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SPRING / SUMMER 2024 VOLUME 66

53rd Annual Commencement Exercises

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## THE CHRONICLE

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#### MISSION STATEMENT

The King's Academy exists to assist the home and church in their endeavor to "train up a child in the way he should go" (Proverbs 22:6). Its mission is to share salvation through Jesus Christ and to graduate Christian leaders who seek to impact their world for the King of kings through academic excellence and spiritual vitality.

The King's Academy admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded to or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national, or ethnic origin in administration of its policies, admission policies, scholarship, and loan programs.



# FROM THE PRESIDENT

#### A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

## Why Christian Education?

s I think back on the school year, I'm profoundly touched by the unwavering commitment of TKA's faculty and staff to Christian education. Why do individuals like Jeff Loveland (45 years), Jeff Gentry (42 years), Robyn Wentz (33 years), Anne Spell (18 years), and many others sacrifice to dedicate entire careers to excellence? Their lifelong commitment goes well beyond a love for learning, athletics, or the arts. Rather, their devotion is a testament to the deeper calling we all feel to King's mission.

At the heart of TKA's philosophy of Christian education is the steadfast belief in the existence of God and His desire to be known by humanity. Our foundation is the infallible Word of God, which serves as the ultimate source of truth, knowledge, and wisdom. As Christian educators, we are privileged to integrate this divine truth into every aspect of our teaching, ensuring that our students not only gain academic knowledge but also grow spiritually.

Our commitment to a Gospel-centric approach is paramount. We intentionally share the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ and provide discipleship training to nurture a maturing faith in our students. This approach distinguishes us from secular education, affirms our purpose, and provides meaning for the years and decades we commit to The King's Academy.

Biblical integration is another cornerstone of our philosophy. We strive to answer life's fundamental questions through God's Word, ensuring that our teaching aligns with His ultimate truth. By supporting the home and church, we reinforce the biblical teachings students receive elsewhere, creating a unified effort to "train up a child in the way he should go" (Proverbs 22:6). Thank you for partnering with us!

Excellence is a standard we uphold in every facet of our school. Whether in academics or extracurricular activities, we pursue excellence, not for personal satisfaction or earthly reward, but to bring credibility to the Gospel and glory to our King. It's for His approval that our dedicated staff goes the extra mile and works the long hours, employing educational and extracurricular best practices and continuously seeking professional development to provide the highest quality education.

These hardworking individuals exemplify the concept of a "living curriculum," another central component of our philosophy. Our faculty and staff, who have personal relationships with Jesus Christ, model biblical principles and values daily. As ministers of the Gospel, their moral and ethical behavior and modeling of the "Fruits of the Spirit" (Galatians 5:22-23) sets a powerful example for our students.

Ultimately, the value of our school is measured by the outcomes of our students. We aim to graduate Christian leaders who are prepared to make a difference in their world for Christ our King. This eternal perspective on education motivates Jeff Loveland, Jeff Gentry, Robyn Wentz, Anne Spell, and all of us to leave a legacy that impacts generations to come.

In short, the legacy of TKA's administrators, teachers, and staff is not just about the years of service but the eternal significance of their work. By imparting Christian values and knowledge, they contribute to a legacy that extends beyond their lifetimes, impacting eternity. I am deeply grateful for their steadfast dedication and the eternal difference they are making in the lives of our students. May God bless them richly for their service and sacrifice and bless you for choosing The King's Academy for your children's education!

Sincerely,

Randal L. Martin President



# COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

his year's commencement ceremony was a celebration of our students accomplishments and the ushering in of the dreams and aspirations graduates have for their future. Guest speaker Bob Goff delivered an inspiring and encouraging address which challenged students to find their unique purpose and calling and to choose friends who are going in the same direction, toward Jesus.

The Class of 2024 leaves quite a legacy with all that they have accomplished during their high school careers. This class accumulated 780 acceptances from more than 200 colleges, with 58% of the class admitted to the top 100 ranked colleges and universities and 29% gaining admission to colleges with highly competitive acceptance rates. Two seniors were recognized as National Merit Finalists, and 5 were recognized as National Merit Commended Scholars. One senior was recognized as a National Indigenous Scholar, two seniors were recognized as a National African American Scholar, and ten were recognized as National Hispanic Scholars by the College Board. Five seniors earned at least one perfect score on subsections of the ACT. One senior earned multiple perfect scores on subsections of the ACT.

Additionally, three seniors earned perfect subsection scores on one subsection of the SAT. Fifteen seniors are AP Scholars with Distinction, and twelve are AP Scholars with Honors. Forty-six percent of the class earned a cumulative GPA of 4.0 or higher, eighty percent earned a 3.5 GPA or higher, and ninety-four percent earned a 3.0 GPA or higher.

Students in The Smith Family Conservatory of the Arts shined in their performances, photography, film productions, and yearbook. Many of our vocal and dance students took home a Kravis Center Dream Award, and the production of *Big Fish* won Outstanding Musical.



The Digital Media Arts films, *Flamingo Heist* and *The* Making of Echo 10-4 earned five Telly Awards and two Viddy Awards! Students were also privileged to hear from professionals in the film industry through the new Reel Craft Speaker Series. Instrumental and Vocal Arts also brought in phenomenal speakers and performers to instill passion and work alongside students. The Jazz Ensemble wowed the audience at 54 Below in New York City.

This year in athletics, sixteen seniors have committed to play DI, DII, DII, NAIA, and/or NJCAA collegiate sports. The seasons were incredibly successful, with the Lions earning numerous district titles, regional playoffs, and state appearances, as well as several individual athletes

medaling at the state level. Our student-athletes seek to glorify the Lord as they showcase their gifts and talents.

One of the most exciting opportunities this year was taking two groups of students to serve in Nicaragua with Hope Project International. It is evident that the hearts of our students display a strong desire to be servant leaders and impact lives around the world.

The Lord has blessed this school year in immeasurable ways and we cannot wait to see all that is in store for our rising seniors and next school year!



2024 Commencement Ceremony

## Joyce Maniquis, Valedictorian

University of Florida, majoring in Computer Science

oyce Maniquis embodies a silent force of leadership. She stands as the epitome of dedication, service, and academic excellence, reflecting the very mission, and values of her alma mater. Joyce's story is one of quiet determination and unwavering commitment to both her studies and community. With notable accolades such as the College Board's recognition as an AP Scholar with Distinction and the completion of an astounding sixteen AP courses, and a cumulative GPA of 4.79, Joyce's academic prowess is unparalleled. But it's not just about the numbers for Joyce; it's about using her intellect as a platform for connection and service.

Beyond the classroom, Joyce's heart lies in serving others. With more than 260 hours of community service to her credit, including tutoring her peers in English and math, Joyce has made a tangible impact on those around her. Her dedication to helping others is not just a checkbox on a list of extracurricular activities; it is a genuine expression of her care and concern for her community.

As a leader, Joyce has left an imprint on the school community. From serving as the Class Director, Vice President, and Treasurer of the King's Service Organization to holding leadership positions in the Math National Honor Society and Women in STEM Club, Joyce has demonstrated her capacity to lead with grace and integrity.

Joyce's influence extends beyond the realm of academics and leadership; it permeates the arts as well. As a performer in four school musicals, including beloved classics like *The Music Man* and *Singin' in the Rain*, Joyce has brought joy and creativity to the stage, showcasing her talents beyond the confines of the classroom. In the face of adversity, Joyce's resilience shines through. During the challenges of the COVID-19 lockdowns, she taught herself how to play the guitar and piano. Her selflessness is further evidenced by her recent venture into video editing, as she learned Adobe Premiere Pro through YouTube tutorials to create a special gift for a friend. As Joyce prepares to embark on the next chapter of her journey, her alma mater bids her farewell with pride and anticipation.

Class of 2024 College Statistics 163 Total Graduates
\$18,611,987 Total Scholarships
100% College Acceptance
780 College 29% Acceptances to Highly Competitive Colleges
22,259 Total Community Service Hours
16 Collegiate Athletic Commitments

> 2 National Merit Finalists

**5** National Merit Commended Scholars

## Joshua Arockiasamy, Salutatorian

National Merit Commended Scholar University of Florida, majoring in Computer Science

oshua is an exceptional scholar, graduating with an impressive 4.67 cumulative weighted GPA. Joshua earned a Senior Superlative in English, a perfect score of 36 on the reading subsection of the ACT, was recognized by the College Board as an AP Scholar with Distinction, and was named a National Merit Commended Scholar. He is a determined student who progressively increased his academic rigor each year. During high school, Joshua took 14 Advanced Placement (AP) courses out of the 22 available at King's showing his exceptional ability, however he holds remarkable talent in the areas of math and science. As a senior, Joshua challenged himself taking all his core classes at the AP level, while doubling up in math, taking AP Calculus BC and AP Statistics alongside AP Physics. He graduated with the DiMino Engineering and Technology Distinction in Technology and The Smith Family Conservatory of the Arts Distinction in Instrumental Arts. Because of his academic achievement, Joshua served as a member of five honor societies, including the National Honor Society.

Additionally, Joshua has made a lasting impact at TKA through his involvement in instrumental arts and community service. "Josh has been an integral part of the Instrumental Arts Program at TKA since his 5th grade year. He has been a key member of the Jazz Ensemble, The King's Regiment Marching Band, and the Symphonic Band. Though Josh is a quiet and soft-spoken individual, he has never shied away from the limelight and increased scrutiny of being a performer. He is dependable, punctual, and always exudes an air of personal excellence," shared Mr. Wes Lowe. Director of Instrumental Arts.

As a servant leader, Joshua volunteered more than 100 hours and was an active officer of the King's Service Organization. The positive impact he has made at The King's Academy and in the community is evidence of his outstanding character. Joshua is genuinely kind, thoughtful, and dependable which are character traits that extend beyond being an academically talented and engaged student. His innate giftings in academics, instrumental arts, and a heart to serve have made him an outstanding student at The King's Academy.

#### 80% with a Cumulative GPA of 3.5 or Higher **39**<sup>%</sup> Bright Futures Scholarships

**15** AP Scholars with Distinction **12** AP Scholars with Honor

O National Hispanic Scholars



2 National African American Scholars

National Indigenous Scholar

58<sup>%</sup> Acceptances to Top 100 Best National Universities

26 International Seniors

## Justin Wright, National Merit Finalist

Florida State University, majoring in Engineering

ustin Wright is a young man whose journey through high school has been marked by academic achievements and a genuine spirit of kindness and grace. A rare gem, his intelligence shines as brightly as his humility. Justin's list of accomplishments is impressive by any standard. From excelling in academics to leading his peers on the soccer field and on the volleyball court, his impact has been evidenced by his recent acceptance of the 2024 Heart of Lion Award.

With a cumulative GPA of 4.62 and as a 2024 National Merit Finalist, recognized by the prestigious National Merit Scholarship Program, Justin stands among the top 1% of PSAT/NMSQT national test takers, an achievement that reflects his dedication to excellence. Justin is a member of four honor societies, including the National Honor Society, English National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, and Math National Honor Society.

Justin's athletic achievements are equally impressive. As captain of the varsity soccer team, Justin's leadership and performance was instrumental in earning the esteemed 2023 *Sun-Sentinel* All-County Honorable Mention Award. Moreover, his contributions to the boys' varsity volleyball team have been nothing short of stellar, culminating in back-to-back district championship titles in 2023 and 2024.

However, what truly sets Justin apart is not his accolades but his character. Despite his bright mind, he approaches every interaction with humility and kindness. His genuine love for others and his unwavering spirit of grace make him a beloved figure in the school community. His selection to the 2023 Homecoming Court is a testament to his popularity among his peers, who recognize not only his academic prowess but also his kindness and generosity of spirit. Justin will attend FSU to study engineering and his legacy of humility, excellence, and kindness will continue to inspire and uplift all those who have the privilege of knowing him.



