

THE BULL PEN

Tocoi Creek High School Weekly Newsletter

Toro Nation

The TCHS faculty, staff, and administration would like to wish you and your family a joyous and relaxing holiday season. There will not be an edition of the Bull Pen next week for the short week for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

History Made at TCHS! First EVER - National Merit Finalist and Commended Scholar Announced!

The St. Johns County School District had 35 seniors qualify as National Merit Semifinalists for 2024. These students placed among the top 1% of all students in the country taking the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT)/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test given annually to high school juniors.

TCHS is PROUD to announce the following Toros for their accomplishments:

- **Ms. Vidharthi Jagadish Kumar -National Merit Finalist**
 - Quite the academic accomplishment, of more than 16,000 of the high scorers, representing less than 1% of the nation's high school graduating seniors, will qualify as Semifinalists. Only Semifinalists will have an opportunity to advance in the competition for Merit Scholarship® awards.
 - Vidharthi is Toco's very first National Merit Scholar Semi-Finalist
 - We are optimistic that Vidharthi will attain Finalist Status this spring and are so proud of her accomplishments thus far, whatever the outcome.
- **Ms. Catalina Martinez-Whittingham -Commended Scholar**
 - In September 2024, more than two-thirds (about 34,000) of the high scorers will be designated Commended Students. This accounts for approximately 2-3% of the overall student testing population. Catalina is Toco's first National Merit Commended Scholar



IMPORTANT DATES

TORO WEEK

at a Glance

Monday, Nov. 20th-	
Tuesday, Nov. 21st-	Character Chats during English Classes
Nov. 22nd- Nov. 24th-	No School- Thanksgiving Holiday
Monday, Nov. 27th-	
Tuesday, Nov. 28th-	
Wednesday, Nov. 29th-	Beaches Go Green Club Meeting During Toro Time
Thursday, Nov. 30th-	College Parent Night 6-9pm
Friday, Dec. 1st-	Last Day of Toy Drive
	Senior Snack during lunches

SAVE THE DATE

- **DECEMBER 13TH** ASVAB TEST
- **FEBRUARY 2ND** WINTER DANCE (MORP)
- **FEBRUARY 8TH** JUNIOR RING AND PIN CEREMONY IN AUDITORIUM
- **MARCH 22-23RD** JUNIOR/SENIOR CAMPOUT
- **APRIL 12TH:** SENIOR GRADBASH @ UNIVERSAL STUDIOS
- **APRIL 18TH:** JUNIOR/SENIOR PROM @ WGV RENAISSANCE RESORT (1000 TICKETS)
- **MAY 20TH:** GRADUATION AT THE ST. AUGUSTINE AMPHITHEATER @ 7PM

TORO ATHLETICS

at a Glance

- Mon., Nov. 20th @ 5:30/7:20pm Girls Soccer v Bartram Trail @ TCHS
- Tues., Nov. 20th @ 6pm Girls Basketball v Fernandina Beach HS @ TCHS
- Tues., Nov. 21st @ 5:30/7:20pm Boys Soccer v Creekside @ TCHS
- Tues., Nov. 21st @ 6pm Girls Basketball (JV) v Fleming Island @ Fleming Island HS
- Mon., Nov. 27th @ 5:30/7:20 Boys Soccer v St. Augustine @ SAHS
- Mon., Nov. 27th @ 6/7:30pm Boys Basketball v Atlantic Coast HS @ TCHS
- Tues., Nov. 28th @ 5:30/7:20pm Girls Soccer v Nease @ TCHS
- Tues., Nov. 28th @ 6/7:30pm Girls Basketball v Episcopal HS @ TCHS
- Tues., Nov. 28th @ 6/7:30pm Boys Basketball v Fletcher HS @ Fletcher HS
- Wed., Nov. 29th @ 4:30pm Girls Weightlifting v Pedro Menendez @ PMHS
- Wed., Nov. 29th @ 5pm Boys Wrestling v Atlantic Coast HS @ Atlantic Coast HS
- Thurs., Nov. 30th @ 6/7:30pm Boys Basketball v Wolfson HS @ TCHS
- Thurs., Nov. 30th @ 6/7:30pm Girls Basketball v Andrew Jackson HS @ Andrew Jackson HS
- Fri., Dec. 1st @ 5:30/7:20pm Girls Soccer v Flagler Palm Coast HS @ Flagler Palm Coast HS
- Fri., Dec. 1st @ 6/7:30pm Girls Basketball v Beachside @ BHS
- Sat., Dec. 2nd @ 8am Boys Wrestling v Sandalwood HS @ Sandalwood HS

