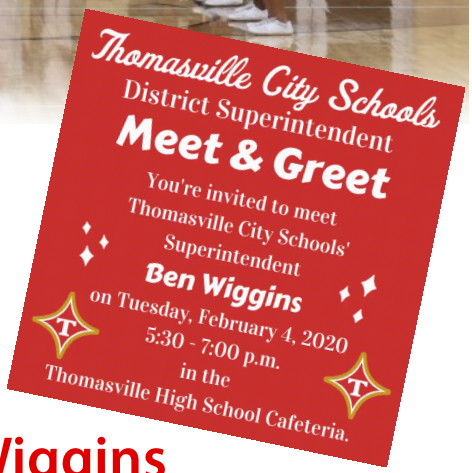
Thomasville City Schools

Champions Chronicle

Volume 2, Issue 6
January 2020

Basketball Celebrates Seniors

Basketball Cheerleader Zadiah Hobbs is honored at THS Senior Night on January 24, 2020.



Message from Mr. Ben Wiggins

January has been a wonderful month for TCS students. We celebrated and recognized our elementary students that accepted the Winter Break Reading Challenge. We are extremely proud of these students and look forward to their future success. Two of our high school students received exceptionally good news recently. Kathleen Geyer received her appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. Max White has been named as a Finalist for the prestigious University of Georgia Foundation Fellowship. Our TCS family is very proud of these students and also wants to congratulate their families. These are great examples of the incredible work that occurs each day in our classrooms where dedicated teachers partner with engaging students and supportive parents.

Congratulations to Mrs. Amy McCorkle for being recognized as January's Tireless Award recipient. We are fortunate to have employees that look for opportunities to go above and beyond the call of duty to serve our students, families, faculty, staff and community.

Sincerely,
Ben Wiggins
Superintendent

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Meet Mr. Wiggins!

Thomasville City Schools' faculty and staff launched into 2020 with an introduction to their new superintendent, Ben Wiggins on the January 6 teacher workday following Winter Break.

Wiggins opened by asking the audience multiple trivia questions such as names of the 2019 Nobel Prize and 2012 College Football National Championship winners which drew a combination of unsure answers. The last question, however, involved the name of each person's first grade teacher. The majority of the audience could confidently recall their teachers' names.

Wiggins then went on to ask the audience to name their favorite teacher and why they felt that way. He asked if anyone's reasons included the tests they took or the amount of knowledge amassed in that teacher's class. The answers, of course, were instead associated with relationships and commitment. A commitment to the daily processes in the classroom is the way, according to Wiggins, for teachers to get the results they desire.

Wiggins's message of encouragement continued with his views on loyalty and how important it is for everyone in an organization to focus on a common goal. "Choosing your attitude" and "controlling the controllable" were two other types of mindset Wiggins aimed to instill in the faculty and staff as they enter into the second half of the 2019-2020 school year.

Wiggins said that he has felt welcome and that he and his wife Jan are looking forward to meeting new people and becoming a part of the Thomasville community. A 'Meet and Greet' will be held February 4, 2020, in the Thomasville High School Cafeteria from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

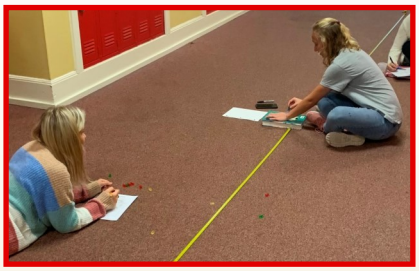
Spelling Bee Champion to Advance

Thomasville City Schools' top spellers competed in the District Spelling Bee on January 10, 2020 at the TCS Board of Education. First place winner Lilly Watson will represent the school district at the Region Spelling Bee on February 22, 2020, in Bainbridge at Jones Wheat Elementary School. Pictured are the competitors from each school: Harper Elementary, Davion Williams; Jerger Elementary, Ben McDougald; Scott Elementary, Jayda Smith; Jerger Elementary, Lilly Watson (First Place Winner); MPMS Scholars Academy, Grace Cleveland (Second Place Winner); Harper Elementary, Demya Williams; MPMS Scholars Academy, Emma Gebel; and Scott Elementary, Tremayne Samuel.

