



March 12th, 2021

Thomas Sumter Academy

(803) 499-3378



Dear TSA Generals,

Tenacity. **S**upports. **A**chievement. We are a week into our final quarter. Prom and Spring Break are around the corner. Class of 2021 – 39 more school days (and a wake-up) until graduation!

What an awesome week on “The Hill.” It seems like spring has really sprung. Beautiful weather this week. Warmer temperatures. Please keep your students focused as we close out the school year! We still have several weeks left! Come out and support our Generals at the different sporting events!

“Absolute Value Corner:”

DON'T HOPE, DECIDE

While waiting to pick up a friend at the airport in Portland, Oregon, I had one of those life-changing experiences that you hear other people talk about--the kind that sneaks up on you unexpectedly. This one occurred a mere two feet away from me. Straining to locate my friend among the passengers deplaning through the jet way, I noticed a man coming toward me carrying two light bags. He stopped right next to me to greet his family.

First he motioned to his youngest son (maybe six years old) as he laid down his bags. They gave each other a long, loving hug. As they separated enough to look in each other's face, I heard the father say, “It's so good to see you, son. I missed you so much!” His son smiled somewhat shyly, averted his eyes and replied softly, “Me, too, Dad!” Then the man stood up, gazed in the eyes of his oldest son (maybe nine or ten) and while cupping his son's face in his hands said, “You're already quite the young man. I love you very much, Zach!” They too hugged a most loving, tender hug.

While this was happening, a baby girl (perhaps one or one-and-a-half) was squirming excitedly in her mother's arms, never once taking her little eyes off the wonderful sight of her returning father. The man said, “Hi, baby girl!” as he gently took the child from her mother. He quickly kissed her face all over and then held her close to his chest while rocking her from side to side. The little girl instantly relaxed and simply laid her head on his shoulder, motionless in pure contentment.

After several moments, he handed his daughter to his oldest son and declared, “I've saved the best for last!” and proceeded to give his wife the longest, most passionate kiss I ever remember seeing. He gazed into her eyes for several seconds and then silently mouthed. “I love you so much!” They stared at each other's eyes, beaming big smiles at one another, while holding both hands.

For an instant they reminded me of newlyweds, but I knew by the age of their kids that they couldn't possibly be. I puzzled about it for a moment then realized how totally engrossed I was in the wonderful display of unconditional love not more than an arm's length away from me.

I suddenly felt uncomfortable, as if I was invading something sacred, but was amazed to hear my own voice nervously ask, "Wow! How long have you two been married?" "Been together fourteen years total, married twelve of those" he replied, without breaking his gaze from his lovely wife's face. "Well then, how long have you been away?" I asked the man finally turned and looked at me, still beaming his joyous smile. "Two whole days!" Two days? I was stunned.

By the intensity of the greeting, I had assumed he'd been gone for at least several weeks - if not months. I know my expression betrayed me, I said almost offhandedly, hoping to end my intrusion with some semblance of grace (and to get back to searching for my friend), "I hope my marriage is still that passionate after twelve years!" The man suddenly stopped smiling.

He looked me straight in the eye, and with forcefulness that burned right into my soul, he told me something that left me a different person. He told me, "Don't hope, friend...decide!" Then he flashed me his wonderful smile again, shook my hand and said, "God bless!"

With that, he and his family turned and strode away together. I was still watching that exceptional man and his special family walk just out of sight when my friend came up to me and asked, "What'cha looking at?" Without hesitating, and with a curious sense of certainty, I replied, "My future!"

~ By Charles Moraes

March character trait is consistency: 2 Timothy 3:16 "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness."

Enjoy your weekend. Stay safe and healthy. I pray you know; my door is always open so please stop by. I appreciate your feedback.

You may write a review on Google as well as upload pictures. You may also go to "Niche.com," Yelp, or "Greatschools.org" to write other reviews about TSA. Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter, and Instagram. You can follow me on Twitter at @TSA_DrM. #Generalpride.

PROUD TO BE A GENERAL

Dr. F.L. Martin III



UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 12 TH	SENIOR GENERAL SPEAKS FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN PEP-RALLY
MARCH 15 TH	MIDDLE SCHOOL BATTLE OF THE BOOKS
MARCH 16 TH	CROSS COUNTRY INTEREST MEETING B-TEAM BASEBALL @ CALHOUN (4:00 PM) VARSITY BASEBALL @ CALHOUN (6:30 PM)
MARCH 17 TH	ST. PATRICK'S DAY! - EVERYBODY WEAR GREEN! LOWER SCHOOL BATTLE OF THE BOOKS CHAPEL (DRESS-UP DAY) TRACK MEET @ WILSON HALL B-TEAM BASEBALL @ TRINITY COLLEGIATE (4:00 PM) VARSITY BASEBALL @ TRINITY COLLEGIATE (6:30 PM)
MARCH 18 TH	VOLLEYBALL INTEREST MEETING
MARCH 19 TH	VARSITY BASEBALL VS. PALMETTO CHR. (6:00 PM)

DENOTES SPORTING EVENT



Week 29

Welcome to the Family, Generals!