Press Release

NEWSWORTHY TOROS



Students from our band got together to perform patriotic songs at 3 assisted living homes this past Friday, including the Veteran's home. This was coordinated by Junior, Amelia Gallagher as part of her non-profit program called Student Senior Connections. This program connects students in the arts with assisted living communities in our area to do 30-45 minute musical, vocal, or dance performances for residents. Students earn volunteer hours when volunteering. For more details, go to www.studentseniorconnections.org

The TCHS Debate Team brought our 4 captains to the National Civics and Debate Championship this past weekend. They competed against over 300 high school students from all over Florida; there were also teams from South Dakota, Oklahoma, Nevada, California, Ohio, and Texas! They competed in 2 rounds of Congressional Debate, 3 rounds of Extemporaneous Debate, and 2 rounds of Impromptu Speaking.

Noah DeHaan placed 10th in Congressional Debate AND 13th overall!!! This was the first time he has competed in Congressional Debate.

Mehna Lakshminarayanan, Shreya Singh, and Arissa Latif also did quite well and won many of their rounds! They had never competed in these categories before.





STUDENT LIFE

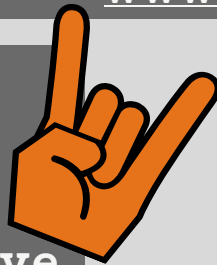
PURCHASE A YEARBOOK!



YEARBOOKS ARE SELLING OUT!!!!

The TCHS yearbook only has **100** yearbooks left for the 2023-2024 school year. To guarantee a copy, please purchase ASAP at www.buytheyearbook.com

TORO GEAR!



Limited time, exclusive lululemon TCHS gear!!
Get it while you can!!
*Guaranteed Christmas delivery!!

For the 2023-2024 Toco Creek Varsity Girls' basketball season, we are launching our first ever in-season fundraiser giving our fans an opportunity to invest in the team's success by making a financial pledge in any or all the statistical categories listed [here](#). Stats will be updated weekly on our social media pages if you would like to keep a tally of your donation as the season progresses. Our goal is to provide more fan engagement for our program and help fund the future! Support the Lady Toros basketball program by cheering them on in the stands and investing in their future success on the court. Horns up!



TOCOI CREEK HIGH SCHOOL

**DINNER
GAMES
MOVIE...
AND MUCH MORE**

**JUNIOR / SENIOR
CAMP
OUT**

**MARCH
22-23
2024
6:30PM-9:00AM**

THIS EVENT AIMS TO CELEBRATE AND ENERGIZE OUR JUNIORS AND SENIORS AS THEY HEAD INTO THE LAST GRADING QUARTER OF THE YEAR.

CONTACT MR. CABRERA 2-017 FOR MORE INFO



**TOY
DRIVE**

Help TCHS win the competition for the third year in a row!

Drop off new unwrapped toys to the main office between October 23- December 1

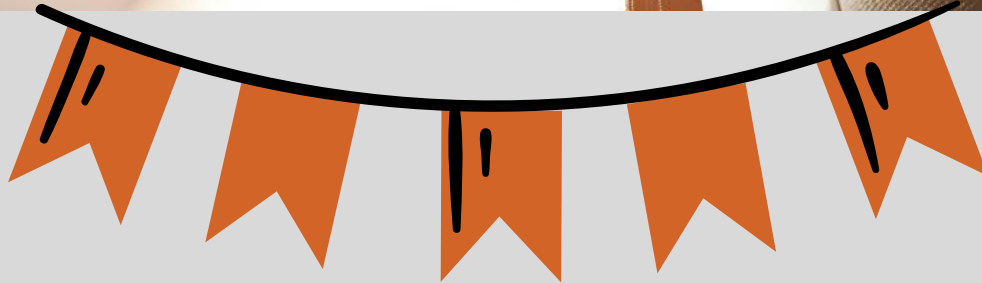
New unwrapped toys only
no toy guns, clothing, or food items allowed

