WOODS CHARTER SCHOOL
BOARD MEETING AGENDA
Thursday, September 18, 2025

1. The Pledge of Allegiance

2. Public Comment

3. Consent Agenda
    a. Principal's Report
    b. Minutes from June 2025 Meeting

3. Reports & Presentation of Committee Charters
    a. Student Update – Oakes Ulrich
    b. Faculty Update – Rachel Lawrence
    c. Finance Committee Report – Courtney Cabe
    d. Foundation Report – Jessica Oliver
    e. Communications Committee Report – Doreen Messick
    f. Personnel Committee Report – Rachel McInerney
    g. Board Development Report – Charmaine Terregino

4. Business
    Old Business - None

    New Business
        a. Principal's Goals for 2025/2026 school year
        b. Cell Phone Policy per Session Law 2025-38/ House Bill 959
        c. Attendance Policy revision per new NC DPI policy regarding failure of classes and absenteeism
        d. Bus Purchase Proposal

5. Closed Session (not expected)

6. Adjournment Session
    Action Taken/Voted
    Adjournment

Principal's Report
September 18, 2025

It's takes a lot of work to get a school year off the ground. We ask so much of teachers, students, and parents in these opening weeks. I feel grateful for everyone's combined efforts to move this year forward with such positivity, enthusiasm, and focused engagement. It has been so much fun—a deep joy, in fact – to see the students adjusting to new teachers, new classmates, and new assignments.

I'm feeling especially thankful for the new faculty members who have joined us this year. They've brought a really wonderful mix of insight and energy. We have seven new faculty members and two "only-sort-a new" members (i.e., they've served at Woods in some capacity before). Bios attached.

Elementary
Leah Tyner, Kindergarten
Ana Parris, 3rd Grade

Middle School
Emily Merletto, MS/HS Spanish

High School
Liz Andrews, HS Director
Vince Atkinson, Math
Craig Carlson, Economics and Personal Finance

Athletics Director
Jordan Gatcomb

Speech Pathologist
Jillann Todero

EC Instructional Aide
Hannah Mayalu

Admin Team Norms 2025-26
Our Admin Team of five administrators welcomed our first new member in twelve years, as Liz Andrews joined us to lead the high school. On August 7th we held an off-site retreat where we started our work by establishing our working team norms. I share

them below with the belief that they reflect much of what we've learned at Woods about bringing out the best in teams.

- Work from a shared vision and keep it at the center.
- Treat all people with respect.
- Communicate openly and honestly.
- Be open to giving and receiving feedback and pushback.
- Provide support without judgment.
- Work and play together.
- Be present when you're present.
- Listen deeply.
- Default to trust.
- Empower each other to take risks.
- Monitor air time.
- Freedom to venture non-fully formed ideas.
- No crud-talking behind backs.
- Lead with the positive. No skunking.

Community Work Day

On Saturday August 9th, we accomplished all of the indoor and outdoor items on our very large task list! Thank you volunteers for a day that was both fun and productive.

Youth Mental Health First Aid

During Faculty Orientation this year, the MS and HS faculty were trained and certified in Youth Mental Health First Aid:

> *Youth Mental Health First Aid USA is an 8 hour public education program which introduces participants to the unique risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems in adolescents, builds understanding of the importance of early intervention, and teaches individuals how to help an adolescent in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge. Mental Health First Aid uses role-playing and simulations to demonstrate how to assess a mental health crisis; select interventions and provide initial help; and connect young people to professional, peer, social, and self-help care.*

Parent Orientation Nights

We hosted back-to-back Parent Orientation Nights on September 10th and 11th. We had pretty good attendance.

> ***Elementary School:***
> Wednesday, September 10th, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
> Session #1: 6:00 - 6:40 p.m.

Session #2: 6:45 - 7:25 p.m.
(We held two sessions for parents who have multiple kids in elementary. Parents with only one child in elementary may chose the session that suits their schedule.)