## Additional Awards and Scholarships



Aaliyah Dobson Moore Alan Reamsnyder Memorial Award Hillsdale College



Lola Riley Pass it-On Scholarship University of Miami



Josephine Lerer Mark Kendall Scholarship Award Belmont University



Ethan Bender Community Service Award (1,383 hours) National Merit Commended Scholar University of South Florida



Lucas Jimenez National Merit Commended Scholar National Hispanic Scholar University of Florida

## Kylen DeStefano, National Merit Finalist

Palm Beach Atlantic University, majoring in Accounting and Finance

Vien DeStefano is a top-performing student, embodying drive, focus, and optimism. His intelligence is evidenced by his outstanding 4.34 cumulative weighted GPA, recent recognition as a National Merit Finalist by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, and as an AP Scholar with Distinction. Kylen has challenged himself throughout high school and has taken the most rigorous coursework available at King's. His excellence in academics has resulted in membership of four honor societies: National Honor Society, Math National Honor Society, Social Studies National Honor Society, and Spanish National Honor Society. While Kylen has shown academic excellence in each subject area, he dedicated his attention to the Business Program of Distinction. Kylen has been an active member of the Future Business Leaders of America and King's Investment Group and graduated with a Business Distinction.

Outside of the classroom, Kylen impressively competes as a nationally topranked youth soccer player. Throughout high school he spent most of his free time playing soccer, notably leading his team as co-captain to compete in the quarterfinals of the Major League Soccer (MLS) Next Cup tournament. As a highly talented soccer player, Kylen was selected for All-County 1st Team in Palm Beach County twice and chosen to train with the Inter Miami Discovery Program. In addition, Kylen was selected to participate in the United States Soccer League All Star Game and The National Academy Championships All-Star Game, IMG. With his comprehensive list of athletic accolades, it is apparent that Kylen performs on the soccer field as he performs in the academic arena.

He is excited to continue playing the sport he loves at the collegiate level while double majoring in accounting and finance at PBAU. As Kylen pursues his next chapter, he leaves a legacy at The King's Academy. With his innate drive, focus, and optimism he is sure to achieve future success.



Carlos Leon II National Merit Commended Scholar National Hispanic Scholar Northwestern University



Kouki Sano National Merit Commended Scholar University of Toronto



Hadiya Stewart National African American Scholar University of Florida



Taj Ruiz National African American Scholar/ National Hispanic Scholar Embry Riddle Aeronautical University



Nicholas Cueto National Hispanic Scholar U.S. Military Academy at West Point

## **Jonathan Jones**

University of Pennsylvania, majoring in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

onathan Jones is an exceptionally hard-working, charismatic, and genuine student who takes advantage of every opportunity presented to him. Academically, he is a topperforming student graduating with an impressive 4.54 cumulative weighted GPA. His academic abilities earned him the name of National Hispanic and Indigenous Recognition Program Scholar, and a perfect score of 36 on the English and Reading subsection of the ACT. Additionally, Jonathan graduated with the Business and O'Keeffe Pre-Law Studies Distinctions. Jonathan has gained real-world experience in business and pre-law unrivaled to others his age. His academic exposure has inspired him to become a lawyer, where he hopes to enter a career in public service. Impressively, Jonathan graduated having taken 11 Advanced Placement courses and was named AP Scholar with Distinction. As a high achieving student, he was an active member of seven honor societies, serving as Vice President of the Spanish National Honor Society and the Treasurer of the Florida Law Honor Society.

Outside of the classroom, Jonathan has left his legacy on the student body as a leader in several student organizations and a founder of two, the most recent being The King's Investment Group. Jonathan was instrumental in establishing The King's Service Organization, a club formerly associated with the internationally recognized Key Club. Through his leadership he drafted a new club constitution and by-laws so the organization could run effectively and independently from its previous national affiliation with Key Club.

In the community, Jonathan dedicated his free time to volunteering with the Believe with Me non-profit organization. This organization exists to honor the family members of military personnel who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in the act of serving their country. Jonathan was responsible for organizing their annual Freedom Formal. As a result of his God-given talent and drive Jonathan was admitted to several lvy League and top-tier institutions, including the University of Pennsylvania, Columbia University, Cornell University, Rice University, Vanderbilt University, University of Notre Dame, and Emory University. Jonathan is eager to impact the world for the King of kings in The Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania where he will major in economics with a concentration in finance.



## Additional Awards and Scholarships



**Kaitlyn Esquivel** National Hispanic Scholar National Hispanic Scholar Florida State University



Natalia Sampaio University of Florida



Matthew Siesser University of Central Florida



Senen Torres National Hispanic Scholar National Hispanic Scholar University of Central Florida



Isabella Weisz National Hispanic Scholar University of Miami



#### Class of 2024 College Acceptances

IVY LEAGUE / TOP 50 Columbia University Cornell University University of Pennsylvania

Boston University Carnegie Mellon University Duke University Emory University Georgia Institute of Technology Massachusetts Institute of Technology

#### **ADDITIONAL COLLEGES**

Adelphi University

Allegheny College Anderson University Arizona State University Auburn University Baldwin Wallace University Barry University Baylor University **Belmont University** Berklee College of Music Berry College Bethune-Cookman University California Lutheran University Carson-Newman University Case Western Reserve University Charleston Southern University Citadel Military College of South Carolina **Clemson University** Coastal Carolina University College of Charleston Colorado State University **DePaul University Drexel University** Dyersburg State Community College Eastern University Elon University Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Emerson College Erskine College Flagler College Florida Atlantic University Florida Gulf Coast University

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New York University Northwestern University Purdue University -West Lafayette Rice University Rutgers University -New Brunswick The Ohio State University -Columbus University of California Davis University of California Irvine University of California San Diego University of California Santa Barbara University of Florida University of Georgia University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign University of Maryland -College Park University of Michigan -Ann Harbor University of Notre Dame

> Samford University San Diego State University Santa Fe College Savannah College of Art and Design Seton Hall University Shenandoah University Southeastern University Southern Methodist University Spelman College St. John's University St. Thomas University Stetson University Suffolk University Syracuse University Tallahassee Community College Temple University Texas A&M University Texas Christian University The American University of Paris The University of Alabama The University of Edinburgh The University of Tampa The University of Tennessee The University of Texas at Dallas The University of West Florida University College London University of Alabama in Huntsville University of Arkansas University of California (Riverside)

(Riverside) University of Central <u>Florida</u>

TILIS D

OREX.

UBP

University of Southern California University of Virginia University of Washington University of Wisconsin Madison Vanderbilt University Virginia Tech Wake Forest University Washington University in St. Louis

> University of Colorado Boulder University of Colorado Denver University of Connecticut University of Delaware University of Denver University of Illinois Chicago University of Kentucky University of Massachusetts -Amherst University of Miami University of Minnesota - Twin Cities University of Mississippi University of New Hampshire University of New South Wales University of North Carolina at Charlotte University of North Carolina Wilmington University of North Florida University of Oregon University of Pittsburgh University of South Carolina University of South Florida University of Technology Sydney University of Toronto University of Vermont Valencia College Warner University Webster University West Virginia University Western Carolina University Western Michigan University William & Mary Xavier University

Florida Institute of Technology Florida International University Florida Memorial University Florida Polytechnic University Florida Southern College Florida State University Fordham University Full Sail University **Furman University** Gardner-Webb University George Mason University George Washington University Georgia Southern University Greensboro College Grinnell College Heidelberg University High Point University Hillsdale College Hobart and William Smith Colleges Hofstra University Howard University Illinois Institute of Technology Indiana University -Bloomington Ithaca College Jacksonville University James Madison University Johnson & Wales University (Charlotte) Keiser University King's College London Lafayette College Lee University Liberty University Lipscomb University

Minerva University Mississippi State University Missouri State University Montana State University Montclair State University Montreat College Morgan State University New Jersey City University North Carolina State University Northeastern University Northern Michigan University Nova Southeastern University Oklahoma State University Pace University (New York City) Palm Beach Atlantic University Palm Beach State College Pennsylvania State University -University Park Pepperdine University Presbyterian College **Purdue University Northwest** Regent University Rensselaer Polytechnic

Louisiana State University

Loyola University Chicago

Miami University (Oxford)

Michigan State University

Marymount Manhattan College

Lynn University

Mercer University

Institute Rochester Institute of Technology Rollins College Rutgers University - Newark Saint Leo University CHRISTINE SOWERS INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM DIRECTOR

<sup>-</sup>he 2023-2024 academic year proved to be a thrilling chapter for The King's Academy's International Student Program. In addition to the yearly academic and spiritual growth observed in our students, the program itself achieved a significant milestone. The International Student Program and its boarding component underwent a thorough review during the school's accreditation process with the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). Following a comprehensive assessment, TKA's Boarding Program was recommended for endorsement by ACSI, distinguishing our program as the second in the nation to receive this esteemed distinction.

The King's Academy has an established history of academic excellence. With this endorsement, the boarding program extends this symbolic leadership and deepens our call to grow, to face new challenges, and to seek fresh opportunities to serve students. Accreditation within an academic setting ensures adherence to standards encompassing curriculum, faculty training, and infrastructure. In the context of a boarding program, this includes evaluating the residential environment to ensure it supports the emotional, social, and spiritual growth of each student. ACSI's endorsement of our boarding program serves as a testament to the collective efforts of our faculty, staff, students, and families in fostering an environment of growth, cultural understanding, and global impact.

Our Christ-centered approach was noted throughout the process as a defining characteristic of the strength of the program. The visiting teams experienced firsthand the faith-filled homes, conversations and guidance the students are surrounded with each day. Whether the students are Christian or not, they encounter Jesus through the people within our school community, and its impact is evident. When asked to define their time at TKA in one word, the answer repeatedly given is "family." Our program's purpose is to provide an enriching home-away-from-home for our international students and that has been resoundingly affirmed this year.

As we celebrate this milestone, we look forward with excitement to continuing the pursuit of academic excellence and cultural exchange, equipping students with the skills, knowledge, and values they need to thrive in an increasingly interconnected world.

ongratulations to e Class of 2024

#### International Student of Distinction

#### Riko Yoshiura MINERVA UNIVERSITY MAJOR: BUSINESS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Diko Yoshiura, born in Chiba, Japan, joined The King's Academy Nin August of 2021. Her time at King's has been defined by academic excellence, cultural integration, and entrepreneurial innovation. From the moment she enrolled, Riko has worked with fierce determination and an unwavering commitment to achieve her goals. She immersed herself in American culture with the desire to learn from and impact those around her. Shortly after arriving she created Clarico, a non-profit organization as a platform to share her American experience, global perspective, and entrepreneurial spirit with students back in Japan. She also began a YouTube page, which currently has more than 22K followers, where she vlogs about her experiences. Recognizing the opportunity to attend high school in the United States and take business classes, an opportunity largely unavailable to many Japanese students, she was inspired to start a business that would allow her to share what she was learning. She designed an outline platform, Miraisozobu, for Japanese students to collaborate with other students as well as business owners in order to brainstorm and materialize their ideas, earning her the first place Novous Future Design Award in 2022.

This was just one of many awards and accolades Riko earned while at King's. Others include the Business and Math Senior Superlatives, AP Scholar with Distinction, 1st place in FBLA's Business Competition in 2023, Pathfinder Academic Excellence Nominee in 2023, Art awards in 2022 and 2023 and the Business Program of Distinction. Riko was a member of the National Honor, Math, English, Science, Social Studies, and Art Honor Societies. She was also a member of the Future Business Leaders of America where she served as secretary her senior year, Art Club, Basketball Cheerleading, and she worked at King's Corner for two years. Riko served as the International Student Leadership Council President during her senior year. Her hard work and dedication have earned her the Class of 2024's International Student of Distinction with an impressive GPA of 4.69. This achievement, coupled with her impressive 1,550 on the SAT, community service hours, and a myriad of extracurricular activities, paved the way for her acceptance to Minerva University

> in San Francisco where the acceptance rate is a mere 1%. Minerva's pioneering approach to education will allow Riko to study in seven different countries during her undergraduate studies further expanding her global perspective and impact. While only God knows the future plans He has for Riko, one thing is certain—she is a world changer!

"Riko is delightful, respectful, and extremely hardworking. Her interest in creating and sharing her American experience on YouTube, combined with my daughter's love for film, allowed them to bond and create wonderful memories. It's been a great experience hosting Riko, and we pray that God will continue to order her steps and bless her hard work."

## The True Measure of Success

DR. DOUGLAS

RAINES

VICE PRESIDENT & HEADMASTER

ow do you define success? Is your life a success? God measures success with a different vardstick than the one our society uses. Most people define success in terms of achieving goals, acquiring wealth, and having prestige. Many emphasize status or how much power and influence they have. The idea that successful people enjoy the "good life" is a common misconception. They think success means achieving financial security, being emotionally confident, living surrounded by admirers, and enjoying the fruits of their labor. Today's culture centers on the "here and now" of this life. While having goals and wanting the best is not necessarily a bad thing, and it often provides great opportunities, there should be clear prioritization in the lives of Christians. Jesus plainly reconfigured his disciples' traditional thinking when he said, "The last will be first, and the first last." (Matthew 20:16).