**TCHS
Winter Dance**

SAVE THE DATE FOR TOCOI'S
FIRST MORP
A WINTER WONDERLAND

Friday, February 2nd, 2024

SENIOR INFORMATION



SENIOR DATES:

- April 12th: GradBash @ Universal Studios
- April 18th: Prom @ WGV Renaissance Resort
- May 20th: Graduation at St. Augustine Amphitheater



Grad Bash tickets are going fast! **There are 30 seats left** to attend the senior class overnight event at Universal Studios/Islands of Adventures on April 12th. To purchase tickets, you need to pay senior dues and select the first deposit for Grad Bash available in School Pay.

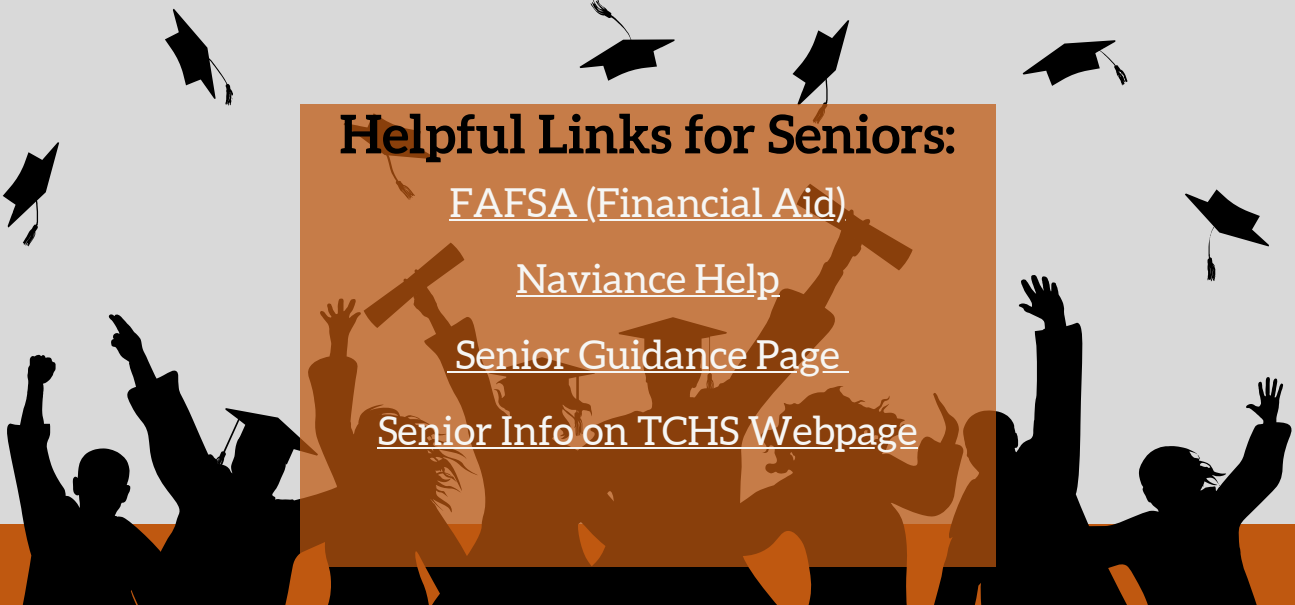
Helpful Links for Seniors:

[FAFSA \(Financial Aid\)](#)