AP Psychology Studies Divergent Thinking

Using tape, string, spaghetti and a marshmallow, Thomasville City Scholars Academy Advanced Placement Psychology (APPSY) students in Dale Kelly's class were challenged with building the tallest free-standing structure in a limited time period. Pictured is the winning team whose structure reached 34.5 inches: Braxton Sizemore, Thomas Butler, Madyson Whitfield and Meta Ughetto. Kelly's APPSY classes engaged in the activity when studying divergent thinking within the "Intelligence" unit. The marshmallow challenge, used for exercises in creativity and leadership, was originally introduced by Peter Skillman at TED (Technology, Entertainment and Design). The idea is pretty simple: Teams of four have to build the tallest free-standing structure out of 20 sticks of spaghetti, one yard of tape, one yard of string and a marshmallow. Other groups at Scholars Academy like Odyssey of the Mind that lean on design, creativity, and leadership to achieve goals have used the activity to practice collaboration and to focus on roles in an organization.

AP Stat Designs Experiments for Gummy Bears



Advanced Placement Statistics students in Charlotte Donald's Scholars Academy class concluded a unit on Experimental Design with 'The Gummy Bear Project.' Students were provided the opportunity to practice the principles of experimental design and statistical inference as they designed a well-controlled experiment to test a factor that would affect how far gummy bears "fly" from a catapult. No gummy bears were injured during the course of the experiments! Pictured above: Rachel Brewer and Kaitlyn Kasper conduct an experiment of their own design.

Felicity Tipton and Max White measure the flight distance of their gummy bears.

Molly Novak readies her gummy bear for flight.

Floor Hockey Wins State for Third Year

Special Olympics

Thomasville Bulldogs participated with the Thomasville YMCA at the Special Olympics State Games Floor Hockey event in Marietta, Georgia on January 11, 2020. After winning all three games, Thomasville took the gold for the third year in a row and remain UNDEFEATED!!! THS Team members were Venus Williams, Mecca Pittman, Ja'Quan Frazier (CO 2019), Cameron Davis, Russell Dickerson, Midajah Hardy (CO 2019), Fantasia Hill, Dyshaun Patterson (CO 2019), Braxton Rice, and Dashaun Sapp.

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GMEA District 2 Honor Band Selected

Nine Thomasville City Schools band members have been selected to participate in the GMEA District 2 Honor Band at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton from February 6-8, 2020. Honor Band consists of 200 of the most talented musicians in grades 7-12 from schools in Southwest Georgia. Students will be on the ABAC campus working to improve their musical skills with band directors of the highest caliber. The experience concludes with a concert to showcase their talents. Pictured: Akisi Jones, Kaliste Moore, Cruz Pozo, Thomasville High School Band Director Samantha Jones, Jon-Henry Ellis Katie Tabb, Ella Millere, Sam Watts, Max White, and Aidan Lee. Not pictured is MacIntyre Park Middle School Band Director Sarah Andah.