Jackson Ramsdell – Kindergarten

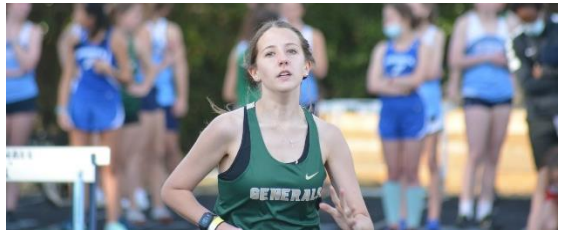
Paige Ramsdell – 4th Grade

Karsyn Ramsdell – 5th Grade

Kennedi Ramsdell – 8th Grade

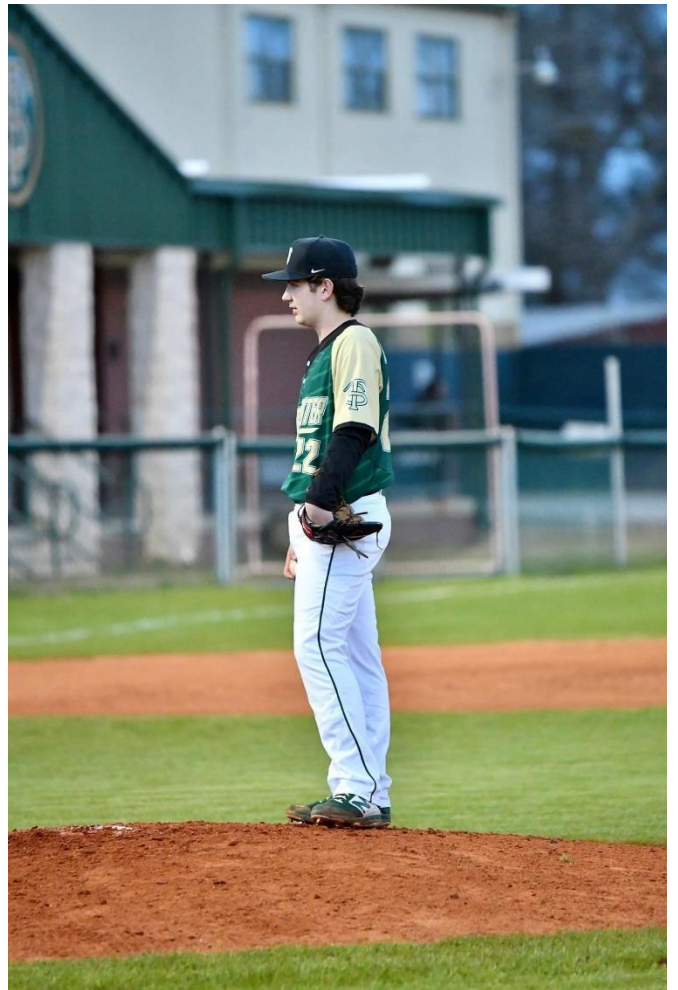
We've added some new Generals to our TSA Family! We're so excited to have them and their family as a part of our wonderful school!

Another Great Track Meet!





Varsity Baseball



Our Varsity Baseball team kicked-off their season last week with a Friday night match-up with the Heathwood Hall Highlanders. TSA could not be more excited to watch Coach Anton and our Baseball Generals grow this program!
Way to go, boys!

Battle of the Books



On Wednesday, Our High School Battle of the Books team competed in the Regional Battle of the Books competition. Our team finished 5th in the Region and did a fantastic job!

Members: Ella Bell, Allison Culick, Augusta Bosone, Abby Cox, Jake Marshall, & Lillian Lindler

Congrats, Matthew!



Junior Matthew Hawkins represented TSA in the annual 2A North-South All-Star Basketball game last Saturday. SCISA selects the top players from each Region throughout the 2A Classification to compete in the game. We are so proud of Matthew and all his accomplishments this season!



Upcoming Cross Country & Volleyball Interest Meetings

Cross Country

Where: Auditorium

Date: Tuesday, March 16th

When: Upper School Lunch (12:04 PM – 12:30 PM)

For: All Current 5th - 11th Graders Interested in Running Cross Country Next Year (2021-2022)



If you have any questions, feel free to contact Coach Rob at rob.coursey@thomassumter.org.



Volleyball

Where: Auditorium

Date: Tuesday, March 23rd

When: Upper School Lunch (12:04 PM – 12:30 PM)

For: All Current 5th - 11th Grade Girls Interested in Playing VB Next Year (2021-2022)

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Coach Crystee at crystee.hoagland@thomassumter.org.

Shenanigans 2021



Save the Date

Saturday, May 8th

6:00 pm

Sans Souci Farm

1935 Sans Souci Rd, Sumter

What is Shenanigans?