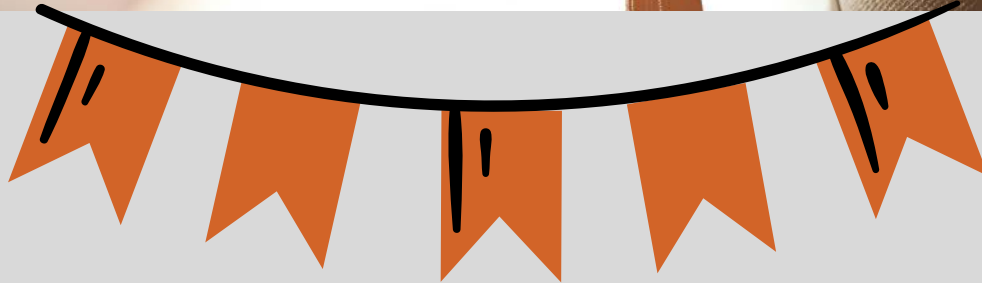
[Naviance Help](#)

[Senior Guidance Page](#)

[Senior Info on TCHS Webpage](#)



SENIOR INFORMATION



SENIOR TO-DO LIST:

- **By October 21st:** Order your Cap and Gown
- **By December 1st:** Order Senior Ads for Yearbook
- **By December 1st:** Pay Senior Dues: \$100
- **By January 15th or until full:** Pay Grad Bash Deposit 1: \$125.00 (Limited spots- please reserve early to guarantee a seat.) **must pay senior dues first

Yearbook ads for seniors are now open until sold out. To order an ad for your senior, please visit www.buytheyearbook.com and enter in school id 715033. There are a limited number of senior ad spaces available, and spaces will sell out.



CAREER ACADEMIES

Healthcare Academy to University of St. Augustine



University of St. Augustine Occupational Therapy graduate students spent the day immersing our students in the life of an Occupational Therapist. Special thanks to University of St. Augustine for this amazing experience!



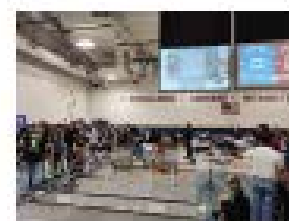
HEALTH SCIENCE 2 DOING BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS



UPCOMING FIELD STUDIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

- November 17- Senior AIBE leaders field study
- December 5- UNF College of Computing, Architecture, and Construction Tour (link on Schoology)

HEALTHCARE ACADEMY PROJECT INNOVATION GROUP WINS "MOST INVESTABLE IDEA" AT DISTRICT COMPETITION



Robotics club at Bolles Competition



[Click Here](#) for the November edition of the Academy Newsletter



TESTING CORNER

UPCOMING TESTING:

Winter 2023 EOC (End of Course) Exams for Students That Took Class Virtually
TCHS will be offering the following EOC's: Algebra 1, Geometry, Biology, and US History in between December 4th - December 15th. Deadline to request Winter 2023 EOC testing is Wednesday, November 29, 2023. Please complete the form to secure a testing date.

TCHS ASVAB Test – Wednesday, December 13, 2023

The ASVAB Career Exploration Program (CEP) will be administered on Wednesday, December 13th at 9:15 AM in The Auditorium.

THIS EXAM IS FOR 10TH, 11TH, and 12TH GRADERS ONLY.

You must register to take the ASVAB Test through SignUpGenius linked here.

Deadline to register for the test is Friday, December 8th.

Learn more about the ASVAB Test here.



National Testing Accommodations for Students with an IEP or 504

IF A STUDENT CURRENTLY HAS AN IEP OR 504 PLAN WITH TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS, THERE IS A SEPARATE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR REQUESTING ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PSAT, SAT, AP AND ACT.

YOU CAN ACCESS APPLICATIONS FOR BOTH COLLEGEBOARD AND ACT ON THE TCHS TESTING PAGE.

[TCHS TESTING PAGE LINKED HERE!](#)

FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING TESTING, PLEASE EMAIL TESTING COORDINATOR, AMANDA LEWIS AT AMANDA.LEWIS@STJOHNS.K12.FL.US.