Middle School and High School:
Thursday, September 11th, 6:20 - 8:00 p.m.
For Middle and High School Orientations: **Parents arrive between 5:45 – 6:15 p.m. Advisory begins at 6:20 p.m. sharp.**

5:45 – 6:15	Arrive. Get schedule and building map.
6:20 – 6:30	Advisory
6:35 – 6:45	1st Period
6:50 – 7:00	2nd Period
7:05 – 7:15	3rd Period
7:20 – 7:30	4th/5th Period
7:35 – 7:45	6th Period
7:50 – 8:00	7th Period

New Parent Welcome Reception
The Foundation held a gathering last night for all new families. We also included the family ambassadors, the teachers who have the most new students in their classes/grades, and the Senior Sibs. This year was the first that we've held the event in our own "living room," and it worked! We had great food donated by Carolina Brewery.

We heard from four speakers:
Cotton Bryan, principal
Tommy Johnson, alum and former teacher
Eryn Dillard, 2nd grade teacher
Jessica Oliver, director of advancement

It was a very pleasant evening! The purpose was to welcome these new people to our community and to start to deepen their connection to Woods.

Bus Purchase Proposal
Under tonight's New Business we'll consider a proposal for the school to purchase two used buses, one full-size bus and one small (14-passenger) bus. I provided this information to the Board in advance of the meeting:

1) We currently run two routes twice a day. We need three buses to run two routes (so that if one requires maintenance/repair, we have a back-up bus to put on the route), and we currently have only two functioning buses.

2) We would like to purchase a full-size bus and a small bus. Full-size bus is for routes. Small bus would be for sports teams, clubs, field trips, etc.
3) Via the community survey and other feedback mechanisms, our community has voiced a desire for a smaller bus for many years.
4) The small bus does not require a CDL (Commercial Driver License).
5) We would scrap two non-functioning buses -- and we're investigating ways to do this that are cost-neutral. The non-functioning Woods Rock bus would become a special-use space (details TBD).
6) We last purchased a bus in October 2021 (from this same vendor).
7) Jim Malone (our facilities manager and a bus driver) and our bus mechanic inspected the two vehicles on Monday and gave them a green light.
8) The purchase would fall under Capital Purchases in our budget. We have used approximately $41k of that $100k budget for chromebooks and faculty laptops. This purchase of $62,800 would put us slightly over budget for this category.
9) Finance Committee reviewed this proposal on Monday and approved moving forward.

Excessive Absences and Failures

Our current attendance policy states:

> A student with more than ten (10) unexcused absences in a school year may have grading consequences, including failing the year. A student who accrues twenty (20) or more absences including whole period absences, tardy absences, and early dismissal absences (excused and unexcused combined) per academic year in a high school course will lose credit for the course unless granted a waiver by the administration team.

The State Board of Education recently decided that a student may no longer fail a course just because of absences. NC DPI has adopted this language: "A student may not fail a course based solely on attendance." This change requires a revision to the Woods policy.

Operations and Maintenance on the Solar Array

Some background on our solar array: For many years, we tried to figure a way that we could solarize our roof with the hope that we would lower our school's carbon footprint, save some money, and model sustainability for our students. For over a decade we struggled to find a way to afford a large array given the limited funds available to apply toward solar.

NC House Bill 589, passed in 2017, established a framework for solar leasing and made a way for Woods to partner with Eagle Solar & Light (ESL) to install a 276kw array consisting of 864 panels and 4 inverters. ESL paid for the array and installed it. We entered into a five-year lease that required a down payment and five annual lease payments of $27,318. (The annual energy savings have generally been within a few hundred dollars of the lease payment.) For pursuing the project, Duke Energy provided a $75,000 rebate to Woods. That rebate, plus some gifts that Woods families made toward the array as part of the school's 20th birthday celebrate, constituted our down payment.

Last year, at the lease's end, we bought the array for $58,065.

As part of the lease agreement, ESL agreed to provide operations and maintenance (O&M) for five years after the lease's end. (This was a significant and generous concession on their part.) Last month ESL let us know that they had become a casualty to the Big Beautiful Bill (their business has folded) and they would not be able to provide O&M. They referred us to Carolina Solar Services, and I have a meeting with them next week.

