



Thomas County Board of Education Newsletter

National Defense Cadet Corps Program Inaugurated

Program will help high school students achieve success in school and in life



Army NDCC/JROTC Cadets from Thomas County Central High School present the colors in their first public appearance for the Residences at Oak Grove grand opening ceremony.

A grant for the Thomas County School System provided start-up costs for a National Defense Cadet Corps (NDCC) program, a program that will eventually become a full-fledged Army Junior ROTC unit to serve students from both Bishop Hall Charter School and Thomas County Central High School.

This is the inaugural year for the Army NDCC in Thomas County which will operate exactly like a JROTC program. The program is organized as two battalions: the Knight Battalion at Bishop Hall Charter School and the Yellow Jacket Battalion at Thomas County Central High School. Lieutenant Colonel Kevin "Buzz" Ingram is the Senior Army Instructor and oversees both programs. Prior to coming to Thomas County Schools, he served as the Senior Army JROTC Instructor at Ware County High School in Waycross,

Georgia.

LTC Ingram said, "I am beyond excited to be here and start something special. This program is unique in that it's not just one program, but two. I have established different battalions at Bishop Hall and Thomas County Central, embracing the culture and traditions at each school. Collectively, we are the 59th Cadet Regiment, paying tribute to the US Army Air Corps' 59th Fighter Group that called Thomas County home in the early to mid-1940s. The legacy of the men and women of the greatest generation will live on in our cadets in the 21st century."

NDCC/JROTC instructors are not military recruiters; however, they are the best advocates for all students in the recruiting process. The program's mission is "to motivate young people to be better citizens." According to LTC Ingram, they accomplish

this through an immersive, leadership-in-action approach that challenges cadets academically, mentally, socially, and physically.

"This leadership program provides unique opportunities to help students develop those professional skills necessary to lead and work in today's evolving environment," LTC Ingram said. "We cherish the responsibility and opportunity we have to lead, guide, and direct our students in making those decisions about life after high school whether it's college, the military, or going straight into the workforce."

LTC Ingram earned his undergraduate degree in Business Administration from Thomas College. He received his commission from Florida State University after completing ROTC in the Seminole Battalion. Later, LTC Ingram earned his M.Ed. from the University of Georgia and a Master of Military Operational Art and Science from Air University at the Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell AFB.

"NDCC/JROTC goes beyond the classroom and will provide cadets the chance to participate and compete at the region and state level in our competitive color guard and drill teams as well as the team-focused

physical fitness Raider Challenge team," LTC Ingram said. "Our cadets will provide community and school support through color guard and service learning projects. Their success is limitless and the skills and memories they take with them beyond graduation can last a lifetime."

LTC Ingram has high hopes for the two battalions.



LTC INGRAM

Ingram added, "I want Thomas County to establish ourselves as a force to contend with in our region and across the state. That kind of success takes time, but the support we have in this school system

is the catalyst to make it happen. Even in the midst of a pandemic, we will build a solid foundation in 2020-2021 - one brick at a time."

The new NDCC program offers the opportunity for high school students to enroll in a leadership/citizenship program coordinated under the umbrella of the Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) Division of the Georgia Department of Education. The classes are offered as an elective as part of the CTAE programs at both schools, and will be housed in the Lee M. Bailey P.R.E.P. Academy at TCCHS and in the CTAE building at Bishop Hall.

Mayer Electric Donates Computer Hardware to TCMS



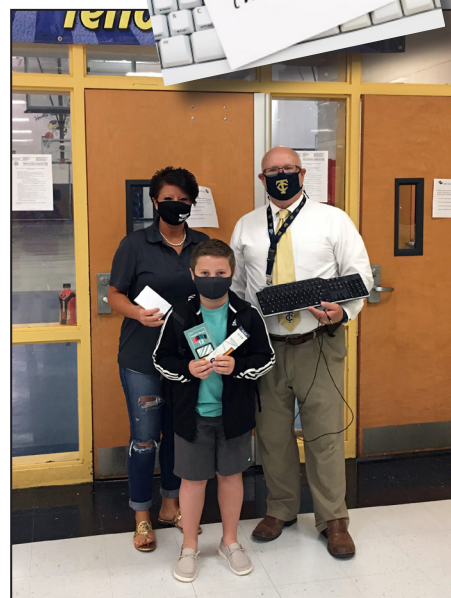
Theta Company students use their computer mice as they engage in digital learning.

Fifth grade students on Theta Company were recently given computer mice to use with their Chromebooks to make digital learning a little easier. Mayer Electric donated enough computer mice for each student on Theta Company to use at school, along with a large box of keyboards for the technology department to distribute as needed.

Beck said, "We are very thankful for the donation because sometimes it is difficult for younger students to manipulate the touchpad on Chromebooks. This donation will make digital learning so much easier for my students."



When Rachel Harper of Mayer Electric learned that TCMS teacher Katie Beck had created a Donors Choose page for the donation of computer mice, she reached out to meet that need. In addition to the computer hardware, Mayer Electric also donated a large collection of school supplies including pencils, notecards, colored pencils, and glue sticks.



Pictured from left is Rachel Harper of Mayer Electric presenting computer mice, keyboards and school supplies for students to TCMS Principal Clay Stanaland and Perrin Harper, student on Theta Company.



Students in Mrs. Taralyn Williams' Pre-K class had so much fun going on a leaf hunt and collecting fall items!



SUMMER READING CHALLENGE CELEBRATED - Congratulations to the 19 students who completed the Summer Reading Challenge at TCMS. Students were treated to a Dairy Queen Blizzard in the media center, and each student received a coupon to use at the book fair. Peyton Reneau, sixth-grade student, won a \$50 gift certificate to spend at the spring book fair.