Middle School DAR Junior American Citizenship Winners

Congratulations to the Thomasville City Scholars Academy winners in the Daughters of the American Revolution Junior American Citizenship contest: "The 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment- American Women Rise and Shine." Sixth Grade - Stamp: Honorable Mention Roxy Mohr, 3rd Leila Lutes, 2nd Sellers Newman, 1st Adanya Smith; Poem: Honorable Mention Chanel Mascoe & 2nd Adalee King; Photo Essay: 1st Logan Maxwell; Short Story: 1st Mya Brown; Poster: Honorable Mention Purva Patel, 3rd Ella Parker, 2nd William Casper, 2nd Gerrell Powell, 1st Athalia Knight; and Banner: 1st Isabella Ward & McKie Leverette. Seventh Grade – Poem: 2nd Mia Young (not pictured), 2nd Grace Cleveland, 1st Kate von Hellens, 1st Julia Pringle; Stamp: Honorable Mention Laramie Stokes, 3rd Trip Gebel, 2nd Brady Nichols, 1st Emily Grace Raffield, 1st Taylor Cummings; Poster: 3rd Violet Illian, 2nd Maddy Beaty, 1st Jessica Jones, 1st Ella Kate Carroll; and Short Story: 1st Ty Cashwell (not pictured). Eigth Grade - Short Story: 1st Julia Thrift and 1st Rowan Garland (not pictured); Poem: 2nd Jesse Stewart, 1st Maggie Claire Richardson, 1st Emma Poole; and Stamp: 3rd Kelon Vaughn, 3rd Colter Hill, 2nd Janice Dong, 2nd Xavier Green, 1st Yasmin Hart (not pictured), 1st Kylie Holt.

Science Fair Winners to Advance to Region at ABAC

Congratulations to the first place winners in the Thomasville City Schools Science Fair who will compete at the regional fair on February 14, 2020, at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, Georgia. Back Row: Ninth Grade 1st place Overall Colin Szwarc; Seventh Grade 1st Place Overall Emory Cochran; Seventh Grade 1st Place Ribbons - Max Barbulescu, Cole Crocker, Emily Raffield, Brady Nichols, Matthew Mullins, Jay Harrison, Harper Page, and Laramie Stokes (2nd place, region alternate), Lukas Froede (not pictured), Owen Everett (not pictured), and Ninth Grade 1st Place Ribbon Brantley Taylor. Front Row: Ninth Grade 1st Place Ribbons - Ashlyn Donalson, Katelyn Poole, Katey Harwood, Sydney Jones, Chip Hunt, Macy Taylor, Katherine Jones (not pictured), Faith Fitzgerald (not pictured), Jon-Henry Ellis (not pictured), Olivia Suite (not pictured), and Ava Fletcher (not pictured 2nd place region alternate).

The following students were also awarded ribbons in the Thomasville City Schools Science Fair on December 13, 2019: Seventh Grade 2nd Place - Jensen Rahn, Ciny Martinez, David Chastain, Ella Kate Carroll, Wren Spivey, Emma Barrow, Jacob Lowe, Jessica Jones, Grace Cleveland; Seventh Grade 3rd Place - Ty Cashwell, Bradley Vanlerberghe, Caroline Lewis, Sam Gerleman, Daylee Beatty, Trip Gebel, Rose Lehman, Mia Young, Julia Pringle; Seventh Grade Honorable Mention - Holly Davis, Anna Shokat, Kaliste Moore, Sage Butler, Maddy Beaty, Rigoberto Gonzalez, Violet Illian, Jasper Davis, Carlisle Bilbo, Dev Patel; Ninth Grade 2nd Place - Sophie Wright, Caden Shokat, Henry McDonald, Mary Grace Crowley, Alex Norfleet, Matthew Delarber & Joshua May, Carson Fryman, Jack Gibbs, Meghan Barwick; Ninth Grade 3rd Place - Drew Allen, James Douglas & Gus Novak, Turner Conger, Carter Crocker, Beck Nicholson, Simon Harper, Madison Galloway, Asher Little, Katelyn Newman, Benjamin Bundrick; and Ninth Grade Honorable Mention - Olivia Gainey, Johnna Higdon, Charlie Dunn, Timothy Cordista, Camille Moore, Elyse Giles, Roman Drury, Bray Eubanks, Sydney Sullivan, and Abbey Bennett.

Geyer Receives Appointment to Air Force Academy

Thomasville City Schools is pleased to announce Class of 2020 Thomasville High School and Scholars Academy senior Kathleen Geyer's appointment to the United States Air Force Academy as a member of the Class of 2024. Geyer joins a select group of the nation's finest young people as she takes a challenging and rewarding step toward becoming a professional Air Force officer.

Geyer was shocked and surprised when she received the direct nomination to her first choice in service academies from Congressman Austin Scott.

