



CONNECTION

A newsletter for the Thomas Academy family
Keeping connection through communication

March 2019 Edition

Career Promise Brightens Future for Thomas Academy Senior

When opportunity knocked, Thomas Academy senior Malik Parker was ready to answer.

In this case, the opportunity came in the form of an articulation agreement between Southeastern Community College and Thomas Academy to provide eligible students with access to the Work Force Continuing Education Pathways through College and Career Promise.

“We are the first school in Columbus County to have this opportunity for our students,” said Dr. Geraldine Bradshaw, director at Thomas Academy. “This pathway provides our junior and senior students with the opportunity to take a one-semester course where they are trained in Working Smart, manufacturing operations, forklift operations, CPR, and AED.”

Malik is the first student to fully complete the program, having been

among the first to sign up in the fall.

“I was motivated by the opportunities shared going into the program and even more by the opportunities shared as I was going out into the workplace,” he said.

His certification in manufacturing operations resulted in a job at Lowe’s in Whiteville primarily as a forklift operator.

“This is truly a step up from the fast food jobs I had before, and I see additional opportunities to step up into a department or even management,” Malik said.

Malik admits that the program ran a bit differently than he expected, but he understands the value now that he is on the job.

“There is a lot of listening in the program, which was a little different than what I was expecting,” he said. “My advice to anyone in the program is don’t be



Malik Parker is enjoying the opportunities presented through the Work Force Continuing Education Pathways.

discouraged by all the listening and talking. It really prepared me for the job. Without that information, you would end up sitting in the workplace wondering what to do.”

His work on the forklift was a key

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Dates to Remember

March 1 - 31 - Open Enrollment
March 21 - Title I Meeting
April 17 - Teacher Conferences
April 18 - Early Dismissal (12 Noon)
April 18 - Prom (6 - 10 p.m.)
April 19 - 26 - Spring Break

Prom 2019

The 2019 Thomas Academy Prom will take place on April 18 in the Morton Conference Center of the B&GH Farm. Enter through the Top Tobacco Road gate. The theme is Hollywood Night. Middle school students can attend from 5 - 7:30 p.m. and high school students from 8 - 10 p.m.

From the Director's Desk

We are achieving great things at Thomas Academy!

During our recent visit from the Department of Public Instruction for our routine inspection, the representatives were greatly impressed with what is happening here. The number of programs and opportunities we are providing for our students and the progress being made brought smiles to everyone's faces.



There is still a lot of work to be done and as a Title I school, we have additional resources to make that happen. Title I is a federal designation meant "to ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high quality education and reach, at minimum, proficiency on challenging state academic achievement standards and state academic assessments."

Parent involvement is an important factor in continuing eligibility for Title I funding support. Please help us provide the best education possible for your student by attending our events and activities, especially the teacher conferences and the Title I Annual Meeting (scheduled for March 21).

While my focus is on the children during school hours, 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.

Thank you to all involved for 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 and become a fan on Facebook: www.facebook.com/ThomasAcademyNC/

Shed construction project

Our vocational classes spent time during the fall semester building a shed to be sold for charity.

“Our students worked hard to complete the project with Mr. Wesley Stephens,” said Dr. Bradshaw. “These efforts included use of measurement skills and the use of tools following specific safety procedures while working with a team. All of this will benefit the students into the future.”



• Malik

Continued from Page 1

part of the eye opening experience.

“The first time I operated a forklift I realized how much different it is from a car,” Parker said with a smile. “It really was scary, in a good way. It gave me a realization of how far I’ve made it.

“The position comes with challenges, but it is a lot better pay than what I could make in any fast food position,” he said. “And I know that I can step up from unloading trucks to working in a department to being in management. I know it can be done because I have seen others make those moves with my own eyes.”

Malik’s opportunities are just beginning according to Dr. Bradshaw.

“This is just the start for this young man’s success,” she said. “He now has a certification that opens doors to high paying jobs across the country combined with workplace experience. He can choose to go wherever he wants with the confidence that he will be able to find a job to support himself.”

Malik agrees. “I see an actual future in a different way than before. In five years I would like to be continuing my education while also working in a manufacturing job making \$20 - \$30 per hour. And I mean a manufacturing job working in an office running equipment from my computer.”

This kind of success is something Bradshaw hopes to

see continued in students now participating in spring semester offerings through the articulation agreement.

“We want our students to be able to explore their interests through the collaborations,” said Dr. Bradshaw. “This means taking the pathway appropriate for their goals, be it job force or college readiness.”

A New Opportunity

CRIMINAL JUSTICE FELLOWS PROGRAM

High school senior or graduate looking for a career in the criminal justice field?


Wanting to have a positive impact on your local community?

The Criminal Justice Fellows Program can aid you in achieving your goal of becoming a criminal justice professional. We are here to offer you a **100% forgivable loan** to go to any North Carolina Community College to acquire an **Associate in Applied Sciences degree for criminal justice**. The loan will be forgiven upon 4 years of working in an eligible profession and county.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS WILL OPEN JANUARY 1
THE APPLICATION PROCESS WILL CLOSE APRIL 30

Call: (919) 662-4609
Fax: (919) 779-8210

Full eligibility requirements, forms and FAQ listed @ <http://ncdoj.gov/About-DOJ/Law-Enforcement-Training-and-Standards/Criminal-Justice-Fellows-Program.aspx>



Criminal Justice Standards Division
Post Office Drawer 149
Raleigh, NC 27602

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 March students of the month are:

Christopher Riley Wallace
Middle School Student

Daysha McKoy
High School Student



Staff of the Month

Harrington Ward
Behavioral Specialist



We are so grateful for Mr. Harrington Ward, who comes in every day with a smile on his face and a song in his heart that he willingly shares with all of the students. As a

behavioral specialist, Mr. Harrington often helps students in their darkest moments find a way back to the Eagle way of Connection, Compassion, & Character. Thank you!

Doc's Corner



Dr. Tom Simmons
Vice President for
Education

"We have the most dedicated staff I have ever seen in education. Our teachers are committed to reach each of our at-promise students where they are and to help guide them to their highest accomplishments."

Do you know someone who would benefit from the

THOMAS
Academy

educational experience?

OPEN ENROLLMENT
MARCH 1 - 31

Interested?

Contact Dr. Geraldine Bradshaw or
Betty Hux at 910-646-2237
www.thomasacademync.org.