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# THE BULL PEN

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*Tocoi Creek High School Weekly Newsletter*

## Congratulations to TCHS 2nd Consecutive "A" Rating by the Florida Department of Education

I would like to take a moment to not only congratulate our students and staff members who "made the grade" for TCHS but also to our families who supported our learning environment throughout our second year. From opening a comprehensive high school, to hosting our first ever graduation, our TCHS community rose to the occasion, and our data is a reflection of everyone's hard work and focus on making our school "Legendary"!

Thank You and Congratulations!!

## Electives Fair Tuesday

In preparation for the 24-25 school year registration, TCHS is hosting an Electives Fair in the courtyard from 8:45-9:20 am. Students will have the chance to "shop" around to see elective course options, talk to students and teachers prior to meeting with our guidance staff during registration.

## Final Week of Semester/2nd Quarter

Second quarter, 1st semester ends next week on December 21st. Please see below for our final week of 2023:

- **Monday** - Normal school hours - final summatives issued to students in individual classes.
- **Tuesday** - Normal school hours - final summatives issued to students in individual classes.
- **Wednesday** - Wednesday Early Release Schedule @ dismissal 2:50pm - Reteach and project completion day as needed in all classes.
- **Thursday** - Wednesday Early Release Schedule @ dismissal 2:50pm Final opportunity to re-test or complete projects in all classes.

# IMPORTANT DATES

## TORO WEEK

*at a Glance*

Monday, Dec. 18th-	Mascot Reveal at Boys/Girls Varsity BB Game
Tuesday, Dec. 19th-	Electives Fair @ 8:45 in Courtyard
Wednesday, Dec. 20th-	Final Reteach Day all Classes
Thursday, Dec. 21st-	1 hour Early Release/End of Quarter 2
Friday, Dec. 22nd-	No School- Winter Break! TCHS

## SAVE THE DATE

- **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. 18th @ 5:30/7:20pm Girls Soccer v Fletcher HS @ TCHS  
Mon., Dec. 18th @ 6pm Girls Basketball (Varsity) v Matanzas HS @ TCHS  
Mon., Dec. 18th @ 7:30pm Boys Basketball (Varsity) v Bradford HS @ TCHS  
Tues., Dec. 19th @ 5pm Competitive Cheer v SJCS Schools @ TCHS  
Tues., Dec. 19th @ 5:30/7:20pm Boys Soccer v Pedro Menendez @ TCHS  
Wed., Dec. 20th @ 37pm Girls Soccer (Varsity) v PK Yonge @ TBA  
Wed., Dec. 20th @ 5:30pm Boys Wrestling v Ponte Vedra @ TCHS  
Thurs., Dec. 21sr @ 4:30pm Boys Basketball v Discovery HS @ TBA  
Thurs., Dec. 21st @ 5:30/7:20pm Boys Soccer v Bartram Trail @ BTHS  
Thurs., Dec. 21st @ 6/7:30pm Girls Basketball v Creekside @ CHS

# Press Release

## NEWSWORTHY TOROS

On Wednesday Girls Weightlifting competed in the St. Johns County Weightlifting Tournament, and Toros came home in 4th place. The girls fought hard, and we had 5 girls medal in the top 3. Each School was only allowed to bring 10 total lifters and all 10 of our lifters finished in the top 5!!

### 1st Place – County Champion:

Lauren Arsenault  
Bella Wray

### 2nd place:

Kassidy Grundy  
Olivia Antinarella

### 3rd place:

Kamryn Anderson





# STUDENT LIFE



## ELECTIVES FAIR!

December 19th from 8:45-9:45am TCHS will be holding an Electives Fair in the courtyard. This is an opportunity for students to see what TCHS has to offer and to hear directly from current students and teachers about the available courses. Students will begin selecting electives via HAC on 12/21.

## 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](http://www.buytheyearbook.com)



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.

