

THE BULL PEN

Tocoi Creek High School Weekly Newsletter

Toro Nation

We would like to thank everyone that came to Winter Arts Showcase on Friday evening...a tremendous event to help kick off the holiday season. Your support of OneToro Arts is GREATLY appreciated!

As we enter the final stages of the final stages of the second quarter, please know that there will not be an adjusted schedule prior to Winter Break, classes and schedules will remain consistent. December 21st will be our final day of the semester and will be a 1-hour early release day. Students will be completing final assignments/retakes/assessments throughout the final week.

TCHS ASVAB Test – Wednesday, December 13, 2023

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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.

One Toro Athletics HOLIDAY MARKET

NEW Toro Swag & Apparel

Local Craft Vendors

Gift Wrapping

Bake Sale &

Festive Drinks



TCHS Cafe & Courtyard
11am-4pm Saturday, December 9th

IMPORTANT DATES

TORO WEEK

at a Glance

Monday, Dec. 4th-	EOC Retakes begin
Tuesday, Dec. 5th-	Boys Soccer and Basketball, Girls Basketball
Wednesday, Dec. 6th-	Dual Enrollment Meeting w/ Guidance (see pg 5)
Thursday, Dec. 7th-	Reminders to Seniors for Cap/Gown, Dues, Gradbash
Friday, Dec. 8th-	Blood Drive in Gym Foyer

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., Dec. 4th @ 5:30/7:20pm Girls Soccer v Bolles @ TCHS
Tues., Dec. 5th @ TBA Competitive Cheer v Bartram Trail @ BTHS
Tues., Dec. 5th @ 5:30/7:20pm Boys Soccer v Orange Park HS @ TCHS
Tues., Dec. 5th @ 6pm Girls Basketball (Varsity) v St. Joseph Academy @ TCHS
Tues., Dec. 5th @ 7pm Boys Basketball (Varsity) v Fleming Island HS @ Fleming Island HS
Tues., Dec. 5th @ 7:30pm Boys Basketball (JV) v Bishop Kenny HS @ TCHS
Wed., Dec. 6th @ 5pm Girls Weightlifting v Ponte Vedra @ PVHS
Wed., Dec. 6th @ 5pm Boys Wrestling v Mandarin HS @ TCHS
Wed., Dec. 6th @ 6/7:30pm Boys Basketball v Nease @ NHS
Thurs., Dec. 7th @ 5:30/7:20pm Boys Soccer v Oakleaf HS @ Oakleaf HS
Thurs., Nov. 7th @ 6/7:30pm Boys Basketball v Beachside @ BHS
Thurs., Dec. 7th @ 6/7:30pm Girls Basketball v Bolles @ Bolles
Fri., Dec. 8th @ 4pm Boys Wrestling v Bishop Snyder HS @ Bishop Snyder HS
Fri., Dec. 8th @ 5:30/7:20pm Girls Soccer v Stanton College Prep @ TCHS
Fri., Dec. 8th @ 6pm Girls Basketball (Varsity) v Calvary Christian @ TCHS
Sat., Dec. 9th @ 8am Boys Wrestling v Bishop Snyder HS @ Bishop Snyder HS
Sat., Dec. 9th @ 9am Girls Wrestling v Ponte Vedra @ PVHS
Sat., Dec. 9th @ TBA Competitive Cheerleading v Clay HS @ Clay HS



STUDENT LIFE



SOFTBALL

Interested in trying out for the TCHS Softball Team? There will be an informational try out meeting Wednesday, December 6th right after school in room 4-049. If you cannot attend, please see Coach Cassano to pick up a try out packet.



The Junior Ladies of Toco Creek will be collecting items for the St. John's County Animal Shelter. From December 1st until December 21st, please drop off old towels, canned or dry puppy, kitten, dog or cat food to the box located in Building 1 outside of the front office.

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

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!**





DONATE BLOOD

Tocoi Creek High School
Friday, December 8
9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

All donors will receive*:

- **Refreshments**
- **OneBlood Blanket**
- **Wellness Checkup** including blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count and cholesterol screening.

*All Donors must have a signed Parental Consent Form.
All Donors must schedule an appointment prior to the day of the drive.
Appointments cannot be scheduled during a core class*



- PLUS -



- PLUS -



Appointments are encouraged, please visit oneblood.org/donate-now and use sponsor code #68419.



ID REQUIRED

*One offer per donor, per donation. No cash value. Not transferable. Gifts may vary. For more information please visit oneblood.org/details.

