



Thomas Heyward Academy

ALUMNI

Newsletter

October 2023

First Impressions

We asked new Head of School Scott Gibson III to share his first impressions of Thomas Heyward Academy. He began by saying he is struck by the work ethic of the faculty, staff, and parents. "When something needs to be done, no need to ask for help—faculty and staff members and parents simply step up and get the job done. That doesn't happen at all schools." Commenting on loyalty, Col Gibson noted, "I find I am among the few employees here who is not a member of the alumni," said Col Gibson. "Take Von in the front office, for example. She attended THA, her son attended THA and is on the Board, and her grandchildren all go here. That sort of legacy gives our school great strength." Finally, Col Gibson mentioned, "I keep in touch with Mr. Rogers, a fellow Citadel graduate. His positive influence will always remain a source of strength here. However, something tells me I might not be able to match his 37 years of service!"

New Look Around Campus

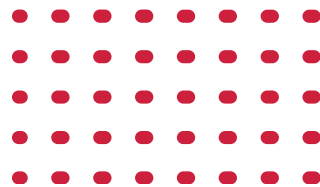
Over the last few months, THA staff have been working hard to make improvements around the campus. Our front lobby was transformed with a new look featuring paneling and historical flags. Wood flooring was added in administration offices. Our art room, recently moved into the high school hall, was upgraded with sinks and cabinets. LED lighting replaced our fluorescent lighting in hallways, and our teacher's lounge was upgraded. As a final touch, we re-stripped our parking lot for a sharper image--drop by and have a look!



Gateway to THA



Our Gateway to THA program (K1-K3) recently received a playground makeover. The playground was resurfaced and new play equipment was added for our youngest students. Recently, our Gateway Director, Kandi Hewlett, wrote and won a grant of \$50,000. This will allow us to purchase and install shade for the playground as well as outdoor classroom and cushioning materials.



Student Spotlight

Tony O'Banner is a sophomore at THA. As a captain of our varsity football team and a great academic student, Tony is paving a successful future for himself. Officials at universities including Clemson, Kentucky, South Carolina, and Liberty are keeping a close eye on him. Go, Tony!



Fall Sports @ THA



As we gear up for another academic year, it's important to remember the significance of sports in our school life. Along with football and volleyball, we have added cross-country to the fall season.



Our Varsity football began this season with Head Coach Tony McGeary. Coach McGeary graduated from THA in 1982. He has led our team to a 5-3 season so far with a Region title matchup with Patrick Henry Academy on October 28. Our Varsity Rebels will be headed to the playoffs on November 4.

Our Varsity volleyball team, coached by Alicia Crosby, ended the season with a trip to the State Championship. The Lady Rebels played on October 20 in Myrtle Beach, SC as a number three-seed team. They played a double-elimination match against Marlboro Academy.

Cross-Country with the leadership and coaching of Col Scott Gibson III finished second in the region race as a first year program. The team has seven male runners and competed in four large meets. Jaden Powell earned a medal as one of the top ten finishers on October 18th, and all runners ran their best times of the season at the same meet! The team participates in SCISA Finals at Heathwood Hall on October 28.



THA's cheer team assisted with the mini cheer event again this year. We had 42 mini-cheerleaders, a seven-year record. Our competition cheer team competes several times in October and will head to the state finals in November!

We're Growing!



Our enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year has significantly grown. We ended last year with 311, and we currently enroll 323 students--highest enrollment in 11 years.

We have added a HOSA Club this year for students who want to learn more about health occupations. Meeting monthly, students learn more than just about health careers but also how to become better leaders in today's world.