Faculty Roster

First:	Last:	Role	PT/FT
Liz	Andrews	High School Director, AP Seminar	Full-Time
Margaret	Andrews	6th Grade ELA/Social Studies Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time
Vince	Atkinson	Math Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time
Amber	Bates	E.C. Teacher, 504 Coordinator	Full-Time
Angela	Bell	Occupational Therapist	Full-Time
Paget	Blythe	Assistant Testing Coordinator	Part-Time
Pascale	Bost	Elementary French Teacher	Part-Time
Jessica	Bowman	Testing Coordinator	Part-Time
Jessie	Brown	MS/HS Art Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time
Cotton	Bryan	Principal	Full-Time
Gwendolen	Bushek	MS Electives, MS French, MS Advisor, Yearbook Advisor, Journalism, ESL Coordinator	Full-Time
Craig	Carlson	Economics & Personal Finance	Part-Time
Mikayla	Castellano	1st Grade Teacher	Full-Time
Lindis	Chetwynd	HS Science Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time
Ella	Clarke	English Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time
Trina	Cole	Interventionist	Full-Time
Vanessa	Costa	Spanish Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time
Grace	Derenne	EC TA, ASL Teacher	Full-Time

Stephanie	Derfeuil	French Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time
Eryn	Dillard	2nd Grade Teacher	Full-Time
Zion	Douglas	School Counselor	Full-Time
Amy	Dowden	Engineering, MS Electives Teacher	Part-Time
Shirley	Edwards	Front Receptionist	Part-Time
Trudy	Elliott	3rd Grade Teacher	Full-Time
Sara	Fields	4th Grade Teacher	Full-Time
Rachel	Finkelstein	English Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time
Jordan	Gatcomb	Athletics Director, 9th Grade PE/Health	Full-Time
Lynne	Giguere	EC Teacher	Full-Time
Roz	Grant	Admissions Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator, Morning Receptionist	Part-Time
Becki	Green	Teaching Assistant	Full-Time
Karen	Hawkins	History Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time
Aimee	Haygood	Math Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time
Debbie	Hoodiman	EC Teacher	Full-Time
Jamie	Horil	Lunch Program Coordinator	Full-Time
Kimberly	Houston	School Nurse	Full-Time
Creighton	Irons	Music Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time
Heather	Jester	ES/MS Electives	Part-Time
Dave	Johnson	E.C. Teacher	Full-Time
Ann	Kaiyala	Director of Personnel, Director of Summer Program, Director of Special Services, Title IX Coordinator	Full-Time
Jessi	Knight-Pass	Movement/Dance Teacher, After-School Care Assistant	Full-Time
Tiffany	Langino	HS Civics Teacher	Part-Time
Rachel	Lawrence	Math and Computer Science Teacher, Advisor, Director of Curriculum and Instruction	Full-Time
Ashley	Lorusso	Elementary Art Teacher	Part-Time
Jim	Malone	Facilities Manager	Full-Time
Alex	Massengale	History Teacher	Part-Time
Hannah	Mayalu	Instructional Aide	Full-Time
Alexa	Middlesworth	TA/Bus Driver	Full-Time
Janet	Moody	Science Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time
Kim	Moody	Math Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time
Andy	Nelson	History Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time
Kelly	Norris	4th Grade Teacher	Full-Time
Jamie	Nuss	Teaching Assistant, Bus Driver	Full-Time
Denise	O'Gorman	HS Science Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time
Jessica	Oliver	Director of Advancement	Part-Time
Kris	Pass	Teaching Assistant, Bus Driver, Teaching Assistant Coordinator	Part-Time
Misty	Peeler	English/Social Studies Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time
Amy	Reams	MS PE	Full-Time
Kim	Rossi	Business Manager, Communications Coordinator	Part-Time
Jess	Schulman	Biology Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time