One Toro Athletics HOLIDAY MARKET

NEW Toro Swag & Apparel
Local Craft Vendors
Gift Wrapping
Bake Sale & Festive Drinks



TCHS Cafe & Courtyard
11am-4pm Saturday, December 9th

DINNER GAMES MOVIE... AND MUCH MORE

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

JUNIOR / SENIOR CAMP OUT

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

TCHS Winter Dance

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

Friday, February 2nd, 2024

GUIDANCE INFORMATION

ADVICE
ASSISTANCE

GUIDANCE

HELP

The School Counseling Team will be hosting Dual Enrollment Information Sessions during Toro Time on December 6 & 20.

What is Dual Enrollment?

Dual Enrollment is a program that allows students to take college level courses at St. Johns River State College and earn high school credit and college credit at the same time. The credits that students earn must be applicable toward high school graduation and be applicable toward an Associate or Baccalaureate degree.

Who is eligible for Dual Enrollment?

- Students with a 3.0 or higher UNWEIGHTED GPA
- Students with qualifying test scores on the ACT, SAT, or PERT (see qualifying test scores [here](#).)

What do I do if I'm interested?

- Attend one of the Toro Time Sessions on December 6 & 20th (These sessions are for STUDENTS. A parent presentation will be posted on the website after the presentation).
- Join the Dual Enrollment Schoology group: RCGS-QGPH-RZCG6
- Confirm your eligibility.
- Tell your school counselor when you are selecting your courses for next year.

Important things to consider:

- The student will need transportation to and from the college campus.
- Dual Enrollment students are considered college students. St. Johns River State College is a separate school from TCHS. Their professors do not communicate with parents or school counselors regarding assignments and grades. They do not input grades in HAC or follow TCHS test retake policies. Students who receive TCHS accommodations will need to apply and are not guaranteed to receive accommodations through St. Johns River State College.
- All grades earned are a part of the student's permanent college transcript. If students struggle in a course and withdraw, they will earn a W on their transcript which can have negative implications for college admissions, financial aid eligibility, and place students on Bright Futures and other scholarship probation once they are in college.
- Dual Enrollment students must be responsible and independent learners. THE STUDENT needs to make sure that they meet ALL DEADLINES (application, test scores, course registration, book rental, etc) by checking for updates in the Dual Enrollment Schoology group and their SJR email daily.

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

GUIDANCE INFO FOR SENIORS



BRIGHT FUTURES SENIOR UPDATE:



Bright Futures allows students to “lock in” the Bright Futures scholarship after the 1st semester of their senior year. Students that lock in the Medallion Level award can continue to improve their GPA, retake their standardized tests, and/or submit additional community service hours to be re-evaluated for the Academic Level award at the end of the school year. The advantage of locking in the scholarship is that students can not lose the scholarship once it is locked in if their GPA drops and the college will be able to process their scholarship package sooner.

To lock in the scholarship, students MUST do the following prior to December 21st:

- Apply! Application instructions are available [here](#)
- Submit their pay stubs and/or community service letters and reflection sheets to the guidance office. Community service instructions are available [here](#).
- Submit their qualifying test scores to at least one public Florida university.
- Have a minimum of a 3.0 BRIGHT FUTURES GPA.

Students that do not lock in the scholarship after the first semester can still apply and be evaluated again after graduation. Students have until August 31st following their senior year to continue to retake the ACT, SAT, or CLT to get qualifying test scores and graduation day to submit their community service/ paid work hours.

[college fairs](#)

If your SENIOR would like a copy of their Bright Futures evaluation, please have them see their school counselor for a copy.



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.

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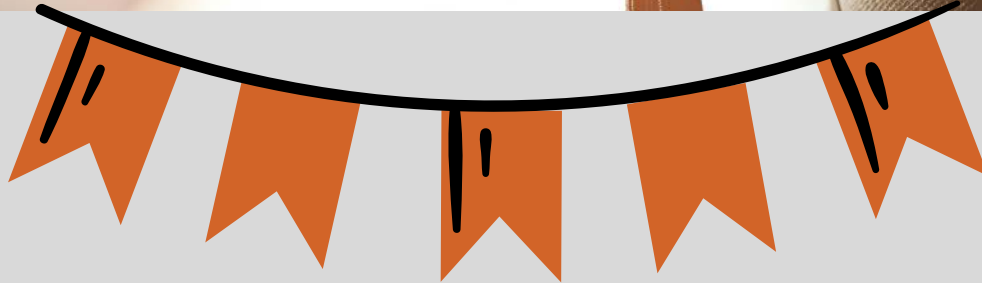
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SENIOR INFORMATION



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.

