



REFLECTIONS

Summer 2022 | Volume 39 | Issue 2



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Cover: Luke Britt passes a water balloon to Kinley Smith, both of House Dolphin, during a relay on the last day of school.

Below: The Middle School performance of *Little Red Riding Hood and the Power Mutants* was full of comedy, action, and drama.

Back Cover: Corrine Crawford was an honorable mention recipient in the Southern Teachers Agency Student Art Contest. Her artwork will be included in their 2022-23 Art Calendar, which will be sent to independent schools around the country.



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Please direct questions or comments about this publication to April Eddleton at info@tncs.org or 804.266.2494 x2229.

A Note from the Head of School

Nancy Foy

As I sit down to write this reflection on the school year, I have a sense of déjà vu. Once again we are reminded that although we may be finished with COVID, COVID apparently is not finished with us! We continue to be flexible and alter plans as necessary to continue our priorities of keeping our community healthy and providing quality, consistent instruction. We all have learned a lot about ourselves and about life from living through this pandemic. Our seniors have learned very valuable lessons at a young age. In our senior exit interviews, I asked them what they had learned about themselves or life being in Upper School during COVID. Their answers included:

I can do anything if I try hard enough, work hard enough, and trust and believe.

The world can change in many ways in a short period of time - it's important to be able to adapt.

Things aren't permanent.

Things won't be perfect but will get better over time.

It is better to deal with mental health concerns early on so they don't get worse.

You never know what someone else is dealing with.

I need people – social interaction is important to me.

“ I can be okay on my own – alone and independent.

It's important to drive your own happiness vs. relying on external factors.

I need to prioritize taking time for myself, not just give time to others.

If someone or the world brings me a problem, I can get through it. It's a test of patience and perseverance.

I need to love myself, not let other peoples' words define me.

I need to stop comparing myself to others on social media.

I value my relationships more.

Kindness is key to life.

What wise young adults they are! These lessons will not only serve them well; they would serve any of us well.

The Class of 2022 is an extraordinary class. They were our first 5th graders and the last class Donn Lancaster taught before retiring. This class is well known for its kindness and inclusivity. They have been great student leaders and have pushed themselves academically, athletically, and socially. Their college acceptances and scholarship awards are impressive. More than any other accolades, they have wanted to make a positive impact on the school, being an example for others of what TNCS stands for. They wanted to embody our motto:

Watch your thoughts and words, they become your actions. Watch your actions, they become your habits.

Watch your habits, they become your character. Watch your character, it becomes your destiny.

Donn Lancaster brought this motto to us when he was our Middle School Director. We recite the motto daily to remind each of us that our actions and words matter, that our choices matter, and that we are in charge of our destiny. The Class of 2022 very fittingly chose to enhance the area around Mr. L's memorial tree as their senior project. They gave of themselves tirelessly, cooperatively, and full of gratitude for a man who meant so much to them. I am so very proud of these young adults.

As we look to this fall with hope that COVID will impact our daily school and personal lives less, we look forward to dedicating our new Wellness Center with a community celebration, attending crowded athletic events, parent socials, and other gatherings that celebrate our community. May we all reflect on what we have learned about ourselves and life over these past two years and go forward in a kind, inclusive way. Just like the class of 2022. •



COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

American College of the Building Arts*, American University, Anderson University*, Bridgewater College, Christopher Newport University*, Clemson University, College of Charleston, Drew University, Emory & Henry College, Ferrum College, Flagler College*, Florida Institute of Recording, Sound and Technology, George Mason University, Guilford College, Hampden-Sydney College, Hampton University, High Point University, Hood College, James Madison University**, John Tyler Community College*, Liberty University, Longwood University**, Lynn University, Mary Baldwin University, Marymount University, Milwaukee School of Engineering, Morehouse College, Norfolk State University, North Carolina A & T State University, Old Dominion University*, Pennsylvania State University - Abington, Purdue University, Radford University, Randolph College, Randolph-Macon College*, Reynolds Community College**, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology*, St. Louis University, The College of Wooster*, The University of Alabama, The University of Virginia's College at Wise, University of Kentucky*, University of Lynchburg, University of Mary Washington*, University of Mississippi, University of North Carolina Greensboro, University of Vermont, University of Virginia*, Virginia Commonwealth University**, Virginia Military Institute, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, Virginia Wesleyan University, Warren Wilson College*, Wingate University