Consequently, God's standard for success is much different. God desires our obedience and faithfulness to Him, regardless of opposition and personal cost. His measure of success is whether we are resting in Him, and whether we are accomplishing His goals and purposes for our lives. Proverbs 3:5 admonishes: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and lean not on your own understanding."

If we are walking in the path the Lord has directed us into, then our lives are a success regardless of earthly status, our list of accomplishments, or the fortunes we have amassed.

One of the important indications of fulfillment found in scripture is that joy comes through Christian service. God wants His followers to serve others. Today's culture largely believes we obtain success by gaining fame and acknowledgement for ourselves. However, God communicates to us in His Word that we find purpose when we give our very best for others. We are truly blessed when we showcase generosity and love to others.

At The King's Academy we have enjoyed many victories over the years; our students have received an exceptional foundation in preschools and in elementary grades; our students' test scores have yielded national recognition through Blue Ribbon Awards not once but twice; our annual Advanced Placement recognition showcases the outstanding efforts of teachers and students; our students have performed in some of the most beautiful venues and participated in multiple presidential inaugurations; our Conservatory is nationallyranked; and our sports teams

continue to add to the record books with district, regional, state, and national championships. Our international program continues to be one of the strongest examples in Christian schools. The list of honors is certainly long, but we are most excited about how we have seen God transform lives. How He has guided families to our school in order to open their ears to the message of hope found in Christ alone. God has used willing vessels to accomplish His purposes. Changed lives are a true representation of success. There is no greater or higher measure of success than the praise of our Savior, saying, "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:23). If we are faithful servants, we are also successful by Christ's standards because we will bear abundant spiritual fruit.



## The King's Investment Group

The King's Investment Group completed its first full year of operations. This highly selective group of student investors is responsible for investing the profit generated by King's Corner Coffee. They currently manage more than \$20,000 in investments. One of their most notable achievements has been the creation and implementation of the Student Grant Awards. Award decisions were student-led and based on equity, impact, need, and sustainability. After a careful selection process, the Grant Committee presented five teachers with funding for various classroom and extracurricular activities this year. This annual program will award 10% of King's Corner profit back to school programs through an application, review, and decision-making process.



Leading the Business Program of Distinction has been a privilege. I have witnessed students grow in their love for the discipline and develop real life skills by operating both King's Corner Coffee and The King's Investment Group. Students have joined businesses, attended prestigious business programs, and returned to TKA to share their journey. This full-circle experience is evidence of the missional nature of The King's Academy, impacting our world for coming generations. ??

#### 2023-2024 Grant Recipients

#### FIRST GRADERS SHARE HIS LOVE

The grant helped first grade students share God's love with those in need by providing the funding to make 300 sandwiches for South Florida Food Kitchen & Assistance Foundation for distribution to the homeless. - Christine Kovachik, 1st Grade Teacher



We used the grant to purchase the beloved "Who Was" book series for all of 3rd grade to share! "Biography in a Bag" is an engaging activity that teaches students about historical figures which they present to classmates in an interesting way! - Rachel (Kuhl '05) Smith, 3rd Grade Teacher

#### **ELEMENTARY STEM CRUNCH LABS**

Grant funds were used to purchase a monthly build box subscription for Crunch Labs. It included materials, instructions, and videos required to complete tasks. This great addition to the Elementary STEM Lab classroom provides a hands-on way to grasp science and engineering concepts. - Rebekah DeProspero, Elementary STEM Teacher

#### SCIENCE OLYMPIAD TEAM

Expenses for competitions that TKA's Science Olympiad Team participated in were funded by the grant. The funds covered team shirts and the expenses for building materials used to collaborate and prepare for competition. - Kristi Maples, MS/HS Science Teacher



#### **KING'S CORNER COFFEE MUGS**

The grant will allow students to create, decorate, and glaze sellable mugs for King's

Community. The program will be promoted by a student-led marketing team and student artists will be highlighted for their work. The limited-edition mugs will become a staple on campus and an encouragement to students. - Sarah Best, MS/HS Director of Visual Arts







## THE KING'S ACADEMY THE INSTITUTE FOR Christ & Culture

The question is not, "Are we being discipled?" but "Who is discipling us?" The reality is that our culture, often unconsciously, is discipling believers away from Jesus and the Christian community is not immune from this subversive influence.

With an emphasis on exegeting and engaging our post-Christian culture, The King's Academy is excited to announce the launch of The Institute for Christ and Culture. Led by Bible teachers Dan Stuart and Brandon Marlow, The Institute is committed to offering apologetics and worldview training, valuable resources, and immersive experiences to empower the King's community to gain deeper comprehension of their immediate culture while remaining steadfast in their faith. Ultimately, The Institute



is our way of ensuring that the entire King's family is conscious of who is discipling them, Christ or culture?

Throughout history, Christians have navigated various cultural contexts, responding in ways that have been both beneficial and unfortunately harmful. The Institute seeks a more constructive and winsome engagement with culture. It emphasizes conversation, civility, and contextualization when engaging the culture with the gospel, while steadfastly upholding core theological convictions with courage and grace.

This spring, The Institute launched a new website with a comprehensive array of resources and tools to help both parents and students navigate the intersection of faith and culture.

Visit www.thetkainstitute.com to explore all the offerings from the Christian Leadership Program of Distinction including practical parent workshops, Reasonable Faith sessions for students and adults, and a captivating new podcast series featuring top experts in evangelism and apologetics. There's something for everyone!



## HONORING A LIFELONG LEGACY Jeff Loveland '75 Retires after 45 Years at TKA

The King's Academy family recently gathered in the Loveland Athletic Center for a special dinner to celebrate the extraordinary career of Jeff Loveland, who has dedicated 45 years of service to the school. His journey at The King's Academy spans 54 years, starting as a student and culminating as President and Chief Operating Officer. Jeff's tenure predates even the addition of "The" to the school's name and began before many of today's faculty and staff, including current President Randy Martin, were born.

Jeff Loveland's spiritual steadfastness

Jeffrey loveland

#### 45 YEARS OF SERVICE - 1979-2024

<b>1970-197</b> Attended First Grad Class	TKA,	1	E N	<b>986-1998</b> Business Manager & Coach	3	1999 • Named 3rd President of The King's Academy 1999-2016 -		al TKA	2004 • Ground at Belve campus		2007 • Dr. Gene Frost named TKA one the 7 Best Chris Schools in Ame	stian
1970	1975	1980 1979-1986	1985	1990	1995	2000 2000		2003		2005 2005	2008	
		9th-12th Gra 7th Grade E Coach	ade P.E.,	Exe Vic	98-1999 ecutive esident	<ul> <li>First meeting to expand Chic campus</li> <li>TKA received accreditation</li> </ul>	erry Road	began Belved • Clearin Belved	nent Campaigr	is or is	re First Presc partnershi with First Baptist RPI	C
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and unwavering commitment to TKA have been pivotal in building the strong foundation upon which the school stands today. His influence is immeasurable, having hired and mentored many current staff members. Jeff has consistently provided wise counsel, and the school community strives to emulate his love for the Lord Jesus Christ and for The King's Academy.

President Randy Martin shared a personal anecdote from his interview with Jeff for the position of Chief Financial Officer. Known for being a man of few words, Jeff asked only a couple of questions before concluding the interview abruptly. Randy left the meeting convinced he hadn't gotten the job, only to be pleasantly surprised by an offer. This story

ING'S

exemplifies Jeff's unique, yet effective, leadership style.

The celebration also honored Jeff's wife, Gloria Loveland, by recognizing the sacrifices she has made as a presidential spouse. Gloria's support has been vital to the school, from launching the International Student Program as a host mom for 6 1/2 years to volunteering in many other capacities. Her unwavering dedication and service have been invaluable. In grateful recognition of the Loveland's service, King's Board of Governors has named the Jeffrey & Gloria Loveland Fieldhouse in their honor.

Reflecting on Jeff's journey, TKA President Martin drew a parallel to Nehemiah 2:18: *"Let us rise up and build."* Jeff's passion for building, both physically and spiritually, is evident throughout the campus and the community he has helped foster. Despite facing numerous challenges, including a plane crash, bomb threat, fires, hurricanes, the recession, and more, Jeff remained steadfast. For decades his leadership and faith rallied and guided the school through every storm.

As Jeff Loveland embarks on retirement in this new chapter of his life, the TKA community expresses heartfelt gratitude for his years of service, leadership, and friendship. While his presence will be dearly missed, the Christ-first foundation he has built will continue to guide and sustain the school in the years to come. The future for The King's Academy is bright due in many ways to Jeff's enduring legacy.

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• 1XA Online established compl • 40th Anniversary • Interna	ational 7 Christian nt Program Schools by	ary	<ul> <li>2018</li> <li>Boswell Science &amp; Technology Center completed</li> <li>O'Keeffe Pre-Law Studies established</li> </ul>	2021 • Smith Family Café named	<ul> <li>2023</li> <li>Esther B. O'Keeffe Innovation Center completed</li> <li>Accounting Endowment</li> </ul>

## HONORING 42 YEARS OF SERVICE Jeff Gentry

C ince the founding of our school, there have been many incredible teachers, administrators, coaches, counselors, directors, and sponsors. Each of these titles have something in common. Each one could be considered synonyms for the word "mentor." The dictionary defines a mentor as a trusted counselor or guide, an experienced and trusted person who gives another person advice and help. It is undeniable that this term is represented through the life and career of Mr. Jeff Gentry. For the past 42 years, King's has been a second home to Jeff and his impact has reached thousands.

Beginning in 1982 as a sixthgrade teacher, Jeff realized he was fulfilling a call on his life, and he has championed the cause of Christian education ever since. Jeff has always enjoyed the opportunities provided through his service at King's. After only a short time in the elementary

enjoyed the opportunity to teach high school English and he sponsored and guided students to produce an award-winning school newspaper. He went on to serve as the high school guidance counselor and shortly after, he faithfully led the secondary school for 8 1/2 years as the principal. Jeff continued his service by returning to his role as a counselor and then jumped back into the classroom as a senior English teacher and Bible teacher.

Jeff has consistently proven to be a servant leader. He encouraged others to enthusiastically serve and to fully engage in the many opportunities at TKA. He demonstrated this passion as he served as a coach, traveled extensively on missions and senior trips, and always gave his best to invest in the lives of his students and colleagues. "Leave a place better than you found it" is an adage that clearly applies to his actions. He has enriched the lives of many and has played a pivotal role in ensuring the foundation and priorities of our school are firmly rooted. Jeff always jumped into action for school productions, chapels, and his creativity and wit were on display as he shared powerful words of encouragement and played his guitar in chapels and his classroom. Additionally, he consistently found time to encourage through the singing of "Feliz Navidad" and other fun activities.

As a mentor, Jeff provided accountability, motivation, and wisdom to all who were eager to learn. He truly understood the source of all blessings and recognized the importance of not placing oneself into an elevated position but demonstrated his sincere character as a caring and committed man of God. Mr. Jeff Gentry's legacy is cemented into the fabric of the King's culture, and we are truly the beneficiaries of his gentleness and kindness.



Scan to watch Mr. Gentry's Top 10 List of "Things I Love about TKA"

"Mr. Gentry is a source of tremendous encouragement and guidance to me. Jeff believed in me and gave me opportunities to grow personally and professionally. Whether he was disciplining a student, handling a challenging parent conference, leading a meeting, or sharing a personal anecdote, I knew the source of his wisdom and strength came from God. He always displayed the heart of a shepherd." - DOUGLAS RAINES, VICE PRESIDENT AND HEADMASTER

> "When I first arrived at TKA I was given videos of those who were called 'master teachers.' I remember thinking that there was no way I could possibly duplicate Jeff Gentry's passion and positive attitude. For more than 30 years now, I have seen his desire and passion to be a blessing to others."

