



# REFLECTIONS

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Cover: Bella Shrock explores with classmates on a trip to Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden where they learned about sustainable gardening, the lifecycle of the butterfly, and enjoyed the Incanto sculptures.

Above: The Middle School performed their first ever musical - High School Musical, Jr., with over 51 students in the cast and crew.

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Please direct questions or comments about this publication to [info@tncs.org](mailto:info@tncs.org) or 804.266.2494 x2229.

# A Note from the Head of School

Nancy Foy

We have had a wonderful first half of our 2023-24 school year. We opened the year with 229 students and we will welcome a few more for our second semester. Our Annual Fund theme this year is "Unfolding the Future." I love this theme because it speaks to work we collectively do at TNCS. We help unfold the future for each of our students. Helping our students identify their strengths and passions is a big part of this journey. Through our partnerships with Online Global Academy for electives we would not have the faculty to teach, Reynolds Community College for dual enrollment taught right here on our campus by our faculty, and Work Force Alliance, our students have a wide range of curricular options to help them customize their academic journeys, helping them prepare for their futures. Language Fundamentals is also customized from basic language instruction to reading and writing, and a new capstone Research and Writing course which requires a student to apply all they have learned in their Language Fundamentals instruction over the years.

Our arts program continues to expand with many of our students finding their passion in this area. We have a new Art Honor Society to go along with our National Thespian Society. This fall our Middle School performed their first musical. High School Musical, Jr. was a huge hit and had over 50 students participating on stage and behind the scenes! We began our afterschool ACE (After-School Creative Experience) program this fall. We will offer three sessions of ACE throughout the school year, aligning the sessions with our athletic season offerings. This gives students an opportunity to explore 2 and 3 dimensional art, drama, music, and STEM-based activities after school if athletics are not for them. Some MS students are able to participate in both.

Athletics continue to help our students unfold their futures. We had strong soccer, volleyball, and cross-country seasons this fall. A highlight was hosting the PBS show "A World of Difference, Embracing Neurodiversity." The crew came to campus for a day of interviews in early fall and the program was streamed in December. Use the QR code below to watch this segment.

As our eye is to the future with strategic planning and beginning to prepare for our 50th anniversary next year, I am filled with excitement for what is to come. I am also proud of the futures we are helping our students unfold! May you each have a blessed 2024! •



## Dr. Scott Bray named Associate Head of School



This fall, Dr. Scott Bray was named Associate Head of School. Scott came to TNCS in the summer of 2019 as our Director of Teaching, Learning, and Research. He has an extensive background in educational thought leadership, having served as Director of Teaching and Learning for the Henrico County School system prior to coming to TNCS. He also previously worked at the University of Richmond, serving as Director of Instructional Technology, Program Chair of their Teacher Licensure Program, and adjunct faculty member teaching Advanced Instructional Design and Secondary Curriculum Methods. Among his many academic credentials, Scott received a Doctorate in Education from the University of Virginia, a Master of Teaching from the University of Richmond, and received his undergraduate degree from Randolph-Macon College.

Scott and his wife, Betsy, are proud parents of TNCS graduate Emery G'22, currently in his second year at the University of Kentucky, and Harrison, a current senior at Collegiate School. •

Above, Dr. Bray joined the 8th Grade history class for a timeline challenge.