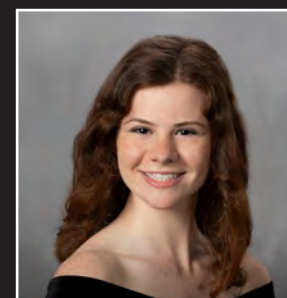
* attending

Q + A

with Abigail Draper, Julia Glasser, Jacob Hanes, and Slade Salisbury



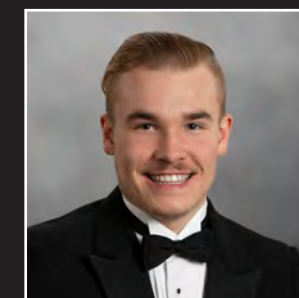
+ Abigail Draper



+ Julia Glasser



+ Jacob Hanes



+ Slade Salisbury

+ Class of 2022

As we celebrate the launch of the Class of 2022, we thought it might be a good time to hear about the TNCS experience through the eyes of a few of our graduates. We sat down and talked with four seniors to learn more about where they came from, how TNCS impacted their lives, and where they are headed in the future. Abigail Draper and Slade Salisbury joined the Class of 2022 as 9th graders, Julia began as a 6th grader, and Jacob Hanes was in our first class of "Super Lifers" - our first 5th grade class.

+ What was school like before coming to New Community?

ABIGAIL: It was a big transition coming from my previous school. New Community was so welcoming and I could take a big step into my learning and not feel like I was falling behind. I could really enjoy learning and I am so thankful for that.

JULIA: Before coming to New Community and Riverside, I was at a small school in Fredericksburg. I remember in 2nd grade coming home from school and crying each night because I couldn't read, I couldn't understand what was going on in my math class, and my teachers weren't helping me.

JACOB: School was a really poor experience. They didn't know how to help me. I remember going to class and crying because they would say "Oh, you're just staring out the window; you're being lazy." It was hard because I was putting in the effort. The teachers would make me stay in during recess and put me in a little room where they would watch me try to write my name on my paper. It was hard to make friends when you could barely do the work. It's emotionally defeating.

SLADE: School was rough. I never really liked it. No one was there for me, so I would just sit in the back of the class and not ask questions. The teachers were nice to me, but when it came to academics, they would tell me, "you're never going to make it." So I thought, "I guess they're right." I didn't want to go to college; I didn't want to go to high school. I didn't want to do anything. I just went because I had to.

+ How do you feel you have grown in your time at TNCS?

ABIGAIL: I participated in volleyball all three years that I could and one year of soccer. Being on the court in volleyball and basketball really affected my education here. Being connected with the players and the coaches, I am much more comfortable working with them in the classroom. Working on a group project, we can depend on each other the same way we do on the team. I will definitely take those skills with me when I go on to college.

JULIA: My first year I felt like I wasn't the only kid struggling in class. We are all here for the same reason. The teachers help you learn in the way that you need to learn. My skills have definitely improved. I can read and write, which is amazing. As I got older, school became much more of a happy and safe space where I feel academically challenged. It's at the point where I can say "I'm learning this, and I want to go beyond. I want to learn more." I feel like the school has made me a better person. Doing community service, volunteering at places like Westminster Canterbury, and being a part of NHS taught me that there is just so much more than this school.

JACOB: I want to be a doctor, and part of that is writing research papers. I remember in 8th grade science class with Mr. L, he gave me back a paper once and said, "This is great, but you can do better." So I took it home and rewrote it, adding more supporting citations, and gave it back to him and he said "This is what you can do." He spent the extra time and, being a scientist himself, he would tell me what would be expected in college. Both he and Mrs. Taylor showed me what would be expected in a professional setting. Because TNCS helped me get my reading and writing skills up to the level of where I was functioning as a student, it allowed me to excel not only as a high school student, but to be ready for the next step.

SLADE: Academically it was so much better. Those promises of help that were made at my middle school were kept when I came here. I remember the first test I took was with Mrs. Hudgins. It was cool to feel, "I can actually get this. I can do this." I got the time I needed, the help I needed, and the study strategies to help me remember things. Before coming here I knew I had a big interest in film. I had been making films with my cousin, just on my iPhone, and I thought it was so cool! I had a camera that my dad had given me for Christmas, and I brought that to Field Day and started shooting, and after that I was known as the kid with the drone. The school really supported me in my passion for filmmaking.

continued on page 6

+ Do you have a favorite memory that you will keep with you as you graduate?

