseen by a Steering Committee consisting of Mr. Burtch (coordinator), Ms. Fredericks, Mr. Schullery and Ms. Tilmon.

Process

TCS will kick off its 2022-2023 NHS process with a brief presentation in a week or so. A table of important milestones between now and the NHS Induction Ceremony in June 2023 is listed below. Parents are encouraged to have a conversation with their grade 10-12 student about being inducted into the NHS and whether it may be a fit for their student now or in their future.

Interested students should express their interest to a member of the NHS Steering Committee. Interested students will be assigned a mentor(s) who will provide them with thought partnership for NHS process- and application-related questions and ideas. The mentor(s) also will support students by providing them with advice, recommendations, and ideas to help the student make the best possible application and make the best possible interview.

Timeline

Date	Milestone	Details
January 13, 2023	Announce the 2022-23 TCS Mark Tucker NHS Program	Layout program details and answer questions.
January 31, 2023	Deadline to identify candidates	By this date, a candidate list will be prepared, and mentors assigned from the faculty.
April 14, 2023	Submit Application Essay	The essay should describe why you believe you should be admitted to the National Honor Society (hint: address how you excel in the four pillars of the NHS).
Weeks of May 1 and May 8, 2023	Prospective candidates will be interviewed	Interviews provide candidates with additional opportunities to make their cases.
May 12, 2023	Announcement of Successful Candidates	Successful candidates will be named.
Week of 6/05/2023	Successful candidates will be inducted into the TCS Mark Tucker National Honor Society	Induction Ceremony held at TCS during the Awards Ceremony.

Summary

Membership in the NHS is a life-long honor that will accompany successful applicants beyond TCS. Interested students should express their interest to a member of TCS's NHS Steering Committee. Applicants will be assigned a mentor who will help guide students through the 2022-2023 NHS application process.



Mrs. Phillip's Transitions class:

Transition Speaker

Alumni Eitan Katz came back to school to talk to the students about his transition to college. Eitan is attending the University of Utah in Salt Lake City and was recently accepted to the U of U Business School.



Mrs. Griffith's English classes:

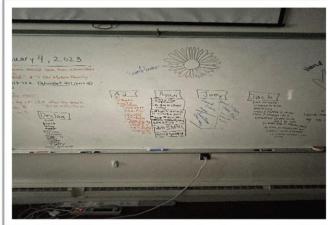
Mrs. Griffith's English classes have been catching up on our reading and writing since the Shakespeare Festival!

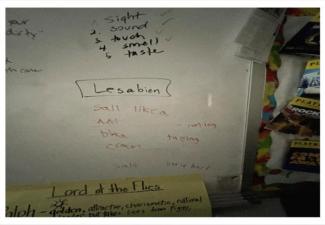
Second and Seventh Period Writing continues to practice "clearing" by writing in our daily Writer's Notebook. We have completed a unit on poetry of the self. "I am" and "I am From" poems asked students to contemplate someone they know well: themselves! We have just started deconstructing "the paragraph" and are learning to organize and expand our thoughts as we work our way through the writing process. We hope to build to a five-paragraph essay.

Third Period Literature is continuing to read *Fahrenheit 451*, understand the history of book burning, and think about the importance of literacy in a democratic society.

Fourth Period Literature studied the film "The Lion King", viewing it through a literary lens. Students used self-generated manipulatives to help construct an enormous plot mountain in our classroom whilst listening to "The Circle of Life". Check out the neat photo which includes a student who worked from home to collaborate with his peers!







They are now preparing to read *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds. The photos above represent a mindfulness activity involving sunflower seeds (a motif in our story). To understand imagery and to practice being in the present moment, students were given a sunflower seed and asked to describe it using the five senses. They used descriptors and similes to really focus on what they were seeing, smelling, touching, hearing, and tasting and came to the board to share their findings. Sunflower seeds have never been more zen!

Finally, **Fifth period Literature** is reaching the climax of William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*. We are coming to our own conclusions about good and evil, innocence, and the psychology behind mob mentality.

Our whole school collaboration of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was absolutely magical! Our students gave of themselves and to one another to create art and memories that will remain with them throughout their lives!

Poem by Alexander Var-Khuon

I am from...



I am from the colorful crayon boxes, 24 in each, and my mom's white, modern sewing machine that sits on a crowded crafting table.

From pictures of me from picture day at school every year with their see-through plastic envelopes and a round white clock with black hands that mark the passage of time. Each year I am getting a little bit older. Time is flying by fast.

I am from the in-ground pool with the circular, warm jacuzzi, and the fountain like you'd see at the mall. The sprinkler sprays cool water.

I am from the sidewalk leading up to the front door and the hexagon window that looks inside the bathroom.

I am from the upbeat Cambodian music that brings my family back to their roots.

From the pink cherry blossom tree that is outside my front door, and the light and dark green watermelon that hangs on the vine in my garden that I remember from my childhood.

I am from the Cambodian temple whose monks wear orange robes and who chant and bless you with water. We go every April to New Jersey to celebrate Cambodian New Year; in Winter we burn incense and money for Chinese New Year. It is supposed to be good luck.

From Lunal and Monita.

From Lok Ta and Lok Yea.

I am from: instead of coming in through the front door of the house,

We enter from the garage,

And from we stay up late after midnight.

I'm from "I love you and you are going to do great things."

And "Sra Mouy Keo", the song my mother sang throughout my childhood, the lyrics that I still know by heart.

I am from Drexel Hill, PA, and Cambodian ancestry.

Somlawe Majou Kroeung and Bok-Lahong; they taste like Cambodia.

From the story about my family from the Khmer Rouge. My mom, dad and grandparents told us about fleeing the country and how they were able to escape. They wanted me to know what harsh things they had to experience... people were getting killed; it was a rough time.

