

COMPOSITION BOOK

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**SENIOR-TALON-
TAKE-OVER**

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TENNESSEE CHRISTIAN

Volume IV Issue XXX

from the Head


In this Senior Take-Over Talon, I understand that sharing insights from the Head of School might be seen as unusual, and perhaps it is. However, having spent time with seniors in Boston and New York City recently, I feel compelled to share my thoughts.



One striking observation from the senior trip is the exceptional nature of our students. While not a novel realization, it's one I shouldn't overlook. As we traversed through planes, trains, and automobiles, exploring two cities steeped in history and culture, the seniors exhibited genuine enthusiasm. Whether discussing the construction of a centuries-old church or simply navigating the bustling streets, they exuded positivity and interest. Their respectfulness towards others was evident, and within no time, they seemed to blend seamlessly into the urban landscape, as if they had been city dwellers for years. Even demonstrating a level of comfortability, the students exhibited curiosity. They eagerly asked questions about their surroundings, seeking to deepen their understanding and make meaningful connections. At times, I called on the students to lead and navigate the busy streets of Boston and New York. The students handled this extremely well never once leading the group astray.



I am thankful I had the opportunity to share memories with all that went on the senior trip. Thank you to the students and adults for enduring the endless walking and historical tangents supplied by this one. It was a wonderful trip!

In Christ,

Jared D. Tilley

OKSANA GOROSHKO



The end of senior year really makes you start reflecting on how far you have come. High school is really a rollercoaster, especially when it comes to relationships with other people. I think I really went on a journey of discovering how to comfortably be my own person and I think the situations God put me in through high school helped me with this and it also helped me grow into an actual relationship with him. I am proud to know that I worked hard to actively be shaped into the person I am today.

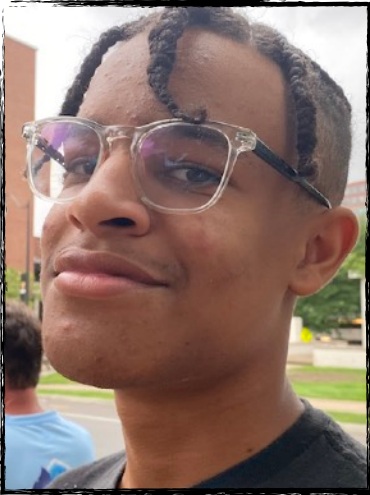
High school flies by so fast and it's important to savor each moment and to make the most of it. Don't just disappear behind classwork and stay at home, find opportunities to make memories. Treat your classmates like siblings, and it's okay if they are having a

bad day, because those are common in high school. Don't be dramatic or angry, because you will regret it later. Work on growing up in high school and get good grades. While high school is meant to be enjoyed, learn to work hard because it will definitely matter when you are applying to college and taking the next step.

High school is really not that deep, and the more you see it as a growth experience, the better you will manage to get through it. It feels like such an accomplishment when you are at the brink of graduation and can say "I have no regrets; I spent my time wisely". High school is four years of your life, four years that really shape you. Spend your time wisely.

-Oksana Goroshko

NOAH HAWVER



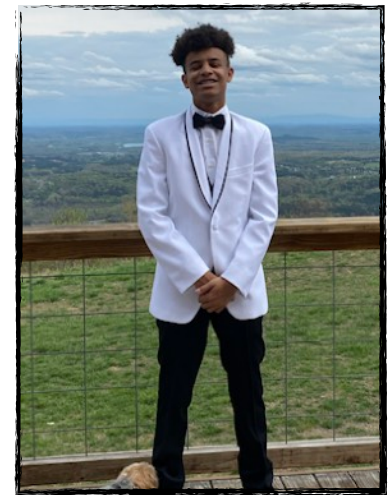
Throughout my two years at TCPS, I have experienced a deep transformation in my spirituality and relationship with God. As I reflect on my high school years, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the experiences and events that have shaped me into the person I am today.

TCPS has been instrumental in boosting my spiritual growth by providing a supportive environment where faith is not just acknowledged but celebrated. Through chapel services, Bible studies, and community services. I have had countless opportunities to delve deeper into my faith and explore the intricacies of my relationship with God. These experiences have taught me valuable lessons about perseverance, humility, and the power of prayer. One significant event that stands out would be either the community service we had with the Salvation Army or the spring break trip we had. The community service was because we were able to give gifts that others struggled with getting, and the spring break trip was because while we were in Greece, we went to Areopagus, where Paul preached to the Greeks, and read scripture from Acts, which hit home for me. In addition to spiritual growth, TCPS has equipped me with the tools and skills necessary for



academic and personal success. Through coursework and extracurricular activities, I have learned the importance of discipline, time management, and resilience. Despite facing obstacles along the way, including academic challenges and personal setbacks, I have emerged stronger and more determined than ever before.