Kathi	Shaw	Front Receptionist, Assistant to Directors	Part-Time
John	Sheridan	Math Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time
Jeremy	Simons	Assistant Facilities Manager, Bus Driver	Full-Time
Grace	Siplon	7th/8th Grade ELA, Advisor	Full-Time
Cindy	Sperry	Assistant Principal, K-8 Director	Full-Time
Kathleen	St. Lawrence	E.C. Coordinator	Full-Time
Anna	Thrower	Registrar, Data Manager	Part-Time
Jillann	Todero	Speech Language Pathologist	Part-Time
Taylor	Transue	1st Grade Teacher	Full-Time
Leah	Tyner	Kindergarten Teacher	Full-Time
Michelle	Valdes	MS Spanish	Part-Time
Ursula	Valgus	Reading Interventionist, MTSS Coordinator	Part-Time
Robin	Wagoner	Social Studies Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time
Jess	Walden-Gray	MS Science Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time
Jake	Weaver	Before/After School Director, ES Teaching Assistant	Full-Time
Beverly	West	2nd Grade Teacher	Full-Time
Amanda	Westle	Kindergarten Teacher	Full-Time
Brittany	Wilson	MS Math Teacher, Advisor	Full-Time
Courtney	Wilson	EC Teacher	Full-Time
Carmen	Wood	Elementary P.E. Teacher	Full-Time

Principal Goals 2025-26 Draft (attached)

Letter to the Community, "A Sacred Trust" (attached)

A Sacred Trust

The week before school started, Liz Andrews (our new high school director) and I met with the host parents for one of our foreign exchange students prior to the student's arrival in the United States. After providing a brief tour and introduction to Woods, we stood together in the Great Room remarking at what courage it must take on the part of the exchange student's parents—and on the part of the student herself – to venture across the ocean for a year of high school.

Two parents in Spain were entrusting the one thing in the world they care most about (their daughter) to a host family they'd never met and a host school they'd never visited. The weight of responsibility was palpable, much like hoisting a heavy backpack to the shoulders at the start of an expedition. These parents were asking us to keep their child safe, to help her grow, and to walk alongside her as she takes in and processes a new culture.

"That kind of trust is a powerful thing, a sacred thing," I found myself saying. The host family nodded in silent agreement. They would meet their student the next day at RDU.

This feeling of a sacred trust bestowed is pronounced, in a way, for someone traveling from Europe to study at our school for the year. But set aside the hurdling of a large ocean, and the situation for this Spanish family is not that different from every other family at Woods. Our school parents, we know, hold dreams for their kids' lives that are big and precious – and they look to the school as a trusted partner in helping to bring those dreams to fruition. We are entrusted with the very thing about which you care the most.

The Woods faculty and I feel the weight of that trust. It's a daunting responsibility and also a very inspiring one! We are a group that is invigorated and enlivened by the challenge of shouldering that weight.

We are grateful for your trust.

And we're working every day to be worthy of that sacred trust—whether you walk to our door from your home in Briar Chapel or you travel 4,000 miles from Spain.

With gratitude,

Cotton Bryan
Principal

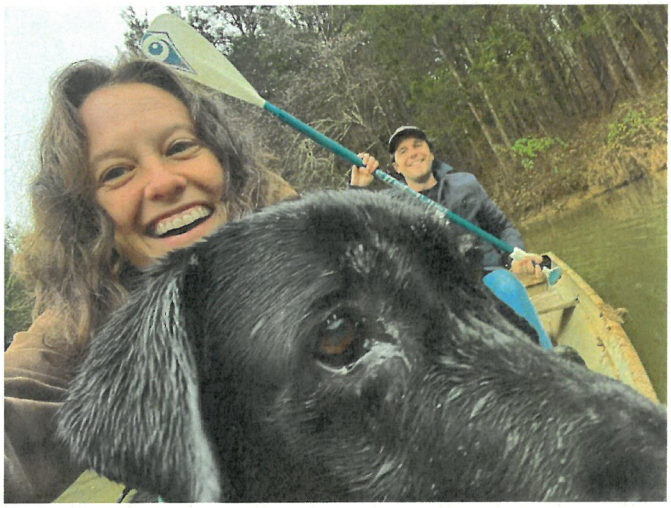
New Faculty for Woods 2025-26

We are thrilled and grateful to welcome these new faculty members:

