



# CONNECTION

*A newsletter for the Thomas Academy family  
Keeping connection through communication*

August 2018 Edition

## *Back-to-School*

This year's back-to-school activities included an orientation meeting on Aug. 6 before classes began on Aug. 7. Here are some of the images that were captured on those two days.



## *Dates to Remember*

September 3 - Labor Day Holiday

September 10 - Progress Reports

September 12 - Early Release at 12 Noon

September 12 - Parent Conferences 6 - 8 p.m.

October 16 - Report Cards Released

October 17 - Early Release at 12 Noon

October 17 - Parent Conferences 6 - 8 p.m.

October 31 - Teacher Work Day/No School for Students

## From the Director's Desk

*We have begun another great year at Thomas Academy!*

The first week of classes are in the books and we have hit the ground running. Our students returned to school ready to learn. Our teachers and administrative staff returned with a passion to help our children exceed their own educational expectations.

We truly believe in the power of partnership in education and that means parents and guardians play a significant role in ensuring student success. Make sure to register for Powerschool so that you can access your student's grades and attendance information online. Mark your calendar now for Sept. 12 from 6 - 8 p.m. for our first parent conferences of the year. Our full academic calendar is available online at [www.thomasacademync.org](http://www.thomasacademync.org).

Please remember, I practice an open door policy for students, staff, and parents. If at any time you have a question or concern, please call me. I can be reached on my cell phone at **910-874-1456** or by email at [geraldine.bradshaw@thomasacademync.org](mailto:geraldine.bradshaw@thomasacademync.org). The best time for a focused conversation is after 6 p.m. as I will be able to give you my full attention. During school hours my focus is on the children.

Thank you to all involved in giving me the opportunity to grow our children.

Yours in service,

*Geraldine Bradshaw*

# THOMAS

## Academy



Helping students find Connection, Compassion & Character

*The Thomas Academy educational experience is a partnership between the teachers, students, and parents/guardians.*

*Parental/guardian involvement means participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication regarding student academic learning and school activities.*

### *How can you get involved?*

- Sign up for the Remind app
- Volunteer to help at the school
- Attend parent/guardian meetings
- Serve on the Parent Advisory Committee
- Talk with your child about his or her classroom experiences
- Log into Powerschool to check your child's grades
- Reach out to teachers directly with any questions or concerns
- Attend awards ceremonies or events

**Connection** is the newsletter for Thomas Academy designed to uphold the commitment to connection through communication. It is distributed once a month during the academic year to provide continuing updates on the happenings of the school. To remain connected between issues, visit the website at [www.thomasacademync.org](http://www.thomasacademync.org) and become a fan on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ThomasAcademyNC/](https://www.facebook.com/ThomasAcademyNC/)

# *Riegelwood Federal Credit Union sponsored a Thomas Academy student at Cooperative Leadership Camp*

Raleigh, NC - Riegelwood Federal Credit Union sponsored the attendance of Thomas Academy junior Josh Skinner at the cooperative leadership camp run by the Cooperative Council of North Carolina

Riegelwood Credit Union began with seven members in 1953 which expanded to a cooperative as members realized the power of joining and helping each other out with loans. Today, the cooperative has more than 12,800 members.

Josh is an involved student and community member. He is president of the Key Club, in the Senior Beta Club and attends youth group at his church. He has also earned Good Character and Citizenship awards and is on the honor roll. Josh enjoys creating in math and science as well as art. He plans to attend college after graduation.

## *About Cooperative Leadership Camp*

The Cooperative Leadership Camp, hosted by the Cooperative Council of North Carolina, is an educational program for rising high school sophomores through seniors in NC. The five-day resident camping program takes place in White Lake, NC and features interactive workshops and presentations, team-building activities and recreation. CCNC Member Cooperatives are invited to sponsor a high school teen from their community and allow them to have this opportunity for free. Students from across the state come together and learn about how Cooperatives are functioning in our state. Across all industries, cooperatives provide a solution to problems and this leadership camp allows teens to see that first hand.

## *Strengthening our partnership with Southeastern Community College*

We've partnered with Southeastern Community College to provide new opportunities for our students.

"We now have an articulation agreement with SCC to provide access to the Work Force Continuing Education Pathways through College and Career Promise," Dr. Bradshaw said. "We are the first school in Columbus County to have this opportunity for our students. All these courses are free to students.

"This pathway provides our junior and senior students with the opportunity to take a one-semester course where they will be trained in Working Smart, manufacturing operations, forklift operations, CPR, and AED," she continued. "After completion of this pathway, they will have earned a certification in manufacturing operations

and a job interview with a local manufacturing business. This is important for many reasons. Local manufacturing businesses are looking for employees and the number of interested employees is dwindling. For our children, this will provide an opportunity to get jobs starting at \$15 per hour."

The agreement also includes opportunities for those students looking to explore a four-year college degree after graduation.

"We have already used College Board Accuplacer to test our potentially qualified students for specific college courses," Bradshaw said. "We have many four-year and career pathway candidates as we prepare our students for life outside Thomas Academy."

*Did you know...*

*Our middle school EVAAS scores increased by 15 points collectively for the 2017-2018 academic year. The high school increased by 8 points collectively.*

## Students of the Month

The Students of the Month are selected by the faculty. In addition to their performance in the classroom, they are chosen through the demonstration of their commitment to the Thomas Academy motto of Connection, Compassion, & Character.

The August students of the month are:

**Lorelei Hopkins**  
**Middle School Student**

**Tre Earl Zachary**  
**High School Student**

THOMAS

Academy



Helping students find Connection, Compassion & Character

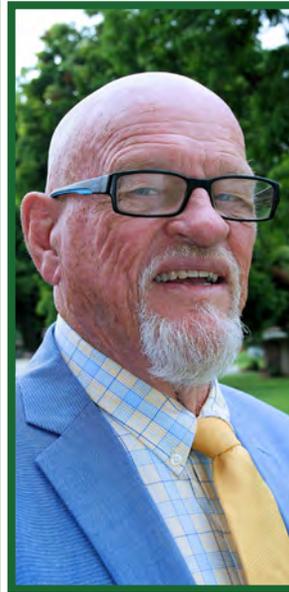
## Staff of the Month

**Whitney Boykin**  
**Academic Coordinator for**  
**Physical Education**



Coach Whit, as she is known to our students, has come in full of energy and spirit for our students. In addition to leading activities that keep the youth moving, Coach Whit is teaching students about healthful living. Thank you Coach Whit!

## Doc's Corner



*“Our no fail, no expel policy is something that truly sets us apart. Many of our students come to us having been given up on by other educational systems. We work with them to make sure they know that we truly care about their education and their success as an individual.”*

Dr. Tom Simmons  
Vice President for  
Education

## News at a Glance

- Remediation will be available after school each day to help students continue to achieve. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Bradshaw.
- The current list of after-school clubs and teams include chess club, game club, basketball club, book club, math club, step-team, cheer team, band team, arts team, and Key Club.
- Cheerleading forms are available for any student interested in participating on the team this year. Practices will be Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. The first practice will be Sept. 5. For more information, contact coach Tiffany Martin at [tiffany.martin@bghnc.org](mailto:tiffany.martin@bghnc.org).