Four TCCHS Graduates Named Georgia Scholars



GOFF PILAND STEPHENS WARD

Four Thomas County Central High School Class of 2020 graduates earned the Georgia Scholar diploma seal. These students were Joshua Stephens, Zachary Goff, David Piland and Kaleb Ward.

"I think this is an excellent way for the State to recognize students who have put in the extra effort and time to be involved in not only their education but the community as a whole," TCCHS Assistant Principal Dr. Jim Rehberg said. "This is an absolute positive for these four gentlemen, the school, and the community."

The Georgia Department of Education bestows this

honor to high school seniors who achieve excellence within their school and community. Organized by the GDoE's Excellence Recognition Office and local coordinators, the Georgia Scholar program spotlights students who carry noteworthy course loads, perform exceptionally academically, and actively participate in interscholastic events and extracurricular activities during their high school years.

"I feel honored to be named a Georgia Scholar," Zachary Goff said. "It's great to get recognized for my hard work in high school."

LASER GAMES



LASER TRAP - Coach Andrew Bower at Cross Creek Elementary recently set up a "laser" challenge for students teaching them that staying active can be fun! Students took turns walking through the trap to avoid touching any of the strings. The first time they walked over it slowly having to pick up their feet to avoid the strings. The second time they crawled under to avoid the strings. This activity helps with spatial awareness and body movements.

In the Less Than One Percent Odom Earns Prestigious American FFA Degree

Unwavering dedication to agriculture and the National FFA Organization led one Thomas County Central High School alum to earn the group's most prestigious degree.

Brentley Odom, a 2018 TCCHS graduate who currently attends Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, will receive the American FFA Degree. According to the official release, less than one percent of FFA members earn this degree, honoring students for their academic and professional excellence.

Odom is one of 4,136 recipients countrywide.

The degree will be presented virtually this year during the 93rd National FFA Convention & Expo, scheduled for Oct. 27-29. Each honoree receives a gold American FFA Degree key and certificate.

Odom intends to graduate ABAC in December with a degree in agribusiness.

"I plan on pursuing an agricultural career, and right now, I'm determining the specific job that will be my best fit," he said.



ODOM



RAISING MONEY TO CURE CHILDHOOD CANCER - The Thomas County School System decided to "GO GOLD" during the last week of September which was Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Faculty, staff and students wore gold or yellow on Friday, September 25, to share awareness and show support for kids and families impacted by childhood cancer. Each school in the system also participated in Caps for CURE by paying one dollar to wear a hat on Friday. Thomas County Schools raised a total of \$2,178.61. Each school showed their support by donating the following: Hand-In-Hand, \$241.23; Garrison-Pilcher, \$412.30; Cross Creek, \$634.08; TCMS, \$351; TCCHS, \$500; and Bishop Hall, \$40. The money raised was donated to CURE Childhood Cancer. Kathy Pipkin (left) and Sharon Johnson visited the school system recently to accept the check on behalf of CURE from Superintendent Dr. Lisa Williams.

Thomas County School System Names BEE Partner of the Year



Thomas County School Superintendent Dr. Lisa Williams, left, and TCCHS Principal Trista Jones, right, congratulate Brad Williams from Thomasville Toyota on the business being named BEE Partner of the Year.

Thomasville Toyota was named Thomas County School System's BEE Partner of the Year for 2020 - 2021. The Business and Education Exchange (BEE) Partner of the Year is chosen from the outstanding BEE Partners who work with Thomas County Schools to strengthen the link among schools, businesses/industries, and the community.

Erin Rehberg, Digital Learning and Media Services Coordinator for Thomas County Schools, commented, "Each BEE Partner makes a lasting impact on the lives of Thomas County students and staff, and we are all better as a result of these relationships."

Thomasville Toyota impacted close to 200 students and/or staff members during the 2019-2020 school year. Thomas County Central High School nominated Thomasville Toyota for the distinguished BEE Partner of the Year Award.

"Thomasville Toyota is unique because the business works hand-in-hand with our CTAE programs to

ensure we are teaching a curriculum that will benefit students who pursue a career in automotive technology," TCCHS Principal Trista Jones said. "The business serves on our CTAE Advisory Committee to help guide our decisions and give feedback on how to make our program stronger for the students."

Brandi Miranda, TCCHS Work-Based Learning (WBL) and Youth Apprenticeship Coordinator, praised the business for allowing multiple students to shadow on the Annual Job Shadowing Day providing hands-on experience for the students.

"The local Toyota dealership benefits our students most by hiring several through our Work-Based Learning program," Miranda said. "It is challenging for students to find jobs related to their career pathway, but Thomasville Toyota is always willing to give our students the opportunity. They train them giving them a valuable skill set to start them on their career. If students choose to stay with them, they pay for their mechanic certification

which encourages them to continue learning. It is a win-win situation."

During these challenging times, many businesses are not hiring or cutting employees so students struggle to find jobs. Thomasville Toyota requests resumes because they want

to hire students from TCCHS.

"We have built a strong relationship with this partner, and they have made various contributions this school year and past years," added Miranda. "We look forward to continuing to strengthen this partnership which benefits our students greatly."

INSPECT an INSECT

Garrison-Pilcher second graders learned about life cycles by observing a caterpillar metamorphose into a butterfly.

After studying them for about two weeks, the Painted Ladies emerged from their chrysalids. The students enjoyed releasing the butterflies into their natural habitat.



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