



REFLECTIONS

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Cover: Head of School Nancy Foy, along with Board Members Amanda Surgner (Vice President, Development), Mark Gottwald (Buildings and Grounds Committee Chair), Wilson Friend (Saber Strong Capital Campaign Chair), and Janet Peyton (President) break ground on the new Wellness Center in December.

Field Day was reinvented this year, with Houses competing in some familiar activities, along with some new challenges, spread out all over campus. Above, Dolphin House worked hard during the classic tug-of-war competition.

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

A Note from the Head of School

Nancy Foy

As I sit down to write this, I am filled with pride and hope – pride for what we have been able to accomplish together and hope for our future. This has been a school year of restarts, disappointments, celebrations, and firsts. Each time we think we can return to more “normal” patterns and way of life on campus, COVID has another surprise for us.

This fall we welcomed 220 students to our campus, with over 60 of our students being new to TNCS. Many of these students had not been in physical school since March 2020. Throw in Tik Tok challenges that focused on hurting others and damaging property, a changing landscape on the social justice front, students out of practice on how to navigate interpersonal differences, and the increased mental health struggles in our country, it has been challenging. BUT these challenges have not ruined our Saber Spirit. We continue to strive to live our motto each day. When you watch your thoughts and words as they become your actions, watch your actions as they become your habits, watch your habits as they become your character, and watch your character as it becomes your destiny, it is easier to stay the course and block out the noise.

Despite the challenges in our world today, the year so far has been filled with reasons to be proud and to celebrate. First and foremost, we are making a positive difference in the lives of our students. I continue to hear from parents what a gift this school is for their children. Our teachers continue to give their all to ensure our students are receiving robust quality instruction. Additionally, the adults on campus are committed to truly knowing our students, being there as guides, coaching them, helping them unpack challenges and focus on academic and personal growth.

The collective effort of our students, faculty, and coaches has resulted in several recent firsts: our first female athlete signing a NCAA letter of intent to play volleyball at the collegiate level, a senior scoring perfect scores on subtests of the ACT, another senior receiving almost a perfect score on the SAT, and acceptances to colleges and universities our students have not historically attended.

Building community continues to be a primary focus this year. This fall we have tried to balance being together with the health and safety of our community. We have had all-school assemblies on the green and have been able to bring the student body, one division at a time, together in the gym. Athletics returned this fall with our volleyball, cross country, and soccer teams able to return to interscholastic competition. We also implemented a livestreaming option for those who could not be in person at our

volleyball and basketball games due to spectators being limited to two per player. We were able to bring back grade level bonding events. Our Upper School Advisory Board planned an outdoor fall dance. We brought back our House System with a house flag unveiling kick-off event. Each house has students from every grade, forming mini communities within our larger one. They have had activities for pure fun, competed in the fall canned food drive, collecting 5,774 cans for Home Again, participated in additional service projects and in costume competitions for both Halloween and our Holiday Celebration, the day we left for Winter Break.

I keep a mental picture of our December Holiday Celebration in my mind as it is a wonderful visual of the true spirit of our community. Omicron was on the horizon and cases were just beginning to rise in our area so just a couple days before the celebration we pivoted, redesigning the day so it could be held mostly outdoors and reimagined logistically to keep our community safe. It was an absolutely wonderful event (the 70-degree weather did help!). Dressed in our festive holiday clothing, our student body, faculty, and staff were together on the green enjoying our faculty TNCS band performing holiday favorites. Spontaneous dancing broke out and laughter was heard from all corners of our green. This event, although quite different than planned, was the most joyous event we have been able to have for almost two years. It represented community, flexibility, positive mindset, and our Saber Spirit.

