



# REFLECTIONS

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## 130 Years of Service

Faculty gathered to honor our four retirees, (seated, L-R) Marsha Olson, Gita Morris, Donn Lancaster, and Doug Stannard, for their combined 130 years of service to TNCS.







Maggie, Zalika, and Hannah get ready for tubing fun on the annual ski trip.

Right: Ella, Kate, Kai, Michael, Josh, and Matthew are all dressed up for the Academic Awards Assembly.



# Reflections on the Year

by Nancy Foy, Head of School

As I reflect on this past school year, two words come to mind: celebration and gratitude.

The year began with the official opening of Founders Hall. The excitement in the air and the buzz of the student body was so gratifying. The building was no longer a dream. It was real and it was full of students! From that first day, we have optimally used every space in this new building. I love walking through the halls and finding groups of students in the collaborative spaces and the Trust and Try lounge. We have hosted over 300 business leaders for an “Encorepreneur” meeting, hosted the Dyslexia Simulation for the greater community, held open houses, and more, all in our Julia Ann Greenwood Commons. This building has become the centerpiece of our community. We are so grateful for the many people who partnered with us to make this dream come true!

We continued to celebrate this year in many ways. We had our largest student enrollment of 184, our largest faculty, and our largest graduating class, graduating 22 seniors. We expanded course offerings, athletics, and student life opportunities. Our 10th annual READ Art Show & Sale was a HUGE success. The Parents Association raised over \$106,000 to further support the school’s program. READ was recognized in Virginia Living Magazine as both the Best Art Event and Best Charity Event in our region! We were also voted the Best Independent School in the region, collectively ranking TNCS 1st in three different areas!

Our 2017-18 Annual Fund was another reason to celebrate, crossing a new threshold for TNCS by raising a record of over \$550,000.

This was the last year of service for four beloved faculty members. I tried to savor each interaction and day with these four very special educators. Donn Lancaster, Gita Morris, Marsha Olson, and Doug Stannard retired at the end of the school year. Collectively, they served our students for 130 years! A Retirement Open House was attended by more than 200 people representing all the decades our school has been open. That night, there was another celebration with the honorees, their families, our current faculty, and former and current trustees. For many of us, it was the highlight of the year!

We have also been looking to the future, working on our next strategic plan, as well as a master plan for our campus. We are asking the question, “What skills will our 2024 graduate need to be successful in a world that is ever changing?” Our students need our strong remediation program, as well as our challenging academics. They need to be identifying and building on their strengths, in addition to being well, both physically and emotionally. I am excited about the work we have begun and the work that will continue over the summer and through the next school year.

In a year in which we have had so much to celebrate, I am grateful to our students, who keep inspiring us to do our best work, our faculty, who meet our students where they are and work beside them to help them be their best selves, our parents, who trust us and share their children with us, and our donors, who make our work possible through their generosity. I am especially thankful for our four retirees who so selflessly gave of themselves for so many years. •



# Donn Lancaster



"I am a middle school teacher, and I am a wealthy man. I'm not rich in the sense of financial wealth. I'm rich because the experience of teaching has fundamentally changed me as a person."

- Donn Lancaster

Mr. L, then Dean of the Middle School, gathers students in Lancaster Commons for an activity, where Mr. Roy watches from the sidelines. "How do you thank a role model? Well, you do what they do, so I learned by watching him." -Josh Roy