"It was the academy that I most wanted to get into, but it was also the one that I most feared I might not get into," said Geyer.

Each member of Congress is only allowed to have a maximum of five cadets attending the Academy at one time. For each cadet vacancy that occurs, the member may nominate up to 10 candidates to be considered for appointment. Vacancies occur when cadets graduate or leave prior to graduation.

Geyer has earned a rare opportunity to participate in one of the country's finest officer training programs. Her appointment is awarded to only about 1,200 of the 9,700 applicants. Geyer's previous accomplishments indicate that she has the potential to meet the demands and challenges of the Academy.

United States Air Force Academy Director of Admissions Colonel Arthur W. Primas, Jr. said in Geyer's appointment letter, "I compliment you on a tremendous record of personal achievement and look forward to welcoming you to the Cadet Wing on June 25, 2020."

(Above) Kathleen Geyer proudly displays her United States Air Force Academy Certificate of Appointment. Geyer will graduate with Thomasville High School and Scholars Academy's Class of 2020 on May 22, 2020.

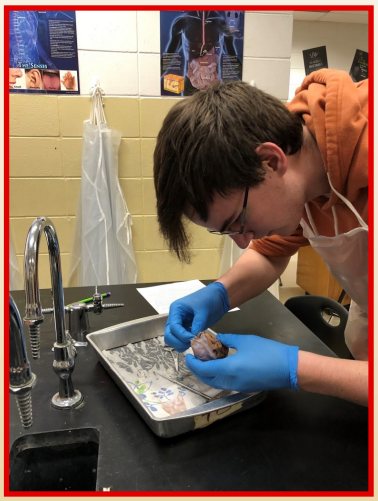
Future Business Leaders Excel

Thomasville High School Future Business Leaders of America sent nine members to the Region Leadership Conference at Southern Regional Technical College in Moultrie on January 17 resulting in five awards and two members advancing to the FBLA State Leadership Conference in March. Edmond Millere, adviser for THS's chapter of FBLA and THS CTAE Director Shamane Taylor accompanied the students to the conference.

Senior Max White placed fifth in Business Calculations, junior Ella Millere placed first in Business Communications and second in Business Ethics, and junior Tian Green placed fourth in Help Desk and third in Hospitality Management. Both White and Millere will go on to compete at the state level in Atlanta. In addition to the competitions, club members attended workshops that focused on business etiquette, business attire, and mental health in the workplace. Pictured: Bre'Yannah Frazier, Ella Millere, Tian Greene, Edmond Millere, McKena Willis, John Murphy Singletary, Janiyah Bacon, Latiyah Crumbry, Colin Renfroe, and Shaniya Anderson. Not pictured: Max White.

Anatomy & Physiology Studies Nervous System

Dissecting animal tissues and creating 3-D models are two ways that Thomasville City Scholars Academy students in Christie Ariail's Honors Human Anatomy & Physiology class study the nervous system.



Oliver Yant peels the dura mater off a sheep brain prior to dissecting it. Dissecting organs allows students to engage in their learning experience; they are able to see and feel the parts of the brain, as well as become confident in their laboratory skills.

Evan Lovvorn and Kaitlyn Kasper build and label a 3D model of a neuron. The 3D model helps students conceptualize the actual structure of a neuron.

Readers Take Winter Break Challenge

Thomasville City Schools' Winter Break Reading Challenge Reading Champions, between December 21 and January 4, took on the challenge to read for 15 minutes per day through the Footsteps 2 Brilliance program. Reading Champions were recognized at the Thomasville City Schools regular board meeting on January 28, 2020.

Harper Elementary: Principal Melvin Hugans, Audrianna Robinson, and PreK teacher Cammie Anthony. Not pictured Kingston Robinson.

Jerger Elemenatry: Principal Lawana Rayburn, PreK teacher Sarah Black, 1st grade teacher Laurie Young, and kindergarten teacher Janet Owens, Eliz Patel, Riya Patel, Diya Patel, Chloe Hall, Madison Long, Katherine Gebel, Lilly Dell, Brayton Hooks, and Caroline Barnwell.

