

# Thomasville City Schools

## Champions Chronicle

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### Welcome to the Thomasville City Schools Family!



## Message from Mr. Heard

Thomasville City Schools newest employees engaged in IMPACT training to learn procedures in anticipation of the 2019-2020 school year. Food service employees, bus drivers, teachers, and central office personnel were welcomed to the District of Champions.

Thomasville City Family,

The 2019-20 School Year is off to a fantastic start. We are in full swing both academically, athletically and in the arts, as we complete our first month of school.

We have many exciting things occurring in our system. The Board of Education recently approved a major renovation for our tennis courts, as well as, are in the process of choosing the next Superintendent to continue to lead Thomasville City Schools.

As always, our administration, teachers, and staff continue to work diligently each day to offer our students a well rounded, first class educational experience. In short, it's a great time to be a Bulldog! We urge everyone to come and see what we have to offer.

Go Dogs!!  
Lance Heard  
Interim Superintendent  
Thomasville City Schools



# Teachers Inspired for School Year Start



## Thomasville City Schools' week of planning and Open House events culminated in a district-wide meeting where teachers left inspired and motivated to dive into the 2019-20 school year.

Interim Superintendent Lance Heard served as the bookends of the meeting by introducing himself to the district and later closed the meeting with glowing compliments about the outstanding accomplishments of Thomasville City Schools that he has witnessed thus far. Heard pointed out that the district's CCRPI score is above the state average and described the athletics program as "second to none."

Heard also charged teachers and administrators to give their best efforts every single day, which will lead to all outcomes "getting a little bit better each day."

Thomasville High School's Principal Dr. Shannon Norfleet was presented with a United States flag by Lindy Savelle, a retired federal law enforcement agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Defense Criminal Investigative Service (DCIS), and the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR). Savelle grew up in Mitchell County and currently resides in Thomas County.

The flag was flown on April 6, 2019, at the United States Embassy in Afghanistan in memory of two Thomasville City Schools' students who lost their lives in the 2018-19 school year: Levi Knop and Harrison Hooks. Savelle had been approached by Thomasville High School and Scholars Academy teacher Dale Kelly about the need for a flag in the THS Cafeteria.

"I said that I would be very honored to fly a flag for Thomasville High School," said Savelle. "I was also asked by the officer what the hashtag, #ThomasvilleStrong, on the certificate meant."

Savelle told how she had the privilege of

sharing with the United States Marine Corps Sergeant who raised the flag about her "Live Like Levi" t-shirt and wearing red and black to honor the memory of Harrison when she heard about the tragic events while she was in Afghanistan. Savelle went on to compare the heroic labels that are given to military and law enforcement with the heroic deeds that take place daily with teachers and students in the classroom.

"Teachers make the sacrifices and often ask for and get nothing in return," said Savelle.

Next, Thomasville City Schools' 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year Barbara Peralta was recognized and given the keys to a new Jeep, courtesy of Thomasville Chrysler Jeep Ram. Peralta will be allowed to drive the new vehicle for the first half of the school year.

The keynote speaker for the meeting was motivational speaker Dave Weber ([www.daveweber.com](http://www.daveweber.com)). Weber's "Sticks and Stones Exposed" overarching message about relationship-building and communication was honest and inspiring.

"Words impact relationships, relationships impact culture, and culture impacts results," said Weber.

Weber's topics were critical to the success of any organization such as unity in an atmosphere of trust, support, and honesty. Educational terms like "Learning Community" were examined to point out that the strength of a community of people lends itself to ease of learning.

Teachers and administrators were encouraged to look for ways to praise those in their lives and watch to see the impact of the affirmation.



**Thomasville City Schools**  
**2018-2019 Thomasville High School & Scholars Academy**  
**Advanced Placement Scholars**



**Thomasville High School and Scholars Academy has again surpassed its own record to reach 63 Advanced Placement Scholar Awards, including an unprecedented 8 National AP Scholars, given to 55 students in recognition of their exceptional achievement on College Board's Advanced Placement exams.**

Class of 2019 graduates Louis Carter, Emily Dixon, Spencer Harbin, Tyla Joseph, Claudia-Michele White, Seth Wier, and Mason Wilson; and current senior Braxton Sizemore have been named *National AP Scholars*, which is granted to students in the United States who receive an average score of at least 4 or higher on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on 8 or more exams.

