



News from The Hill

Head of School Blog



Dear Parents/Grandparents/Guardians,

Our faculty and Staff are making final preparations for you and your students. It is so very exciting to be a part of such a school as Thomas Sumter. The faculty and staff are second to none. I have met many of you over the summer --- a heartfelt THANK YOU for such a warm welcome. Jenna and I feel very blessed to be a part of the TSA Family.

In this first e-Newsletter, you will find a plethora of information. Let me know what you think.

You can follow us on Face Book, Twitter, and Instagram. You can follow me on Twitter at TSA_DrM.

We are in the process of updating our website and currently have a new look. Let me know what you think.

PROUD TO BE A GENERAL

F. L. Martin III
Dr. F.L. Martin III
Head of School

Generals Football

Generals Varsity football attended football camp at Athens Y Camp in Tallulah Falls, GA from August 1 through August 4. TSA will participate in the Dillon Christian Jamboree at Dillon Christian School on August 11. TSA will play Dillon Christian at 7:30. You can buy tickets from TSA for \$5 for adults and \$3 for students. They will be \$7 for adults and \$5 for students at the gate.

Upcoming Events

Parent Orientations

- Columbia Campus August 8 @ 6:30
- US (6-12) August 9th @ 6:30
- LS (pk3 -Grade5) August 10th @ 6:30

August Highlights

- August 14 First Day of School
- August 14-16 Early Dismissal
- August 15 Senior Parent's Informational Meeting
- August 21 Solar Eclipse
- Early Dismissal Main Campus
- 3PM Dismissal Columbia



Columbia Campus

Mrs. Murphy's Memo

A Note from the Head of the Columbia Campus

I've got great news! Our Columbia Campus family is growing! It's been an exciting summer welcoming new families, faculty, and staff to our fold! We've added K3, K4, and 5th grade classes and have doubled our enrollment from last year. Mrs. Kristen Cato has been busy getting her new K3 classroom and curriculum ready for her adorable three-year-olds! Mrs. Becky Lacoste is excited to

teach a combined K4/K5 class this year and Mrs. Cheryl Hale is ready for her first graders. Mrs. Hannah Mullikin has spent a lot of time this summer preparing for her 2nd and 3rd graders and Ms. Beth Bultman has transferred from the main campus to teach our 4th/5th graders.

We experienced an incredible inaugural year but I anticipate even better things to come this year!

GO GENERALS!

Mrs. Murphy

"The Science of Today is the Technology of Tomorrow"- Edward Teller

STEAM Corner:

(Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math)

Are your students ready for hands-on, engaging, project based learning? We are very excited about our first STEAM classes and our online individualized curriculum.

During the first quarter, First and Fourth Grades will be studying light and shadows.

Third, Fourth, and Fifth grades will be exploring matter. All students will be engaged in science

experiments that teach concepts and stretch their thinking. Through art and engineering projects learners will apply their knowledge.

(STEAM cont'd Page 3)

Lower School (1st through 5th grade)

Lower school is gearing up for a great year in 2017-2018. We are thrilled to begin our new STEAM program. Please be reminded that we are requesting that students have a **Kindle Fire or iPad dedicated for school**. We will be using these devices in the regular classrooms as well as in the STEAM lab.

We are also excited to bring elementary Spanish to our students this year. Students will attend once a week.

Parent Orientation will be on **Thursday, August 10 at 6:30** in the auditorium. **Please remember that this night is for parents.** Teachers will pass out information to help make this year a great one.

Mrs. Crowe will be available to **help program devices** and answer any questions you may have.

Planners will be available for purchase and parents can **sign up for carpool numbers** as well.

Returning or new parents should make plans to attend. Hope to see you there!

STEAM (continued)

If you'd like assistance setting up your Kindle or iPad for school Mr. Crowe will be available an hour before and after Lower School Orientation on the 10th. We will begin using our devices the second week of school. Please ensure your student brings their device to school charged and ready every day. If you have any questions or concerns, please email Mrs. Crowe at Paige.crowe@thomassumter.org.

If you are interested in becoming a virtual volunteer, please contact me with your email address. Virtual volunteers will explore our blogs and provide feedback to engage the students and give an authentic audience to their blog entries.

STEAM Supply List:

4 glue sticks

1 roll of any tape (duct tape, washi tape, painters tape, scotch tape, masking tape, etc.)

1 craft item (pipe cleaners, pompoms, Popsicle sticks, sequins, glitter, colorful straws, etc.)

1 tinker item (styrofoam balls, zip ties, string, rope, twine, wire, rubber bands, looms, copper wire, etc.)

Counselors Corner

Below are the ACT/SAT test dates for the 2017-2018 school year. Please encourage your juniors and seniors to sign up early for these college readiness exams. We are in a conversation with an excellent test preparation coach and hope to be able to share more information at Upper School orientation about a Saturday workshop to be held this fall.