## GROWTH MINDSET

Josh Roy, Science Teacher

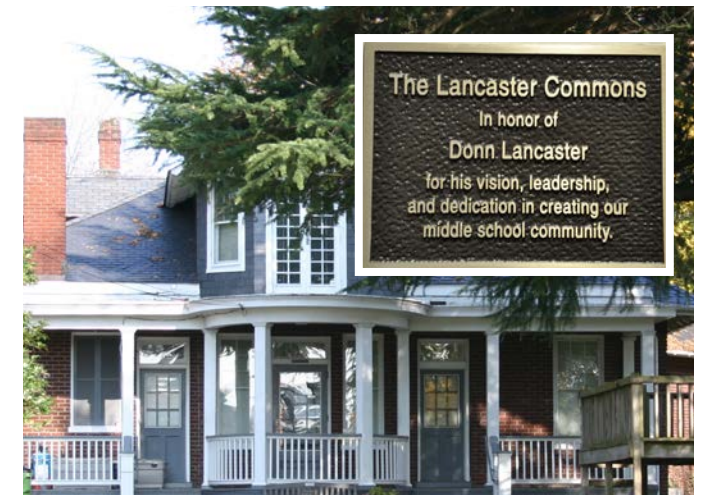
How do you thank someone who has been so many things to you? How do you thank someone who has given so much to this school for so many years? How do you thank someone who has helped so many young people build the habits that will serve them for their whole lives?

Donn was my mentor, my division director, my colleague, my coach... Behind all he has taught me (which is more than I can recount here) has always been the growth mindset. That life is about trying new things and having faith that you can always improve on even your biggest challenges...IF you are willing to give the effort.

Donn built the middle school. He laid the foundation of philosophy and culture. How do you thank him for these many years? You hold to the principles that he helped develop and test and improve and weed. We hold true to our middle school motto:

Watch your thoughts and words – they become your actions  
Watch your actions – they become your habits  
Watch your habits – they become your character.

We hold on to the core – trust and try. We always keep a growth mindset and try new things. We aren't afraid to fail or get messy just because we don't know what the outcome will be. •

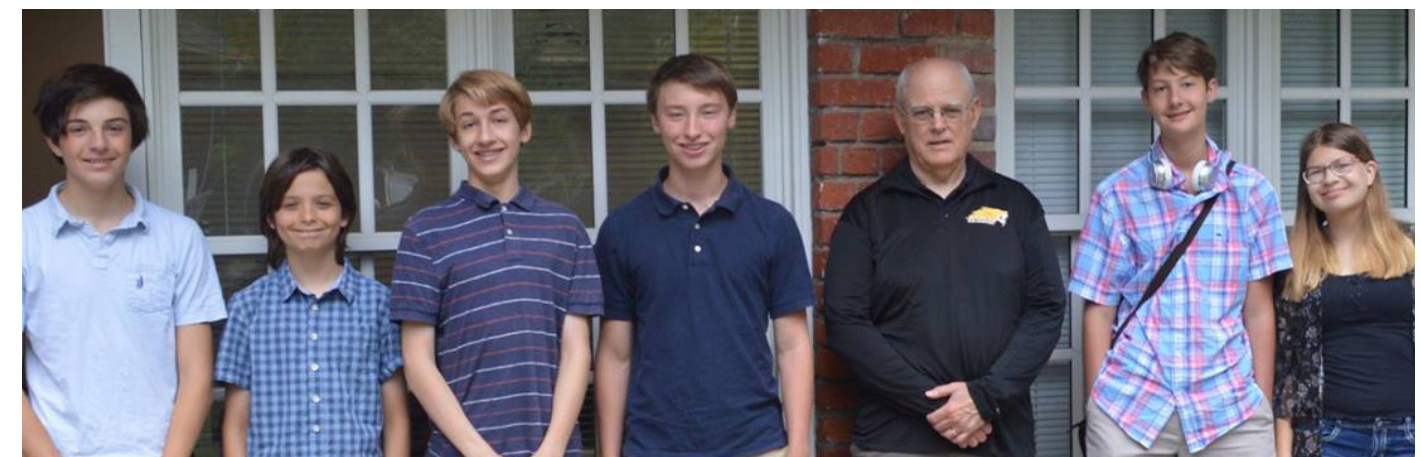


In 2013 the Middle School Commons was named in honor of Mr. L's leadership in creating our MS community.



Mr. L was also a longtime volleyball and basketball coach, pictured here with the 2017-18 MS volleyball team.

I can't overstate the impact Mr. L had on me as a teacher. He gave me the confidence I needed to succeed. I continue to try to follow his example. - Frank Hargrove, T'I I



Mr. L with Will, Charlie, Matthew, Fox, Andrew, and Sami, his 1st period 8th grade science class on the last day of school.