Fall of 2019, Carter entered University of Georgia; Dixon entered University of Richmond, Harbin entered University of Georgia, Joseph entered Southern Regional Technical College, White entered University of Georgia, Wier entered University of Georgia, and Wilson entered University of Virginia. Sizemore is a Class of 2020 senior and was named Academic Leader of his junior class.

Class of 2019 graduates John Carpenter, Louis Carter, Emily Dixon, Spencer Harbin, Tyla Joseph, Christian Pyle, Mason West, Claudia-Michele White, Seth Wier, and Mason Wilson; current seniors James Winston Cornish, Jack Edge, Emma Humphries, Kaitlyn Kasper, Braxton Sizemore, and Max White; and current junior Clara Clifton qualify for the *AP Scholar with Distinction Award* by earning an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on five or more exams.

Class of 2019 graduates Brayton Hanna and Sydney McKay; and current seniors Elijah Humphries and Peyton Owens; and current juniors Lawson Brinkley, Caroline Hiers, Kinsey Kelley, Maggie May, Ella Millere, and Thomas Wilson qualify for the *AP Scholar with Honor Award* by earning an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

Class of 2019 graduates Cassidy Clark, Isabel Claudio-Mirabal, Kian Benjamin Dozier, Frederick Drayton, LaTatyana Hadley, Christina Kato, Bowen Miller, Keisha Patel, Erin Quick, Miranda Roberson, Kianna Ross, Jemari Sapp, Amber Sarabia, Olivia Sawyer, Maura Shiner, and Brianna London Weier; current seniors Jacob Bradshaw, Whitman Fennell, Kathleen Geyer, Emmy Hayes, Jett Kiminas, Kelly Lane McDougald, and Preston Page; and current juniors David Lee Jordan, Mauri Leroux, Aiden Little, Sara Strickland, and Abigale White all qualify for the *AP Scholar Award* by completing three or more AP Exams with scores of 3 or higher.

Ashley Ivey-Jackson, who teaches AP Studio Art and AP Art History, notices a common work ethic in students who succeed in on AP exams.

"These students realize that it takes effort on their part with research and reading beyond the notes given in class to do well in an Advanced Placement class," said Ivey-Jackson.

Betty Elkins teaches AP English Language.

"Our students are not afraid to tackle rigorous coursework, and it is amazing to watch their progress from August to May," said Elkins.

Scholars Academy Director Jeanene Wallace agrees that the Advanced Placement courses are

rigorous, but teachers provide the level of instruction and support to give students the skills and confidence to score well.

"At Scholars Academy, we encourage every child to take the exams in their AP classes; we don't select or hand-pick those to test. The preparation we provide along with the expectation and culture of success consistently produces a large number of AP Scholars," said Wallace.

Scholars Academy has accumulated 16 *National AP Scholars*. The 8 previous *National AP Scholar* Thomasville City Schools graduates continued their studies at a variety of institutions: Shradha Patel (United States Naval Academy), Felix Edwards (Amherst College), Milo St. Ives (University of Georgia), Sharon Autry (University of Georgia), Aaron Bellamy (Georgia College and State University), Jacob Rieber (University of Pennsylvania), Rebecca Jane White (United States Naval Academy), and Asa Harbin (Georgia Institute of Technology).

Scholars Academy Guidance Counselor Marcie West explains that Advanced Placement courses serve a dual purpose for students: the opportunity to experience the rigor of college classes and to select courses that are necessary to gain acceptance into competitive colleges.

"Because of the national acceptance of AP, we encourage all students to take the AP tests at the end of the year. Ninety-five percent of our students earn an AP score that awards them college credit. In many cases Scholars Academy students earn up to eight hours of college credit per AP course and test," added West.