SAT DATES FOR 2017-2018

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
August 28, 2017	July 28, 2017	August 15, 2017
October 7, 2017	September 8, 2017	September 27, 2017
November 4, 2017	October 5, 2017	October 25, 2017
December 2, 2017	November 2, 2017	November 21, 2017
March 10, 2018	February 9, 2018	February 28, 2018
May 5, 2018	April 6, 2018	April 25, 2018
June 2, 2018	May 3, 2018	May 23, 2018

ACT DATES FOR 2017-2018

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
September 9, 2017	August 4, 2017	August 18, 2017
October 28, 2017	September 22, 2017	October 27, 2017
December 9, 2017	November 3, 2017	November 4, 2017
February 10, 2018	January 12, 2018	January 19, 2018
April 18, 2018	March 9, 2018	March 23, 2018
June 9, 2018	May 4, 2018	May 18, 2018
July 14, 2018	June 15, 2018	June 22, 2018

Please mark your calendar for a Senior Parents informational meeting. The meeting will be held on August 15 at 7:00pm in the auditorium.

Middle School (6th through 8th grade)

Thomas Sumter's Middle School (MS) is made up of awesome 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. Our 6th graders are anxious and nervous about being in Middle School along with any new middle school students transferring to us. Because we know that, we offer a **new student party**. This year it will be held on **August 13**. The students will be able to walk their class schedule, practice opening their locker, while meeting other students. Each MS grade has 5 class officers who organize Student Council activities. Such activities and projects include Homecoming, the Leukemia Campaign, Spirit week and various dances. In order to fund these different activities and projects and begin saving for the Junior-Senior Prom, all students must pay **class dues**. Sixth graders pay \$26, seventh graders pay \$27, and eighth graders pay \$28. These dues should be paid by September 1. MS will have **4 dances** throughout the year. The dances are held in our very own Dance classroom. The **Back to School dance** will be sponsored by the 8th grade and is set for **September 8 from 5-7pm**. The Winter dance is scheduled for December 1 and is a semi-formal dance sponsored by the entire MS student council. In the second semester the students will have a Valentine's Dance and an End of the School Year Dance. Acta Non Verba (action not words) is our school motto. On November 30, we will put this to practice. On November we will hold our MS Helping Hands. During our day of Helping Hands our 6th and 7th graders will visit several nursing homes to deliver gifts while singing Christmas Carols and holding great conversations with the residents. The 8th graders will be working to help Crosswell Children's Home's staff clean and prepare for their Christmas season. The students and teachers enjoy this yearly service project. A highlight to each year are the **class trips**! This year, MS will be traveling to **Washington DC. On April 25-28**, any MS student and their parent or guardian may enjoy this educational trip while making memories to last a lifetime. All trip details, including projected itinerary and price, will be available at Orientation.

High School (9th through 12th grade)

We have lots of new and exciting information to share with you. Most of the new information is contained in our updated student handbook which have been posted for you on RenWeb. On page 11 of the student handbook you will find our Honor Code, Honor Pledge, and Honor Court information. Our new 10 point grading scale can be found on page 15 and updated cell phone discipline code on page 36. We welcome the addition of three new student clubs this year: Chess, Debate, and Bible Journaling. We have added an updated and expanded Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) which is located in Appendix A. We have also updated our Hoodie policy which now states that hoodies may be worn only from November 1st through March 31st. Hoodies may only be removed as long as the student is within the dress code underneath the hoodie.

We are looking forward to the 2017-2018 school year and believe there are some exciting times ahead for TSA!

Paul Sorrells
Assistant Headmaster



Thomas Sumter
Academy

Mission

Vision/Philosophy

MISSION

The mission of Thomas Sumter Academy is to develop, in a safe and Christian environment, well-rounded individuals who are fully prepared for college and life.

VISION STATEMENT

Thomas Sumter Academy strategically envisions becoming the top college preparatory principled leadership K-12 school in South Carolina.

PHILOSOPHY

"Add to your faith, virtue; and to virtue, knowledge."
2 Peter 1:5

Thomas Sumter Academy is an educational institution serving students in an environment of Christian love and discipline within which students learn to link bodies of knowledge and develop an enthusiasm for living.

Thomas Sumter Academy

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GO GENERALS

Find us on the Web:
<http://www.thomassumteracademy.org>
Like us on Face Book
Twitter: TSA_Generals
Instagram: Thomas_sumter_athletics



How to Get Involved

We want our new families, as well as returning families, to jump in and become more involved with the TSA family. There are a number of ways to get involved. You are able to join the PTO, TSA Boosters, or even help within the classroom. To volunteer with the PTO, you may contact Mrs. Eddy Hyder eddy.hyder@thomassumter.org; for the Booster's you may contact Mr. William Nelson William.nelson@thomassumter.org. Check with your child's teachers to help in the classroom.

BIG Shout Out to:

Your Thomas Sumter Cheerleaders and all the Volunteers that came out to help at the 2017 event "*Feed My Starving Children.*" This session helped to reach the 1/2 million meal mark! In 4 years Sumter has packed 500,000 meals! Thank you to everyone for stepping up and representing Thomas Sumter Academy in this wonderful ministry.