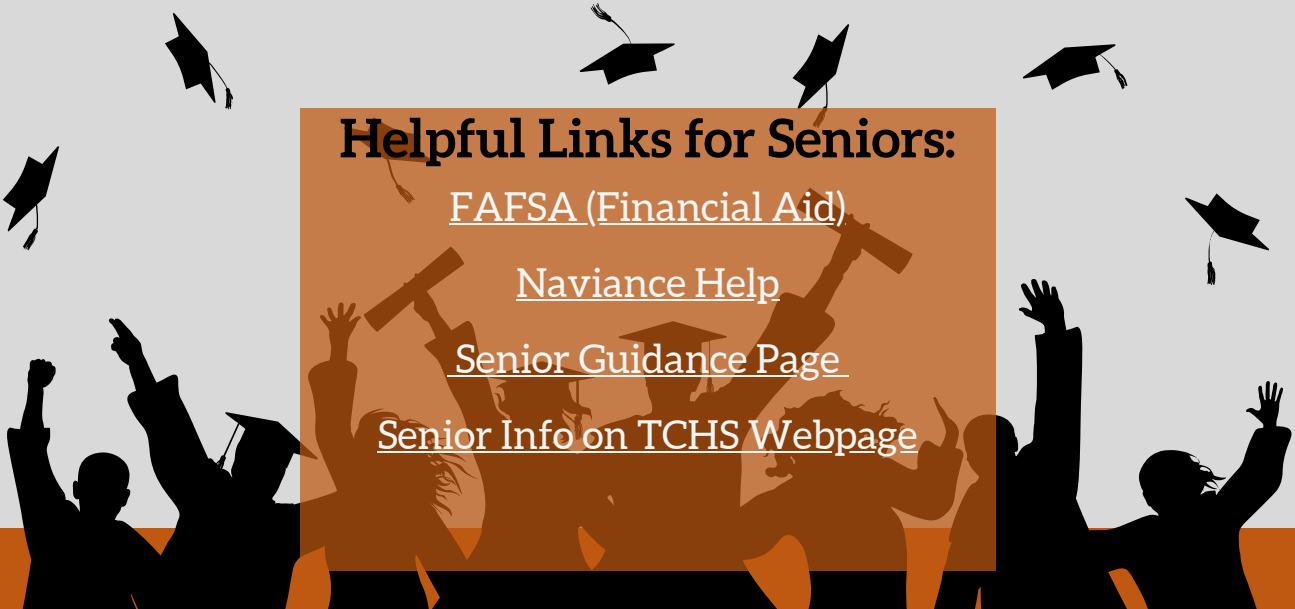
Helpful Links for Seniors:

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

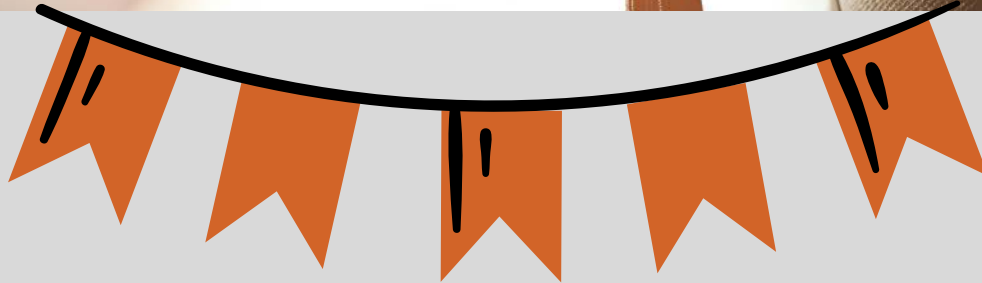
[Naviance Help](#)

[Senior Guidance Page](#)

[Senior Info on TCHS Webpage](#)



SENIOR INFORMATION



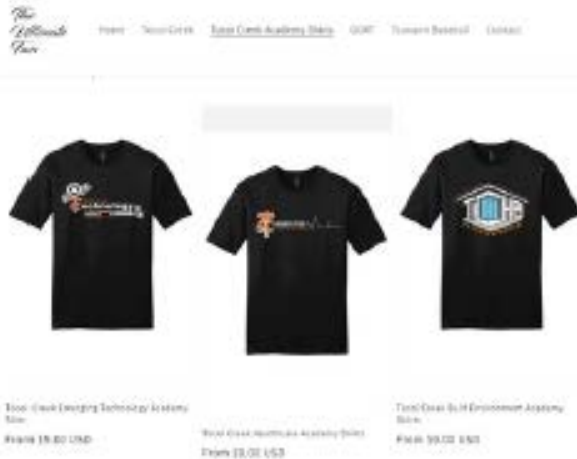
SENIOR TO-DO LIST:

- **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



First round of orders arrived! Shirts can be picked up in room 4-028.

