VOLUME VII, ISSUE V

13 NOV 2026

THE TALON

TENNESSEE CHRISTIAN



PHOTO COURTESY OF
DIGITAL MEDIA CLASS

FROM THE HEAD

Last week, I had the opportunity to hear a story from one of our own teachers, Kelly Owens. It was a story about her father, a man who recognized a gift in his daughter and was determined to provide her with the opportunity to cultivate it. Kelly was classically trained in ballet, an opportunity made possible because her father was willing to sacrifice so that Ms. Owens could pursue something she loved. Even through phone calls, Ms. Owen's father was uplifting and encouraging his daughter to do hard things through dance.

What struck me about this story was not simply a father's willingness to provide for his daughter, but his understanding of what it means to invest in others, especially students. He was not interested merely in doting on his daughter or celebrating her natural abilities. He wanted to give her the confidence, discipline, and opportunity to develop those abilities into something meaningful. He recognized that a gift, no matter how promising, must be cultivated through dedication and perseverance.

For thirty years, Kelly Owens has served the young women of our community as the dance team coach at Cleveland Middle School. Last Thursday, Ms. Owens was inducted into the Cleveland Middle School Hall of Fame. She is the first female coach to receive this honor. As I watched the two halftime performances from her dance team, I marveled at the talent, choreography, and story that was told. But what caught me and moved me the most was the character of each of these young ladies.

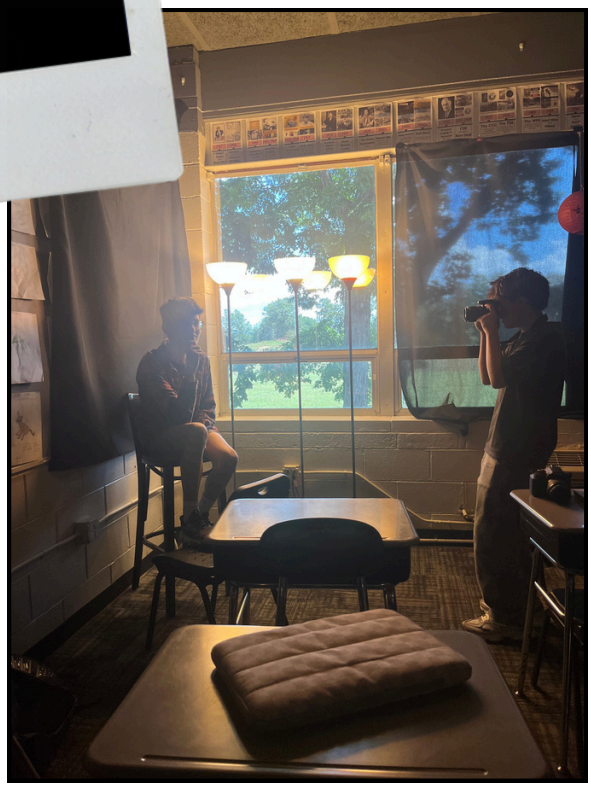
Anyone who knows Ms. Owens understands that her expectations are high. She holds students accountable, strives for excellence, and teaches the highest of character to her students. In a culture that sometimes confuses encouragement with the absence of expectations, Ms. Owens offers a different example. She recognizes that genuine confidence is not built through constant praise, but through preparation and the satisfaction of community or team accomplishment. Even seeing her team walk onto the court in unison offered something different: respect for themselves, the dance team, and what they represent. They were in unison with respect.



Decades ago, a father saw something in his daughter worth cultivating and supporting. He opened doors, made sacrifices, and gave her the opportunity to discover what she was capable of becoming. Today, that same daughter has spent thirty years opening doors for others.

At Tennessee Christian, we often speak about investing in the whole person. What I see in Ms. Owens' years of service is exactly that. Thank you for what you have done and continue to do for the community and the many students you impact.

thank you, FTO!