Scott Elementary: Caiden Turner, Principal Brian Beaty, Melvin Robinson, Shiimaya Sharp, Aubree Turner, 3rd grade teacher Jennifer Lester, Cameron Glenn, and Joseph Musolino (not pictured).

Band Members Selected for JanFest

Thomasville High School Band Director Samantha Jones appointed seven students to attend the 70th Annual University of Georgia January High School Band Festival: a weekend of instruction, enrichment, and performance in Athens, Georgia on January 16-19, 2020.

University of Georgia's "JanFest" (pioneering band invitational established in 1950) is a four-day event for high school band musicians sponsored by the Hugh Hodgson School of Music. Students are nominated for participation by their director and UGA Bands staff selects students to participate based on the order of the director's submission, the instrumentation need of the festival bands, and the reported musical achievements of each student.

Andrew Cannon, Jon-Henry Ellis, Max White, Eli Humphries, Emma Humphries, Katie Tabb, and Sam Watts (pictured) each auditioned for band placement upon arrival at JanFest. After the auditions, but before the rehearsals began, participants were treated to a two-hour master class for their specialized instrument.

White's master class was led by Timothy K. Adams, Mildred Goodrum Heyward Professor in Music and Chair of the UGA Percussion Department.

"It was really an enriching experience learning from such an accomplished percussionist. It made me feel like a real musician," said White.

In addition to performing in concerts with their respective honor bands, the participants attended a multitude of performances by various UGA ensembles and guest performers from all over the world.

Tabb's most memorable concert and experience with the 2020 Special Guest Band from Japan, The Hijiyama Girls High School Wind Orchestra.

"It was so interesting to hear about how they do extra-curricular activities in Japan. It seemed really student-directed even though the students specialize and do not deviate from their path from a young age," said Tabb. "The time that they dedicate to it is incredible."

Foundation Fellowship Finalist

Thomasville High School Scholars Academy Class of 2020 senior Max White has been named as a "Finalist" for the University of Georgia Foundation Fellowship. Founded in 1972 by the University of Georgia Foundation's trustees, the Foundation Fellowship is the University's foremost undergraduate scholarship, placing students in a community of similarly dedicated scholars. It offers a stipend that approximates the cost of attendance, a post-first-year Maymester study abroad program at Oxford University, individual travel-study grants, spring group travel-study, research and academic conference grants, dinner seminars with some of the University's best minds, and a mentoring plan that matches Fellows with professors who share their interests. Beyond the obvious scholastic benefits, the Fellows program emphasizes fellowship, sharing of resources and ideas, and lifelong friendships. Peer mentoring (Big and Little Fellows), dinner seminars and book discussions, cultural events, group travel, the Fellows Library in Moore College, and twice-a-year off-campus retreats promote a sense of community among the Fellows. Fellowship recipients quickly find themselves at home on campus within a close-knit group of scholars, and through extensive travel, they extend that experience to include global communities.

Drumline: Vibrant Communities Grant

Thomasville High School Marching Band drumline members received new drums through the Georgia Council for the Arts Vibrant Communities Grant. The Vibrant Communities Grants support single art projects like an art exhibit, theatre production, series of workshops for children, or artist residency. The grant awarded $5000; the remaining two-thirds of the cost of the drums was provided by Thomasville High School Band Boosters. The drumline will premiere the new equipment in the 72nd Annual Rose Show and Rose Parade on Friday, April 24, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in Downtown Thomasville.

AP Human Geography Farming Focus

AP Human Geography students in Dale Kelly's class have been studying agriculture and in particular subsistence and organic farming and the important roles they play in geographic sustainability. The class recently visited Lewis Produce at the local Thomas County Farmers Market. Students heard from owner Cindy Lewis about the operation of their business and how it supports local farmers. They also heard from Chase Clanton (pictured), the owner of Ole MacDonald Farms, a 100% organic farm in Coolidge.