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!**





**Reindeer  
Candy  
Grams**

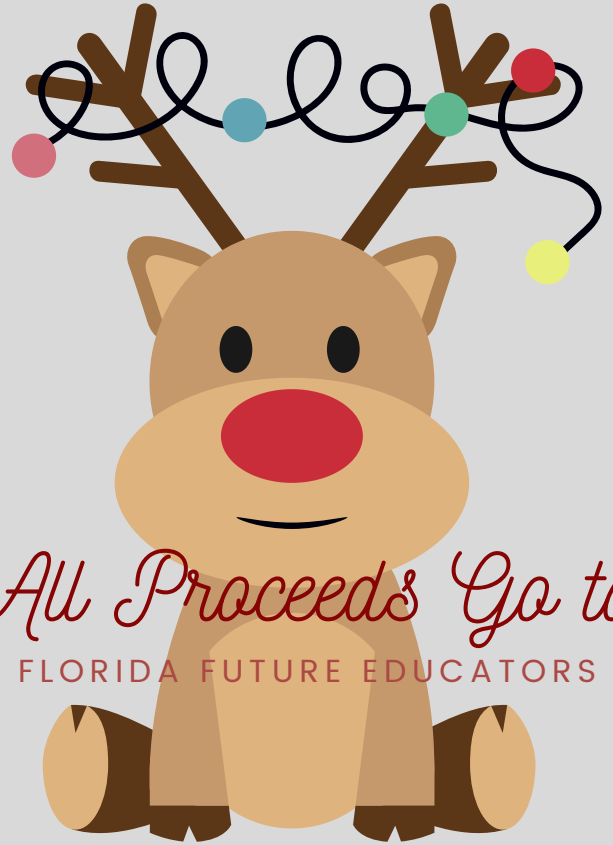
**for sale!**  
**\$1 EACH!**

DECEMBER 13-19

SEND YOUR CRUSH OR  
FRIEND A BIT OF HOLIDAY

CHEER! STOP BY MRS.

MCGUFFIN'S ROOM, 214!!!



*All Proceeds Go to*  
FLORIDA FUTURE EDUCATORS



**TCHS**  
*Winter Dance*

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

Friday, February 2nd, 2024



**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

# 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:**

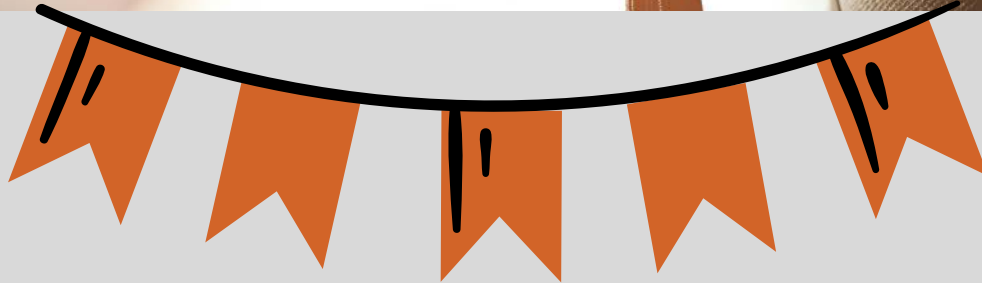
- Apply! Application instructions are available [here](#)
- Submit their pay stubs and/or community service letters and reflection sheets to the guidance office. Community service instructions are available [here](#).
- Submit their qualifying test scores to at least one public Florida university.
-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

# 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](#)

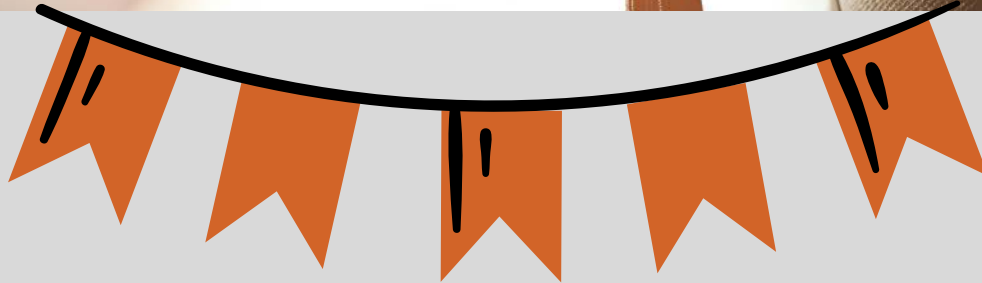
[Senior Guidance Page](#)

[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



**This is your year.**

**SENIORS**  
**TIME IS**  
**RUNNING OUT**  
**ORDER YOUR**  
**CAP & GOWN**  
**NOW**

Visit  
**JOSTENS.COM**

to place your order.