ABIGAIL: I have so many great memories I'll take with me, but one of my favorites is Senior Night for Varsity Volleyball. It was so impactful that I got to really bond with my teammates, and we won! It's something that I will definitely remember when I go on to college.

JULIA: A favorite memory I have of my time at TNCS would have to be ski day when you are just going out with your friends. It's always fun to see friends outside the classroom. The teachers are there but they're not teaching you. Everyone's just there to be together and have fun.

JACOB: This year the teachers came to me and said, "We have a seventh grader who is very interested in science, would you like to be his mentor?" I remembered how many mentors I had at TNCS and immediately said yes. We would talk about immunology and bought books to read together. It was the first time he had picked up a book and read it on his own and came to me so excited and said "Hey, I found out about B cells and how they throw out antibodies!" and we would dig further into things, spending hours talking about medicine and immunology. It was such a great opportunity to be able to share that love of science and exploration and curiosity with someone else, guiding them on their path to maybe becoming a scientist someday.

SLADE: It sounds cliché, but my group of friends was what made high school for me and really made my senior year special. When I came here I was just another kid who was, I guess you could say broken in so many different ways. Basketball really helped me, too. It made me realize that if I can make varsity, I can do the other things. I can do this, as long as I trust and try, put my effort into it as much as I can, no matter what it is.

+ What's next for you?

ABIGAIL: I am going to Christopher Newport and will be playing NCAA Division III volleyball there, which I am very excited about. The recruiting process was stressful, but I am happy to say that I know where I am going. There are so many options to my future that I can't even choose right now.

JULIA: I will be attending Longwood University where I will be studying Communications and Digital Media production. I'm just very excited I'm going to college. I hope to do something in film, whether that's writing or production, maybe teaching. I know I want to do something in media production. Back in the 6th grade when I came here they gave me a packet of study skills. When I go to college I'm going to take the skills I learned with me. I know to ask questions, to speak up for myself. I feel very prepared.

JACOB: I will be attending Randolph-Macon College as a pre-med biology major and a Wornom Fellow. The president of the college called me personally to let me know I had been offered this full-ride fellowship, which was a huge honor for me. The fellowship is offered to two freshmen each year to study to prepare for medical school, pursue research projects in laboratories, work with doctors, and have internship and job shadowing opportunities.

SLADE: I got accepted into a paid internship with Hope Chapel in Maui, Hawaii. I will be doing videography and assistant livestream directing for their services, and also doing missionary work in the community. I'm looking forward to getting more experience in videography in a new environment. •

Below: As their senior gift, the Class of 2022 chose to revamp the area around the tree that was planted on campus in memory of Donn Lancaster, aka "Mr. L." The garden area is by the creek and can be seen by all who drive through campus along the main road before the barn. They wanted to create a better environment for students and faculty to enjoy in his honor. "Our class was the last to receive his teaching and he positively impacted many with his incredible soul and loving personality." -Class of 2022



A Fond Farewell

Retirement News

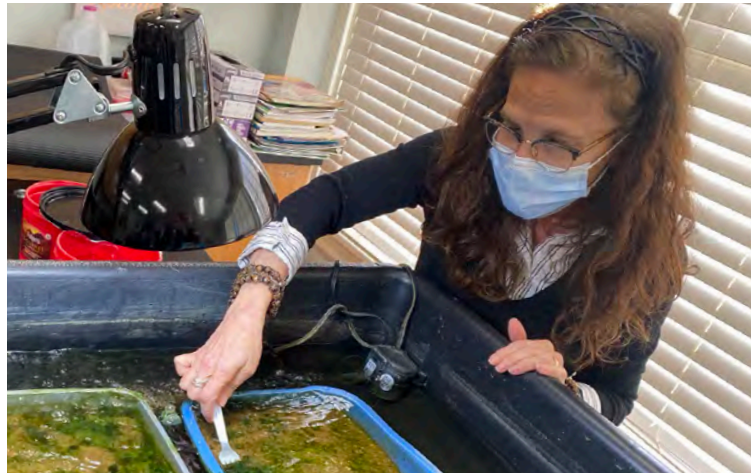
As we wrapped up the school year, we bid a fond farewell to two longtime faculty members who are enjoying well-deserved retirements.

Angela Taylor joined our Science Department in 2014 after a long and successful career as a chemist and educator. First joining the Middle School science team, where she was known for her fun outdoor life science experiments, Mrs. Taylor eventually moved to the Upper School where she has been inspiring future chemists ever since. Mrs. Taylor was also a longtime volleyball coach for both Middle and Upper School teams. While she does not use the word “retired,” Mrs. Taylor and her husband are looking forward to traveling the country in their new fifth wheel trailer.