Liz Andrews: High School Director, AP Seminar
Vince Atkinson: High School Math, 9th Grade Advisor
Craig Carlson: 12th Grade Economics and Personal Finance, Senior Advisor
Jordan Gatcomb: Athletics Director, 9th Grade PE/Health
Hannah Mayalu: Instructional Aide
Emily Merletto: MS/HS Spanish
Ana Parris-Buckmaster: 3rd Grade
Jillann Todero: Speech Pathologist
Leah Tyner: Kindergarten

Liz Andrews

landrews@woodscharter.org
she/her
High School Director
AP Seminar



Hello! My name is Liz Andrews, and I'm thrilled to be joining Woods as the High School Director. I come to Pittsboro most recently from Brooklyn, New York, where I lived for four years teaching history at the Berkeley Carroll School; but before that, I was deeply acquainted with rural life living in a town of 2,700 in Leadville, Colorado. I spent my 20s and early 30s teaching at a small semester boarding school, the High Mountain Institute (HMI), where I fell in love with experiential education and a close-knit community. At HMI, I led 2-week long backpacking and backcountry ski trips for our students while also teaching regular American History and English Literature classes when on campus. While Humanities Faculty, Director of New Faculty, and Expedition Leader were my official titles at the school, because of the small nature of the community, I quickly learned many of the inner-workings of broader school life (admissions, advancement, faculty training,

cooking dinner and doing the dishes for the 90 members of the community … the list goes on!). At Berkeley Carroll, I allowed myself to dive deeper into my subject matter by teaching 10, 11, and 12th grade history which included myriad of electives and year-long courses (American Studies, Modern Middle East, Current Events, Ancient Civilizations, History of War, Holocaust and Human Behavior, and History and Literature of the American West). Both schools uniquely prepared me for–and pushed me to seek out–a place like Woods.

I first learned about Woods when visiting my partner's house off of Andrews Store Road from Brooklyn and immediately knew it was a school where I would love to work. I heard about the close relationships between the faculty, the family-like community fostered among the whole community, and the caliber of critical thought from the students. I'm thrilled that my path has landed me here and I look forward to getting to know you all throughout the coming years! Please don't hesitate to reach out or introduce yourself if you see me at a curb duty, a performance, or a sporting event! Go Wolves!

Vince Atkinson

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High School Math
9th Grade Advisor



Hello! I am Vincent Atkinson and along with my family—Louise, Nora, Everett— we are excited to become part of the Woods Charter family. As a family, we love spending time together boating, cooking, playing, watching, and coaching any sport, and traveling. One of my greatest passions is rugby. I began playing at Clemson and have had the privilege of playing and coaching across the United States and internationally. Rugby has taught me resilience, teamwork, and the value of mentorship—lessons I bring into my teaching every day. Last but not least, our household also includes two cats, Nicholas and Bear, and a dog named Lock, who keep things lively.

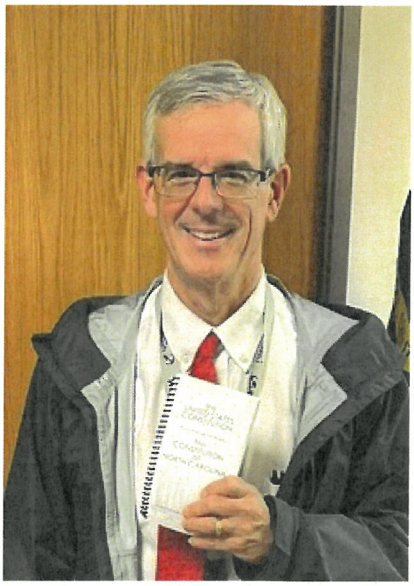
My journey into education has been anything but traditional, and I believe that's part of what makes it so rewarding. I earned my undergraduate degree from Clemson University in 1994 and spent the next two decades in the private sector as a project manager. That career took me across the country—from Memphis, TN to Indianapolis, IN, Newport Beach and San Francisco, CA, and eventually back to Greenville, SC. After 20 years of leading teams and managing complex projects, I felt a strong pull toward a more purpose-driven path: education.