GUIDANCE INFO FOR SENIORS

ADVICE
ASSISTANCE

GUIDANCE

HELP

Published by the Florida Department of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance

NyFF
NAVIGATING YOUR
FINANCIAL FUTURE

OCT - NOV 2023

NAVIGATING YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Florida

View information about the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program at the following link:
www.FloridaStudentFinancialAidsg.org/SAPBFMAIN/SAPBFMAIN

The Bright Futures Student Handbook is divided into three chapters covering a variety of topics.

CHAPTER 1: INITIAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS, INCLUDES:

- Requirements for Scholarship Types (FAS, FMS, GSC, and GSV); and
- Non-Traditional Students (Home-Educated, Personalized Education Program, GED, Out-of-State, and Mid-Year).

CHAPTER 2: SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION, INCLUDES:

- Length of the Scholarship Award;
- Award Amounts; and
- Transferring the Award between Institutions.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- 2024-25 *Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA)*: We encourage all high school seniors to submit an application, even if you do not plan to attend a university, college, or technical center immediately after graduation. The state application opens on October 1, 2023. Read the fact sheets for program deadlines found here: www.FloridaStudentFinancialAidsg.org/SAPBFMAIN/SAPBFMAIN.
- 2024-25 *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)*: The anticipated opening date for the federal application is December 2023. Create your FSA_ID and Password here: <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>.
- Private Scholarships: Apply! Apply! Apply!
- National College Fairs: www.nacacfairs.org

Florida

colle



CHAPTER 3: RENEWAL ELIGIBILITY, INCLUDES:

- Renewal Requirements; and
- Reinstatement/Restoration Requirements.

Bright Futures Florida Medallion Scholarship (BFFMS) students enrolled in an associate degree program at a Florida College System (FCS) institution receive 100 percent of tuition and specific fees. Upon completing an associate degree, a student may use his or her award to pursue a baccalaureate degree and receive 75 percent of tuition and specific fees.

PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS:

Many scholarship committees are looking for students who have the ability to communicate effectively in writing. Essays are an excellent way for scholarship judges to choose the most qualified candidates. Tips for writing the essay include:

- Giving yourself time - Quality essays take time;
- Following directions - Word count and font size may be eligibility requirements;
- Focusing on the topic - Answer the question that is being asked;
- Proofreading and editing your work - Be clear, concise, and correct any errors; and
- Getting feedback - Ask family or counselors to read your essay and provide feedback.

GUIDANCE INFORMATION

ADVICE
ASSISTANCE

GUIDANCE

HELP

School Counselors attended our annual training with the State University Admission Directors, ACT/SAT/CLT representatives, and the Department of Education. There are a lot of updates this year that we are anxious to share with you and your students.

We have dispersed this information in the following ways:

Individual Senior Meetings: Counselors met with every senior individually. The counselors discussed graduation requirements and post-secondary planning with each student.

Classroom Guidance:

School counselors visited 9th and 10th grade English classes during the weeks of September 25th and October 2nd and 11th grade English classes during the week of October 17th. [You can view a copy of the presentation here](#)

Website: The following sections of the website have received significant updates:

Bright Futures- Includes updated Bright Futures test score requirements for the class of 2024 and 2025. In addition, it specifies that community service hours and paid service hours can now be combined to reach the 100 hour requirement. Bright Futures has also extended the deadline to submit standardized test scores to the August 31st after graduation!

Testing for College- Includes an introduction to the Classic Learning Test (CLT) which is an online exam that can be taken from home and used for Bright Futures, College Admissions, and to meet high school graduation testing requirements! There is also additional information about the ACT, PERT, PSAT, and SAT exams.

Graduation Requirements - Includes notification that the on-line course requirement has been removed as a graduation requirement for all grade levels as well as NEW graduation requirements for students entering high school in the 23-24 school year and beyond.

Counselor Videos- Includes an updated Toro Academic Handbook which walks students 8-12th grade through navigating the high school and post-secondary process. It also has updated guides for both the Florida Private Schools and Florida State Universities which includes average accepted GPA's and test scores all in one place!

Who is my Counselor?