# Gita Morris



"I've had the opportunity to do a lot of different things here, and to me that's one of the exciting things about working at The New Community School." -Gita Morris

From the 1976-77 school year through 2017-18, Gita Morris served many roles, including history teacher and department chair, Director of Studies, basketball scorekeeper, National Honor Society advisor, student schedule mastermind, registrar, mentor, National History Day judge, and more.

Gita with Class of 2003 Valedictorian, Colin Burns.

## LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE

Craig Wilkinson, TNCS Class of 1981

Gita's decades of service to the students of TNCS leaves a legacy of excellence that continues in the lives and success of each student she taught. She challenged her students to strive to overcome obstacles while providing the support they needed to succeed. Gita never allowed us to use our dyslexia as an excuse to achieving our best. •



The former Arts & Humanities building has been renamed Morris Hall.



Craig Wilkinson, with wife Georgann, introducing Gita to their first child in 2001.

## A HIGH BAR

Julie Noble, TNCS History Teacher

Gita pushes those around her to not just do the work they've been assigned, but to achieve to the best of their ability and to push themselves to greatness. Her work ethic and devotion to TNCS set a high bar for the rest of us to follow. I know I am a better teacher because of Gita. •



Gita served as the faculty advisor for the National Honor Society, which began at TNCS in 2005 with 7 members: Jessica Milby, Sky Maeshiro, Andrew Slater, Kori Matteson, Emily Miller, Jared LaBello, and Trent Montague.



Gita Morris with Emma, Ben, Phil, Douglas, Rachel, Cole, and Olivia, her second period US Modern World History class, on the final day of school, June 4, 2018.



# Marsha Olson



The upstairs of Massey Hall, where Mrs. Olson spent many years teaching Language Fundamentals, has been named the Marsha Olson LF Suite.

Mrs. Olson shares a laugh with Chris in LF class on the last day of school 2018.

“I always wanted a job where I was giving back and I was going to make the world a better place.”  
-Marsha Olson

## FLASH CARDS

Adrian (Cleavenger) Johnson, Class of 2003

When I first started at New Community I wasn’t motivated to read or learn. I had just come from a school system that didn’t seem to care about me, so why should I care? I remember Mrs. Olson sitting down with me and asking me what topics interested me. I was surprised. I had never had a teacher ask me this question before. I told Mrs. Olson that I was interested in the medical field. What I was actually thinking at the time was that I lacked the confidence to be successful. She encouraged me to make flash cards and write the prefix, root, or suffix on one side and the meaning on the other. She helped fuel this interest I had and the more I learned the more intelligent and confident I felt about medical topics, but most importantly about myself. Using the confidence Mrs. Olson instilled in me, I went on to get my EMT certification the following year. I graduated from New Community as the salutatorian of my class, got my Bachelor’s degree from Bridgewater College, and then a Master’s Degree in the medical field, as Physician Assistant, from JMU. I have been practicing as an Emergency Medicine PA for 9 years now. I owe my specific interest in

reading and, most importantly, reading comprehension to Mrs. Olson’s guidance, creative teaching methods, and encouragement. She found a topic that I had a passion for and it helped create the foundation for my career. •



Adrian with Mrs. Olson and sister, Miranda (Cleavenger) Hall, Class of 2000



1988-89 new teacher orientation: Cynthia Petrie, Brenda Davis, Marsha Olson, and Amy Goode.



Mrs. Olson with Laura (Harler) Laehr and Katherine (Gold) Whitehead, both Class of 1993.

## YOU’VE GOT 10 MINUTES

Katherine (Gold) Whitehead, Class of 1993

Long before schools were spreading the word of the importance of “wellness” and “mindfulness” practices for their students, Mrs. Olson was practicing this on a daily basis with her students in her tiny little closet of a room on the second floor of Massey. This usually occurred on a Monday morning for the first 10 minutes of our allotted time for LF. Mrs. Olson could read us immediately... the way we walked in, held our heads, or by the volume of our voices. She would say to us “You’ve got 10 minutes” and everything we had bottled up inside about what was going on in our drama-filled teenage lives was released into this room that was SAFE. She would LISTEN. She would then give us advice on whatever was troubling us and we would LISTEN. After that allotted time, we would go on with our LF lesson and have the capacity to take it in. I can’t thank Mrs. Olson enough for what those three years did for me. She knew the importance of a healthy mind in order to grow. I feel so fortunate to have had her as my teacher and for my daughter to have had her 20 years later. •



# Doug Stannard



Labs 1 and 2 behind Massey Hall, where Mr. Stannard taught for decades, will now be known as the Stannard Science Labs.