I listen and hear my parents' perspective. It was a rough time for my mom, dad, grandparents, and grandaunt.

I am from the old photos of my mom's childhood that are in the box on the shelf in the closet. My mom keeps them safe, so they won't get lost.

I am from a family who loves and cares about me.

- Alexander Var-Khuon



Mrs. Frederick's classes:

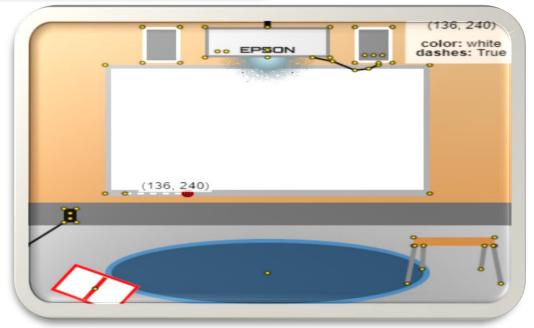
Mrs. Fredericks' *3D Printing Class* is working on the final project. We have created many things this semester. Our biggest project was designing and creating our own vehicle. We also created tealight holders, snowflakes, and learned how to print in two colors (not as easy as it sounds!). Finally, we started learning about assistive technology. Our project was a bag holder so someone with arthritis could carry two bags with the holder.



Mrs. Fredericks' *Game Design Classes* just created a "space" game in Construct 3. They learned how to create events, how to use variables, how to spawn objects, and more! Our next project is a Platformer game!



Mrs. Fredericks' *Coding class* is learning the basics of Python. They have finished the basic section of coding images. Some are working on a project to create their own drawing using certain parameters. Others are learning how to define a function. This is an example of a student project.



Mrs. Culler's classes:

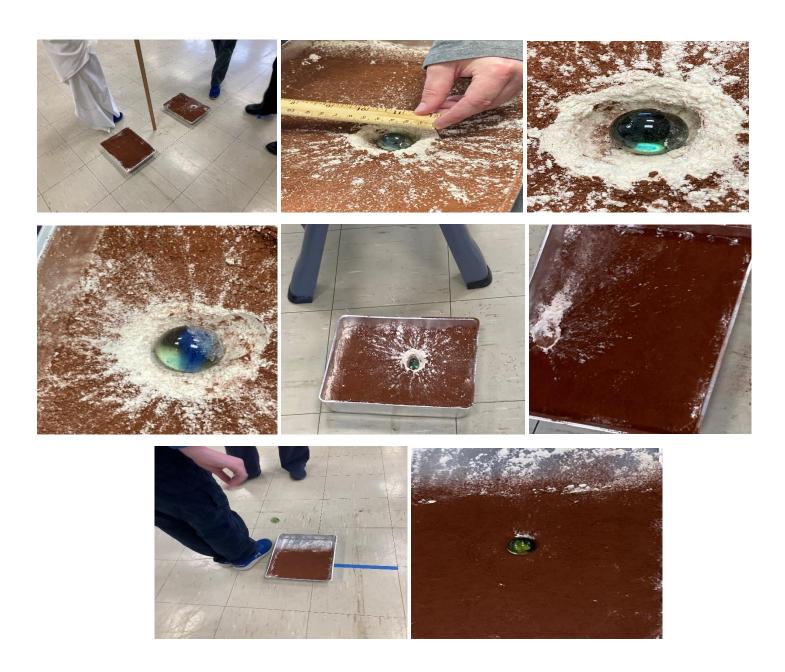
In Mrs. Culler's **science class**, students have been studying volcanoes. They are currently working on research papers about specific volcanoes. We will culminate our unit on volcanoes by building our own volcanoes out of paper mâché and having them erupt!

In Mrs. Culler's *history classes*, students are working hard on their research for National History Day. As we study frontiers in places, people, and ideas, students have selected the topics of the Creation of Rock and Roll, Othello: The First Black Main Character in Western Literature, George Washington, and the Presidency, Prosthetics after World War I, Jacques Cousteau and Underwater Exploration, and many more!

Pet Corner: Picklepuff is loving her new playpen! She likes to sit on a desk in the midst of the students so that she can watch what everyone is doing!

Ms. Tilmon's Science classes:

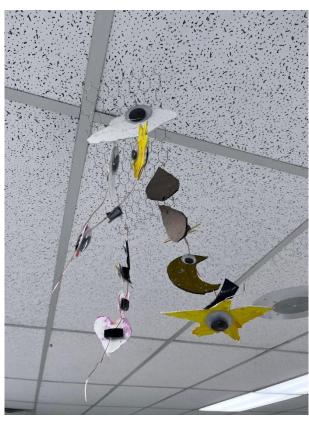
Ms. Tilmon's **2nd-period Astronomy class** performed 4 separate controlled experiments to simulate the forming of craters on the Moon and to investigate how different experimental variables affect the size and shape of the craters formed. The experimental variables were: height of the drop (100 cm vs. 200 cm), mass of the "meteorite", force of impact (i.e. drop vs. throw), and angle of impact (90 degrees vs. 45 degrees). Flour was placed in metal trays, and the flour was covered with a thin layer of cocoa powder, so as to show the "ejecta blanket" of flour by contrast with the cocoa (see pictures.) The diameters of the craters and ejecta blankets were measured and graphed, and their shapes sketched. The students in this class are Nor Forte, Oliver Allen, DJ Tedrow, Sean O'Hara, and Justin Moy. Great job, Students! Photographs courtesy of Oliver Allen (thank you, Oliver!).



Ms. Schwind's Art class:

A colorful display of the classes' mobiles.









TCS Picture Gallery



Rehersal