- [Elizabeth Wright](#) :
 - Early College Students & Last Name A
- [Artina Coma](#):
 - Last Names B-Dh
- [Laura Kuhel](#):
 - Last Names Di-I
- [Alyssa Socket](#):
 - Last Names J-Ml
- [Rachel Blount](#) :
 - Last Names Mo-Sa
- [Linda Smith](#) :
 - Last Names Sc-Z

PARENT INVOLVEMENT



Please join us in supporting the fine arts at Toco Creek High School. The vision of the One Toro Arts Booster Organization is to ensure that ALL students at Toco Creek High School benefit from the collaborative support of our parent, community, and booster organization. Follow us on Facebook @OneToroArtsBoosters

Interested in joining or donating to PTSO?

- [Our Website](#)
- [Our FB Group](#)
- [Our FB Page](#)
- [Our Email](#)



Join the Athletics Booster to help with:

- Facility improvement Projects
- Fundraising
- Concession Stand
- Promoting the School



If interested, contact: [Billy Blackmon](#)

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Next SAC Meeting will be December 14th at 8:10AM in Mr. Cabrera's Room.



ONETORO ARTS

TCHS Arts Calendar

→ IN NOVEMBER 2023

17/18
Fri/Sat

Int'l Thespian Society
One-Act Event TCHS Auditorium
not open to the public

→ IN DECEMBER 2023

01 Fri

All Arts Winter Showcase,
TCHS Auditorium, 7PM

02 Sat

THESPY'S District Competition,
Douglas Anderson

06 Wed

TCHS Drama Auditions for "Steel
Magnolias"

09 Sat

SJCSD Honor Band Concert,
Beachside HS, 2PM

13 Wed

TCHS Jazz Night, TCHS Courtyard,
7PM

15 Fri

Gallery Nights II, TCHS
Auditorium, 5:30-7PM

22 Fri

TCHS Jazz Band at Nights Of Lights,
Plaza De La Constitucion, 6-8PM

MORE INFORMATION

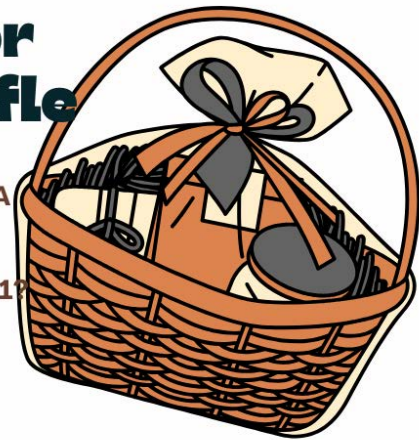
[https://onetroarts.wixsite.com/
one-toro-arts](https://onetroarts.wixsite.com/one-toro-arts)



One Toro Arts Boosters
**is collecting
donations for
a basket raffle**

WOULD YOU OR YOUR
BUSINESS LIKE TO DONATE A
BASKET OF GOODIES TO BE
RAFFLED AT THE ALL ARTS
SHOWCASE ON DECEMBER 17?

Email us today!
We appreciate your support!



Can you help?
Email us at onetroarts@gmail.com



ONETORO ARTS



Art Show

Sponsorship

Funds are allocated for purchasing high-quality frames, matboards, hosting our quarterly receptions, and covering competition fees.

Sponsorship starts at \$50
-Each * will represent
additional increments of \$50



[CLICK HERE TO SPONSOR](#)

Donors will have their name(s) laser engraved onto a sponsors plaque in the main Performing Arts Center Gallery.