Doug Stannard was a long-time and well-loved soccer coach. His brother and sister-in-law attended many games, stating "We had a special interest in the Varsity soccer team since Doug was the coach. He was always a very passionate coach but good sportsmanship, fair play, and team spirit were always crucial."

- Alan and Barb Stannard

Cover image: Mr. Stannard with seniors Ella, Arianna, Marian, and Sydni on the last day of classes.

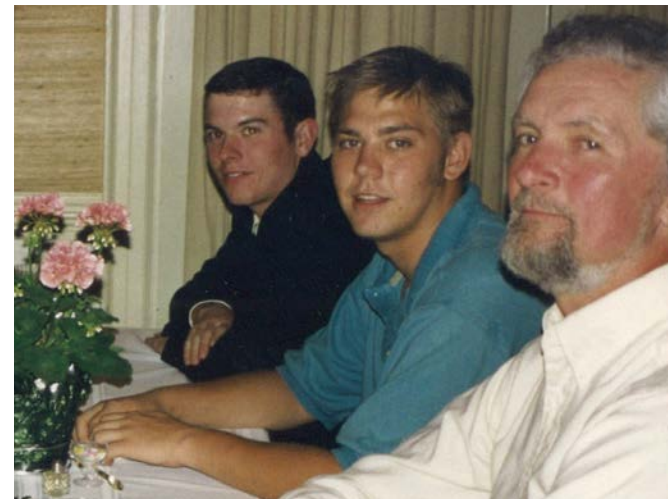


## TETHERED TOGETHER

Ryan Hickey, Class of 2000

Over the course of our relationship Doug Stannard has been a teacher, a coach, a role model, and evolved into a golf buddy. But more than anything else, a friend. In the classroom, he helped me understand more about science and chemistry, more than I ever dreamed possible. He helped me grasp things that had been completely incomprehensible to me in the past. His guidance on the soccer field had a tremendous impact on my life, not just during the soccer games, but in general. He helped me discover abilities I didn't think I had, and helped me develop confidence in those abilities. I think my experience with Doug as a soccer coach not only helped me discover and become more comfortable with who I am, but also pushed me beyond my comfort zone to become better - not just on the field, but also in life.

I recently heard a speaker who had overcome great difficulties in his life - Eric Weihenmayer. He talked about his experience as the first blind man to conquer Mount Everest. That it was possible because he was tethered to many others. People had his back and he had the back of his fellow climbers. He then carried that into life in general. How our lives are all tethered to people. People who have our backs and, in turn, we have their backs as well. And he noted that those people who are tethered to us are throughout our entire lives. He is right. Whether it's people you climb with, whether it's people you teach, whether it's people you learn from, we remain tethered. I am truly privileged to be tethered to The New Community School and to Doug Stannard. It is especially gratifying to me that my 6 years with Doug at TNCS has now become 24 years...and counting. •



Ryan Hickey and Mike Socha with Doug Stannard at their Senior Dinner in 2000.

At right: Doug, pictured with the 2018 cast of *Les Misérables*, played an instrumental role in the TNCS drama program.



## STANMAN

Dylan Yeargin, Class of 2011

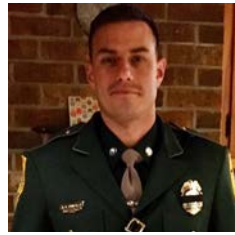
Mr. Stannard, aka Stanman, was one of my favorite teachers and coaches I have ever had in my life. I have never had a teacher help me so much in a class that I struggled in so much. He would make every class fun and always find a way to help me understand with his corny jokes. As a coach he helped mold me into a leader and even a better player. I will always remember our undefeated season and how he never gave up on me when I was struggling with life. I owe a lot of my leadership skills to him because he helped me believe in my abilities as a player, as well as a leader. •



In 2010, Mr. Stannard watches a soccer game with Dylan Yeargin, Lewis Gutierrez, Gabe Palais, and Joel Elmore.