Students achieving AP Scholar Awards have the remaining time in high school to complete additional AP exams to increase their standings as AP Scholars. Academy students begin taking AP classes in the 9th grade so that they can take full advantage of the school's wide offerings of twenty-one AP courses which go beyond the typical four academic subject areas. AP courses in foreign languages and visual arts expand the choices for students.

AP Environmental Science teacher Robert Peterson notes that these students have learned to manage their workload to be able to complete the work and hold a busy extracurricular schedule. "All of them have a drive to be successful and it shows in their work ethic," said Peterson.

AP Literature teacher Lynn Stowers defines a skill that sets apart the best AP students.

"One thing which is very helpful in AP Literature is the ability to understand the nuance of what the author is saying. Well-written literature always gives the reader hints of a deeper level of meaning. The ability to sense that deeper level can make the difference between just barely passing and doing really well," said Stowers.

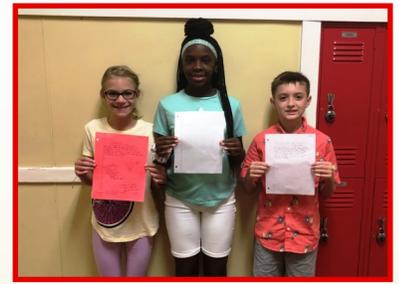
College Board's AP Program provides willing and academically prepared students the opportunity to earn college credit or advanced placement and stand out in the college admission process. Each exam is developed by a committee of college and university faculty and AP teachers, ensuring that AP Exams are aligned with the same high standards expected by faculty at the nation's leading liberal arts and research institutions.



Three Thomasville High School AFJROTC cadets taught three MPMS students how to raise, lower, fold, and care for the United States flag. MPMS Principal Courtney Davenport contacted M. Sgt. Chad Smith to report that his "flag team" had graduated from MPMS, so he needed another team trained. THS AFJROTC immediately stepped in to provide an Awareness Presentation Team (APT) session. Pictured: Nigel Pittman, Cadet Lt Col Jarrett Daniel, Iyannah Mills, Cadet 1st Lt Jack Wood, Cadet MSgt Ben Bennett, and Geremiah Humbert.



Thomasville City Schools leaders and advocates gathered at the L4GA Data Summit held in Athens, Georgia, on June 27-28, 2019. Literacy for Learning, Living and Leading in Georgia (L4GA) Grant funds were sub-granted to 38 districts through a state grant competition and are allocated for students in schools within a feeder system (including birth-age 5 childcare providers and elementary, middle, and high schools). In the spring of 2018, Thomasville City Schools was awarded a \$1.14 million grant to improve literacy. L4GA Data Summit attendees networked with other grantees and refined the district and school literacy plans. Community survey results were presented that provided a clear indication that Thomasville City Schools have strong connections with the community. Pictured: Melvin Hugans, Christopher Merritt, Dr. Artez Sims, Dana Rollins, Jordan Williams, Julia Bailey, Katie McCloud, and Katie Chastain.



Middle school students in Katina Stewart's Thomasville City Scholars Academy Advanced English classes decided to send encouragement and wrote letters to soldiers in training who are not receiving any mail or support from home. Pictured: Addison Lester, Chassidy Mascoe and Travis Williams. Caption: Stewart's students composed 100 letters that were sent to Fort Jackson, South Carolina.



Thomasville High School Yearbook Adviser and Editor-in-Chief, Desiree Celaya and Molly Novak, attended Josten's Auburn University Summer Yearbook Workshop, learned new editing software, developed the theme, and met with professional a graphic design artist to lay the groundwork for *The Pines 2020* cover design. Celaya and Novak were awarded "Excellence in Cover Design" at the workshop what was attended by 40 schools registered with 200 participants from 4 states.



THS senior Maylon Cochran (pictured third from the left) was one of four student-athletes throughout the state of Georgia to represent the Georgia High School Association in Indianapolis at the National Student Leadership Summit on July 22-24, 2019. This is the second straight year a Thomasville Bulldog has represented the GHSAA. Senior Lindsey Tillman represented the Georgia High School Association in 2018. Cochran is a three-year starter second base for the Bulldogs and has also participated in football for three years.