- CHRIS HUETHER, MS BIBLE TEACHER

"Thanks to Mr. Gentry, I've grown as a teacher, as an individual, and as a man of faith. He is the mentor I needed, the friend I cherish, and the model of Christlikeness I aspire to." - DAN STUART, MS/HS BIBLE & APOLOGETICS TEACHER

"Jeff has been a humble and kind man throughout his years at TKA. He has always put others above himself and demonstrated the qualities of consistency and godliness." -NANCY STACK, HS ENGLISH TEACHER

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"Mr. Gentry never worked for applause or awards, but rather faithful service to the Lord. Jeff is a role model." - JERRY BARRANTES. FORMER TKA TEACHER

# Robyn Wentz

rs. Robyn Wentz has served as a dedicated full-time staff member for the past 33 years. Her devotion to the safety of the students at The King's Academy was evident as she served as the Transportation Fleet Manager. Robyn is selfless and goes the extra mile to ensure the little things are done well. King's buses log thousands of miles annually, and we appreciate Robyn for the careful attention she has given to the acquisition of new buses and maintenance of the fleet. She has faithfully supported the Director of Transportation and the administration in fulfilling the expansive needs of the school community and is retiring with our heartfelt appreciation for her dedication and service to the parents, students, and employees of The King's Academy.

"Robyn is the kind of leader that values and inspires others to strive to be their best!" - JOHANNA ALFARO, TKA PARENT AND BUS DRIVER

"Robyn's unwavering dedication and loyalty have made her the cornerstone of our team, embodying service, and honoring Christ. As she retires, her legacy of integrity, work ethic, and compassion will continue to inspire. Thank you for being a true friend and guiding light." - KRISTIE ADKINS, TRANSPORTATION MANAGER "Robyn is a wealth of knowledge regarding the bus and provided wise counsel and encouragement for life. She is dedicated to the drivers, truly supporting and guiding them throughout the year. I wish her a blessed retirement." - SHEILA FOX, TKA PARENT AND BUS DRIVER

"Robyn has faithfully served The King's Academy for over two and half decades. With her quiet strength and dedication, she has maintained the bus fleet enabling the drivers to safely transport thousands of students. She will be greatly missed." - DONA LOWE TKA PARENT AND BUS DRIVER

## HONORING 18 YEARS OF SERVICE Anne Spell

S. Anne Spell began her teaching career at The King's Academy in 2006 as a Geometry teacher and immediately built lasting relationships with her students. Countless students benefitted from the clear instruction and welcoming environment in her classroom. Anne used her previous business and professional acumen to launch the first Program of Distinction at TKA, the Business Program. Throughout the years, students have built confidence and excelled through the many engaging challenges and opportunities provided through the program. Anne sacrifices her time and clearly enjoys the blessing of leading students in areas of entrepreneurial passion. Her determination and hard work is evident through the numerous honors she has received over the years. Anne has been like a second mother to many students and her dedication helped shape their lives. TKA is a better place because of the influence of such a wonderful teacher.

"Ms. Spell is the most influential teacher I have had. She goes out of her way to help others. Ms. Spell has done an amazing job building the Business Program in her tenure at TKA. One of my favorite memories is forming The King's Investment Group and brainstorming about how to structure, market, and run it. Her servant leadership inspires students to go above and beyond, both in and out of the classroom." - HUDSON GATES '24 "Of all the mentors and leaders I've had, Mrs. Spell has had the most profound direct impact on my career. Her belief in my potential and dedication to bringing out the best in me laid the groundwork for my accomplishments. When I was on ABC's *Shark Tank*, her lessons provided me with the tools I needed to make an effective pitch. Her effort and commitment are examples for everyone working with young people—the way she poured into students will make a forever impact." - JESSICA BLAKLEY '16





## Middle School Highlights

The inaugural year of our middle school program has provided a wealth of opportunities for 6th-8th grade students enriching their educational and spiritual journey during a pivotal time in their lives.

The second semester was filled with exciting events. The Programs of Distinction (POD) Day for 8th grade students was a highlight. This immersive experience into the heart of our school's diverse programs provided students with the knowledge necessary for informed decisions about their high school course selection and future academic pursuits. Students were introduced to the DiMino Engineering & Technology Program, the O'Keeffe Pre-Law Studies Program, learned CPR in the Pre-Medical Lab, visited the Aviation flight simulator, and engaged in a faith-strengthening

dialogue with a "skeptic" in the Christian Leadership session. The LIFT Tour was a weekend of life-changing discipleship and evangelism for middle school students. This trip had an intentional focus on the centrality of the Gospel message and equipped students to be a light for Christ. From inspiring speakers and authors to lively DJs and worship teams, our students returned with renewed faith and a passion for sharing the Word of God.

Inspired by Matthew 5:16, the "Beacon Award" was introduced to celebrate positive behavior and provide unique opportunities to acknowledge our students and their accomplishments. Throughout the year, teachers and staff looked for acts of kindness, helpfulness, and contributions to a positive school environment. Each week, two students were acknowledged in chapel with a Beacon Award certificate and a gift card.

The semester culminated with a middle school dance. The Loveland Athletic Center came alive with upbeat music, laughter, and camaraderie. It was heartwarming to see students bonding and having fun as they capped off a momentous inaugural year. The faculty chaperones enjoyed dancing and joining in the games. Funds raised from the dance were donated to Hope Project International.

As we reflect on the year, we celebrate the many ways God has blessed our middle school students. They have embraced new experiences, formed new friendships, and found community on our campus.

#### **Programs of Distinction Day**





## **Elementary Overview**

"Learning and knowing that God exists, created everything, and desires a relationship with them are foundational truths taught in each grade level."

he King's Academy has a rich history of traditions that are engrained in the culture of our school. Kindergarten and 5th grade graduations are culminating events that mark the passing of a milestone. Students have developed a strong foundation in academics but more importantly in basic life skills and spiritual vitality. Learning and knowing that God exists, created everything, and desires a relationship with them are foundational truths taught in each grade level. Once grasped, these foundational truths can transform a student's life and truly cause them to thrive and flourish.

Three exciting new activities were introduced this year and students wholeheartedly bought in. In March, second-fifth grade students participated in March Madness, a bracket style reading tournament modeled after and coinciding with the NCAA basketball tournament. Students and teachers decorated their classrooms doors and went head-to-head with other classes to see who could read the most pages in a week. Each page represented a point. At the conclusion of the tournament students had read an impressive 611,296 pages. Parents shared stories about their children waking up early to read before school. One student commented that he stopped playing video games because he was too busy reading. Mrs. Kelly Martin's third-grade class was

crowned the tournament champion and received custom basketball jerseys with numbers and nicknames printed on them. They also earned the opportunity to dump Gatorade on their teacher in a celebratory fashion to commemorate their championship.

In April, fourth-fifth grade students created unique inventions, products, and services for the Elementary Innovation Fair. This was a collaborative effort between the specials teachers and classroom teachers to facilitate time and space for students to innovate and create. Fifth grade student Elise Hafner's invention "The Treat Trick" was selected as the overall winner.

In September, fifth grade students hosted the Constitution Day assembly



by performing dramatic reenactments of the signing of the Mayflower Compact, Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution. History came to life as elementary students witnessed their peers acting out the signing of these documents.

WARRIORS

Annual events like Operation Christmas Child, Jump Rope for the Heart, and Baby Bottle Boomerang yielded record high outcomes. Psalm 1 describes a flourishing life. The description of a blessed person is "in whatever he does, he prospers." (1:3b) Prosperity should not be defined by our current cultural standards but rather by God's design and plan. Students are taught to determine their course of action according to God's plan for them rather than making plans strictly from human understanding. In doing so, our students can grow into God seeking, flourishing adults.





### Elementary Art Heather (Lettsome) Muir '00, Elementary Art Teacher

t has been a wonderful year for our elementary art students in the new Esther B. O'Keeffe Innovation Center Elementary Art Studio. Our young artists have flourished in a space designed to expand the program and raise the bar of creativity and imagination. As new mediums and techniques were introduced, we have had many opportunities to celebrate their amazing work.

In the art program, students engage in a variety of projects that foster their creative development and technical skills. This year, students explored 3D plaster sculptures, allowing them to bring their imaginative concepts into tangible forms. An abstract ink art project introduced them to color theory and the planning process of a project. We also delved into new levels of clay work, oil pastels, and chalk, giving students a broader palette to express their creativity. Additionally, papier-mâché, painting, and other traditional techniques were revisited with fresh perspectives and innovative approaches.

The after-school art programs and the Jr. Conservatory for 4th and 5th graders have further enriched artistic experiences for students. The Jr. Conservatory program allowed students to dive deeper and hone their visual art skills, providing a more intensive learning environment. After-school clubs were incredibly popular, with drawing classes and art club meeting once a week. Most sessions reached capacity with more than 90 students registering for the drawing club and more than 105 for the art club. Each session culminated in a showcase, allowing parents and families to celebrate the students' artistic achievements.

There have been numerous opportunities to celebrate our talented visual art students with twelve additional showcases throughout the year. Elementary art students participated in the Grandparents Day Showcase, the Christmas Program Showcase, a 3rd grade showcase during a chapel service they led, and several after school showcases. A 4th-12th grade conservatory visual art showcase highlighted the exceptional work of the Conservatory program. Students were inspired as they participated alongside middle and high school visual art students. The Jr. Conservatory art students also had the opportunity to contribute artwork for the elementary yearbook, providing another opportunity to display of their creative skills.

We look forward to next year with great excitement and anticipation. The Elementary Art Studio will continue to provide excellent opportunities to showcase the talent that God has placed within each student. The King's Academy remains committed to providing an environment where creativity can thrive and students can develop their God-given talents to their fullest potential.





## Using Our Talents for God's Glory

Josh & Taylor Bartz, Directors of MS/HS Student Ministries

od has gifted each of us with certain talents, passions, and capabilities that He desires us to use for His sake. Chapel is not only a time to worship together, but also a unique opportunity for students to hear from guest speakers from all

around the world and learn how God has gifted them, and how they are using their gifts and skills to glorify Him.

In February, TKA welcomed Jared Hall for MS/HS Spiritual Emphasis Week. Jared is an illusionist and magician who has spent the last twenty years perfecting his craft. Jared combines his love for magic with his desire to proclaim God's truth and grace. In his honesty, Jared shared that as a magician he is a professional in tricking the mind to see what he wants us to see, but he encouraged students to know that God's Word is true and never changing. "Magic will come and go, but Jesus will remain the immovable and trustworthy source of all life, love, and purpose," he shared. To close out the week, Jared



performed an unforgettable trick by gathering random numbers from the audience and multiplying them together. The sum of these numbers equaled 242091033. Encouraging the students to always seize the moment and never pass on what Jesus has to offer, he revealed that the number indicated the exact year, day, month, and time that he was speaking (24/2/09/10:33). Students erupted in a standing ovation and Jared graciously thanked them for the opportunity to share.

We also had the privilege of hosting Nate Burkhalter, former *American Ninja Warrior* finalist and competitor. He also competed on *Exatlon*, a reality competition series where the champion takes home the title and cash grand prize. Nate won Exatlon in 2020 and competed again in a championship season in 2023. Through all of his public success as an athlete, Nate has strived to lead in his faith in bold and courageous ways. He was often spotted praying with other American Ninja competitors before the competition and

professing his faith even while in the spotlight. Students not only had the opportunity to hear Nate share, they also watched Nate and other former and current American Ninja Warriors demonstrate their impressive agility on a Ninja Warrior Course set up in the Loveland Athletic Center. Several students were able to try out the course and give the infamous "salmon ladder" a try!

Our mission at The King's Academy is to graduate Christian leaders who will impact the world for Christ by using their gifts and skills to glorify God in all that they do. Our hope is that students would be encouraged and inspired as they meet individuals like Jared and Nate who are exalting Christ through their passions, gifts, and talents.

#### **Reading through the New Testament**

TKA's YouTube channel, TKALionheart, garners millions of views each year as viewers from all over the world tune in to watch. With more than 200k subscribers, there is great potential to share the message of God's love and grace through Jesus, giving people who are far from God the opportunity to learn more about Him. What better way to share God's message of hope than to read it straight from the Word of God? In January, middle and high school students participated in their second, "Read Through the New Testament." Student volunteers read portions of scripture, beginning with Matthew continuing without pause until they had completed the entire New Testament. The event was live-streamed on TKA's YouTube channel and was viewed by thousands of people. Some even tuned in to watch in the middle of the night! The event started at noon on a Friday and finished around 6AM the next day. God's word was read continuously by King's students for 18 hours!

Not only were our student readers able to soak in God's truth, listeners heard the beauty of the Bible as the Gospels, letters, and revelation of biblical writers were proclaimed all over the world! We believe that the Bible is powerful and just reading its instruction can bring life, forgiveness, and wisdom to anyone who hears it.