# Saber Updates



**Aramus Caraballo, G'98**, after serving in the military, has joined the New Hampshire State Police as part of their SWAT Team. Aramus is the proud father of 4 year old son, Graydon, and 9 year old stepson, Caleb.



**Lana Sachs, G'14** graduated from Lees-McRae College with a degree in Criminal Justice and a minor in Wildlife Biology.



**Sarah Hassell Webster, G'92** graduated with a BS in Criminal Justice, with a minor in Psychology, from The College of Saint Rose in 2018. Sarah has accepted a new job as a Care Manager with the St. Anne Institute.



**Aimee Grindon**, former TNCS Director of Development, and husband David welcomed their first child, Violet Mae to their family on Mother's Day. The family of three reside in Maine.

**Hunter LeCompte, T'99**, and wife Stephanie welcomed their third child, Tyson Marie Hunter LeCompte on July 2.

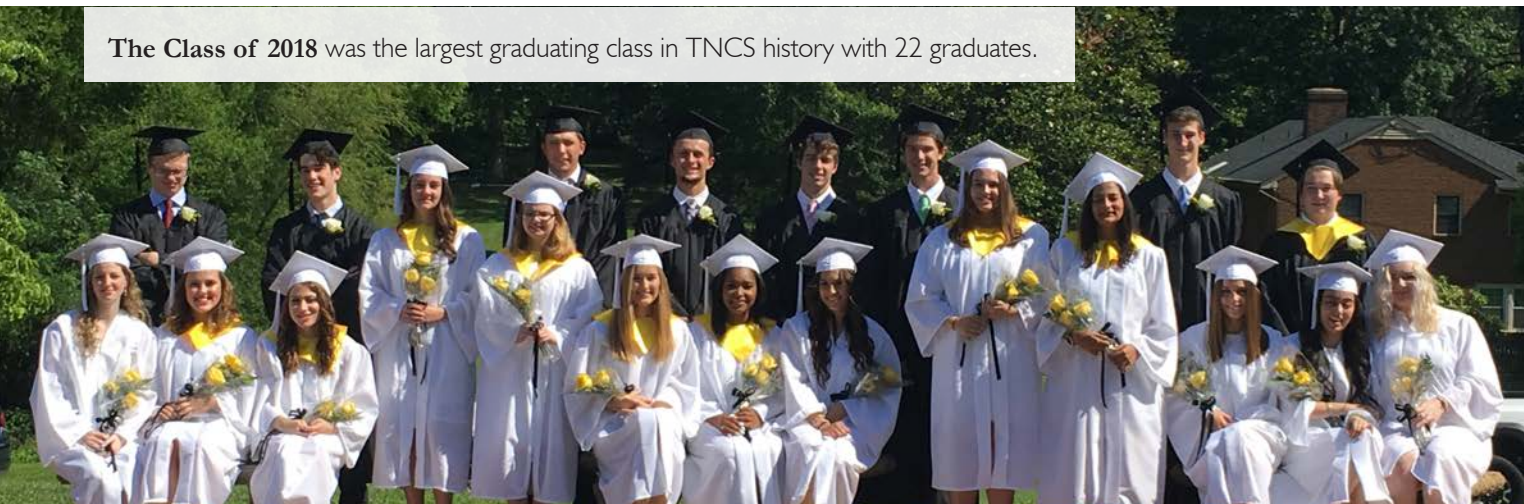
**Andrew Slater, G'07** received a Master's degree in Cultural Sustainability. This is his second Master's degree.



**Tommy St. Clair and Phil Martter, both G'16**, came back to campus to film interviews with the four retirees. To see the video visit: [tncs.org/retirement](http://tncs.org/retirement).

**Do you have updates to share? Send them to [info@tncs.org](mailto:info@tncs.org)!**

The Class of 2018 was the largest graduating class in TNCS history with 22 graduates.



COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES: Bridgewater College, Coastal Carolina University, College of Charleston\*, Drexel University\*, Eckerd College, Ferrum College, Florida Atlantic University, George Mason University, Goucher College, J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College\*, James Madison University\*, John Tyler Community College\*, La Salle University, Lipscomb College, Long Island University Brooklyn, Longwood University\*, Lynchburg College, Marshall University\*, Mary Washington University\*, Marymount University, Meredith College\*, Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture, Old Dominion University, Radford University\*\*\*, Randolph College\*, Randolph-Macon College\*\*, Roanoke College, Rutgers University - Newark, Savannah College of Art and Design\*, Suffolk University, University of Tampa, University of the Sciences, Virginia Commonwealth University\*, Virginia Wesleyan College

\* attending

# READ Art Show & Sale



The 10th annual READ Art Show & Sale was a resounding success, boasting increases in every area: art sales, sponsorships, and attendance. Approximately 400 people attended the show Friday night and Saturday, purchasing almost 300 pieces of art. The show net a record breaking over \$106,000, all of which will go directly to TNCS. The school is very grateful to our Parents Association for an incredible amount of talent, hours worked, and limitless energy they give each year to make this event happen. READ was honored this year to be voted by readers of Virginia Living Magazine as the Best Charity Event and the Best Art Event in Central Virginia.



Committee members Kary Browne, Betsy Bray, Vicki Bray (top left) and Rita Stocks (top right) celebrate a job well done at the Opening Reception. Bottom: Committee member Kristen Goode joins past Chair Barbara Crosby and the Honorary Host Committee, all former READ leadership: Kim Kerr, Laura Bland, Ellen Bojarski, Susan Dull, Susie Trigg, and Cathy Whitty (not pictured: Julia Calamita).

# READ



# Saber Scenes



Alumnus Sean McCarty, Class of 2013, attended the Retirement Open House to extend good wishes to favorite teachers.

Julia Ann Greenwood greets Donn Lancaster and congratulates him on his retirement. Julia Ann retired as TNCS Head of School in 2012.

Many alumni attended the Open House and enjoyed catching up with classmates and former teachers, introducing their families, and exploring campus.



Charlie, Sami, Halle, Andrew, Will, Jacob, and Anna pose in the photo booth at the Middle School dance.

The Junior class had a great time visiting colleges on the Junior College Trip. They visited Radford University, Roanoke College, and Lynchburg College.

Caroline tries her skills at archery at the end of year celebration trip to Camp Friendship.

Juniors and Seniors enjoyed their 2018 Prom, which they chose to have on campus in Greenwood Commons.







For the second year in a row, TNCS junior Odin finished in the Top 10 of the 60 golfers invited to play in the Division 2 VISAA (Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association) State Golf Championship. For this achievement, Odin was named to the VISAA All State Golf Team for 2018. Pictured with Eric Gobble, Director of Athletics.



The 5k Training Team's second year was very popular with over 30 students participating.

Katie and Morgan were decked out from head to toe in pink for Spirit Week's "Pink Out" day. Students wore pink and collected donations for breast cancer awareness. Over \$200 was raised.

8th graders received recognition for their hard work in Middle School at their Moving Up Ceremony.



Megan, Dylan, Michael, and Hannah spent a Saturday volunteering for Houlagan's Rest with other MS students and teachers by walking dogs at Stony Point Fashion Park.

Adam, Nicholas, Ryan, Anne, and Hallie get ready to test their catapult in 9th grade World History.

In March, field day teams, consisting of a mix of US and MS students, competed in our first Battle of the Books competition. Here, Matthew shares his thoughts with his team, led by senior Will Goode.

Yoga Club, led by Mr. Morgan, enjoys a beautiful spring day in Humphrey Courtyard.







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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Voted by Virginia Living Magazine readers for Central Virginia:



**Best  
Independent  
School**



**Best  
Art Event**

READ Art Show & Sale



**Best  
Charity Event**

READ Art Show & Sale

The New Community School  
Charitable Foundation

THANK YOU!