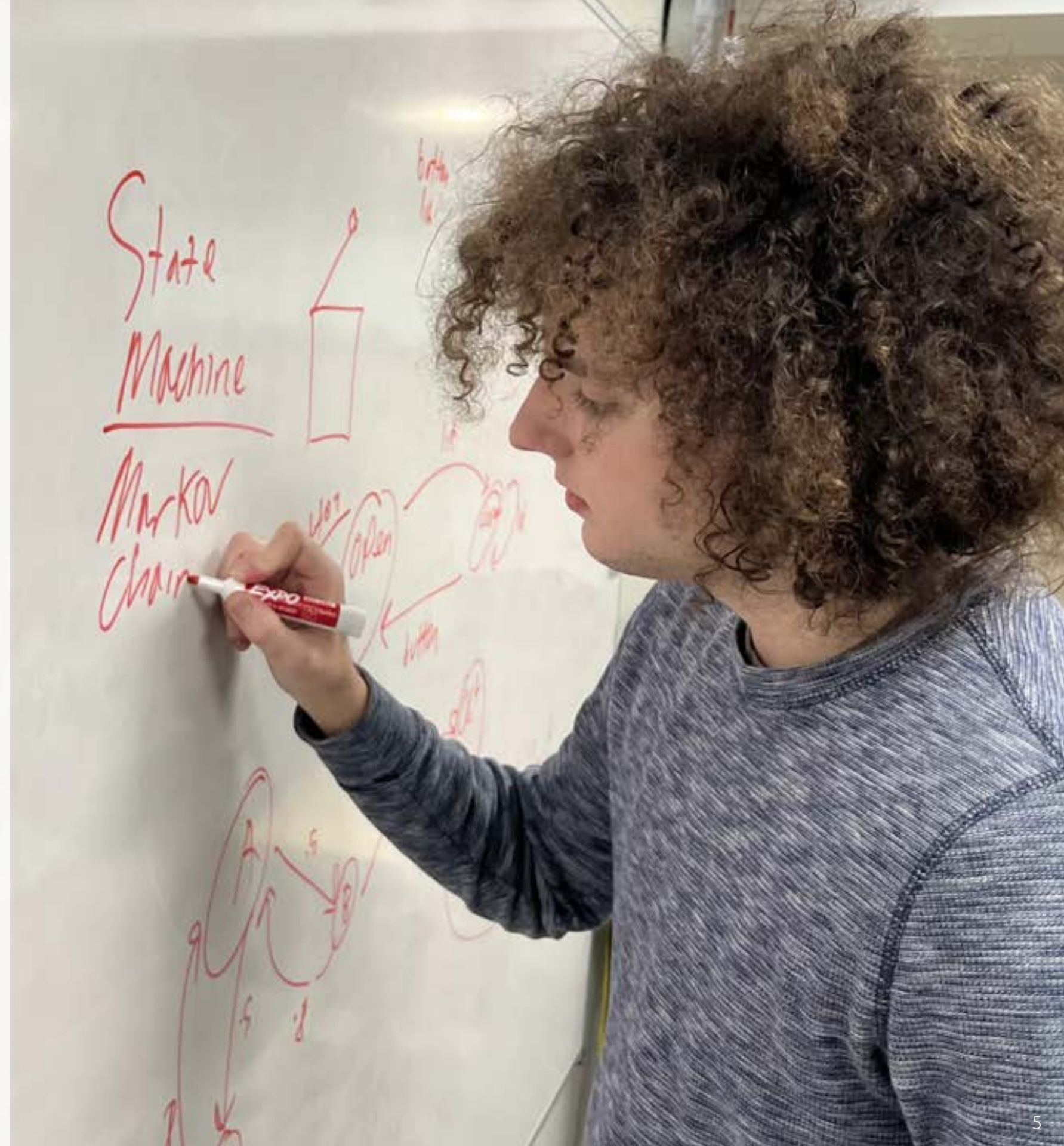
# Coding & Creativity at The New Community School

At The New Community School, we celebrate the spirit of creativity and individuality in education. Under the guidance of his teacher, Mr. Herringshaw, Lorenzo Mazzeo has embarked on an inspiring journey of independent study, showcasing the boundless possibilities when passion meets personalized learning.

Lorenzo's journey began with recreating the classic video game Frogger using the modern coding language C# (C Sharp). His determination and coding skills brought this iconic game back to life, highlighting that classics can stand the test of time. Next, he designed an original maze game with multiple levels, adding complexity and additional challenges for players. His third project ventured into the genre of real-time strategy games, creating a dynamic experience with multiplayer capability. Lorenzo's ability to bring people together through his creations was truly remarkable.

In his latest endeavor, Lorenzo is exploring the world of music by applying a Markov Chain construct to music composition. This innovative approach aims to produce video game music that evolves in real time, offering an endless auditory experience while playing the game. Lorenzo's exploration of the intersection between coding, music, and gaming exemplifies the limitless opportunities for creative expression at The New Community School.