Can to watch TKA's Reading through the New Testament

## Student Ministries Praise Team

ing David writes, "I will exalt ∖you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever. Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever." Psalm 145:1-2. The Psalms are an ancient prayerbook of God's people and serve as a guide for how we ought to respond to God's goodness and faithfulness in our lives. David, again and again, sings praises to His Creator, the sustainer of life and the King of all creation. Listening to David's words of praise, we are struck with God's majesty and our duty to give Him glory through song and music.

As we read, David and countless

other biblical writers who offer songs of praise as a sign of their worship to the King, we are invited to participate in that same response. The King's Academy offers many opportunities to sing songs of praise, notably through The Smith Family Conservatory of the Arts as well as the Student Ministries Praise Team. The team consists of more than 30 students who lead classmates, faculty, and staff in worship during weekly chapels, nights of worship, and special events throughout the year. They receive training from professional worship leaders and experience leading worship from small intimate spaces

to large gatherings of more than 800 students. Mrs. Taylor Bartz has been instrumental in creating a program where students feel encouraged and equipped to help others offer their praise to God through music.

Later in Psalm 145 David lists several ways in which we offer our gratitude back to God: speaking, meditating, proclaiming, celebrating, and singing (vv. 5-7). We use our words to glorify God by speaking His truth, meditating on His word, proclaiming the good news, celebrating His victory, and let us never forget, singing of His goodness for ever and ever.



"I love being able to work with students and see them use their gifts and talents for God's glory. For many, it is their first-time leading worship. It is rewarding to watch God grow them into confident leaders both on and off the stage, and to witness their courage as they lead their peers in worshipping the Lord."



## Elementary Spiritual Life

Alyson Crews, Director of Elementary Student Ministries

n the area of Student Ministries, we have been **blessed beyond** measure. The Lord has done abundantly more than we asked or imagined. This year's elementary chapel theme, "the truth shall set you free," has spurred students on toward knowing the truths of God's Word. It is easy to speculate about the teachings of scripture but to dive in and unpack what it actually says is life-giving and transformative. Chapel speakers painted a picture of the goodness of God and His plan for His people as they shared messages of hope, grace, and love. God bought a variety of local and national speakers this year who poured into our students. One of those speakers was the beloved Brandon Rushin, aka Coach Bobcat. As he famously exclaimed, "It's good," students were drawn into his warm-up of fun and frivolity and were captivated by his messages about trusting God, seeking His forgiveness, and listening to and following God's commands. Students looked forward to each day of our Spiritual Emphasis chapels and what Coach Bobcat was going to share next.

**Encouraging and serving others** is something that is



valued at TKA. Students are given opportunities to serve and share the love of Jesus with others. Through a huge out-pouring, elementary students sent more than 600 shoeboxes around the world to children in need through Samaritan's Purse. Students raised more than \$10,000 for the First Care Women's Clinic. In cooperation with Cros Ministries, more than 100 hygiene bags for the homeless were assembled by our kindergarteners and fifth graders. First graders made 300 sandwiches for distribution to the homeless by the South Florida Soup Kitchen and Assistance Foundation. The love that God has for us through Jesus Christ is to be shared and that comes as we meet the tangible needs of those around us who are hurting.

As a school family there have been many reasons to celebrate, but none

compare to seeing students come to know Christ through a personal relationship with Him. More than sixty elementary students experienced the freedom that Christ brings. Ayla Rokusek, 4th grader, said that she knows Christ died for her on the cross to save her from her sins. She is confident in God's love, is learning to trust Him when she is scared, and to be loving to others. Third grader, Hannah Pappu, said that she is glad to be a Christian. She is experiencing a greater understanding of what is being taught at her church and is confident that God "will never not like her." Second grade teacher, Carrie Hamilton shared, "Nothing is better than being able to work at King's and experience the freedom to share Jesus with my students. He is the most important part of our lives."

With gratitude, we look back over the year and see the many ways the Lord has blessed The King's Academy and shown us more of who He is. With great anticipation, I pray for more in the year to come. To God be the glory for the great things He has done!





## The Frank DiMino Early Childhood Center

n August 2024, The King's Academy officially opened its doors to the Frank DiMino Early Childhood Center marking a significant milestone in early childhood Christian education at the school. This 10,5000 square foot on campus state-of-the-art facility is rooted in the school's commitment to excellence in Christian early childhood education where two through four-year-old students will thrive developmentally, socially, academically, and spiritually. From the moment our youngest learners step foot into the center, they will be emersed in a nurturing and loving environment, laying the foundation for a lifetime of learning and discovery.

TKA's Early Childhood Program Principal, Natasha Smith, is a visionary educator with a passion for early childhood development. With her wealth of experience and dedication, Natasha embodies the spirit of excellence that The King's Academy is known for. Under her leadership, the Early Childhood Program will set new standards in early childhood education while providing a safe, caring, and stimulating environment where every child can flourish.

The curriculum at the Frank DiMino Early Childhood Center is designed to ignite curiosity, foster creativity, and instill a lifelong love





of learning. Students will begin their educational journey through a blend of interactive experiences, handson activities, and age-appropriate instruction. From language and literacy development to socialemotional growth and spiritual formation, every aspect of the curriculum is carefully designed to meet the individual needs of each child. Our dedicated team of educators is committed to nurturing each student and celebrating their individual strengths. The school's newest addition would not be possible without the significant support of local philanthropist and friend of The King's Academy, Mr. Frank DiMino. Mr. DiMino has invested in the school's programs and facilities growth over the past eight years and allowed the school to expand and excel.

Mr. DiMino was joined by other contributors who made this

#### THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

**Leadership Gift Provided by** Mr. Frank DiMino Frank DiMino Foundation

**Classroom Furnishings Sponsored by** The Mangel Family The Dorsey Family Allison Taylor and Kris Wall '95 Anonymous Donors

**Tile in the Lobby and Restrooms Provided by** Padron Flooring & Design Center important project a reality. We praise God for His goodness as we begin this exciting new chapter in early childhood education. We welcome you to a place where children will be encouraged to explore, discover, and learn in ways that are both enriching and enjoyable.



A highlight of the center is the engaging modern playground, surrounded by a beautiful mural that depicts scenes that not only serve as a backdrop for play, but also as a tool for learning and exploring the stories of faith.

## 2023-2024 ANNUAL GIVING

OU FOR YOU

The King's Academy is committed to graduating Christian leaders who will impact their world for Christ. This commitment becomes reality through the generous support of our parents, grandparents, foundations, faculty, staff, and alumni through annual giving. As we reflect on God's provision over the past year, we are grateful for the generosity of our community which resulted in remarkable successes and empowered us to uphold our standard of excellence.

Annual giving allows King's to flourish through the support of the annual fund and crucial building initiatives. Its support provides innovative educational experiences while continuing to develop and maintain our state-of-the-art facilities. From enhancing classroom resources to investing in innovative technology, every gift contributed has vital impact on the lives of our students and faculty.

renerous

One of the most remarkable aspects of annual giving is the encouragement it provides. It is a testament to the collective belief in our mission and the importance of Christian education. Parents entrust us with the education of their children and demonstrate their vote of confidence through generous gifts to the Annual Fund. Grandparents, recognizing the transformative power of Christian education, invest in the future by supporting initiatives that enrich the learning environment. Foundations, aligned with our values and vision, partner with us to promote innovation and drive progress. Faculty and

staff, exemplifying their dedication and support beyond their roles in education, generously contribute to strengthen students' total TKA experience. King's alumni, reflecting on their own experience, pay it forward to ensure that future generations benefit from the same exceptional education they received.

riving

Annual giving touches every aspect of our school. It fosters a culture of philanthropy and helps to instill in our students the values of generosity and compassion. It strengthens the bond between the past, present, and future, and unites generations in a shared commitment to excellence. It empowers King's to be visionary and pursue ambitious goals, knowing that we have the support of a dedicated school community behind us.

"You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity." - 2 CORINTHIANS 9:11



This past year, gifts totaling more than \$5.9 million have been invested enabling us to develop new scholarships to ensure that qualified students have access to a King's education regardless of financial barriers. Upgrades to our campus have transformed learning spaces into vibrant hubs of creativity, innovation, and collaboration. Cutting-edge technology has been integrated into our curriculum, preparing students for the challenges of tomorrow's world. Perhaps most importantly, spiritual life opportunities have been enriched.

In celebrating the success of annual giving, we also look to the future with optimism and anticipation for all the Lord will accomplish. With His provision and the continued support of our TKA family, there is no limit to what we can achieve. Together, we will continue to inspire, innovate, and empower the next generation of leaders, thinkers, and changemakers. We are grateful for your prayers and financial support that assists The King's Academy move forward as a leader in Christian education today while reinforcing foundations for the future.

Please consider making a gift to support TKA by giving securely online at TKA.net or by calling the Development Office at 561-686-4244 ext 319.





The King's Academy, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, encourages all donors to contact their tax and legal professionals regarding tuition prepayments and their individual estate and tax planning situation. All gifts to The King's Academy are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

#### A GIFT FOR TOMORROW

Leave a lasting legacy by remembering The King's Academy in your will, trust, or other planned gift. Making a planned gift is a meaningful way to support TKA while also considering your own personal, estate and financial planning goals—a gift with eternal impact! If you choose to arrange an estate gift for King's, we would appreciate knowing so we can express our sincerest gratitude and ensure we fulfill your intended designation. We respect that in some cases donors choose to remain anonymous.

Important information needed to include TKA in your planned giving. **Legal Name:** 

The King's Academy, Inc. Legal Address: 8401 Belvedere Road West Palm Beach, FL 33411 Tax I.D. Number: 59-1298881

Thank you for your thoughtful and prayerful consideration.



## A High-Flying Adventure: Peter Pan the Musical

KYLE

SCHNACK

PRODUCING ARTISTIC AND PERFORMING ARTS DIRECTOR

he King's Academy Theatre production of *Peter Pan the Musical* transcended the boundaries of time and age, capturing the hearts of audience members with its whimsical charm and timeless themes. The rendition of J.M. Barrie's classic tale took viewers on a journey to the enchanting world of Neverland where dreams came to life and adventures abounded.

The Page Family Center for Performing Art's stage was transformed into a realm of imagination, with intricate sets and vibrant costumes transporting the audience to a land where childhood fantasies reign supreme. Against this backdrop, the talented cast of more than one hundred performers brought the beloved characters to life with energy, enthusiasm, and an infectious sense of wonder.

At the heart of the story was the curious character of Peter Pan, portrayed with charisma and boundless energy by senior and theater captain, Michael Mehalko. Alongside Peter, the audience met the daring Wendy Darling, played by Tessa Katsaros, the mischievous Tinker Bell, played by Evie Branham, and

ete

the villainous Captain Hook played by Alex Morfogen. Each performed with depth and nuance, adding layers of complexity to the narrative.

The themes of friendship, courage, and the importance of holding onto one's inner child resonated deeply with the audience. Through exhilarating musical numbers and poignant moments of introspection, the production invited viewers to reflect on the timeless lessons embedded within the tale.

The King's Academy Theatre Company's production of *Peter Pan the Musical* is a testament to the transformative power of live theatre and the profound impact that a well-told story can have on the human spirit. Through its vibrant performances, dazzling production design, and heartfelt storytelling, this production reminded us to embrace

> the magic of childhood and never lose sight of our dreams.



Scan to watch Peter Pan the Musical

# THE SMITH FAMILY CONSERVATORY of the ARTS

## A Theatrical Extravaganza: TKA Theatre's 2024-2025 Main Stage Season

The King's Academy Theatre Co. is set to captivate audiences with an eclectic lineup of main stage productions for the 2024-2025 season. From beloved classics to innovative adaptations, each performance promises to showcase the immense talent and creativity of our aspiring young artists.

Kicking off the season will be Sight and Sound's *Joseph*, a dazzling retelling of the Biblical tale of Joseph and his coat of many colors. It's a story of forgiveness, redemption, and the power of faith. *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, adapted from Roald Dahl's timeless tale, shares the heartwarming journey of Charlie Bucket.

For the holiday season, the everpopular *Night of Jazz Christmas*, a festive celebration of beloved holiday classics infused with the soulful sounds of jazz, will spread holiday cheer.

In the new year, the stage will come alive with the iconic musical *West Side Story*, a modern retelling of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet set against the backdrop of 1950's New York City.

Rounding out the season and back by popular demand, *Best* of *Broadway*, will feature showstopping performances from the Smith Family Conservatory's most talented performers and musical theaters' greatest hits.