As we look to the spring, my wish is that we will continue to focus on the good: our dedicated faculty and staff, our bright, talented students, and our mission of helping our students reach their potential, offering customized research-based instruction and a comprehensive program that is preparing them for their futures. •

NHS members Sam Browne, Jacob Hanes, Hannah Johnson, Charlie Cuttino, Audrey Ryland, Hannah Smith, Gracie Cooper, Ryleigh Hornsmith, Maggie Davis, Keegan Reardon, Julie Conn, Knox Dendy, Alex Aghdami, Dylan Norris, Fox Warner, Abigail Draper, and Grace Fornash load 5,774 cans of food for Home Again after their annual food drive.

Elliott Sebastian show off Cheetah House's new flag at the House kick-off event.

Senior Abigail Draper, with her parents Carol and Nat, signs her NCAA letter of intent to play volleyball at Christopher Newport University.





A Ground Breaking Moment

by Dan Stackhouse, Director of Development

If you have been on the TNCS campus in recent weeks, you may have seen a lot of work happening behind the Activities Center, with equipment moving around, concrete being poured, and steel being laid.

After more than three years of planning, development, and fundraising, The New Community School has begun construction on a true Wellness Center on our campus.

When the current Activities Center was built in the mid 1990s, enrollment at the school was roughly one third of what it is today. At the time, building the Activities Center was a transformational moment for the school. Before then, students had to travel to nearby facilities such as the Northside YMCA for PE class. The Activities Center gave our PE and Athletics programs a home and a big boost to school pride.

As our enrollment has grown over the years, our health, wellness, and athletics programs have also grown. Our understanding of what our students need to be healthy in mind, body, and spirit has also developed. It is time for a facility that will accommodate this growth and allow us to expand in the future. Just as the Activities Center was transformational for the school more than 20 years ago, our new Wellness Center will help us continue to change the way we approach the health and wellness of our students and faculty.

Inside the Wellness Center there is a chance for every New Community student to be 'saber strong'. If there is anything that the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us, it is that our students' physical and mental health are just as important to their future success as academic growth. This new wellness center is a place where every student and faculty member can develop new ways to be strong inside and out.

What is the Saber Strong Campaign?

In 2019 the TNCS Board of Trustees approved the creation of the Saber Strong Capital Campaign. Saber Strong is a \$4.5 million initiative to construct the new wellness center, expanding our ability to offer enriching athletics and health and wellness programs, and grow the school's endowment to provide long-term support for the maintenance of the new facility.

The Board of Trustees set a goal of raising 80% of the campaign goal in commitments before breaking ground. "Thanks to the support of our early investors in Saber Strong, we have been able to reach this wonderful milestone," says Wilson Friend, TNCS Board member and chair of the Saber Strong Campaign. "We are profoundly grateful to everyone who has helped us get this far, and everyone who will help us meet and exceed our fundraising goals. This project is a transformative moment for our school and will positively impact our students and faculty for years to come"

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed many of the ways we would have traditionally celebrated Saber Strong and the

groundbreaking of the Wellness Center. While we were unable to hold a traditional groundbreaking ceremony, in December we were able to gather with our Board of Trustees and school leadership to commemorate this important moment in the history of our school. Plans for a large and lively event to announce the Saber Strong Campaign this past fall sadly had to be canceled. Nevertheless, the generosity of our community cannot be stopped, and we are so proud to have reached this important moment in the project.

“We are working hard to continue our fundraising efforts and hope to complete funding for the project as soon as possible,” says Wilson Friend. “Gifts at all levels are needed to help us cross the finish line, and we hope that you will consider how you might like to be involved.”

When will the Wellness Center be finished?

Pending any unforeseen delays, the new Wellness Center should be ready to welcome our students and faculty by the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year. Lead contractor KBS Construction and architects Poole and Poole Architecture have been wonderful partners in this process. Thanks to their thoughtful design, the campus is being minimally impacted during construction. We are hopeful that we will be able to use all existing Activities Center facilities, including the gymnasium, throughout most of the current school year.

Want to see recent photos of construction and learn more about the Saber Strong Campaign and how you can help? Please visit tncs.org/saberstrong.