Returning to Clemson, I earned my first master's degree in education and began my teaching career at Fairforest Middle School in Spartanburg, SC. From there, I taught at North Lincoln Middle School in Denver, NC, and most recently at Seaforth High School in Pittsboro, NC. Each of these experiences has deepened my commitment to student growth, community engagement, and lifelong learning. That path has now led me to Woods Charter School, where I'm thrilled to be joining a vibrant and dedicated educational community.

I'm currently pursuing a second master's degree in supervision and administration from Converse University, with the goal of expanding my impact in educational leadership. I look forward to growing as an educator and playing a role of relevancy and positivity for all students, every day.

Craig Carlson

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12th Grade Economics and Personal Finance
Senior Advisor



After many years of teaching Civics and Economics, American History, and a variety of other social studies courses in Wake County, Durham, and most recently down the road at Northwood High School, I'm excited to be joining the team here at Woods Charter School as the Economics and Personal Finance teacher.

I grew up in nearby Carrboro and graduated from Chapel Hill Senior High School. I have a BA in History and a Master of School Administration degree from UNC-CH and my teaching license from UNC-G. I started my teaching career at Leesville Road Middle School in Wake County and then taught at Riverside High School in Durham

for twelve years. In 2021, after six more years at Riverside as an assistant principal, including a year and a half of pandemic virtual and hybrid administration, I felt the strong call to return to the classroom and directly engage with students - what a great decision!

Before teaching I was a line cook at area restaurants Papagayo and Aurora for about eight years total and continue to enjoy Mexican and Italian cooking. My wife, Margaret, and I have been married for over 30 years and we've lived in Durham for most of that time. We have two adult children - the oldest in Chicago and the youngest a Senior at UNC-CH. When I'm not working on curriculum and developing lesson plans (I recently completed a series of lessons on education, race, politics, and the history of the North Carolina State Constitution called 'Let History Speak'), I enjoy cooking, biking, hiking, camping, and reading history and literary fiction. My wife and I are also actively involved in the Church of Reconciliation in Chapel Hill.

Jordan Gatcomb

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Athletics Director
9th Grade PE/Health



Hi Wolves, I'm Coach Gatcomb! A little about me… I grew up in Wells, Maine - a small coastal town and popular summer tourist destination located about ninety minutes north of Boston, MA. From a young age, I was always involved in sports. I was a 3-sport athlete in high school, participating in basketball, softball, and field hockey. I attended Roanoke College where I had the opportunity to participate as a softball catcher in the DIII World Series. I later returned north and transferred to The University of Southern Maine where I continued to play softball and earned a B.A. in film production and editing. Upon graduation I spent five years working as an Operations Manager in the health care sector in Texas before I moved back to the northeast to refocus on my passion for education and athletics. I attended graduate school at Suffolk University in Boston where I obtained my M.Ed. in Administration of Higher Education with a concentration in Athletic Administration. During this time I also coached softball at Wheelock College. In late 2011 I relocated to Durham, North Carolina where I continued my career in athletics, since then gaining experience at both

the secondary and collegiate levels in athletic department management, athletic facilities operations, and the past 4 years as an Athletic Director.

In my personal time, I enjoy listening to music and attending concerts, gardening and doing outdoor house projects, cooking meals with friends, cuddling with my beloved 16 year old rescue dog, Remy, and having local and travel adventures with my wife, Emily. In all this time living in NC, I still haven't gotten used to this summer heat and I try to find my needed sea breeze reprieve with trips to Cape Cod and Maine to visit with family and friends.