Lorenzo's journey is a testament to the kind of experiences our students can have when they are encouraged to pursue their passions and think innovatively. At TNCS, we empower students to explore their interests, develop new skills, and find their unique voices. Mr. Herringshaw's mentorship has played a crucial role in Lorenzo's success, reflecting our educators' commitment to nurturing and supporting each student's individual path. We eagerly anticipate all our students' future endeavors and creative breakthroughs as they continue to push the boundaries of their own potential. •



# IMPACT math



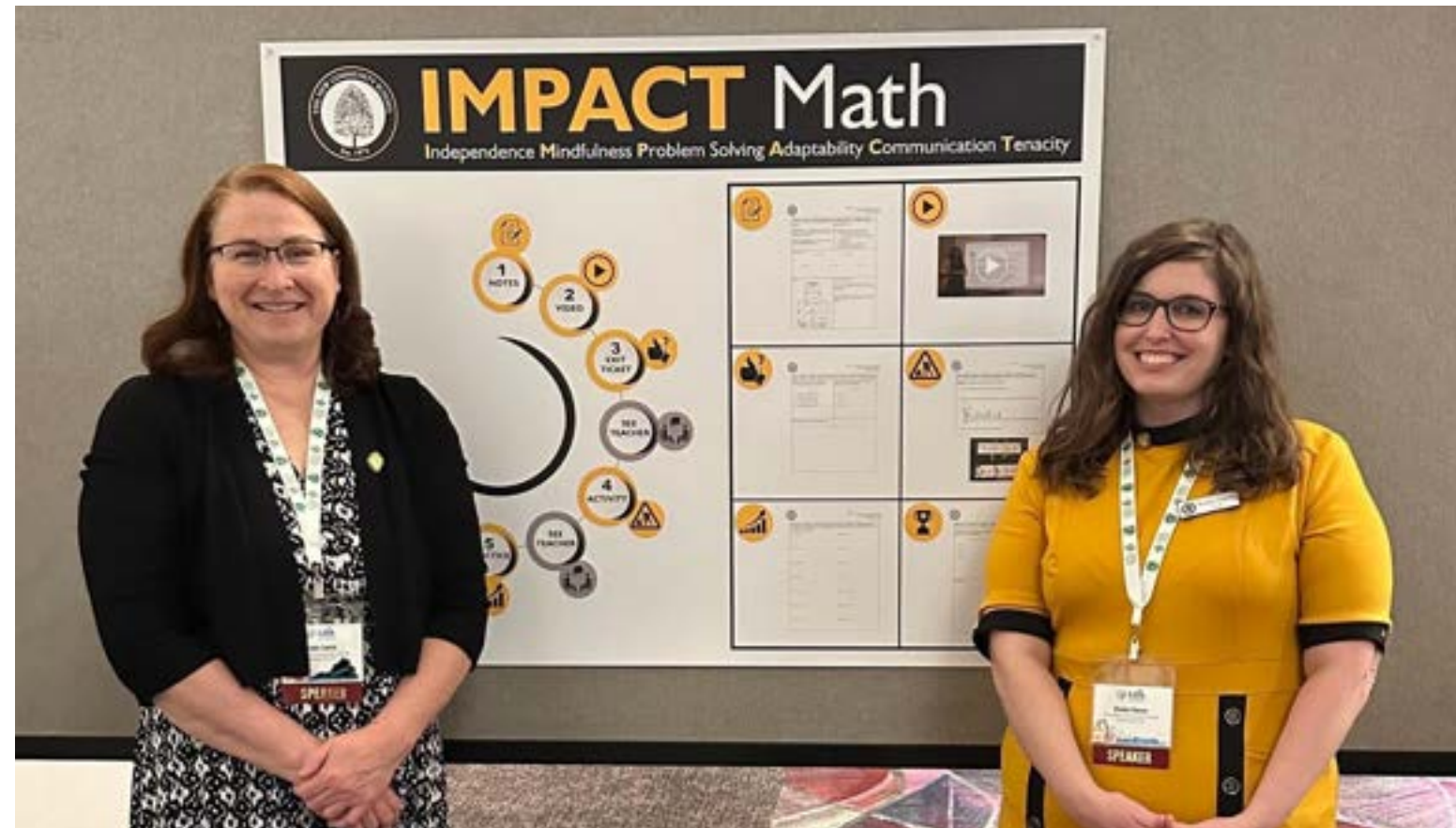
Middle school math education at TNCS took a transformative turn in 2019 with the introduction of IMPACT Math - a groundbreaking curriculum designed by The New Community School's middle school math teachers. IMPACT Math stands for Independence, Mindfulness, Problem Solving, Adaptability, Communication, and Tenacity, representing essential student skills integrated into this paradigm-shifting math education program.