Matching challenges can double the impact of your gift

Two Richmond area foundations have seen the potential in the new Wellness Center to positively impact our community and have issued matching challenge grants to inspire our donors. The Mary Morton Parsons and Cabell Foundations together have issued challenges to our community to raise \$550,000 toward the Saber Strong Campaign. Once raised, they will match that amount dollar for dollar. To date we are more than 2/3 toward this goal. Your gift could be the one that takes us over the top! To learn more, please contact Dan Stackhouse, Director of Development, at dstackhouse@tncs.org or 804.264.3276.

What is inside the new Wellness Center?

- Enhanced facilities for our athletic teams
- Expanded space for physical education
- Dedicated spaces for group exercise and cardio fitness
- Dedicated classrooms for health and wellness offerings
- A new Health Center: a clinic, a sports medicine treatment room, and an office for the Social-Emotional Counselor
- Increased spectator seating indoors and outdoors
- Renovated lobby and entrance patio
- And more!



Dual Enrollment

by Scott Bray, Director of Teaching, Learning, and Research



As we seek to find new ways to help our students build their skills and achieve academically, The New Community School has recently expanded a program where students can earn college credit while still on our Hermitage Road campus.

Currently, students at The New Community School have multiple pathways for earning college credit including advanced placement courses and dual enrollment courses. Advanced placement courses are developed by the College Board and are designed to prepare students for the rigors of college level coursework along with the opportunity to earn college credit with a score of 3 or higher on the AP exam. Students who do not sit for the exam or who earn below a 3 on the exam do not earn college credit. It should be noted that some colleges only give credit for exam scores of 4 or higher. In contrast, dual enrollment courses provide high school juniors and seniors the opportunity to enroll in and receive college credit for courses while still in high school.

While advanced placement courses have been offered at TNCS for a number of years, the 2020-21 academic year marked the first time TNCS students earned college credit through participation in dual enrollment coursework. This year, through our continued partnership with Reynolds Community College, TNCS is able to offer four dual enrollment courses in the areas of English and history totaling 12 credit hours. Each course is taught by TNCS faculty on the TNCS campus. TNCS is fortunate to have faculty members that meet Reynolds' high professional standards. TNCS dual enrollment faculty are also affiliated with Reynolds Community College and considered adjunct faculty.

There are many benefits to enrolling in a dual enrollment course. Academically, students are able to gain understanding of the rigor of college coursework, as well as faculty expectations while still in high school. Students enrolled in dual enrollment courses are considered Reynolds' students and therefore have access to a multitude of college resources. Another benefit is the ability to earn college credit while in high school thereby helping to reduce the average time to degree completion and future college expenses.

All potential dual enrollment students must demonstrate college readiness. Eligible students must meet a minimum GPA of 3.0 and meet or exceed Reynolds' college placement requirements. A letter of recommendation from TNCS testifying to the student's readiness for college-level coursework is also required. The New Community School's College and Career Counselor is available for interested students to find out more about dual enrollment opportunities and the enrollment process. •

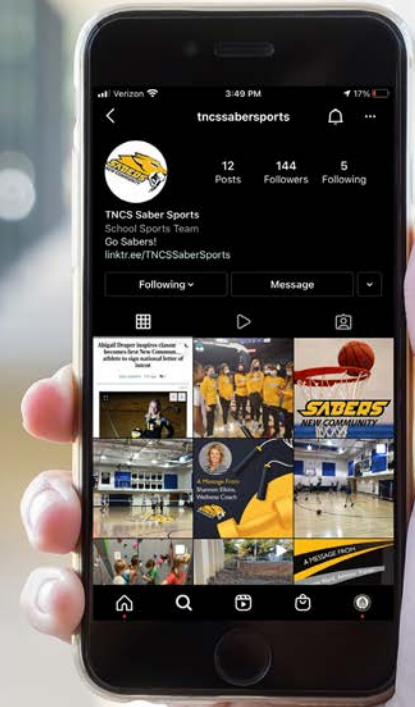
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NEW!