One particular obstacle I encountered was the fear of failure. However, through prayer and the support of my teachers and peers, I learned to embrace failure as an opportunity for growth and self-discovery. Instead of letting setbacks define me, I used them as stepping stones towards success. As I prepare to embark on the next chapter of my life, I am filled with excitement and anticipation for what the future holds. My time at TCPS has equipped me with the knowledge, skills, and faith necessary to overcome any challenges that may come my way. My advice to the classes following me is simple yet profound: never



underestimate the power of faith, perseverance, and resilience. Trust in God's plan for your life, and never lose sight of the incredible potential that lies within you. With faith as your guide, the possibilities are endless.

-Noah Hawver



DAVID HAYDAYCHUK

In my high school, there's a distinctive class that holds a significant place in my schedule: chapel class. Unlike other subjects with textbooks and exams, chapel class offers a unique opportunity for introspection and contemplation.

I value chapel class for its departure from the academic routine, providing a space for introspection amidst the hustle and bustle of school life. These sessions offer a welcomed pause, allowing me to reflect on personal values and beliefs in a supportive environment. Through chapel class, I've gained insights into the importance of compassion and mindfulness, which have influenced my personal growth and interactions with others.

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Also I want to mention math class. In math class, Mr. Hammond's excellent teaching and the supportive atmosphere have been instrumental in my learning. His guidance encourages collaboration and problem-solving, making challenging concepts more accessible. With his help and the positive classroom environment, I've gained confidence in math. Thanks to Mr. Hammond, I've developed strong problem-solving skills and a deeper appreciation for mathematics.

-David Haydaychuk



GEORGIA MCPHERSON

Since I was a little girl my dad has always told me that "big things come in small packages." Throughout all the years that I have been at TCPS it has been a fairly small school. I've been a part of small classes, small buildings, small sports teams, & so on. But that doesn't take into account how much there really is inside TCPS.

My four years of high school were some of the biggest & greatest years of my life. The start of my freshman year was the first year back from virtual school due to Covid. This was one of the biggest transitions for me & for the entire school. Leah & I, since kindergarten, were inseparable. She is & always will be, my best friend & means the world to me. But after our freshman year of high school she was going to transfer schools. This was absolutely one of the most difficult & most impactful obstacles I have ever had to go through. I've always struggled with anxiety & being alone. She was my backbone when it came to feeling scared or alone. But when I found out that my best friend was moving schools I thought I wasn't gonna make it. But God really showed me up. He taught me that "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13) & that no matter what I went through, he was my rock & my strength when I felt like I was alone.

Going into my sophomore year there were three girls, including me, in the class. I wasn't close to these girls & I barely talked to them. I was scared that they wouldn't want to be friends with me & that maybe we wouldn't get along, but God knew what he was doing & knew that I was gonna be okay. I made connections with these girls on so many different levels & opened up & learned how to hear their different opinions, some of our similarities, & a lot of

our dislikes with one another. We helped each other step out of our comfort zones & not be afraid of what we can't see.

The last two years of high school felt meshed together. These are the years where young high school students become adults. Reality hits hard & you have to learn to adapt to being older & more mature about how you handle things & how you see yourself growing. One of my greatest influences in life is someone I met in seventh grade. He became my best friend & someone I still go to for advice & prayer. He helped me want to be closer to God & he helped me get through crazy & hard things & I truly can't thank him enough. As you go through school you don't really see your life changing that much until you look back at it.

When I look at my freshman self & who I am now, I don't recognize myself & all the progress TCPS, my best friends, & God has made for myself. Proverbs 3:5-6 tells us "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding & in all your ways submit to him & he will make your paths straight." I'm not saying you can't get through high school alone but at TCPS I had an army behind me & I had supporters all around me helping me through tough times & praying for me. So be open to different things & people because you will be thrown hard things at you in life & God & those around you that you have connections with will be your strong hold.

-Georgia McPherson



ISAIAH MUÑOZ



TCPS. Where to even begin. I never thought a school could become such a huge part of someone's life. I never thought I would learn what I learned and loved what I love. But this school changed my life, the people here changed my life.