IMPACT Math is not your traditional math curriculum. The program's innovative approach goes beyond conventional teaching methods, offering a personalized learning experience for students. At its core, IMPACT Math champions a personalized approach to math education. It is a self-paced program where students navigate their mathematical journey at their own speed, ensuring comprehensive understanding before progressing. The program's structure allows students to engage in various multisensory activities, from hands-on manipulatives to real-world applications, fostering a deeper connection with mathematical concepts.

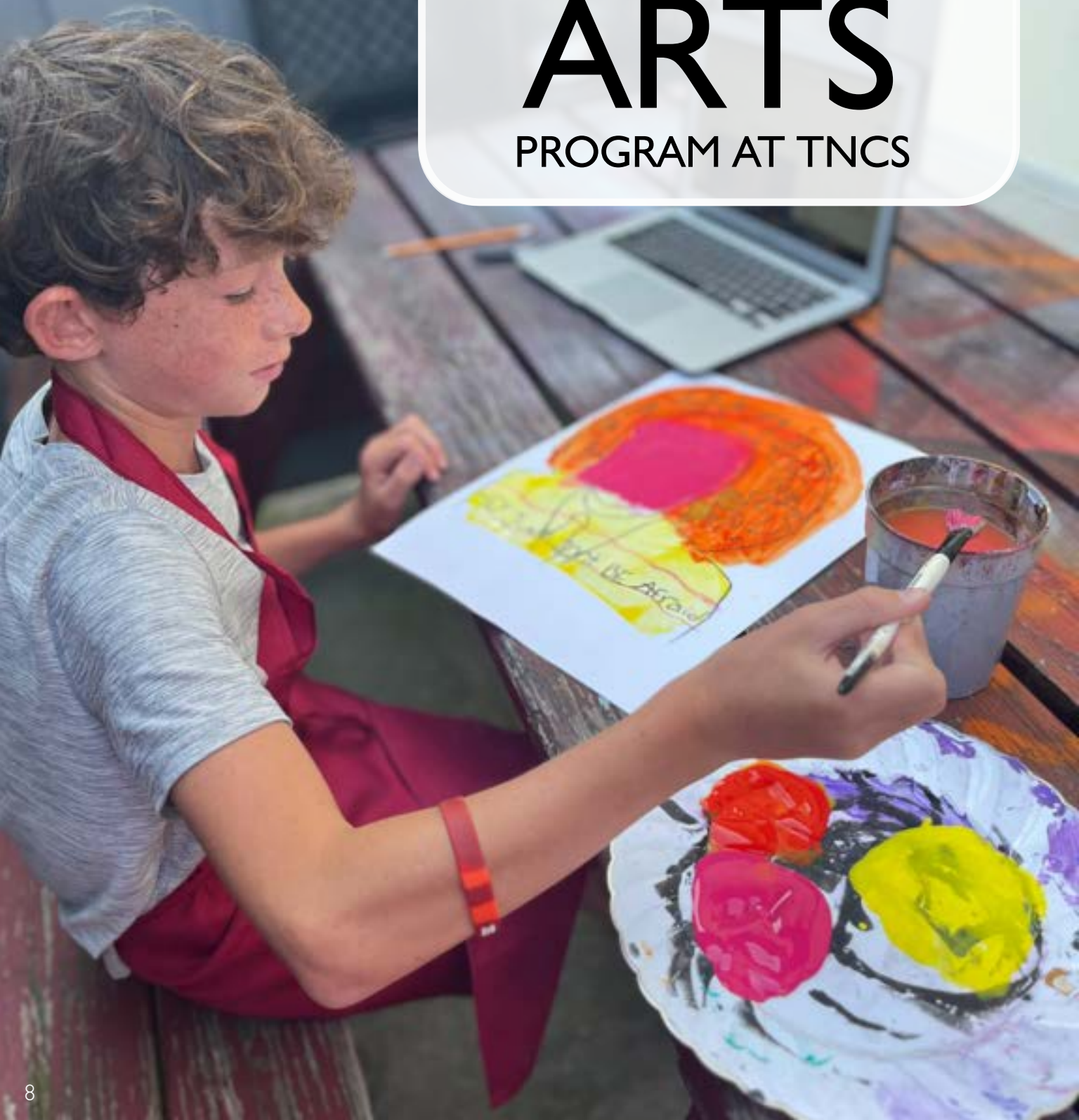
IMPACT Math is not just about teaching math; it's a comprehensive approach that embraces cross-curricular connections. In this innovative program, students embark on a global voyage where each country represents a different math topic. From exploring fractions in Mexico to delving into equations in England, this cross-curricular approach intertwines math with diverse cultural contexts, enriching students' understanding of mathematical concepts. IMPACT Math teacher Rachel Owens shares her insight into the impact of IMPACT Math, "Our students have blossomed into confident, engaged learners through this program. It's not just about numbers; it's about empowering them with skills that extend beyond the classroom."