Thomasville High School AFJROTC color guard under the direction of Master Sergeant Chad Smith presented the colors for the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine of South Georgia on Tuesday, August 6, 2019. Georgia Governor Brian Kemp addressed attendees at the historical event as the first four-year medical school in Southwest Georgia opened its doors. Pictured: MSgt Chad Smith, Cadet Major Shemekia Clark, Cadet 1st Lt Edward Ford, Governor Brian Kemp, Cadet Lt Col Jarrett Daniel, Cadet 1st Lt Jordan Bonar, and Cadet MSgt Ben Bennett.



Katey Harwood and Henry McDonald, freshmen in Jamie Gammel's Scholars Academy class first measure and then move on to sketch a crime scene in Principals of Biomedical Science.



Janet Cable's THS Peer Leadership students made tie-dyed t-shirts in preparation for the theme of the season-opening home football game against Cairo. Pictured: Lemoni Burkes, Serenity Williams, Cable, Brionna Hugans, Alivia Corker, Armani Miller, Ja'Keyeria Mills, and Shanterka Underwood.



## Skill Building is Real at THS

Thomasville High School's welding program has increased six-fold from last school year, and Southern Regional Technical College Instructor Carl Kemper is embracing the numbers with enthusiasm.

Kemper, who's in his tenth year of teaching welding and holds a Masters in Science Education from University of Georgia, enjoys welding in his time outside of the classroom.

"I'm not anti-college. I advise students to get an education while finding out what you love to do," said Kemper.

Sophomore Joseph Lindquist decided to enroll in welding just because he thought it would be a fun thing to do.

"I realized after I got in the class that it's harder than I thought it would be. It is very precise," said Lindquist.

According to the Georgia Department of Education: Upon completion of sequenced courses in the Welding Career Pathway, students are eligible to complete the Industry-Recognized student credential for fulfillment of the End of Pathway Assessment. Secondary students completing the Welding pathway will be able to sit for the National Industry Credentialed assessment offered on-line



from AWS, NCCER, NOCTI and SkillsUSA. Once mastery is reached, students will receive recognition for completion and use this credential in conjunction with their job or continuing training (gadoe.org).

Kemper took his students to competitions such as Skills Challenge and to field trips to local businesses like Cleaver-Brooks last year. He plans to add even more opportunities for students to compete and experience real-life welding.

Jikiem Thomas is a senior and he knew that he already liked welding because he has a history of the career in his family.

"Now that I'm doing it, I've fallen in love with it and I'm going to be the best that I can be," said Thomas.

Natural hand-eye coordination increases a student's chances for success in the field of welding according to Kemper.

"This is like learning to play the piano or the guitar. Many of my naturally-talented athletes do really well," said Kemper.

Students learn three welding processes: stick, mig, and tig. Kemper says that his students are employable within one year by earning certificates along the way.

Whitt Wetherington decided that the class was a good choice because he thought that it might help him out in the future.

"I thought it would just be welding; but I'm cutting metals and learning about different tanks, torches, and types of welding," said Wetherington.

Thomasville High School CTAE Coordinator Shamane Taylor feels very positive about the program.

"I can only see it just growing and growing," said Taylor.

Georgia DOE reports employment of welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers is expected to grow 15 percent from 2010 to 2020. Growth reflects the need for welders in manufacturing because of the importance of welding in the manufacturing process.

## Intro to Construction Yields Practical Products



Scholars Academy students strap their safety goggles on for Charles Gammel's hands-on elective, Introduction to Construction. A variety of ages come together to build sets for drama productions, build podiums for teachers, and a display case for a U.S. flag that was flown on at the United States Embassy in Afghanistan. THS Principal Dr. Shannon Norfleet (far left) and Assistant Principal Jordan Williams (far right) accepted the flag and the certificate explaining the significance of the flag and its dedication.