- Silent and Live auction
- Fun extras at this event: Lottery Board, Duck Pond, and MORE
- All items are donated so 100% goes back to TSA

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Do you know someone who could donate or sponsor this event? See attached for details!

Please contact Eddy Hyder to volunteer to help with setup, décor, donations, and promoting!!

Eddy.Hyder@thomassumter.org

(803) 983-1871 text or call

Students & Parents,



Student Council is excited to announce our annual community project and partnership with **Feed My Starving Children**. FMSC is a global nonprofit dedicated to nourishing under-served children in both body and spirit. Our campaign will run from this Monday, **February 22 to Friday, March 12**. Our goal this year is to raise \$5,000.

Not only do our students and families raise money for FMSC but also volunteer during the summer FMSC mobile packing session. We know that COVID may play a roll in there being a packing session but we will be prepared to help. Our students will raise the money for the meals, pack the meals, and send these meals to families in need with their blessings.



In order to reach our goal of **\$5,000**, we are asking all students and families to help with your spare dollars and change. We know that our outstanding students will exceed this goal with no problem. They have always amazed us! We do this primarily by asking for donations from friends, family, and neighbors.

2021 FMSC Campaign

Purchase a Pass good Feb. 22 – March 31 to support FMSC



Dress Down Pass	\$25 good until March 31
No Shave Pass	\$25 guys no shaving until March 31
Teacher Jeans Pass	\$25 to wear jeans until March 31
Pajama Pass (lower school)	\$25 to wear pajamas every day until March 31

Upper School students MUST have pass to show at ALL times or will be written up if unable to present pass. Lower School may give pass to homeroom teacher. We will not be able to reissue passes!!



How Can I Give?



- Mail to TSA: 5265 Camden Highway, Rembert, SC 29128
 - Send Cash or Check in with student
- Online www.thomassumteracademy.org Development/Make a Gift (note as FMSC donation when choosing category-Development)

Check Out Our Sideline Store!

[https://sideline.bsnsports.com/schools/south carolina/rembert/thomas-sumter-academy](https://sideline.bsnsports.com/schools/south_carolina/rembert/thomas-sumter-academy)

Everyone loves TSA Gear!



BSN SPORTS™

Senior College Acceptances

Riley Brazell: University of Alabama, Auburn University, College of Charleston, Savannah College of Art and Design

Zachary Brenneman: Central Carolina Technical College

Clara Burnette: Auburn University, Clemson University

Caleb Burns: Coastal Carolina University, Presbyterian College, Spartanburg Methodist, Winthrop University

Philip Carino: Central Carolina Technical College

Chase Cato: Charleston Southern University, Central Carolina Technical College

Zachary Evans: USC-Sumter

Aliyah Gibson: Charleston Southern University, College of Charleston, UNC-Asheville

Aidan Hilditch: USC-Sumter

Preston Houser: Alvernia University, Appalachian State University, Clemson University, Coastal Carolina University, Gardner Webb University, Hampden-Sydney College, , Presbyterian College, USC-Columbia

Sam Lawing: Anderson University, Charleston Southern University, Covenant College, Clemson University, Lees-McRae College, North Greenville University, Newberry College, Presbyterian College, USC-Beaufort, Winthrop University

Jade Leviner: Coastal Carolina University, USC-Columbia, USC-Sumter

Ethan Lisenby: Baylor University, The Citadel, Clemson University, USC-Columbia, Coastal Carolina University, Wofford College, Furman University

Emily Lorincz: Central Carolina Technical College

Logan Long: Clemson University, UNC-Pembroke (Honors College), Furman University, Gardner-Webb University, USC-Columbia, Wofford College

Jada Mark: University of Georgia

Logan Oxendine: Anderson University, University of Alabama, USC-Columbia, Wofford College

Abby Rourk: Coastal Carolina University, USC-Sumter, USC-Columbia

Lizzie Silvester: Anderson University, University of Alabama, Auburn University, Brevard College, Clemson University, College of Charleston, Furman University, Penn State University, Presbyterian College, North Greenville University, USC-Columbia, Wofford College

SAT / ACT Dates

SAT Date	Registration Deadline	Deadline for Changes
March 13 th , 2021	February 12 th , 2021	March 2 nd , 2021
May 8 th , 2021	April 8 th , 2021	April 27 th , 2021
June 5 th , 2021	May 6 th , 2021	May 26 th , 2021

ACT Date	Registration Deadline
April 17 th	March 12 th
June 12 th	May 7 th
July 17 th	June 18 th

Quote of the Week:

"A lot of times people look at the negative side of what they feel they can't do. I always look at the positive side of what I can do." ~ Chuck Norris

Tenacity. Supports. Achievement



BIG SHOUT OUT:

Ms. Eddy, Ms. Sandi and the Executive Student Council for all their hard work to make the Pep-Rally a huge success!

PROUD TO BE A GENERAL!