This year has been a different year than the rest of my high school years at TCPS. I started dual enrollment and it hindered my time being at the school. It's not the fact that I don't like my dual enrollment classes because I



do, but it's the fact I don't get to spend time with the students as much as I used to. This year was

a year I decided I was going to be the best I could be. I carried this idea along with Student Council and that's been our goal this entire year. I don't do these things so people will like me and I don't do these things so people will look at me in a better way, but I do these things for you guys, the students. I know the bathrooms were a main concern everyday during the first semester and I saw how upsetting it was for everyone. So I made it a great concern



for Student Council and by the grace of God and great help from other

contributors, we got a miracle.

The dual enrollment problem has really taken a toll on me though. My favorite part of my days are spending time with you guys and the teachers. I love being able to make you guys laugh, smile, or just sit there and listen to you all talk and have fun. You guys bring joy to my heart and I can say with full confidence that each one of you guys are special.

I tell you guys this because I love you all. You guys have been one of the greatest parts of my life and the reason I love going to school and even more, TCPS. To the teachers as well, you guys have been amazing and I know it's not over yet, but I still have more to say. I hope I've been able to be an example to you all and serve you as best as I could this year and the past years. I love each and every one of you and you guys are amazing. Never stop following what God has in store for you and go out and live your life joyfully. Love you all.

- Isaiah Muñoz



BEN SLUDER



Tennessee Christian has shown me the importance of service and true hard work. Through my years here, I have learned how to give to others with a servant's heart and trying to always put others before myself. I've learned this by the example through the teachers on campus. They have been models of what it means to serve others by showing us truth through grace and love.



We've been given countless opportunities to serve others and be the hands or feet of Jesus and I believe that has helped develop me into a hard worker. I feel like my heart has been directed to always look for a chance to work hard and be kind. Over the years, we've all heard our fair share of the "it's not about you" Tilley speech before any service project and, as I'm sure it was intended, that phrase has bled into other areas of my life. God calls us to look out for the less fortunate or even those just having a rough day. I know that TCPS has prepared me to do that work going forward and to always look for ways to serve His people in expected, but also in unexpected, ways.

My experience at Tennessee Christian has been a lifelong one because I've been a part of this community since I was two years old. The experiences I've had here have helped shape who I am and what I believe. I've traveled the world with friends, family, and my favorite teachers because of the opportunities available at our school. Our mission at TCPS includes providing students with a "Christian worldview" and these adventures have given me an entirely new take

on that world around me. My time at Tennessee Christian has been a place of comfort to explore things in a safe way guided by Christ-centered adults who love us no matter what and who take a genuine interest in our everyday lives. It's a place where everyone knows your name and it's a place that will always be home to me.



-Ben Sluder

WILL STOUT

Throughout my years at TCPS, I have seen incredibly rapid growth in my faith, work ethic, and mental health, allowing me to become more of the person God desires me to be. Through high school, I struggled to deal with multiple traumas that brought upon things such as depression and anxiety that left me in a dark place. Through the school, an uplifting environment was always present with people who wanted to do nothing but lift me and help me. This allowed me to change my life radically as my faith grew at a rate I had never witnessed.

Through the mentorship and leadership that was available to me, I was able to find guidance, support, and love which was an exclusive experience that was only available at TCPS. At one point I would have said I did not like school because of all the rules and regulations that I felt stripped me of my freedom. However, as I have matured, I have gained an unmatched appreciation for what the school was able to provide for me, as I realized the unique relationships I created at Tennessee Christian were unlike any other school I have ever seen.

-Will Stout



JADAH WILSON



Hi! These past four years of high school have definitely been interesting for me. I have had a lot of highs and lows. This is my first year at Tennessee Christian, my last three years being at Denmark High School in Georgia. I have moved around a lot and experienced a lot of changes in the past four/five years. Yes, there have been negative impacts, but for the most part moving around has taught me a lot about myself and given me different perspectives on how I want my life and myself personally to be like going into this next chapter of my life. I have always been attentive about my grades since my freshman year, and ended up getting a small scholarship because of my situation family wise and how I continue to strive academically given my circumstances.

High school has been everything that I thought it was, and I'm satisfied with how I spent these past couple of years with what I've done and the close friends I have kept. My favorite memory in high school is walking home with my friends from time to time and going to hoco dances. At Tennessee Christian my favorite memory from this past year would have to be the Trike-A-Thon. Back in February I got accepted into University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, and will be attending starting this fall to major in communications for audio and video editing. I am very excited for this next step in my life and hope to not forget these years, the good and the bad.

-Jadah Wilson



TENNESSEE CHRISTIAN

ATHLETIC BANQUET 2024

FRIDAY, MAY 3, 6:00-8:00pm

TENNESSEE CHRISTIAN GYMNASIUM

Catered by: Shane's Rib Shack

COST:

\$20 (AGES 11+)

\$10 (AGES 10 AND BELOW)

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