The King's Academy Theatre Co.'s 2024-2025 main stage productions promise to transport audiences on a journey of imagination, emotion, and musical delight with something for everyone to enjoy.





## A Fusion of Talent: Acting and Singing Workshops

The Smith Family Conservatory hosted a series of transformative acting and singing workshops this year featuring esteemed guest artists Lauren Jelencovich '03, J. Mark McVey, Nicole Henry, and Mac Powell. These workshops offered students a unique opportunity to learn from seasoned professionals in both the realms of acting and singing, while providing invaluable insights and guidance.

Led by **Lauren Jelencovich '03**, an accomplished Broadway performer and vocalist, the singing workshop focused on honing students' vocal technique, stage presence, and interpretation of musical repertoire. Through individualized coaching sessions and group exercises, Lauren shared her expertise, helping students unlock their full vocal potential and develop a deeper understanding of storytelling through song.

J. Mark McVey, renowned for his portrayal of Jean Valjean in *Les Misérables* on Broadway, led the acting workshop delving into the intricacies of character development, emotional authenticity, and stagecraft. Drawing from his wealth of experience in the theatre world, Mr. McVey guided students through a series of vocal exercises, discussions of faith, and song work, encouraging them to explore their creative boundaries and cultivate a deeper connection to their craft.

Students also enjoyed workshops with acclaimed jazz vocalist **Nicole Henry** and Grammy-nominated artist **Mac Powell**, former lead singer of the Christian band Third Day. Henry shared her insights into the nuances of vocal styling and the importance of storytelling through music, while Mac offered invaluable advice on navigating the music industry and finding one's unique artistic voice.

Through these workshops students emerged with newfound confidence, refined skills, and a deeper appreciation for the art of performance. They were challenged to expand their technical skills and inspired to embrace their faith while expressing themselves authentically as performers.

The Acting and Singing Workshops served as a testament to the transformative power of mentorship and collaboration in nurturing the next generation of talented artists.





The stage was set, the lights dimmed, and the air was electric with anticipation as The King's Academy Symphony Orchestra and Theatre Company took center stage for their debut show, *Best of Broadway*. From the first note to the final curtain call, the audience was transported on a mesmerizing journey through some of Broadway's most iconic musicals, showcasing the incredible talent and dedication of our young performers.

One of the undeniable highlights of the evening was senior, Maddie Begin's unforgettable performances of "Defying Gravity" from *Wicked* and "Don't Rain on My Parade" from *Funny Girl.* Maddie's powerhouse vocals and commanding stage presence captivated the audience, earning her thunderous applause. Adding to the excitement was the upbeat and infectious number "Six" from *Six the Musical*. This highenergy performance with tight harmonies and choreography had the audience clapping and dancing along in their seats. The sheer exuberance and passion of the performers were palpable, making "Six" a definite crowd favorite.

No Broadway showcase would be complete without paying homage to the timeless masterpiece, *Les Misérables*. The students, along with guest artist J. Mark McVey, delivered a moving rendition of selections from the beloved musical including "Bring Him Home" and "One Day More."

Beyond the individual performances, what truly made the evening special was the sense of camaraderie and teamwork evident on stage. The Smith Family Conservatory students performed seamlessly together, supporting and elevating each other throughout the show. Whether they were singing, dancing, or playing instruments, their passion and dedication shone through, creating an unforgettable experience for everyone in attendance.

As the final notes echoed through the Page Family Center, it was clear that The King's Academy Symphony Orchestra and Theatre Company had delivered a show to be remembered. Their extraordinary talent, combined with their infectious enthusiasm and love for the arts, left an indelible mark on all who were fortunate enough to witness their performance.



Scan the QR Code to watch the Best of Broadway





The King's Academy Jazz Ensemble has been making waves in the music scene marking a year of extraordinary achievements that have left audiences spellbound. From captivating performances in New York City to electrifying shows within the community, this talented group of young musicians has proven themselves as trailblazers in the realm of jazz.

One of the highlights of the ensemble's remarkable year was their performance at 54 Below in New York City. Renowned as Broadway's Supper Club, 54 Below has hosted some of the biggest names in entertainment, making it a prestigious venue. The King's Academy Jazz Ensemble made history as the first high school jazz band to grace its stage, delivering a performance that mesmerized both critics and audiences alike. Their passion, energy, and undeniable talent left an indelible mark on the iconic venue, earning them widespread acclaim.

But their journey didn't end in the Big Apple. Back home, the ensemble continued to share their love for jazz with the local community through a series of captivating performances. From intimate gatherings to lively outdoor events, they brought the magic of jazz to audiences of all ages. Their commitment to spreading the joy of music entertained and inspired those around them, fostering a deeper appreciation for the art form.

One of the most memorable events of the year was the sellout Night of Jazz, which featured a special guest performance by Wendy Moten, known for her appearance on The Voice. The collaboration between Moten and The King's Academy Jazz Ensemble was nothing short of spectacular, showcasing the incredible synergy between seasoned professionals and budding talents. The night was filled with soul-stirring melodies, infectious rhythms, and electrifying improvisations, leaving the audience in awe of the sheer talent on display.

Beyond the stage, the ensemble's dedication to their craft and each other has been truly remarkable. Under the guidance of Mr. Lowe and Mr. Smith, they have honed their skills, pushed boundaries, and elevated their performances to new heights. Their unwavering commitment to excellence serves as a testament to their passion for music and their relentless pursuit of greatness.

As they reflect on their incredible year, they remain grateful for the opportunities they have had and the support they have received along the way. Their journey is a testament to the power of music to unite, inspire, and uplift, transcending boundaries and bring people together in celebration of the universal language of jazz.

Looking ahead, they show no signs of slowing down. With their sights set on new horizons and even greater achievements, they continue to march forward, fueled by their love for music and the shared bond that unites them as artists.



Scan to watch the Night of Jazz



# Visual Arts Program

ach year students in The Smith \_ Family Conservatory Visual Arts Program complete a vast selection of artwork including drawings, paintings, sculptures, weaving, mosaics, and stained-glass windows. The visual arts classroom is a space where creativity flourishes and students explore concepts that interest them. During this school year, numerous middle and high school students received honors including 1 Gold Key, 25 Silver Keys, and 26 Honorable Mentions in the National Scholastics Art and Writing Competition. Additionally, four students received awards in the county-wide ArtiGras Youth Art Competition, including two Best in Show awards and two Honorable



Mentions. Our student's reputation for being dedicated to their craft in the classroom is consistently recognized throughout the community. The Visual Arts Program also offers extracurriculars that focus on collaborations and projects behind the scenes. The National Art Honor Society participated in a community outreach through the Memory Project, a national non-profit organization. Twenty-five students created portraits for children in Syria with hopes of encouraging them through hardships they face. This organization teaches students that art is powerful, and that Christ's love can be spread through art across the continents. TKA's Art Clubs had record high student participation allowing them to develop their skills to a higher level in a community of encouraging artists. The Visual Arts Program completed the school year with an impressive showcase displaying the work of more than 200 4th-12th grade students.



"It is evident that the Lord has blessed our school with many remarkably talented students, and we are proud of each one of their accomplishments." - SARAH BEST '16, DIRECTOR OF VISUAL ARTS



# A Synergy of Talent

Od's providence continually brings together exceptional faculty and world-class students whose combined work ethic and innovation have resulted in outstanding, one-of-a-kind projects. This year is a testament to that synergy, marked by remarkable achievements in filmmaking, advanced technology integration, and unique learning opportunities.

AUSTIN

PARENTI

DIRECTOR OF DIGITAL MEDIA ARTS

In April, Studio 70 proudly premiered its latest feature film, *Star Wars Gray Trials*. This two-year project starred Olivia Bass '24 and followed her captivating transformation from irreligious Sith to faithful Jedi. The film's success underscores the incredible dedication and talent of our students, both in front of and behind the camera.

Following the premiere of *Flamingo Heist* in December the film amassed more than 100,000 views on YouTube and garnered several prestigious awards, including two Gold Tellys, a Silver Telly, a Platinum Viddy, and a Platinum AVA Digital Award. This accomplishment highlights the high caliber of work produced by our students and their ability to captivate and engage audiences globally.

Studio 70's fifth feature film, *Iron Dusk*, is currently being produced. Directed by myself and co-directed by Chase Ritter '24, this epic tale features American Actor Dean Cain, who played Clark Kent/Superman in the TV series *Lois & Clark*. The story follows a farmer who must defeat a band of rebels to secure knighthood and win the hand of his beloved. Ella Garcia '25 is co-producing this ambitious project, which promises to be another testament to our program's capabilities.

These projects have benefitted from frequent utilization of the immersive LED virtual production volume. This cutting-edge technology allows filmmakers to create realistic environments without the need for location shoots. Projecting backgrounds onto large LED screens enables safe, quick, and boundless creativity in filmmaking. This innovation not only streamlines the production process but also enhances the safety and efficiency of each production.

The Digital Media Arts staff had the opportunity to attend the Las Vegas NAB Conference which is a premier event for media, entertainment, and technology. This experience was inspiring and offered a glimpse into the future of digital media and broadcasting.

Faith remains an integral part of the Digital Media Arts studies as we fervently pray for the salvation of students. Lessons are filled with scripture and class time includes numerous opportunities to hear the gospel. We pray that through our films, audiences can sense the vibrant Christian community of students and faculty who labored together to bring these projects to completion.



This year, Reel Craft Speaker Series, was launched and featured Hollywood professionals for Q&A sessions with students. Notable guests included Cindy Bond, Raquelle Stevens, Deborah and Ray Giarratana, who shared insights from their work on various high-profile projects. These sessions provided invaluable learning experiences, connecting our students with industry veterans.

"The films, publications, and video games we produce are testaments to the inspired creativity and discipline of our students. It's essential to remember that behind every frame of *Star Wars Gray Trials* or every accolade for *Flamingo Heist*, there are students who have dedicated themselves to their craft."

> - AUSTIN PARENTI, DIRECTOR OF DIGITAL MEDIA ARTS



# Made In His Image and Likeness

ADAM

WINTERS

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

avid writes in Psalm 139:13-14 "For you formed my inward parts: you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

God knew what he was doing when he made each person. Growing up, my Mom often reminded my brothers and I that "God doesn't make any mistakes." Each of us is created with unique gifts, talents, personalities and characteristics. He created us differently with unique roles but all are loved the same by Him. He created us with the ultimate purpose of glorifying Him and enjoying Him forever.

The reminder that we are made in His image and to give Him glory can help mold our perspective on athletics. Brian Smith, author of The Christian Athlete. describes the Christian athlete as someone who has been bought by God for God. With that lens, our perspective of athletics and motivation changes

from 'me driven' to 'God driven' We see athletics as an opportunity to grow, to do everything with excellence, to examine our why, and to use our abilities to point others to Christ. The value He put on us was proven, paid for, and bought by His death on the cross. What an amazing and unfathomable thought that the creator of the universe would sacrifice himself for the people he created.

### 2023-2024 Kingspys Award Winners

he third annual Kingspy awards was held on May 13th in the Page Center for Performing Arts. The Kingspys, TKA's version of the ESPYS award show, recognizes the outstanding individual and team performances in varsity athletics each year. Special recognition was given to the Girls Cross Country Palm Beach County Champions, the Competitive Cheer FCC Champions, and Coach Jenn Allen for her 17 years of outstanding leadership. Additional awards recognized outstanding character traits, team contribution and athletes of the year.



#### **BEST OF THE YEAR**

#### COACH

Bri Mackrey

#### ASSISTANT COACH

Doug Magaw

#### ATHLETE

- Male: Marion Victor and Micah Tumas
- Female: Aly Bozzuto

#### MULTI-SPORT ATHLETE

- Male: Javian Jones
- Female: Sophia Cueto

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#### TEAMMATE

- Male: Matt McPherson
- Female: Savanna Webb

#### NEWCOMER

Male: Levi Champion Female: Iris Gardner

#### THE CORBETT'S FAN Ransome Soles

#### SPORTS MEDICINE COMEBACK PLAYER

- Male: Joseph Slay
- Female: Macy Croteau

#### **M. NELSON LOVELAND** SR. CAREER ATHLETE

- Male: Dartavious Saintelus Rasmussen
- Female: Avery Fronrath

#### LION LEGACY

- Male: Noah Smith
- Female: Lucy Dailey

#### **HEART OF A** CHAMPION Kelly Herrera

#### HEART OF A LION Male: Justin Wright

Female: Macy Croteau

#### ICE IN THE VEINS

- Male: Ryan Winters
- Female: Gracyn Needle

#### STEEP AWARD

- Male: Peyton Hughes
- Female: Aimee Molina

#### EXTRA MILE

- Male: Lindzey Porcher
- Female: Avery Fronrath

#### **IRON LION**

- Male: Thomas Cornett
- Female: Amanda Loomi







### Girls Basketball Makes It Four in a Row

The girls basketball program has been one of the premier teams in Palm Beach County in recent years, and this year was no exception. The Lions finished 19-10 and captured their fourth straight district title. A short-handed squad advanced all the way to the FHSAA 3A Regional finals for the third consecutive year. *Sun-Sentinel* Player of the Year **Jade Jones** led the charge, averaging 15.3 points per game and eclipsing the 1,000-career points mark.