Julie Noble has served many roles in her 19 years as an educator at TNCS. Best known as an engaging history teacher and leader and mentor of our acclaimed History Day teams, Mrs. Noble has done much, much more. She has been a longtime director and teacher in our drama department. She has taught model General Assembly, coached, and many years ago even taught math! Mrs. Noble and her husband Bob are looking forward to enjoying their retirement, especially spending time with their beautiful grandchildren.

“Angela Taylor’s goal has always been to instill a love of science in her students. Her passion for science is contagious,” says Head of School Nancy Foy. “Julie’s dedication to our students and school has been unwavering. Her students are at the heart of all she does.” •

Right: Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Noble through the years.



House Olympics!

A fun day of friendly competition was held to close out the year with lip syncing, water balloon games, and a senior vs faculty kickball game. House points for the year were tallied for the last time and the House Cup was awarded to House Dolphin. •





Pardon our dust as we hit the home stretch toward completion of our new Wellness Center! As of this writing, crews are working in the new construction area to finish painting, install lighting, flooring, and tile, and put on the finishing touches. As soon as school was out for the summer, work began on the renovation of the existing building. The lobby is getting an extensive facelift with a new entrance, locker rooms and bathrooms are getting refreshed, and what was the activities center classrooms are being renovated into the new home for our Social-Emotional Counselor and School Nurse! Our construction partner KBS is confident that our new Wellness Center will be ready to welcome students around the time school begins.

The Saber Strong Campaign to build our new Wellness Center is almost fully funded, but you can help us cross the finish line! To find out how you can help and to see pictures of our progress throughout the project, visit tncs.org/saberstrong.



Top Left: Cutouts for spectators have been made from the upper level of the new addition.

Middle Left: Faculty get a tour of the new spaces.

Bottom Left: Renovations have begun of the existing classrooms. Shown is the science classroom, which will become the clinic.

Top Right: Aerial view of the new Wellness Center addition.

Bottom Right: The existing lobby will get a new facelift including a new entrance and updated restrooms.



Saber Updates

Alumni



Paul Awad, G'85 is working as an Assistant Professor of Cinema at Northern Virginia Community College. Paul and his wife, Kathryn O'Sullivan, have a novel out this year titled *When Earth Shall Be No More*, which explores the idea of parallel worlds.



Lana Sachs Decker, G'14 joined the Army Reserves in October of 2021. She is a small arms/artillery repair mechanic based out of Asheville, NC.

Joel Elmore, G'12 is the Associate Pastor of Youth and Discipleship at Mill Creek Baptist Church in Fincastle, Virginia. Joel graduated in May with a Master of Divinity from Liberty University.

Wyatt Greep, G'18 is a fabricator in Newport News with Huntington Ingalls Industries ship company where he works on naval ships and submarines. He lives in Newport News with his pup.

Robyn (Parsons) Hartle, G'89 was married in October of 2021 in Richmond to Ned Hartle in a beautiful fall wedding.

Sara Hudgins, G'98 is working at the Lab School in Washington, D.C. where she is teaching reading to 7th and 8th graders using multi-sensory techniques. She is engaged to be married next July to Amani Bonaventure Konan.

Jennifer Loving, G'08 is working as a Special Education Teacher with the New York City Department of Education.



Chris Nelms, G'21 completed Marine Corps recruit training at Parris Island, then attended Marine Combat School and Ground Combat and Logistics School. Chris now serves in the Marine Corps Reserves at Joint Base Little Creek in Virginia Beach. He will be attending Old Dominion University in the fall studying foreign relations.



Carolyn Palmer, G'18 graduated this year from Radford University with a Bachelors in Communications, with a concentration in Public Relations and a minor in Digital Communications. She is now in graduate school at Radford studying Strategic Communications and is a Graduate Teaching Assistant teaching a public speaking course.



M Schutze, G'07 is a certified IT Support Specialist, and a Local Production Assistant for Food Network's Restaurant Impossible, hosted by Chef Robert Irvine, pictured.

Faculty



Maggie Ward and her husband Brian and son Charlie welcomed Henry to their family. We bid farewell to Maggie as our Athletic Trainer as she will now be a full-time mom to her boys.



Aaron Webb and her husband Drew welcomed their first child, Tommy, to the world on December 27.

