



# Tocoi Creek High School

**OUR TRADITION STARTS HERE!**

## Upcoming Dates

**December 21st**  
Winter Break

**January 4th**  
Classes Resume

**January 12th**  
SJCSD Academy Showcase  
(Event Owl Virtual Platform)

**January 18th**  
Martin Luther King Holiday

**January 20th**  
Tocoi Creek High School  
Academy Night  
6:00pm  
(Event Owl Virtual Platform)

**January 25th**  
2nd Quarter Ends

**January 29th**  
Teacher Planning Day

## Welcome to Tocoi Creek High School!

This past Tuesday, the St. Johns County School Board issued the name for our new school and community centerpiece. I would like to thank all of our students, parents, and community members who have assisted our school in creating its identity and culture. We are excited to utilize the mascots developed through our School Name and Mascot Selection Committee, our new name will be matched with one of these amazing selections on December 18th. It is also my pleasure to introduce the first leadership members to the TCHS staff:

Ms. Pam Henry - Executive Secretary  
Ms. Twila Needham - Assistant Principal  
Mr. Drew Chiodo - Assistant Principal  
Ms. Chassity Johnson - Registrar  
Mr. Jeff Holland - Athletic Director

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Please feel free to reach out to any of our school leadership if you have any questions regarding specific areas of focus. Scheduling for the 21-22 school year will begin soon. Tocoi Creek High School will be holding joint scheduling meetings with representatives from Nease High School on the dates listed in this newsletter. In addition, rising 9th graders will receive Middle School Blitz information, Academy Nights and scheduling directions upon return to school in January. Parents and students are encouraged to review the attached dates for academy registration events/deadlines and site visits.

**Our tradition starts here!**

Sincerely,  
Jay Willets





## ***What's in a name?***

### Tocoi

The word “Tocoi” (pronounced “to-coy”) originates from the Timucuan word for waterlily or shallow water. This word represents the name of the settlement region of Timucuan Indians on the St. Johns River in central St. Johns County and appears in early records around the year 1602. The Timucua settlement was described as “located on the St. Johns River more or less than five leagues due west of St. Augustine”.<sup>1</sup> Records also indicate the river settlement served as a mission, school and important waypoint for residents and travelers moving throughout the area. The Timucua village of Tocoi proved to be a diverse crossroad for cultural exchange, education, and economic development for a growing region.<sup>2</sup>

Throughout the Spanish and English settlement periods, Tocoi provided access for steamboat and rail commerce that was essential in the development of our nation’s oldest city, St. Augustine. Like the Timucuan, Spanish and Minorcan residents continued to carve out a community from the wilderness to begin some of the earliest connections to our current industries and services.

Today, near the headwaters of Tocoi Creek and a few leagues north of the settlement of Tocoi on the St. Johns River lies the growing communities of the World Golf Village. A modern crossroads that represents the same focus on; community, diversity, commerce, education and possesses the same gritty spirit to develop a prosperous future for its residents.

***Welcome to Tocoi Creek High School..... Our tradition starts here!***

1. Davila, Report: Lanning, The Spanish Missions, p.239, note 3,: Monets, Letter...1602
2. The Americas, Summary Guide to Spanish Florida Missions and Visitas, p.451, Vol 46, April 1990 #4
3. The St. Augustine Record, February 7th, 1954

# Tocoi Creek High School

2021 - 2022

## Scheduling Dates

*8th grade, 9th grade and 10th grade students*

Administration will be at Nease High School

assisting in the scheduling process

**9th Grade Students**

January 11, 12, 13, 14, 15

*Specific details regarding the scheduling process to come*

**10th Grade Students**

January 26, 27, 28, 29

February 1, 2

*Specific details regarding the scheduling process to come*

**Scheduling Makeup @ Nease High**

February 3, 4, 5

**Tocoi High School Administration will be a Pacetti Bay Middle and  
Mill Creek Academy assisting in the scheduling process**

**8th Grade Students @ MCA (virtual)**

March 1, 2, 3

*Specific details regarding the scheduling process to come*

**8th Grade Students @ PBMS**

March 3, 4, 5

*Specific details regarding the scheduling process to come*

## Middle School Blitz

*Willets will be at each of the schools to answer questions regarding academies  
and high school options for all students.*

*More information to come soon.*

**January 5th**

**Mill Creek Academy**

**11:30 am - 1:00 pm**

**January 12th**

**Pacetti Bay Middle School**

**12:00 pm - 2:00 pm**

**Academy Showcase – all SJCSD High Schools**

**January 12th**

**Event Owl Virtual Platform**

*Specific details to come soon*

**Tocoi Creek High School Academy Night**

**January 20th**

**Event Owl Virtual Platform @ 6:00 pm**

*Specific details to come soon*





## **Twila Needham**

### **Assistant Principal**

Twila Needham has been an educational leader with St. Johns County for the past 22 years. She received her bachelor's degree from Southern Arkansas University with a major in Theatre, English, and Speech. From her roots as an ELA teacher and ILC, to her leadership roles as dean, registrar, District Virtual Coordinator, and Elementary and Secondary Assistant Principal, Twila brings a wealth of scaffolding support to her new position at Toco Creek High School. Her most recent position as the Assistant Principal of Pacetti Bay Middle School has also allowed her to get to know the community of learners that will be the first group of students to fill the halls of TCHS. "In my 5 plus years at The Bay, our leadership team was able to cultivate a collaborative community that resulted in us becoming a model PLC school. I am truly excited to get to be back with our core team and the amazing students I grew to love at The Bay. It will be a privilege and honor to help usher them into their next step of post-secondary learning." Ms. Needham and her husband Jim live on Vilano Beach and enjoy time with their five children and beautiful new grandbaby. From baseball to soccer, surfing to skiing, singing to strumming, they can always find ways to enjoy each other and be a part of the St. Johns County community.