### Boys Basketball Post Another 20-Win Season

The boys basketball team posted another successful year, notching more than 20 wins for the third straight season and advancing to the FHSAA 3A Regional playoffs. **Javian Jones** was the team's leading scorer and tallied his 1,000th career point late in the season. Second-leading scorer **Ransom Soles** inked his letter of intent to continue his basketball career at Palm Beach State.





### **Girls Soccer Is Alive and Kicking**

The girls soccer team posted perhaps the most memorable and emphatic win in Palm Beach County this year, knocking off nationally ranked Benjamin in a shootout in the regional semi-finals. After losing to the Bucs in the district championship game, the Lions executed a defensiveminded gameplan in the regional round to take Benjamin to a shootout. **Sophia Cueto** found the back of the net in the fifth round to clinch one of the biggest victories in program history for the Lions. The season was a great success, with the young Lions' squad finishing 12-5-2 and advancing to the FHSAA 3A Regional finals.

### **Boys Soccer Sets the Tone**

After a tough 2022-2023 season, the boys soccer program made a terrific rebound this season. The Lions roared to an 11-4-2 record with highlight wins over rival Oxbridge and 19-3 Royal Palm Beach. Senior forward **Kylen DeStefano** signed his letter of intent to play soccer at Palm Beach Atlantic University. Brothers **Michael and Nicholas Ahearn** combined for 21 goals on the season and goalkeepers **Justin Jobson** and **Chris Gimotty** combined to allow an impressive 1.75 goals per game.

### **Track and Field Is Making Moves**

The boys and girls track teams were consistently strong performers this season. The Lions finished as district runners up for both the boys and the girls, coming up just short of back-to-back district titles. Several athletes advanced to the state finals at the University of North Florida. On the boys side, **Tristan Stewart** represented the Lions in the 200m and 400m races. **Tyce Porcher** qualified for state in the pole vault. For the girls, **Rachel Crews** advanced to state in the 400m, the 800m, the 4x800m relay, and the 4x400m relay. **Avery Fronrath**, competed in the 1600m, the 3200m, and the 4x800m relay. **Brielle George** headed to state in the high jump and the 4x400m relay. **Marin Zuchowski** represented the Lions in the javelin. **Isabella Krell**, **Dev Hoxsie, Rebekah Foster**, and **Sophie Rodriguez** all made a state-qualifying relay team.

### Lions Tennis Won't Back Down

The boys and girls tennis teams had successful seasons and showed great growth in 2024. The boys posted a 9-7 record with big wins over Cardinal Newman and Suncoast. **Clinton Crawford** was the #1 player for the Lions. On the girls' side, the Lions finished 12-4 overall. They picked up victories over Westminster, Cardinal Newman, and Oxbridge among others. **Xenia Ilyasova** filled the top spot for the Lions this year.



### Boys Volleyball Is a Repeat Champion

The boys volleyball team continued to be one of the top teams in South Florida in 2024, winning their second consecutive district championship. The Lions won an incredible 20 games in a row enroute to a 24-6 final record. The boys advanced to the regional championship game, falling just one match short of the state finals.

### Girls Beach Volleyball Third Time Is a Charm

TKA's volleyball success wasn't limited to the boys this spring, as the girls beach volleyball program won their third straight district title. Playing one of the toughest schedules in the county, the Lions posted a solid 12-6 record. They swept their way through the district tournament, defeating Santaluces, Garcia, and Palm Beach Central 5-0. They went on to win a thrilling regional quarterfinal game over Fort Pierce Central 3-2. The Lions finished the year ranked 28th in the state.

### Girls Lacrosse State Series Run Continues

Girls lacrosse continued to be one of the best programs in arguably the toughest region for girls' lax in the state. The Lions posted an excellent 14-3 record which included big wins over Cardinal Newman, Wellington, and Jupiter. TKA earned an at large spot in the regional round and battled 13th ranked Benjamin in a 10-8 heartbreaker. Statistically, the Lions were led by **Savannah Slay, Abigail Burton, Sammy Van Alstyne**, and **Sophia Cueto**. Goalkeeper **Lucy Dailey**, a Division I commit to Drexel, was elite in goal and picked up her 500th career save.

### **Boys Lacrosse Never Quits**

Boys lacrosse overcame a slew of injuries and a 3-6 start to finish their season at a solid 8-8 record. Replacing several seniors from the 2023 team, the Lions gelled late in the season and advanced to the district semifinals over Suncoast. Highlights of the season were wins over Wellington, Palm Beach Central, and Dwyer. The brother combination of **Rhys** and **Lach Dumais** led the team in scoring. Goalkeeper **Cameron Burton** was a consistently strong performer, keeping the Lions in games all season long.



### **Baseball Continues to Battle**

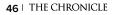
The baseball team rode elite pitching performances and timely hitting to another double-digit win season for the Lions. A highlight of the season was a pair of outstanding complete game outings by **Chase Ceppo**, giving up just one run in victories over Boca Raton and St. Andrew's. **Nolan Payne** and **Dalton Needle** were two of the top hitters in the county, hitting .400 and .379 respectively. **Nolan Feyereisen** hit an impressive .362 and **Tanner Barfield** posted a sparkling 1.86 ERA.

### **Softball Swings for the Fences**

The softball team was one of the youngest in the county but proved to be one of the best. The Lions roared out to a 14-1 start to the season and advanced to the regional round for the second consecutive season. They defeated the highly regarded Seminole Ridge 2-0 in their most impressive win of the season. The Lions offense was led by **Gracyn Needle** who hit .574 with three home runs and 29 RBI. **Lily Stone** was equally impressive, hitting .534 with two home runs and 32 RBI. Center fielder **Kiersten Zimmerman** compiled a .453 average and led the team in runs scored. Newcomer **Caroline Duncan** was in the circle for the Lions and was outstanding. She posted a 1.68 ERA and won 10 games while striking out 88 batters.

# Boys Wrestling Becoming a Formidable Foe

In their second year, the varsity wrestling program proved it was a force to be reckoned with going undefeated (10-0) in dual meets this season. The Lions impressed with a district runner up finish to defending state champion Jensen Beach and advanced ten wrestlers to the regional round. **Dartavious Saintelus Rasmussen** and **Ryan Winters** both qualified for the state finals. Saintelus was also the heavyweight district and county champion, a first for the Lions young program.



### All County Recognition

#### BOYS BASKETBALL

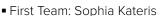
- Palm Beach PostFirst Team: Javian Jones
- Sun-Sentinel
- First Team: Javian Jones
- Second Team: Ransome Soles
- Honorable Mention: Matt McPherson, Reggie Workman

#### GIRLS BASKETBALL

- Palm Beach Post
- First Team: Jade Jones
- Sun-Sentinel

ATHLETICS

Player of the Year: Jade Jones



- Second Team: Brielle George
- Honorable Mention: Madelyn Buccilli, Julia Vazquez

#### BOYS SOCCER

#### Palm Beach Post

 Honorable Mention: Michael Ahearn, Joseph Slay

#### Sun-Sentinel

- First Team: Justin Wright
- Honorable Mention: Michael Ahearn, Nicholas Ahearn, Flavio Guazzotti, Oscar Hackney, Joseph Slay

#### GIRLS SOCCER

#### Palm Beach Post

- First Team: Lola Hathorne
- Second Team: Miranda Knoll, Iris Gardner
   Sun Sentinel
- Coach of the Year: Bri Mackrey
- First Team: Mia Mackrey, Lola Hathorne
- Second Team: Deionce Storey
- Honorable Mention: Sophia Cueto, Miranda Knolls, Mackenzie Meunier, Paris Ella Sharma

#### SOFTBALL

Palm Beach Post

- First Team: Gracyn Needle, Caroline Duncan, Lily Stone
- Second Team: Kristin Zimmerman

#### GIRLS TRACK

#### Palm Beach Post

- First Team: Avery Fronrath, Brielle George
   Sun-Sentinel
- First Team: Avery Fronrath, Brielle George, Macy Croteau

#### BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Palm Beach Post

- First Team: Isaiah McCoy, Micah Tumas
- Second Team: John Casey
- Honorable Mention: Jake Manning
   Sun Sentinel
- First Team: Isaiah McCoy, Micah Tumas

#### WRESTLING

Sun-Sentinel

- First Team: Dartavious Saintelus Rasmussen
- Honorable Mention: Ryan Winters

### **College Athlete Signees**

#### BASEBALL

- Noah Feyereisen Lafeyette College -NCAA Division I
- Tanner Barfield Dyersburg State NJCAA

#### **BOYS BASKETBALL**

 Ransom Soles - Palm Beach State College - NJCAA

#### GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

 Avery Fronrath - University of Florida -NCAA Division I

#### FOOTBALL

- Dartavious Saintelus Rasmussen -Southeastern University - NAIA
- Nicholas Cueto West Point Military Academy - Sprint
- Reggie Workman Heidelberg College -NCAA Division III
- Marion Victor Hobart College -NCAA Division III

#### GIRLS GOLF

 Leelou Girault - Lynn University -NCAA Division II

#### GIRLS LACROSSE

 Lucy Dailey - Drexel University -NCAA Division I

#### BOYS SOCCER

 Kylen DeStefano - Palm Beach Atlantic University - NCAA Division II

#### SWIM AND DIVE

- Noah Smith IRSC NJCAA
- Aly Bozzuto Liberty University -NCAA Division I

#### **BOYS VOLLEYBALL**

 Micah Tumas - UC-Irvine - NCAA Division I

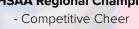
#### GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

- Devereaux Hoxsie William and Mary -NCAA Division I
- Aimee Molina Keiser University NAIA

## ATHLETICS BY THE NUMBERS

#### Palm Beach County Girls Cross **Country Championship** (Second Consecutive)







**PBC Wrestling Champion** Dartavious Saintelus Rasmussen



1000-poin<mark>t Girls and Boys</mark> **Basketball scorers** Jade Jones and Javian Jones



**County Players of the Year** Avery Fronrath and Jade Jones



**FHSAA Final Four Finishes** Boys Swimming, Girls Swimming, Competitive Cheer

FHSAA Elite 8 Team Finishes Girls Basketball, Girls Soccer, Girls Volleyball



County Coaches of the Year Gina Proscia, Melissa Perry, Bri Mackrey



#### **FHSAA** District Champions

Boys Swim & Dive, Girls Swim & Dive, Girls Cross Country, Football (2nd Consecutive), Girls Volleyball (4th Consecutive), Girls Basketball (4th Consecutive), Girls Beach Volleyball (2nd Consecutive), Boys Volleyball (Second Consecutive)



#### Teams advancing to the **FHSAA State Finals**

Boys Cross Country, Girls Cross Country, Boys Swim & Dive, Girls Swim & Dive, Girls Bowling, Competitive Cheer, Boys Wrestling, Boys Track & Field, Girls Track & Field



#### Teams advancing to the **FHSAA Regionals**

Football, Boys Swim & Dive, Girls Swim & Dive, Boys Cross Country, Girls Cross Country, Girls Volleyball, Boys Volleyball, Girls Beach Volleyball, Girls Basketball, Boys Basketball, Girls Soccer, Girls Lacrosse, Girls Softball, Girls Golf, Competitive Cheer



Senior varsity student-athletes who signed offers to continue their playing careers in college next year



**All-County Second Team Selections** by the Sun-Sentinel and Palm Beach Post



**All-County First Team Selections** by the Sun-Sentinel and Palm Beach Post





Athletes

**Members of TKA Athletic Teams** 





n January The King's Academy Business Program of Distinction celebrated the success of one of its own, Jessica Blakley '16. In partnership with Studio 70, the Business Program held a *Shark Tank* Watch Party to celebrate Jess's appearance on ABC's critically acclaimed television show *Shark Tank*. Jessica, along with her business partner, Willow Sprague, presented their business to notable Sharks Mark Cuban, Lori Greiner, and Daniel Lubetsky.