At Tennessee Christian, we believe the arts provide students with valuable opportunities to discover their creativity, develop new skills, and explore talents they may not have otherwise known they had. From visual arts and music to theater and digital media, our Fine Arts Department is continually looking for ways to provide students with meaningful, hands-on experiences that extend beyond the classroom.



One exciting addition to our Fine Arts offerings this year has been our new Digital Media class! Designed to introduce students to the world of photography, videography, and digital storytelling, this course gives students the opportunity to explore the creative and technical sides of media production.

We would like to extend a special thank-you to our Family Teachers Organization (FTO) for their generous donation of two DSLR cameras to support this new class! Their investment has made a tremendous difference in our students' learning experiences, providing them with the equipment necessary to gain hands-on experience with professional photography and videography tools.

With these cameras, students have been learning how to properly handle and operate a DSLR camera, exploring manual camera settings, and discovering how adjustments to shutter speed, aperture, and ISO can transform an image. Rather than simply learning photography concepts through a textbook or presentation, students have the opportunity to put those skills into practice and capture their own photographs.

This quarter, students have also transitioned into a videography unit, where they are learning the fundamentals of filming and visual storytelling. The donated cameras have allowed them to take what they have learned about photography and apply those same technical skills to creating video content. Students are taking their growing knowledge of photography and digital media and putting it to work as they help create an exceptional yearbook for this school year. From capturing moments around campus to documenting the people, events, and experiences that make up our TCPS community, students are gaining valuable experience while helping preserve memories that will be enjoyed for years to come.

Opportunities like these are what make arts education so valuable. Students aren't just learning about creative disciplines; they are developing technical skills, building confidence, problem-solving, and discovering new ways to communicate their ideas.

We are so thankful for the continued support of our TCPS community and the ways our families invest in opportunities for our students. Thank you, FTO, for helping us bring creativity to life in the classroom!



FINE ARTS - CHLOE HINCHCLIFF

Meet Our New Fourth Grade Teacher



Hello! My name is Autumn McCrae, and I am so blessed to be joining the Tennessee Christian family as the new fourth grade teacher! I am a wife to Patrick and a mom to two Tennessee Christian students: Mila, who is in sixth grade, and Finn, who is in fifth grade.

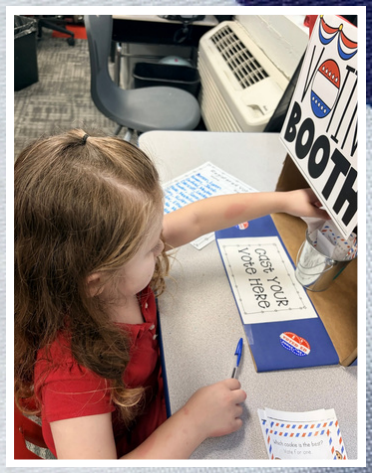
Having taught in both public and private schools, I have developed a deep passion for Christian education. One of the greatest blessings of teaching young children is the opportunity to shape not only their minds but also their hearts. I believe Christian education is about planting seeds of faith that will continue to grow throughout a child's life. Each day, we have the opportunity to show students God's love through our words, actions, and relationships. We teach more than reading, writing, and math; we teach kindness, grace, forgiveness, the importance of loving others, and, most importantly, the truth of who Jesus is.

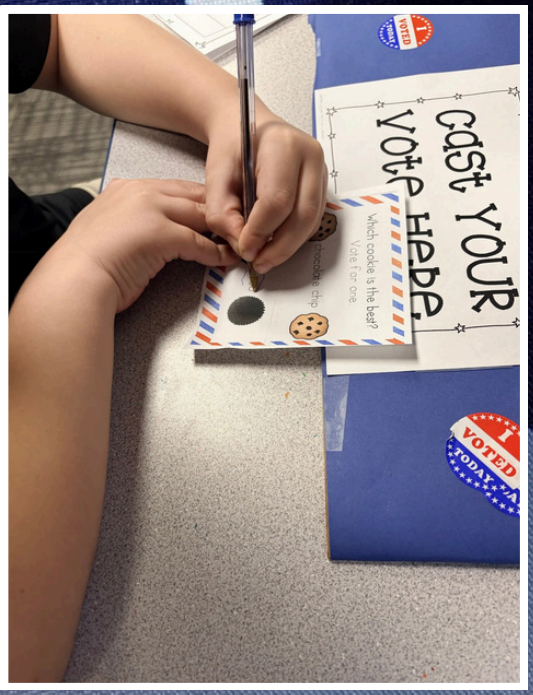


What a privilege it is to partner with families in building a strong foundation of faith that will last a lifetime! I am so thankful for this opportunity and look forward to all that God has in store!