SAVE the DATE!

Thomasville City Schools Drama Program will perform *Beauty & the Beast* in the MacIntyre Auditorium on Friday & Saturday, March 6 & 7 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, March 8 at 2:00 p.m. for a children's matinee. Tickets will be available at Scholars Academy starting February 17, 2020: $10.00 - students & $15.00 - adults.

Pre-Kindergarten

Thomasville City Schools offers a special thank you to the YMCA for allowing Jerger's pre-kindergarten students to enjoy swimming lessons! Pictured is Natalie Burton and Valerie Griner's pre-k class with their swim instructors.

Sarah Black and Sherror Drew's PreK class at Jerger Elementary celebrated the 100th Day of School with reading books, yummy snacks, hat and necklace making, craft-making, and tower building.

DAR Essay Contest

Thomasville City Schools swept the competition with four Chapter Winners from MacIntyre Park Middle School Scholars Academy and Scott Elementary School in the Daughters of the American Revolution Essay Contest "Voyage of the Mayflower." Katie Beth Young, 8th grade; Emily Grace Raffield, 7th grade; Bella Kitchens, 6th grade; and Dalton Chisenhall, 5th grade presented their essays at the January 15, 2020, DAR luncheon.

Board of Education Brief

TCS Board Members Britney Glass, Kejar Butler, Dr. Mary Williams-Scruggs, and Karen Kelso are administered the Oath of Office by Judge Vickie Burnette.

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 agenda for January 28, 2020.

- Board Member, Mrs. Britney Glass gave the Invocation
- Board Member, Mr. Corey Sumner led the Pledge of Allegiance
- Approved January 28, 2020 Board AGENDA
- Probate Court, Judge Vickie Burnette administered the Oath of Office to: Mrs. Karen G. Kelso, Mrs. Britney Glass, Ms. Kejar Butler, and Dr. Mary Williams-Scruggs
- Tireless Award Presented to Mrs. Amy McCorkle, Scholars Academy Bookkeeper/ Registrar
- Recognized 17 Students for participating in the Footsteps2BrillianceWinter Break Reading Challenge
- Elected 2020 BOE Chairman and Vice-Chair: Chair, Ms. Kejar L. Butler and Vice-Chair, Dr. Hazel T. Jones
- Selected 2020 BOE Delegate Assembly Representative and Alternate to represent TCS at the 2020 GSBA Summer Conference and Delegate Assembly: Delegate, Mrs. Britney Glass and Alternate, Mrs. Karen G. Kelso
- Approved December 31, 2019 Financial Report and reviewed the TCS Food Service Department Financial Report
- Approved Personnel Recommendations
- Approved Minutes of the Regular Scheduled Board Meeting December 17, 2019
- Reviewed Combined Finance/School Improvement Committee Meeting Report, January 7, 2020 – Dr. Mary Williams-Scruggs
- Reviewed upcoming Calendar Dates
- Board Meeting Adjourned at 5:47 PM

February Events:

February 3
Pre-K— 5th Registration Day
Beta Club Induction
February 4
Superintendent Meet & Greet @ THS - 5:30pm
6th - 8th Grade String Chamber Concert
February 7
Middle School Sweetheart Dance
February 11
FAFSA Workshop @ THS - 6pm
February 14
Professional Learning Day - No school for students
February 17
Presidents Day Holiday
February 19
Board Member Lunch Visit - Harper Elementary
February 20
Black History Program @ Scott Elem. - 5:30pm
Math STEM Night @ THS - 6pm
February 24 - 28
Read Across America/Dr. Seuss Week
February 25
Monthly School Board Meeting - 5pm
ACT @ THS & Scholars Academy
February 27
Pre-Festival Band Concert at Center for the Arts

Go to district and school websites (EXPLORE>EVENTS) for latest calendar updates or GET THE APP!

Gearing up for Academic Year 2020-21

Thomasville City Schools
404 North Broad Street
Thomasville, Georgia 31792
229.225.2600 phone
229.226.6997 fax

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.