Introducing TNCS Saber Sports on Facebook and Instagram! Stay up-to-date on Saber Sports by following us at:

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SILENT AUCTION
March 14 - 24

VIRTUAL EVENT
March 24, 7pm

Mark your calendar for the return of the Saber Soirée!

The Virtual Event, which includes a live auction, is free to attend. Preregistration is encouraged.

All preregistered guests will be entered into a prize drawing.

Upgrade by becoming a Patron for \$50 and receive recognition in the program and on the website, and get a Soirée Swag Bag delivered to your door the week of the event. For more information and to register visit:

tncs.org/soiree

TNCS campus continues growth with the addition of

PRINCETON HOUSE

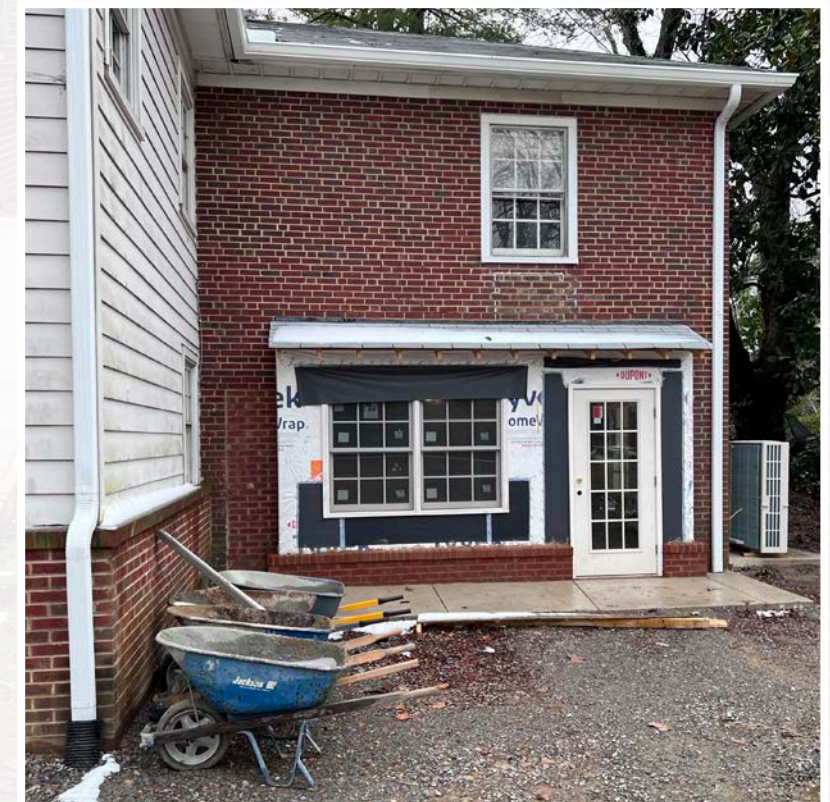
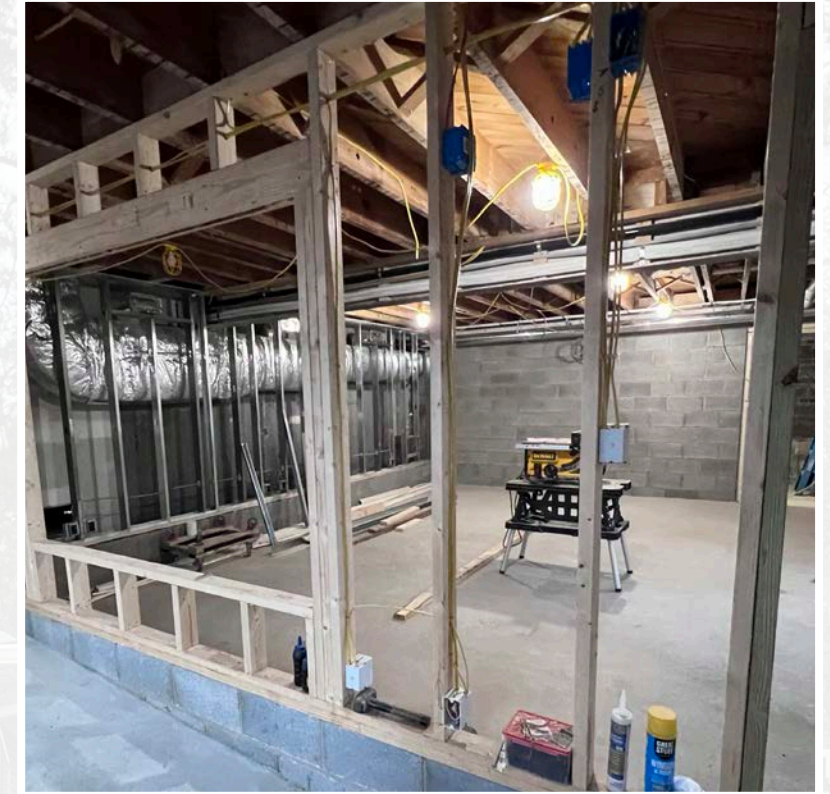