ELECTION DAY

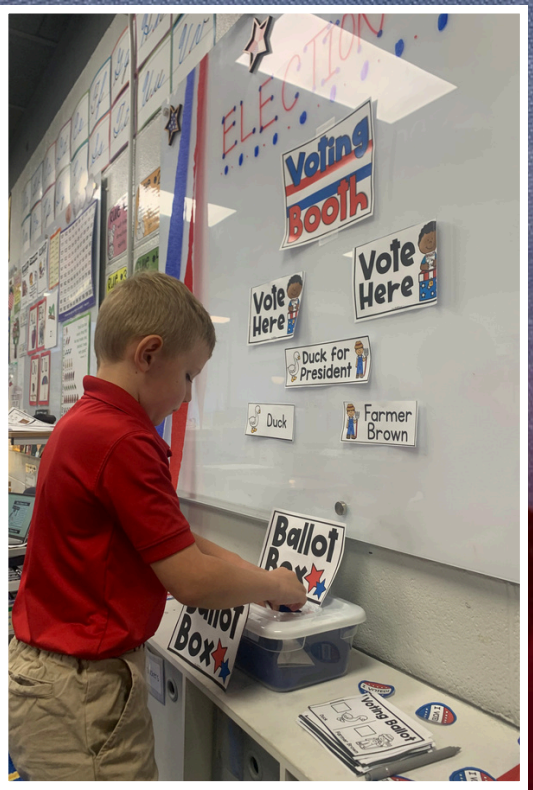






Election Day in Lower School was observed in many different ways. In kindergarten students held their annual cookie election and debated whether Chocolate Chip or Oreo was deserving as the most delicious cookie! Oreo won by one point! Students enjoyed eating their yummy cookies after their votes. Kindergarten learned the process of casting their vote in the ballot box.

First Grade read the book "Duck for President" and had to decide which character from the story was deserving of their vote: Duck or Farmer Brown. The character with the most votes was - Duck! Students made their own voter registration cards and completed a math page tallying their votes. Overall students in different grades learned the importance of using their voice to vote on election day!



LOWER SCHOOL - REBECCA HAKE

TIPPED CHAIRS AND GRASSY KNEES: A DAY OF JAPANESE SCHOOLYARD FUN

In Japanese Language and Culture, the students researched the country's school system. To give them a break from their hard work, we went outside to play Japanese playground games. We played Darumasan Ga Koronda(Red Light, Green Light) and Fruit Basket. Fruit Basket is similar to musical chairs, only there is no winner.

To play, the students arrange the chairs in a circle with one fewer than the number of players. Each player is assigned a fruit, and the student who stands in the middle without a chair calls the name of a fruit. Then, those who are called scramble to find a new seat. The player who has no chair is the next to call. The students preferred to yell "Fruit Basket", which means everyone has to find a new chair. Our students often rushed to the point of tipping the chairs over as soon as they plopped down.





VETERANS DAY

Lower School chapel was a very special day at our school because we celebrated Veterans Day! At Tennessee Christian we are teaching our students to honor and respect the brave men and women who serve, or have served in the military.

We were honored to have some special visitors at our school. We started off with a beautiful dance performance from Ms. Owens' dancers and they paid tribute to our Veterans. Our special speaker was Mayor Kevin Brooks and he spoke on the importance of honoring our Veterans in our community.