In 2023, IMPACT Math teachers Cindy Smith and Rachel Owens shared the success of the program at two national conferences and one local conference. Through engaging presentations and insightful discussions, they demonstrated IMPACT Math's innovative methodologies, emphasizing customized instruction and empowering educators to adopt tailored teaching approaches for individual student needs. As IMPACT Math continues to redefine math education at The New Community School, it embodies the institution's mission to empower students challenged by dyslexia and related learning differences by fostering personalized learning experiences and enabling students to navigate their mathematical journeys at their own pace - "as fast as you can, as slow as you must." •

**I**ndependence **M**indfulness **P**roblem Solving **A**daptability **C**ommunication **T**enacity



# GROWTH OF THE FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAM AT TNCS



## GROWTH & EXPANSION

The Fine and Performing Arts program at The New Community School has grown in the last year. From captivating music performances at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens to the debut of our first middle school musical and continuation of our After-School Creative Experience (ACE), our students and faculty have showcased their talent and dedication. In addition, we've had the exciting initiation of our National Art Honors Society (NAHS) and the continuation of our International Thespian Society (ITS). Both of these organizations honor student achievements and commend the outstanding work of students in the realms of art, performance, and production.

Over the past five years, our Fine and Performing Arts program has undergone a remarkable transformation, expanding from a single full-time teacher to a team of five dedicated educators. This growth has shown a commitment from our art department and has provided a comprehensive arts education that enriches the lives of our students.

## CLASSES & CELEBRATION

The New Community School is proud to offer a diverse range of artistic paths as part of our curriculum, including various levels of photography, art, theatre, music, woodworking, and STEAM. This approach ensures that students can explore and develop their creative passions across multiple avenues, where they can have a well-rounded experience.

The expansion of our program speaks to how crucial artistic education is for our student population. It also reflects our school's dedication to our students expressing their artistic talents and desiring to succeed in a unique way. With a focus on excellence, creativity, and innovation, we are fostering an environment where students can flourish and express themselves through the transformative power of the arts.

On May 15, we will host our second annual end-of-the-year Celebration of the Arts. This special day brings together the fine, visual, and performing arts to showcase the diverse and exceptional work our community has produced throughout the year. Attendees will have the opportunity to experience a wide array of artistic endeavors including robotics, ceramics, woodworking, guitar performances, and much more. This celebration is a testament to the creativity and talent within our community.