# Jerger Sells THANKS Tickets



Jerger Elementary students will be out in force over Labor Day weekend as Thomasville City Schools kicked off its annual THANKS Ticket fundraiser on August 23, 2019. By teaming with generous local sponsors, the credit card-sized discount card now holds more special offers than ever before while continuing to maintain the inexpensive \$5.00 price tag.

"THANKS Tickets are a win-win for the school and the community. Area residents have the opportunity to enjoy a variety of discount opportunities. The schools benefit by earning money for the purchase of new or updated technology and other resources throughout the year," said Principal Lawana Rayburn.

Students were sent home with packets containing a list of businesses included on the discount card and fundraising tips to help increase sales while keeping the students safe. District cash prizes for the top three individuals and Jerger participation prizes will be distributed at the end of the sale. All sales must be submitted to Jerger's office by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 5, 2019.



Jerger Elementary Pre-K students in Mrs. Burton and Mrs. Griner's class are exploring pond animals and plants! Students brought in brim, bass, tadpoles, frogs, toads, minnows, and cat tails.



Kellie Brewer and Monleth Perkins. Scholars Academy students in Casey Dyksterhouse's class, are conducted mock fairytale character interviews as part of their characterization unit.



Lou Yale, a therapist with Georgia Pines, spoke to Dale Kelly's AP Psychology classes about mental disorders, substance abuse, and services available to people in our community. She talked about her long career and experiences in the field and opportunities for Psychology as a field of study.



Middle School Dance Dawgs performed a beautiful kick line at the halftime of a MPMS football game.

# Scott Volunteer Training Day



Scott Elementary hosted a Volunteer Training Day where, through a local church partnership, Willow Head Missionary Baptist Church members focused on how to read books to kids and what types of questions to ask to teach comprehension and high order thinking. Scott Elementary staff trained the volunteers on how to work in small math and reading groups with students and gave them an overview of the school, a tour, and lunch.

# Drop Everything and Read!

Harper Elementary is launching a school-wide reading initiative called Drop Everything and Read! (D.E.A.R.). The program is based on the theory that the more students are engaged in teacher or adult-led reading intervention, the more successful they will be. Harper has secured community volunteers to take part in the D.E.A.R. Reading Initiative. Volunteers participated in professional learning training sessions led by Southwest Georgia RESA consultant Margie Jordan and Harper Instructional Coaches Keyante Braswell and Courtney Warner.

"The opportunity for community and parent volunteers to be a part of developing readers is a win-win. Students will enjoy and benefit from the relationships and interaction with volunteers and parents!" said Braswell.

There will be a follow-up training in January 2020. The D.E.A.R. Initiative will begin in September of 2019. Email Margie Jordan ([mjordan@swgaresa.org](mailto:mjordan@swgaresa.org)) or Harper Parent Involvement Coordinator DeAngela Lewis ([lewisd@tcity.org](mailto:lewisd@tcity.org)) or call Harper Elementary at 225-2622 for more information about the Drop Everything and Read Initiative.





Jocelyn Watson, a sophomore at Thomasville City Scholars Academy, was presented with the Tifton Sigma Xi Harry R. Gross Memorial Award in honor of her win as the Overall Winner of the Senior Division of the 2019 Southwest District of the Georgia Science Fair. Dr. Alton Sparks of Abraham Baldwin Agriculture College was on hand to present the award to Watson at school with her classmates there to join in celebrating her victory.



The reigning Soccer AA State Champions offered a free soccer camp on August 24, 2019. Participants practiced technique drills and played scrimmage games.



The annual 6th grade Scholars Academy Locker Design Contest was a hit with students adjusting to middle school routines. Pictured: Abby Kennedy, Isabella Ward, and Kaylee Plymale.



THS cheerleaders visited Jerger Elementary to sell spirit gear. Bulldog tattoos are the most popular! They stop by all the pre-k and kindergarten classes before they leave, and one morning stopped in the media center for one more turn at sitting in the reading tubs.



