

THE BULL PEN

Tocoi Creek High School Weekly Newsletter

Toro Nation

It is hard to believe that it is December already and we are discussing the end of the first semester. I want to remind everyone that quarter 1 and quarter 2 grades are averaged to calculate the semester grade to award 1/2 credit in courses, excluding courses with a State EOC - Algebra, Geometry, Biology, & US History. After this first semester, GPA calculations will be run for sports and for final senior class rank determining Val and Sal. Students below a 2.0 will not be allowed to continue playing their winter sport or try-out for a spring sport. There are no longer any district semester exams; however, teachers will administer their final summative for the quarter the last week and a half of school, so it is extremely important that students are in attendance.

Please be sure to take some time to talk with your Toro, open HAC to look for any missing assignments/tests, to review grades heading into the new year.

Local and National Business Step Up for the Toros

This past month, both the Avid Angler and The Northeast Florida Marlin Association in St. Augustine and MonsterBass.com helped to donate over \$4,500.00 worth of fishing equipment to the TCHS Fishing Club. Over 25 sets of rods, reels, line, tackle, and equipment was donated to help get our Toros fishing in style...it is because of local (and national) community businesses like these that our programming at TCHS gets better and better each day....THANK YOU!

If you are looking to join an amazing fishing club, or simply looking for that perfect gift for that angler in your family, please consider shopping/joining these businesses/organizations.



IMPORTANT DATES

TORO WEEK

at a Glance

Monday, Dec. 11th-

Tuesday, Dec. 12th-

Wednesday, Dec. 13th- ASVAB Test

Jazz Night in the Courtyard @ 7pm

Thursday, Dec. 14th- SAC Meeting @ 8:10 in Mr. Cabrera's Room

Friday, Dec. 15th- Gallery Night @ 6 pm in auditorium

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. 11th @ 6:30pm Girls Basketball (Varsity) v Fernandina Beach HS @ Fernandina Beach HS

Tues., Dec. 12th @ TBA Competitive Cheer v Pedro Menendez @ PMHS

Tues., Dec. 12th @ 5:30/7:20pm Girls Soccer v Ponte Vedra @ TCHS

Tues., Dec. 12th @ 6pm Boys Soccer (Varsity) v St. Joseph Academy @ St. Joseph Academy

Wed., Dec. 13th @ 3:30pm Girls Weightlifting v TBA @ TBA

Wed., Dec. 13th @ 5pm Boys Wrestling v Fletcher HS & Sandalwood HS @ TBA

Wed., Dec. 13th @ 6/7:30pm Boys Basketball v Ponte Vedra @ PVHS

Thurs., Dec. 14th @ 5:30/7:20pm Girls Soccer v Creekside @ CHS

Fri., Dec. 15th @ 5:30/7:20pm Boys Soccer v Beachside @ BHS

Fri., Dec. 15th @ 6pm Girls Basketball (Varsity) v Trinity Christian @ Trinity Christian Academy

Fri., Nov. 15th @ 6:30pm Boys Basketball v St. Johns Country Day @ St. Johns Country Day School

Sat., Dec. 16th @ 8am Boys Wrestling v Creekside @ CHS

Sat., Dec. 16th @ 9am Girls Wrestling v Freedom @ PVHS

Sat., Dec. 16th @ TBA Competitive Cheerleading v TBA @ TBA

Press Release

NEWSWORTHY TOROS



Last Saturday, the Speech and Debate Team attended their second tournament and brought back lots of wins!

Varsity Public Forum Debate:

Vidharthi Jagadish Kumar and Sidd Pawa: 1st Place

Mehna Lakshminarayanan and Sahiti Reddy: 2nd Place

Novice Public Forum Debate:

Zeke Hamon and Dheeraj Polavarapu: 1st Place

Varsity Extemporaneous Debate:

Noah DeHaan: 2nd Place

Novice Declamation:

Clara Roman: 3rd Place

Novice Informative Speaking:

Hannah Brown: 3rd Place

We also had a lot of kids compete for the first time, and all of them won at least one of their three rounds! We are excited about the rapid growth of the team and the continual successes of the kids! Our next competition will be in Orlando on January 27th.