## BEYOND

As we look forward to the future, we remain committed to the continual growth and enhancement of our Fine and Performing Arts program. Through ongoing initiatives, collaborations, and the unwavering support of our school community, we aim to further elevate the artistic experience for every student, inspiring a lifelong appreciation of the arts. •



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

## MICHAEL TROWNSELL'S JOURNEY AS A HISTORIAN AND STORYTELLER



Around campus and the greater central Virginia community, senior Michael Trowsell is well-known for his love of history and his ability to weave narratives and craft compelling stories through his documentaries and writing. His talent and enthusiasm for making the past come alive reached new heights last summer when Michael took part in the National History Day competition in Washington D.C. His documentary film, "The Frontier of Richmond: Battleground for Segregation," examined how Richmond neighborhoods emerged as the frontier for housing segregation in the early 1900s. His film was selected for the Student Documentary Showcase at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Michael's passion for history began to develop when he was a child, sparked by stories from his grandmother. He loved hearing her talk about her childhood in Richmond and he started to look at his environment and surroundings through the lens of a historian. He began viewing historical documentaries about a myriad of topics around age twelve, and became entranced with the components of visual storytelling as well as the subject matter. Around this time, Michael began producing and presenting his own films about history in a documentary titled "Communities Along The James." In the series, Michael travels from the headwaters of the James River to its mouth at Hampton Roads and visits various historic sites along the way. As Michael gained more experience, not only as a storyteller but also as a student of history, his films began to reflect a more analytical approach with a focus on a specific event. This coincided with his 8th grade year at The New Community School and his first National History Day competition with Ms. Noble.

Michael credits his history teachers at The New Community School for helping to develop his research skills. Michael's 8th grade history teacher, Ms. Noble, had high expectations for National History Day. Students spent weeks researching their topic and creating a product. Mr. Wise helped Michael continue to expand his research skills in 10th and 11th grades and encouraged him to pursue topics of particular interest to Michael, including the development of Richmond and Lewis Ginter, which led Michael to create his award-winning National History Day documentary last year. Mr. Carmichael has further challenged Michael by introducing him to new research tactics, enhancing his analysis of events, and improving his historical argumentation in papers. This year, he helped mentor current TNCS 8th graders during the first NHD research experience.

Recently, Michael has begun using his historical talent and research skills in other capacities beyond the classroom and NHD documentaries. In 2021, Michael began volunteering with the Goochland County Historical Society. He helps out-of-state visitors with genealogical research, assists with inquiries regarding historic properties, designs exhibits, and serves as a docent at historic sites. Michael also published an article in their annual academic journal about Reverend Anthony Gavin. There is only one other article written about Gavin, so Michael was able to further improve his historical research skills and handle original documents from

the 1740s. In May of 2023, Michael was appointed to the Virginia 250 Commission as its youngest member and was selected to serve as secretary and member of its executive committee. He records minutes at meetings, but often finds himself involved in a research capacity exploring British campaigns in Virginia. He recently helped review a piece prepared for the state commission's website to promote tourism.

Michael is indisputably already accomplished as a historian, and we look forward to seeing him continue to share his storytelling talents and masterful ability to bring Virginia's fascinating history to life. Michael plans on attending the College of William and Mary next year and pursuing a degree in history. •



# ERIC GOBBLE

## Inducted into the VISAA Hall of Fame



In October, Eric Gobble, TNCS Director of Athletics and Wellness, was inducted into the Virginia Independent School Athletic Association (VISAA) Hall of Fame. In his previous service to Trinity Episcopal School from 2003-2015, Eric resurrected the football program and led the Titans from 2004-2011. An Old Dominion Conference coach of the year and VISAA D-I coach of the year award winner, Gobble currently serves as secretary on the VISAA Executive Committee.

"Giving kids more experiences has always been more important to me than hanging banners," Gobble said. "It made it so easy for me to administer athletic programs that were inclusive and egalitarian because I knew that I had the support of the head of the school to make sure that those things happened."