Scholars Academy juniors and seniors have meet with the first of many representatives and recruiters from area colleges and universities to get information about application processes, campus visits, and scholarships. Jay Menees from Univeristy of Georgia (top) visited on August 21, 2019. Caroline Cox from Georgia Tech (bottom) visited on August 29, 2019. Jayden Thompson is shown pouring over information about Georgia Tech. Additional recruiters are expected to visit throughout the fall.



Djuana Rinehart's 6th grade study skills group got a surprise visit from senior football player, Payton Singletary, who spent the whole class speaking with the students. They were star struck!



Odyssey of the Mind is back in full swing with legendary OM Coach Sharon Cernogorsky's experience and passion for creativity. Students spent the first days of class engaging in team-building activities. They wrote questions that they placed in balloons and passed them around to get answers. Patience and balance in groups was needed to create the foundation for Pringles sculptures. Students also constructed towers with marshmallows and toothpicks and won prizes for tallest, widest, and most creative. Students started with 25 building items but could go up to 100. If they chose to stop, they were asked why. The coaching process with OM includes asking questions rather than giving directives.



THS Football Booster Club hosted its annual Meet the Dogs banquet for all fans and its members. Children of all ages got football schedule posters autographed by the 2019 THS Bulldogs!



## Board of Education Brief

Thomasville City Schools Board of Education meets at 5:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month except November and December. Below is an overview of the August agenda:

- Board Member, Mr. David Cone gave the Invocation
- Board Vice-Chair, Ms. Kejar Butler lead the Pledge of Allegiance
- Approved August 27, 2019 Board AGENDA
- Tireless Award Presented to Mrs. Hazel Harris
- Approved Minutes of the July 23, 2019 Regular Scheduled Board Meeting
- Approved Minutes of the July 23, 2019 TCS Called Board Work Session
- Approved Minutes of the August 13, 2019 TCS Called Board Meeting
- Approved July 31, 2019 Financial Report
- Approved TCS School Food Service Department Report
- Approved FY20 CTAE Perkins Budget
- Final Approval of FY20 Millage Rate (18.611%)
- Approved Initial Review of Revised Policy DJEG-R(1) Purchase Orders and Contracts – Procedures Section D: Fiscal Management.
- Approved TCS Athletic Director to receive sealed bids on the cost of Tennis Court Renovations
- Approved Personnel Recommendations
- Mr. Corey Sumner gave the August 13, 2019 Combined Athletic/Facilities Committee Meeting Report
- Reviewed upcoming Calendar Dates
- Appointed Mrs. Brittney Glass to fill the remainder of the Vacancy District 2 Seat
- Board Meeting Adjourned at 5:25 PM

## MPMS Hosts Back to School Bash



Thomasville City Schools students were invited to bring the whole family for an evening of fun and fellowship at the Back to School Bash sponsored by MacIntyre Park Middle School on Saturday, August 10th at MacIntyre Park. Participants enjoyed a cookout dinner, inflatable slides, face painting, and prizes. MPMS Assistant Principal Nathan Espy and Principal Courtney Davenport (bottom left) hosted the event to kick-off the 2019-2020 school year. MPMS Instructional Math Coach Neal Ford and Instructional Coach Katie McCloud (bottom right) helped to man the cookout area to serve families of their students.



## September Events:

- September 2  
Labor Day Holiday
- September 5  
THANKS sales end for Jerger at 4:00 p.m.
- September 6  
Scott Elementary Grandparents Day
- September 8  
National Honor Society Induction
- September 10 & 11  
Harper Elementary Grandparents Days
- September 12  
THS "Road to College" Session 6:00 p.m.
- September 16  
Teacher Workday/Student Holiday
- September 19  
Advanced Placement Info Session 6:00 p.m.
- September 26  
Harper Literary Parent Engagement



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*Champions Chronicle* is a publication of Thomasville City Schools. Send suggestions or comments to Desirée Celaya, celayad@tcitys.org. Current news and events are available at [www.tcitys.org/news](http://www.tcitys.org/news).