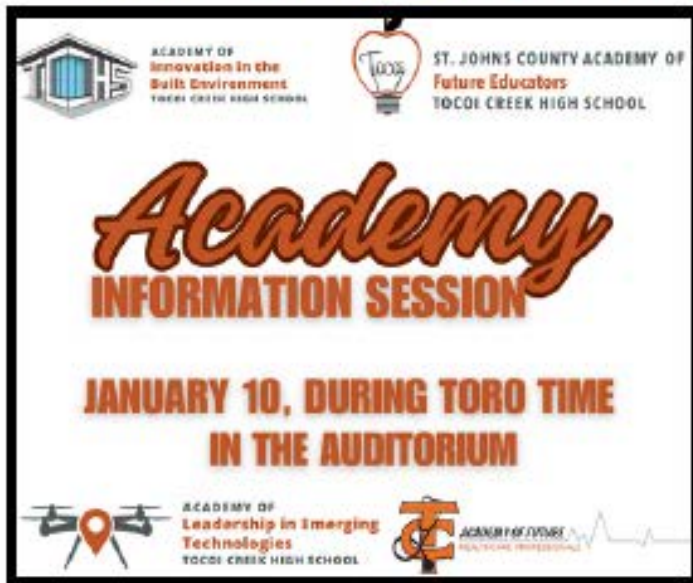
# CAREER ACADEMIES

## 9th graders- interested in applying for an Academy?

Academy application window runs from January 4- January 31. A lottery system is used for selection. Current 9th graders are eligible to apply for Academies. You will have 2 more opportunities to learn more about the programs we have to offer.

- January 10: Toro Time Information Session
- January 24: TCHS Academy Night

We look forward to seeing you at these events!



## TCHS ACADEMY NIGHT JANUARY 24 5:30-7:30 P.M.

5:30-6:00 AUDITORIUM	Rising 9th grader registration FAQ
6:00-6:10 AUDITORIUM	General Information TCHS Academies and How to Apply (Rising 9th and 10th graders)
6:10-7:30 BUILDING 2 AND 4 ACADEMY CLASSROOMS	Open House- Meet the teachers and students, tour the classrooms, and ask questions

**Contact:**  
Hristina Johnson  
Career Specialist  
904-647-4275  
Hristina.Johnson@stjohns.k12.fl.us

**For more info:**  
<https://www.tchsa.stjohns.k12.fl.us/academies/>

**Tocoi Creek High School**  
Jay Willets, Principal  
10200 St. Johns Parkway  
St. Augustine, FL 32092

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 11-18- Classroom visits to discuss 24-25 courses
- December 13- High School Showcase
- December 20- EKG CERT FOR NEM'S PD 1/2
- January 19- Allied Health rotation orientation
- January 24- TCHS Academy Night
- January 25- Field Study to Solar Stik
- February 7- CSX Drone Day (Emerging Tech students)
- February 27- Career and Construction day at Ring Power (Built Env. Field Trip)

## 24-25

## Academy Intent to drop

Current students wishing to **drop** an Academy will have (or have had) a visit from Mrs. Johnson to discuss this process. Those who intend to drop their Academy at the end of the school year will need to complete the official drop form. More information about this process can be found [here](#) under Academy FAQ.

**INTENT TO DROP FORMS ARE DUE BY  
JANUARY 31, 2024**

# 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 January 11th 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 SJCS 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>



### GALLERY NIGHTS

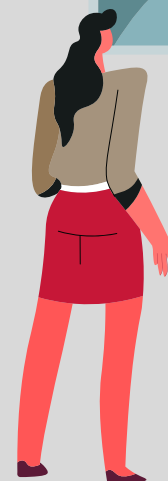


FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6  
TCHS, BUILDING 2, 5:30 - 7 PM  
GALLERY SPACES

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15  
5:30 - 7 PM  
TCHS AUDITORIUM

THURSDAY, MARCH 7  
5:30 - 7 PM  
TCHS AUDITORIUM

FRIDAY, MAY 3  
TCHS, BUILDING 2, 5:30 - 7 PM  
GALLERY SPACES





# PTSO

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.



## 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

**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!

# GENERAL SCHOOL INFO



**@TOCOI\_CREEKHS**



**@TOCOI CREEK HIGH SCHOOL**



**@TOCOICREEK**



## Helpful Links:

[SJCS D 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](mailto:JAY.WILLETS@STJOHNS.K12.FL.US) FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

- TEACHER ENGLISH (10TH/12TH GRADE)
- IND TEACHER
- 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



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