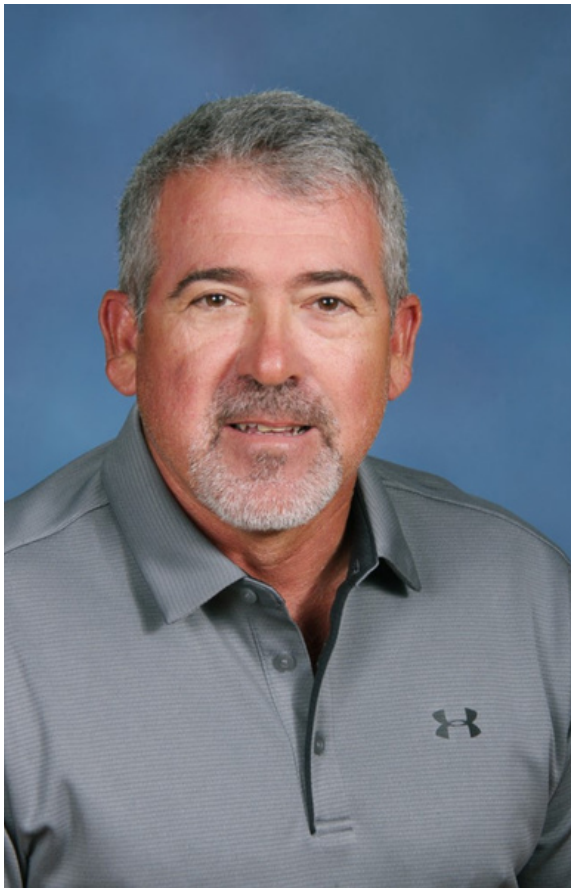
## **Drew Chiodo**

### **Assistant Principal**

Mr. Drew Chiodo grew up in and is a graduate of St. Johns County Schools. He earned a Bachelors in Family and Child Sciences from Florida State University and a Masters in Educational Leadership and Learning from Jacksonville University.

Mr. Chiodo began his career with "Teach For America" and served in both the Chicago and Jacksonville corps before coming back home. He is currently serving in his tenth year in the district, and taught math at both Bartram Trail High School & Creekside High School before serving as Assistant Principal at Pacetti Bay Middle from 2015-2018. Mr. Chiodo had the privilege of opening Palm Valley Academy in 2018, where he currently serves as one of the Assistant Principals representing over 2,500 students. He and his wife Elizabeth, their two sons, Owen & Jesse, and their two pups (Hank and June), enjoy spending time with family, going to the beach, traveling as often as they can, and intensely rooting for their Seminoles and Jaguars. Mr. Chiodo is excited to return to his high school roots and to be a part of a new tradition in the World Golf Village community!





## Jeff Holland Athletic Director

My name is Jeff Holland and I am the Athletic Director for the newest high school in St. Johns County recently named Toco Creek High School. Some of you know me as one of the current Dean's at Pacetti Bay MS, but prior to that I had been at St. Augustine HS since 1990. During that time, I was a teacher, coach, dean and since 2001 the Athletic Director for the Yellow Jackets. I am a long-time SJC resident of 46 years and my wife Tracy is a teacher here, our children all graduated from either Nease or SAHS and all currently reside within the tri-county area. We are vested into this great community that we all call home so, to be a part of opening this school truly is an honor that we are super excited about and look forward to our new adventure. It is an exciting time with the opening of Toco Creek High School a beautiful new state of the art facility, new traditions to be made, new teachers, friends and teammates to relate with, and new experiences lie ahead for all in this community. The athletic facilities are well on their way to completion and at the first of the year, I look to begin getting your support in building the best Athletic Booster group in the area.

The Athletic Department will offer a full range of varsity and JV sports and the hiring of over seventy coaches to run these teams, will begin around the first of March. These hires begin the building of championship teams, supporting the academics needs of our athletes, teaching; good character traits, leadership skills, perseverance, and teamwork, and build trusting relationships with our athletic community long before our first practices. The success of our athletes and their readiness for the future will be a huge motivating factor of this department as we start the "traditions" and build the identity of Toco Creek Athletics.

I look forward to the challenge, so come "jump aboard" with me and ride the "newest bus in town" as we create what will be Toco Creek High School Athletics

## Chassity Johnson Registrar

Chassity Johnson is a graduate of Florida A&M University and University of North Florida. She has been a middle school math teacher for the past 17 years, 13 in Saint Johns County. She has enjoyed every part of her journey in the traditional classroom and is super excited to move on to this next challenging chapter. She will miss being in the classroom, however student relationships always has and always will be her number one passion. Mrs. Johnson lives in this WGV area and is eager to serve her community students in a different capacity. She is married with 3 sons and a loyal dog named Snickers. In her spare time, you might find her at her favorite fishing spot on the Intracoastal.