Since arriving at The New Community School in Fall 2015 as Director of Athletics and Wellness, Eric was named the VIAAA Independent School Athletic Director of the Year in 2017, was instrumental in TNCS' membership in VISAA, and has guided the efforts in building new athletic facilities on campus.



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## Jacob Franco, G'20



### What is your best TNCS memory?

I loved playing soccer at TNCS and played all seven years I was there. The highlight of my TNCS soccer career was Senior Night, where I was the only senior soccer player, and all of my friends and family were there supporting me.

### What are you currently doing?

I am employed by Henrico County as a police officer and currently am completing my field training. I knew that college wasn't for me, so I decided I wanted to find a way to get into the workforce. I was able to work at Kings Dominion for their security office one summer and really enjoyed it. Following that position, I worked for the Virginia State Police as a dispatcher for one and a half years. In that role, I was sitting at a desk a lot, and I realized that wasn't for me. I wanted to be where the action was, so I entered the Henrico County Police Academy in February 2023. With 35 weeks of training, I have taken classes in law and completed trainings in firearms, driving, and officer safety.

### How do you feel TNCS prepared you for it?

TNCS gave me the strategies and skills to be able to study all of the material for each test I have had to take. I really relied on quizzing with a partner, which was something that always helped me at TNCS. I also review what we have done and then discuss it with a partner. As part of the program I have had to type notes each week, so the writing and typing of my notes has really helped me.

### If you could give one piece of advice to current students or parents what would it be?

Building a relationship with teachers is one of the most important things you can do at TNCS. Also, stick with it! Stay focused on your goals. In 6th grade I said I was going to be a police officer, and here I am today.

## JACOB FRANCO, G'20

Jacob Franco attended The New Community School starting in sixth grade and graduated in 2020. We enjoyed catching up with him to hear about his time at school and how it has shaped his life.



# grandparents & grandfriends day

On the Friday before Thanksgiving we welcomed over 250 guests to campus for our annual Grandparents and Grand-Friends Day. It was a morning filled with classroom visits, a senior student panel, musical performances, art displays, and much more. Students were able to show their guests around campus and enjoy time together, having a family photo taken and visiting with teachers and friends. Thank you to the Parents Association for providing coffee and hospitality for the event!



## SABER SUMMER Spectacular

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[admissions@tncs.org](mailto:admissions@tncs.org)

## ALUMNI:

We want to hear from you!  
 Do you have updates to share?  
 Send them to [alumni@tncs.org](mailto:alumni@tncs.org).

# Saber Scenes



Carson Gathright tries out his 3D printed boat made in Design Build Repeat class.

William Norman, Spencer Nouri, Kenton Sumner, Preston Cole, and Patrick Fabrie play a game of Life before comparing the game to real life in Personal Finance class.



Seniors Faye Wishnack and Alex Cox were invited for a "coffee house" style performance for the VAIS Executive Assistants Conference at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. Alongside music teacher David Chung, Wishnack and Cox sang and played guitar during lunch.



Haley Moore and Kate Pomeroy are glowing during the annual 9th Grade Late Night. It is a great evening of bonding for the class as they begin their first year in the Upper School.

Mrs. Riddle and Ani Hartman are all decked out in their festive wear for Wacky Wednesday during the holiday spirit week.

At the start of the school year, Preston Lewis and Anna Braga worked together on a marshmallow tower design challenge.

Halle Irvine and Elena Meier enjoy reminiscing on last school year after yearbooks were distributed.





4211 Hermitage Road  
Richmond, VA 23227

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SILENT AUCTION  
February 9-23

IN-PERSON EVENT  
February 23, 6:30pm

We are excited to hold the 4th annual Saber Soirée!  
Mark your calendar for this evening of merriment to benefit the students and programs of TNCS.

Tickets are \$100, or upgrade by becoming a Patron for \$250 and receive 2 tickets, recognition in the program and on the website, and 2 TNCS lowball souvenir glasses (while supplies last).

For more information and to purchase tickets visit:

[tncs.org/support/soiree2024](https://tncs.org/support/soiree2024)