Jessica and Willow launched their business in 2019 while attending Belmont University. The two met on campus and quickly became friends. Coincidently, Willow's mom, Kellie (Hillyer) Sprague '85 is a King's alumna and the two had a lot in common. Their entrepreneurial minds immediately noticed a business opportunity, so they registered an LLC and became business partners. Little did they know where this decision would lead.

"Opportunities to pitch businesses as a high school student are uncommon and programs like TKA's are invaluable to building a student's confidence as an entrepreneur." - JESSICA BLAKLEY '16

After building the business in Nashville, the two expanded their concept to other metropolitan areas, including New York City, Scottsdale, and Atlanta. With several years of success behind them, they decided to take the advice of friends and family and apply to *Shark Tank* in 2022. The *Shark Tank* process was all-consuming for most of 2023, as they prepared their presentations, traveled to California, and pitched their business. The co-founders were notified in December that their pitch would be airing in early 2024.

So, did they get a deal on *Shark Tank*? Yes! The billionaire founder of Kind Bars, Daniel Lubetzky, awarded them \$75K for a 20% stake in the business. The pair were noted as especially impressive for their effective pitching and full understanding of their financials.

Jessica fondly remembers her time at King's, "It's rare to end up doing exactly what you set out to do when you were a high school student, like I have. I attribute this to the exceptional teachers who saw potential in me and pushed me to refine my God-given affinity for business ownership from a young age. Nothing in my academic and professional journey prepared me better for the real Tank than my experiences in The King's Academy Business Program of Distinction."

In April, Jessica visited the Business Program Dual Enrollment course for a two session "Pitch Workshop." She recently moved back to the West Palm Beach area to further explore her interests and ambitions and she was excited to return to her alma mater to share her experiences. The students found her style and presentation to be engaging and informative, and they incorporated her teaching into their own presentations for the TKA Business Plan Competition.

"The Pitch Workshop with Miss Blakley really helped me consolidate my plan into just a few sentences and gave me confidence for the competition." - REISS ZWIBEL '25 "Miss Blakley taught us how to build a well-structured pitch and made us excited to present our idea to the sharks!" - AVERY MCGOULD '25 The Grapevine

### 1977

Thomas Tetrault '77 and Edith (Luz) Tetrault '78 have been married for 43 years. They have two daughters and seven grandchildren and live in Wellington. They enjoy attending TKA homecomings and are looking forward to the golden years of retirement.

### 1984

Patti (Kohl) Schatzmann '84 and her husband David have been called to full-time missions after 35 years of marriage. They have laid down their careers and joined the Assembly of God World Missions team in Micronesia where they will use their skills to further the gospel through community development. Their first term will focus on language and culture development on the island of Pohnpei, one of 4 states in the Federated States of Micronesia. They can followed on Facebook under groups "Bringing Healing and Hope to Micronesia," or by reaching out to them at HealingHope@schatzmann.com to be added to their newsletter.

### 2003

D.J. Carter '03 and his wife Holly welcomed their daughter Lucy Grace Carter on January 31st. The couple are overjoyed with their little girl and waited to find out her sex until birth, thinking for sure she would be a boy. Lucy weighted 10lb 6oz and is doted on by her big brothers Owen (6 years) and Elliot (3 years).

### 2007

Hilary (Neal) Davis '07 and husband Nate welcomed their fourth child Neal Wade Davis on April 2nd. Big sisters Stella (7 years), Grace (4 years), and Millie (2 years) are excited to have a little brother. Nate is the Director of the DiMino Engineering and Technology Program of Distinction at TKA and Hilary works from home for CVS.

### 2008

Michael Melear '08 and Caroline (Chance) Melear '08 welcomed their daughter Elizabeth "Lilly" Melear on February 7th. She joins her big brother Charles Melear who turned 4 in March.

### 2009

Wesley Ledesma '09 married Natalie Harville on June 9th in the Florida Keys. Wesley is the Executive Director of an educational foundation and Natalie owns an insurance company. They reside in Wellington.

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### 1980-1986 Alumni Reunion

TKA alumni representing the classes of 1980-1986 enjoyed a weekend of reunion activities in South Florida on June 7th-9th. The weekend festivities began with dinner at the Sailfish Marina on Friday followed by a day at Peanut Island and dinner at The Square Grouper on Saturday, closing with a beach day at Dubois Park on Sunday.

Thank you to those who spent hours/days researching locations and coordinating the weekend events: Daphne (Young) Batts, Laurie (Frazier) Beck, Jim & Sandy Breen, Susie (Littlejohn) Casas, Mark Folds, Carrie (Harth) Stewart, Janice (Irwin) Johnson, Laura (Wehr) & Rusty Luter, Mike & Kim Otis, and Matt White.

A common sentiment was to not wait another 10 years to meet again. The reunion crew is planning another gathering for TKA's Homecoming weekend on October 4th. To see more photos and learn about upcoming events visit "The King's Academy Alumni & Reunion Site" on Facebook.

"It was a wonderful weekend! It was heartwarming to catch up with so many people, some traveling from as far as Mexico, Tennessee, North and South Carolina! Many shed tears of joy and thanksgiving as they shared their stories. One alumni voiced how The King's Academy changed his life trajectory," shared Laura (Wehr) Luter '83.



Edwards family









Hoskins family



Joshua Tutwiler & Emily Abbatacola



### 2009

Ashley (Hurme) Core '09 and husband Tyler welcomed Ava Grace Core on October 2nd. She joins big brother Judah (6) and sister Claire (3). Tyler and Ashley reside in Palm Beach Gardens.

### 2011

Jessie (Kimball) Edwards '11 and husband Jake welcomed their daughter, Eloise "Elle" Grace on March 24th. The couple met at UGA law school and live in Atlanta. Jessie works as in-house counsel for Southern Company Gas.

### 2014

**Jon McGrath '14** married his college sweetheart Cayla, in December. The couple met at Palm Beach Atlantic University and live in Nashville. Jon plays bass for independent country music artist Alexandra Kay and will be touring with Jelly Roll for two months in the fall.

### 2017

**Savannah Schwartz '17** has been working at a foster care agency for almost 4 years and completed her Masters of Social Work from the University of Central Florida in December. She is currently pursuing her clinical licensure (LCSW).

**Summer (McCarty) Hoskins '17** and husband Cole welcomed their first child Kit Callen on February 21st. Summer is the Assistant Director of Vocal & Theatre Arts in The Smith Family Conservatory of the Arts at The King's Academy.

### 2018

**Kyle Cool '18** proposed to Laura Holland on November 20th, 2023, surrounded by the beautiful Georgia Mountains. The couple will wed in St. Augustine in February 2025.

### 2020

Joshua Tutwiler '20 married Emily Abbatacola in Gold Canyon, Arizona on June 22nd. The couple met in Kona, Hawaii while serving with the youth missions organization, YWAM. They welcomed guests from all over the world representing more than 40 different states and countries, to join in the celebration. After traveling to Bali and China for their honeymoon they returned to Kona to continue their work there.

#### ALUMNI PRESENT (MANY WITH SPOUSES):

- 1980: Steve Hustad
- **1982:** Terri (Goodman) Alderman, David Cavender, Christina (Chase) Schwartz, Jim Comerford, Maria (Hulkkonen) Risener, Diane (Dempsey) Sirmans
- **1983:** Marilyn Bean, Dan DesJardin, Chris Erb, John Jahn, John James, Janice (Irwin) Johnson, Laura (Wehr) Luter, Mark Montgomery, Tish (Plaskett) Osterman, Mike Otis, Tudi Walker
- 1984: Randy Anderson, Laurie (Frazier) Beck, Susie (Littlejohn) Casas, Amy (Burchette) Cavender, Teresa (Cook) Diddle, Mark Folds, Sharon (Parker) Hood, Ricky McClung, Mike Morton, Tara (Taylor) Schaefer, Matt White
- 1985: Kellie (Hillyer) Sprague
- 1986: Matt Montgomery, Dallas (Bailey) Moss, Stephanie (Jarrell) Ralston



### Faculty and Staff Reunion

A group of former King's teachers from the 80s and 90s and their guests met at the home of Ron and Donna Dieck on February 25th in honor of Judy Warden who was visiting from Canada. Judy taught sixth grade at King's from 1979-1986 and went on to become a missionary teacher in Quito, Ecuador for 22 years. They had a wonderful time of fellowship and food as they recounted fond memories of their time working together at TKA. Those in attendance included Delia Albee, Retta Calcutt, Sharon Caldwell, Dennis Caldwell (former Lions football announcer), Jeannie Frazier, Cindy "Presson" McDade, Bev Hodel, Maureen Leonard, Cindy Loveland, Trudy Megathlin, Jon Otto, Susan Sigman, Ed Wright, and Jan Wright (TKA office secretary).



# In Honor of ...

A gift was received in honor of **Tim and Nancy Beckwith** Col. and Mrs. Kyle Schnack

A gift was received in honor of Madison Leigh Cressman Mr. and Mrs. Dale Cressman Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Romano

# In Memory of ...

A gift was received in memory of Karl Kahlert '88 Mr. and Mrs. Herbert F. Kahlert

A gift was received in memory of **M. Nelson and Jane Loveland** Mr. Richard A. Krause









A gift was received in honor of Jeffrey Loveland '75 Mr. Ben Starling III

A gift was received in honor of Mary Lou Lopez Mr. Anthony Gerena Mr. Angel Santana

A gift was received in memory of William Ellis Sowers Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Sowers

#### A gift was received in honor of **Anne Spell and the Business Program of Distinction** Mr. and Mrs. Eric Bucher Mr. and Mrs. Kirk Crews Mr. and Mrs. Juston Gates Mr. Sean Hayes and Ms. Jen Stanton Mr. and Mrs. John Lacy The McGould Family Dr. and Mrs. David Rankin Anonymous

A gift was received in memory of **Amy Halle Hinckley '80** Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Bell '77 Mr. and Mrs. David Dreyer Mr. and Mrs. Eric Engstrom Dr. and Mrs. Clyde Meckstroth '77 Dr. Dominique Musselman '80

#### Carol (Howard) Culberson '79

Carol lost a long batter with cancer and went to be with Jesus on February 28th. "Carol was brilliant, a loyal friend, kind-hearted, and determined. She had an infectious laugh and kept an upbeat, positive attitude throughout her journey with cancer. She fought hard and we are very proud of her. She adored her husband Ken and her children Julia and Trevor. Carol thought of others, even when she was very sick, and would ask how she could pray for us. She knew firsthand the God who hears and answers. Many of us prayed diligently for her healing, and although our desire was for that healing here on earth, God answered our prayers with a full and perfect healing. We miss her dearly." -Kim (Childress) Bouchillon '79

#### **Richard Kyle Smith '81**

Kyle died unexpectedly from a heart attack on December 29th, 2023. After graduating from King's, he earned a degree in Mortuary Science from Gupton-Jones College in Nashville and returned home to work in his family's funeral business. Kyle was personable and always served families in their most difficult moments with warm and friendly care. He is preceded in death by his sister Kerry Paguaga '78. His surviving siblings, Kellie O'Brien and Kay Kapua Savage '77, Kirk Smith '85, and Kristi Kapua Lariscy '88 miss him greatly!

#### Robert Glass '88

Robert met his Lord and Savior on February 28th at the age of 53. After graduating from King's, he earned a Bachelor's degree in Finance and International Business from FAU and a Master of Science degree in Organizational Leadership from PBAU. Robert served as the Director of Advancement and Community Development at St. Anne's Place Outreach Center. People were important to Robert. He invested in them by listening, conveying their worth as created in the image of God, and sharing the Gospel whenever God presented the opportunity. Robert's faith, love, friendship, and example will continue to impact all those who knew him.

#### Thomas "Tommy" Martin '13

Tommy tragically passed away on October 31st, 2023, at the age of 29 years. He was active in many sports while a student at King's, with swimming being his favorite. After high school, he attended the United States Naval Academy and University of Central Florida. He was honorably discharged from the United States Navy. Tommy's siblings also attended TKA and his mother served as a bus driver for many years.



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# HOMECOMING 2024 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2024

SAVE THE DATE!