You can still order your Academy shirt by visiting <https://theultimatefan.store/collections/tocoi-creek-academy-shirts>

Students will wear these shirts for field trips, club meetings, etc.



Healthcare Academy Team, Cord Convenience, pitched their ideas to local entrepreneurs and business leaders at EnterCircle Summit on November 16. They earned the award of "Most Investable". Congratulations to these hard-working young professionals!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 4- Middle School Blitz at Mill Creek Academy
- December 5- UNF College of Computing, Architecture, and Construction Tour
- December 5- Teaching Academy to Mill Creek
- December 8- Blood Drive
- December 13- High School Showcase at Renaissance (World Golf)

CERTIFICATION TESTING UPDATE

As a certified testing center, the certification exams administered at TCHS are proctored through Certiport, an independent testing platform. Students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 may apply for accommodations through Certiport. Because it is an outside testing company, like ACT or SAT, accommodations, such as extended time, must be applied for and implemented to the individual student's testing platform by Certiport. The school cannot request these services, the student and their legal guardian (if student is under 18) must submit the request directly to Certiport. Accommodations are granted by Certiport annually, so even if your student was granted accommodations for testing in the 2022-2023 school year, the application must be submitted again for the 2023-2024 school year to ensure that accommodations are provided at the time your student tests.

Certiport has an online accommodations application process. The process is detailed on their website at: <https://certiport.pearsonvue.com/Educator-resources/Exam-policies/Accommodations.aspx>

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



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.

ONETORO ARTS

JAZZ NIGHT

TOCOI CREEK

Join us for a night of jazz, coffee, and treats!

\$5 to attend! Come support the TCHS High School Band!



13

DECEMBER

TCHS COURTYARD, 7-8PM

All Arts *Winter Showcase*

Dec 1st at 7pm

Doors will open at 6:30pm

Adults: \$15

Students/

18 & under: \$10



PTSO



Email:

onetoroptso@gmail.com

PARENTS

- 1 We began our brick fundraiser for 2023-2024. Sales close Dec 31st for Spring Delivery. Please contact us with any questions or get your orders in!
- 2 Our new merchandise for 2023-2024 was unveiled and online sales are live!

NOVEMBER RECAP

TEACHERS/STAFF

- 1 We provided a beautiful extended salad bar for teachers before the Thanksgiving Break. They enjoyed a variety of salads and homemade pies from Heather Toombs and her bakery!
- 2 We awarded \$1550 in Teacher / Staff Grants through our fundraising. Watch for the Spring Call for Requests.

STUDENTS

- 1 We announced the First Annual MORP Winter Dance. Be on the lookout for tickets.

PARTNERS

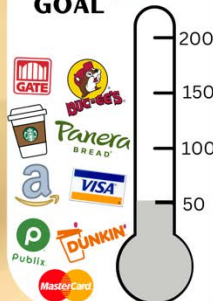
We completed the Fill the Fence fundraiser and added the last of the banners to the fence. We'll have the final 3 to the printer this month and up before the holidays..



HOLIDAY Gift Card Drive

\$20 GIFT CARD

GIFT CARD GOAL



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!

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

TCHS PTSO GRANT AWARDS



CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- | | | |
|----------------|-------|--------------------------|
| ◦ Dean Green | \$250 | SOS Luncheon |
| ◦ Ms. Sockett | \$500 | Wellness Space |
| ◦ Ms. Nemececk | \$200 | Misc Items for EMR/EKG |
| ◦ Ms. Durnin | \$100 | Oxygen Probe |
| ◦ Ms. Hoekema | \$50 | Cart for Science Classes |
| ◦ Mrs. Sanford | \$440 | Oil Immersion Microscope |

Total Awarded:
\$1540!



Spring 2024
is next
Grant Period

LOOKING TO VOLUNTEER?
WE'RE LOOKING FOR YOU!
THE PTSO WOULD LOVE
SOME HELP WITH THE
WINTER DANCE.

DECOR?
LOGISTICS?
RELIVING YOUR DANCE AS
A CHAPERONE?

REACH OUT: ONETOROPTSO@GMAIL.COM
WE'RE MEETING NEXT WEEK.

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**



Join Our Dynamic & Growing Team of Professional Drivers



UP TO
\$3,000
SIGN ON BONUS

- Up to \$25.98 hourly pay depending on experience
- Paid training time while acquiring your CDL endorsements
- Health, Dental, Vision Benefits and more for full time employees
- Florida Retirement System
- Life Insurance
- Full time employees work 30 to 40 hours per week, Monday through Friday
- Drive modern air-conditioned fleet buses



CALL
904.547.8814

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EDUCATION
fldoe.org