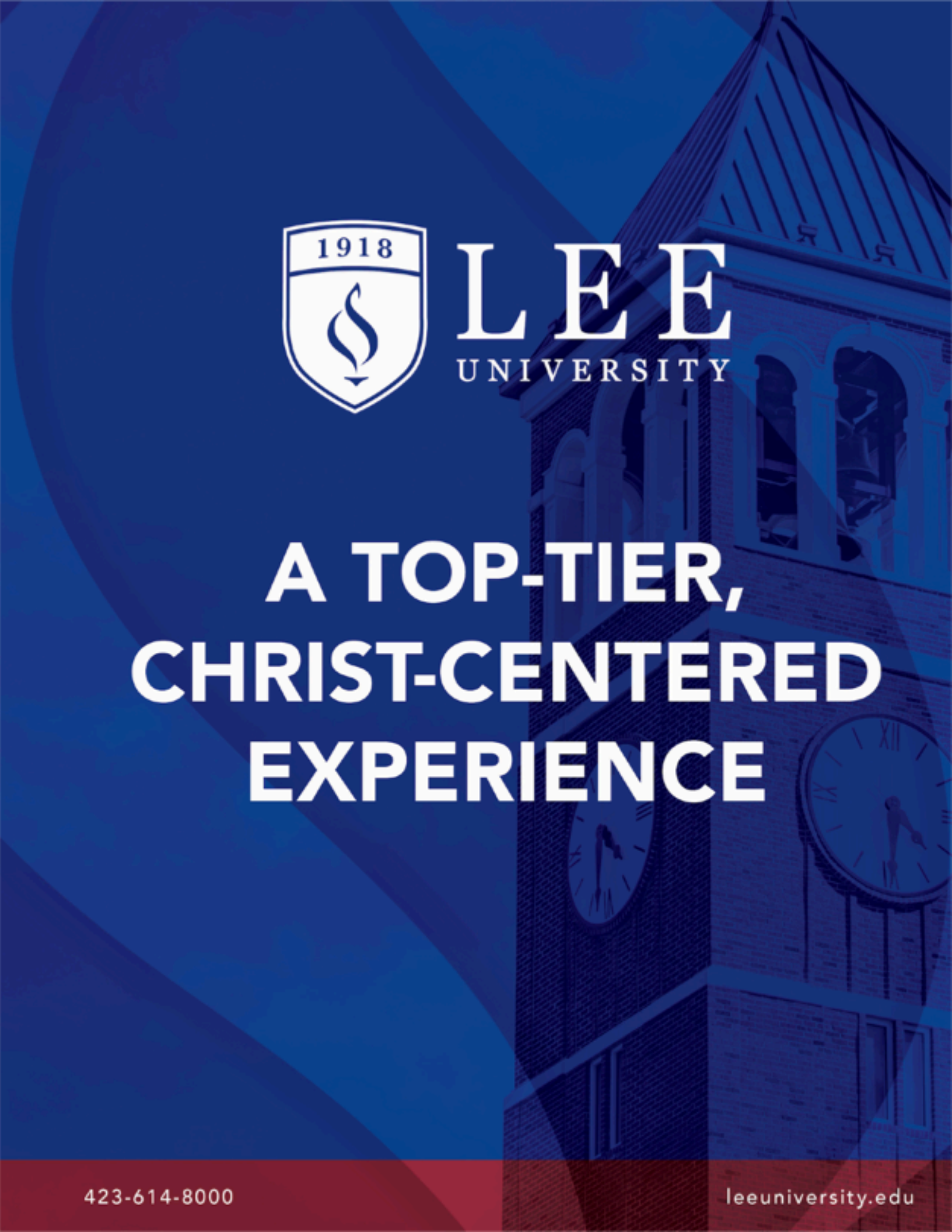
Next my First Grade Class respectfully sang God Bless America and then presented different military branch flags during the Armed Forces Medley. We had several Veterans in attendance and as a school we were so thankful to have them join us for our program. We encourage students to live out a life that honor our Veterans that have sacrificed so much for our country.










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