Board of Trustees

TNCS is honored to welcome two new members to our Board of Trustees this year



Maureen Denlea serves as the Director of Charitable Giving for Massey Energy LC and is a Director of the Joan and Morgan Massey Foundation. Maureen has had a distinguished career helping create positive change in the Richmond region, having served as Community Relations Manager for the Markel Corporation and President and CEO of Hospital Hospitality House, among other roles.



Michael Bland returns to the TNCS Board of Trustees, beginning his third term. Michael has served as Board President, and notably chaired the Buildings and Grounds Committee during the construction of Founders Hall. He is President of B&B Printing and the parent of two TNCS alumni, Jack G'13 and Emily T'15.

TNCS 2022-23 Board of Trustees

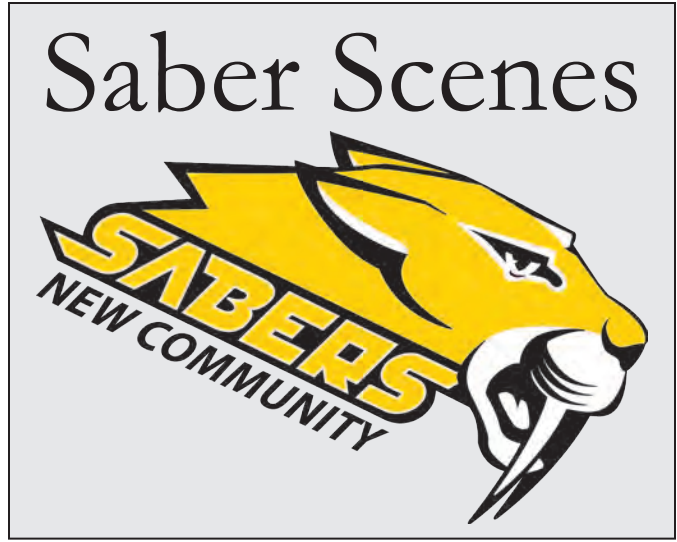
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Do you have Saber Updates?
Send them to alumni@tncs.org



The Class of 2026 gathered for an 8th grade Moving Up Ceremony to honor their accomplishments in Middle School and to welcome them to the Upper School. Top Row: Ryan Mahoney, Patrick Fabrie, Kenton Sumner, Drew Meyer, Finn Weisleder, Preston Cole, Spencer Nouri, Jax White. Front Row: Beckett Pegalis, Chase Clemons, Sarah Beverly, Olivia Leonard, Elizabeth White, Mel Waters-Bernas, Harper Lewis, Bobby Bonis, William Norman. Not pictured: Anna Voelzke



Chase Clements, Preston Cole, and Patrick Fabrie work together to build a foosball table.

Middle School classes walked to the newly renovated Princeton House for the first time in April. The house features 6 classrooms and a student collaboration space.

Dylan Norris gives a heartfelt performance during the Upper School Drama production of PUFFS.



5th graders enjoyed a day at Maymont during the annual Year-End Celebration Trips.

Alex Grasser sold out of his Bubba's Bakery cookies during the Entrepreneurship class's Market Day. Alex, along with Harrison Rosenblatt, Ann Marin Crawford, and Bree Hutson's company Lovely Roots, and Fox Warner, Garrison King, Knox Dendy, and Hannah Smith's company Cuisine Candles, created business ideas and turned them into a profitable reality, collectively raising over \$800 for the Trevor Project.

Kate Pomeroy got a private tour of the construction site when she served as Head of School for the day, an opportunity made possible from the Saber Soirée live auction.





Drew Meyer, Chase Clemons, and Ethan Wallace glaze their ceramic plate of food sculptures in art class.

Mitch Ault gets hands-on experience during his internship with the Plumbers and Steamfitters Local Union 10.

Yard signs were delivered to the homes of seniors to help them celebrate their upcoming graduation. Here, Mr. Foulger delivers a sign to Joni Hopkins.

10th graders spent a day with the James River Association engaging in leadership and team-building exercises and enjoying hiking and pontoon and canoe excursions.



Students created hand-decorated prayer flags to fly from the balcony of Founders Hall. Their intent was to offer good wishes and wisdom.

Grace Fornash and Max Shavers served hamburgers to their classmates during a school-wide cookout hosted by the National Honor Society.

An army of parent and grandparent volunteers were on campus throughout Teacher Appreciation Week showering faculty and staff with their appreciation with plants, meals, notes, and more. Below, Carrie Rosenblatt, Gina Burr, Betty Ames, and Lori Clements were just some of the volunteers who assembled buckets full of snacks and gift cards.





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