If you have driven down Hermitage Road lately, you may have seen some construction activity at the corner of Hermitage and Princeton Roads, just two doors down from Massey Hall. That activity is the creation of another new learning space for our students

When The New Community School moved to our northside Richmond campus in the early 1980s, the entire school was made up of what would become Massey Hall, the Stannard Science Labs, the Cottage, and the Barn.

Over the years, as opportunity and finances have allowed, we have slowly expanded our campus to include 13 academic and administrative buildings over 11 acres. Happily, that growth continues today. In mid 2020, we were offered the opportunity to purchase our 14th property, which will be called Princeton House.

TNCS has more than doubled our enrollment in the last ten years. To help accommodate this continued growth, a renovation of Princeton House is under way that will provide 6 additional classrooms and a student collaborative space. Renovations are nearing completion and by the time you read this, Princeton House will hopefully be open and helping our next generation of learners grow! •



Glenn Allen Electric

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Arianna Anderson, G'18



ARIANNA ANDERSON, G'18

Senior at College of Charleston

Favorite Classes:

biology, criminology, sociology, psychology, art, and environmental and sustainability studies

Interested in pursuing:

veterinary school or animal rescue and rehab centers

Recent highlights:

worked with exotic animals in Costa Rica at an animal rescue center, enjoys shark diving, YMCA Camp Counselor

How was Costa Rica? What was it like to work in a foreign country at the animal rescue center?

Working in a foreign country was a once in a lifetime experience where I connected with people and animals on a new level. Working with people who share the same passions and outlook on the environment and animals is not only special but empowering. I worked with some of the coolest exotic animals and got opportunities to educate outsiders on animal exploitation, tourism, and environmental sustainability. It's hard work and a different lifestyle and it takes a special kind of mentality and person to do it well. It is hot, sweaty, dirty, and not always glorious but at the end of every day there is a sense of purpose and fulfillment and a smile on my face.

How was your shark diving experience?

My shark diving experience shifted my perspective when I realized how important they are to our world and how they are no different than any other predator. Respecting their space and interacting appropriately with them while understanding them is key when shark diving. Shark diving (with no cage) was a life changing experience, especially when they swim next to you and look you right in the eye. I saw respect, intelligence, and curiosity and it truly was an experience I'll never forget.

Why is animal conservation and sustainability important to you?