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



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!**



TCHS
Winter Dance

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

Friday, February 2nd, 2024

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

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.

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.

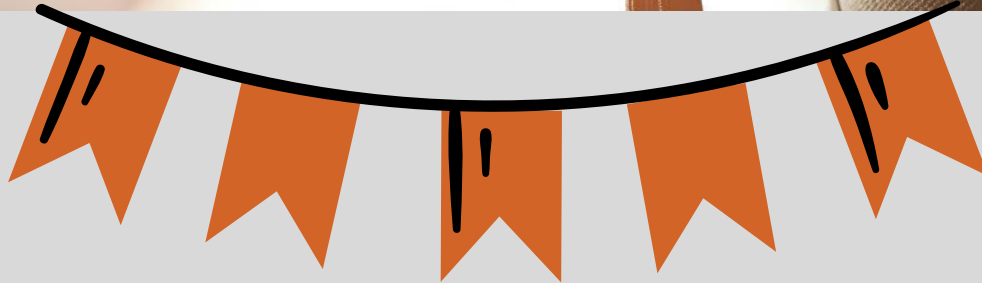
YOU CAN ACCESS APPLICATIONS FOR BOTH COLLEGEBOARD AND ACT ON THE TCHS TESTING PAGE.

[TCHS TESTING PAGE LINKED HERE!](#)

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



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:

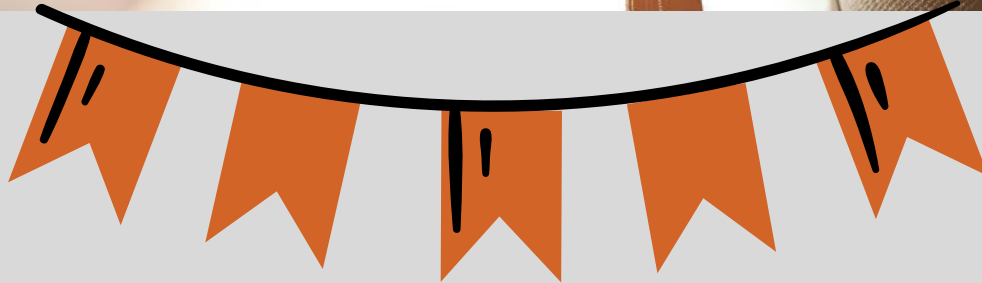
[FAFSA \(Financial Aid\)](#)

[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

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 3 opportunities to learn more about the programs we have to offer.

- December 13: High School Showcase
- January 10: Toro Time Information Session
- January 24: TCHS Academy Night

We look forward to seeing you at these events!

JOIN US TO EXPERIENCE
SJCSD Career and Technical Education's 2023
High School Showcase



Wednesday, December 13th, 3:30-7pm
World Golf Village Convention Center



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.tchsofjohns.k12.fl.us/academies/>

Tocoi Creek High School
Jay Willets, Principal
1000 St. Johns Parkway
St. Augustine, FL 32092




UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 8- Blood Drive
- 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
- February 7- CSX Drone Day (Emerging Tech students)
- February 27- Career and Construction day at Ring Power (Built Env. Field Trip)




ACADEMY OF
Innovation in the
Built Environment
TOCOI CREEK HIGH SCHOOL




ST. JOHNS COUNTY ACADEMY OF
Future Educators
TOCOI CREEK HIGH SCHOOL

Academy INFORMATION SESSION

JANUARY 10, DURING TORO TIME
IN THE AUDITORIUM



ACADEMY OF
Leadership in Emerging
Technologies
TOCOI CREEK HIGH SCHOOL



ACADEMY OF
Future
Professionals

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)



JAZZ NIGHT

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

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.



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:

[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



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EDUCATION
fldoe.org