All Arts

Winter Showcase

Dec 1st at 7pm

Doors will open at 6:30pm

Adults: \$15
Students/
18 & under: \$10





PTSO



BRICK DRIVE

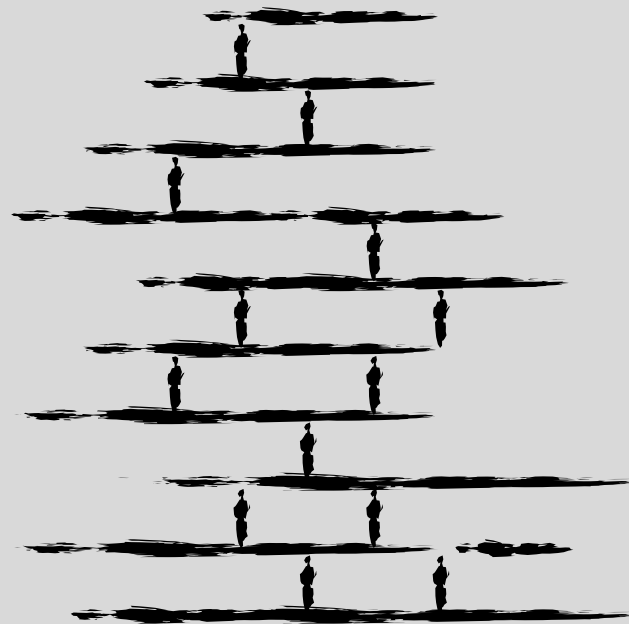
PURCHASE A COMMEMORATIVE BRICK FOR YOUR STUDENT
INSTALLED IN OUR ACTIVITY WALKWAY

ARTS
ACHIEVEMENTS



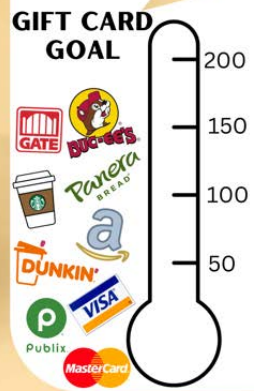
SPORTS
CLUBS

ENGRAVED 4X8 COMMEMORATIVE BRICK FOR \$100
Order by December 31st for installation in May



HOLIDAY Gift Card Drive

\$20 GIFT CARD



TCHS TEACHERS & STAFF

The PTSO is collecting \$20 gift cards for every teacher and staff member this holiday. Please send in gift cards or use the link to donate \$20 and we'll do the shopping for you!

Please drop gift cards at the front office in an envelope labeled "PTSO" or message us and we'll come pick them up!



GENERAL SCHOOL INFO



@TOCOI_CREEKHS



@TOCOI CREEK HIGH SCHOOL



@TOCOICREEK



Helpful Links:

[SJCSD Dress Code](#)

[TCHS Clubs](#)

[Lunch Applications](#)

[TCHS Yearbook](#)

[Absences and Early
Dismissal](#)

[Athletic Tickets](#)

[Cafeteria](#)

[Clever](#)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

TCHS IS LOOKING FOR SOME OUTSTANDING STAFF MEMBERS TO WORK WITH OUR TOROS!
PLEASE EMAIL MR. WILLETS DIRECTLY AT JAY.WILLETS@STJOHNS.K12.FL.US FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

- TEACHER ENGLISH (10TH/12TH GRADE)
- ESE PARAPROFESSIONAL
- CUSTODIAN
- CUSTODIAN



St Johns County School District

Next Hiring for

GUEST TEACHER (Substitute)

Posting September 1, 2023

in AppliTrack Application System

SJCSD is ready to hire Guest Teachers who are ready to make a difference for students in Pre-K - 12th grade. Daily hourly rate \$15.00.

The Guest Teacher role provides:

- Opportunity to put your degree to work.
- Flexibility – you pick the days and schools.
- An opportunity to work with diverse student populations.
- An opportunity to contribute to the learning and development of the students in our school district.

Come join our team.

Applicants who hold a minimum of an Associate degree or equivalent of 60 credits or higher and who are 20 years of age or older are eligible to apply. Preferences given to applicants that have graduated or are graduating from an Education program. All applicants will be reviewed for strong teaching potential, above average references, experience in critical need areas, and/or an education degree.

For full job description, requirements and to apply online,

Visit: <https://www.appliTrack.com/stjohns/onlineapp/>

Questions? Please call 904-547-7636 Smartfind Helpdesk or application questions call AppliTrack helpdesk 547-7631



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FORTIFYFL

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORTING APP

#FORTIFYFL

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
fldoe.org