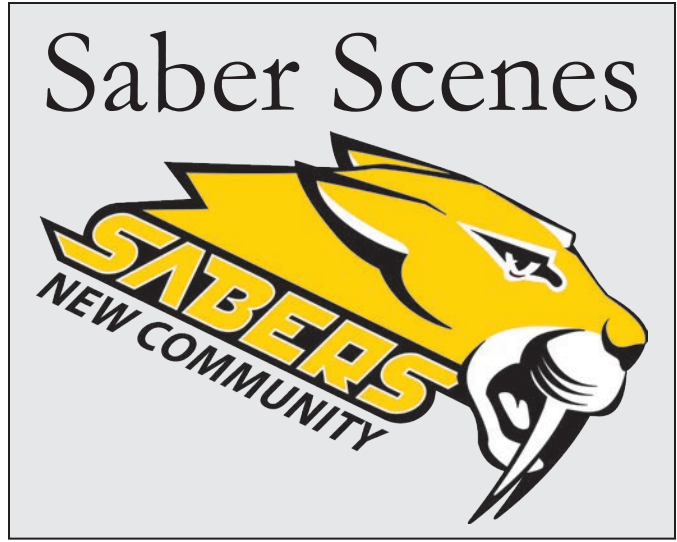
I am very passionate about animals, conservation, sustainability, and overall anything with the environment. We are all connected to nature and without it we would struggle to exist as a species. I think that the environment is a core part of our world if not the central thing and I think it's important to understand that. By educating myself I have been able to be more eco-friendly and make a positive impact on it. Without the environment and animals we would be out of balance and it's up to humanity to maintain that balance. If everyone did the research and did their part we would be able to have a much more balanced world. But we can't have a balanced world without scientific literacy or willingness to challenge our outlooks and thinking. •

ALUMNI: We want to hear from you!

Do you have alumni updates to share?

Send them to alumni@tncs.org.





The Middle School Kindness Club works together to make Happy Birthday posters to celebrate faculty and staff members on their special day.

Sadie Miller and Olivia Homoroc enjoy the annual trip to the pumpkin patch, followed by pumpkin carving and painting.

Danny Coleman and Reese Diatelevi troubleshoot a solar-powered amusement park ride in the first quarter of STEAM 5/6. Students applied engineering designs to construct solar-powered solutions to real-world problems.



Max Shavers, Julia Glasser, Kendall Nerenberg, and Davis Bruce sport their flannel, denim, and western hats for Western Day during Spirit Week.

In Mr. Chung's Music Exploratory class, Andrik Swan-Doxey, Luke Britt, and Corrine Sykes test the speakers they made out of paper bowls and plates.

Nell Castillo and Corinne Crawford work together to assemble a picnic table for campus. Juniors and Seniors built 6 tables at Richmond Community Toolbank and students are already enjoying the extra outdoor seating at school.

Open mic time on the green was a fun activity for students and faculty alike. Here, Hannah Johnson shows off her drum skills with Mrs. Morgan, Mr. Ferster, Mr. Chung, and Mr. Hendelman, while Ivy Proctor captures the fun on camera.





Elliott Kassab, '23 represented TNCS well at the January Invitational hosted at Collegiate School. He placed 1st in the 200-yard IM with a time of 2:11.71 and dropped 15 seconds to set a new personal record. He also placed 1st in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:04.41.

Mr. Walters and his advisory students, Michael Trowsell, Zachary Bricks, and Andrew Greene, enjoyed an urban hike along the James River on a beautiful fall weekend.

Zachery Kees gets hands-on during a trip to the Presquile National Wildlife Refuge. They took a boat trip across the channel, went on a nature hike, tested water, and completed a watershed lesson.

7th graders had a great time at Triangle Rock Club - Richmond during a bonding trip.



Mrs. Riddle, Bree Hutson, Mr. Carmichael, Mar Taylor, Tyler Gelrud, Sage Powell, Wesley McElroy, Kinley Smith, and Leona Williams won prizes for their festive holiday wear at the annual Holiday Celebration.

7th grader Kate Pomeroy won a Scribblitt writing contest with her book *Dog Protection Program* and won a copy of *City of Illusion* by Victoria Ying. Scribblitt, a website that helps students publish their own books, judges based on creativity, content and originality

During World History class, Isabella Puccinelli, Charlotte Pillsbury, and Luke Quick participated in a Renaissance city-state simulation to see how the growth of city-states in Italy helped lead to a time of art, learning, and culture.





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