I was drawn to Woods because of its reputation as an academically strong institution with faculty that are highly engaged in the holistic success of each and every student. I'm excited to be joining this vibrant and supportive Woods community and eager to get to know you - the faculty, staff, students, and families! I know Ms. Floyd was integral to the incredible growth and development of the current athletic department. I am grateful and humbly looking forward to stepping into this position and continuing to build on her legacy while bringing my own vision and energy to continue the advancement of Wolves athletics. Go Wolves!

Hannah Mayalu

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Instructional Aide



My name is Hannah Mayalu. I am an occupational therapist, birth and postpartum doula, prenatal yoga teacher, and now an EC instructional aide. I graduated from Virginia Tech in 2016 and from Radford University in 2019 with my master's in occupational therapy. I married the love of my life, Alfred, in 2020, and we now have two young children, Alfie (3) and Andie (1.5). I love spending time outside with my family, cooking, listening to audiobooks, watching tv with my husband, and exercising.

I came to Woods in 2019 as an occupational therapy student to complete a clinical rotation with Donna Huff, OTR/L. I graduated my program later that year and started working virtually and full-time with Donna in 2020. I worked as Woods' occupational

therapist both virtually and in-person until March 2022 when I left to have and raise my young babies. After a 3.5-year hiatus, I am now returning to Woods as an instructional aide for the exceptional children's department. I am thrilled to be back at Woods and can't wait to grow and learn alongside the beautiful students and staff here.

Emily Merletto

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MS/HS Spanish



Hola! I'm Emily Merletto, and I'm excited to be teaching Spanish at WCS. I'm originally from Apex, North Carolina, and I studied Spanish and Latin American Studies at UNC-Wilmington. My love for language and culture led me to spend several years in Latin America, including serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in Bolivia and the Dominican Republic.

Over the years, I've also worked as a medical interpreter, started a nonprofit for migrant farm workers, and run an organic flower farm. These experiences continue to shape how I approach teaching—with curiosity, creativity, and a strong sense of community.

I now live on the Rocky River with my husband, Mike, and our daughter, Maya. In my free time, I enjoy reading, painting, and exploring the woods. I look forward to helping students connect with the Spanish language and Latin American cultures in fun and meaningful ways.

Ana Parris-Buckmaster

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3rd Grade



My name is Ana Parris-Buckmaster, and I am beyond excited to teach 3rd grade this year! I currently live in Graham with my husband, our two kids (14 and 18), and a ridiculously adorable miniature dachshund.

I recently went back to school and earned a Master of Education degree with a concentration in literacy. Spending time as a learner and researcher has provided me with new tools, resources, and practices that I am excited to put to use with my future students. I like to be the "guide on the side" rather than the "sage on the stage", encouraging students to take charge of their own learning and making connections to things that are meaningful to them.

My teaching story began twenty years ago when I got my first classroom. Since that time, I have taught in several different schools. I also have my own children, so I have experienced the parent perspective as well. The most inclusive, welcoming, community-focused school thus far has been Woods. My high-schooler has found a home here, and I cherish the memories of my time as a guest teacher last year. I am looking forward to being a part of the Woods faculty and getting to know all of you. I know this year will be amazing!



Jillann Todero

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Speech Pathologist

Hi, I'm Jillann Todero, Speech Pathologist. I'm originally from upstate New York, near Syracuse. I moved to Pittsboro 5 years ago with my family (husband of 20+ years, 2 sons, 4 dogs and a guinea pig). I worked as an Early Intervention/Preschool Speech Pathologist for many years before working in a private practice and then at a charter school here in North Carolina for the last four years.

I am so excited to be a part of Woods Charter School. I believe that we all have the ability to make a difference, and Woods incorporates that as a core belief and value. This is important to me, both as an educator and as an individual. I'm looking forward to collaborating with the staff, parents, and students!

Leah Tyner

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Kindergarten Teacher

Hi! My name is Leah Tyner, and I'm so excited to be part of the kindergarten team at Woods. I've worked in early childhood education for many years, and kindergarten has always held a special place in my heart. It's such a transformative year where children



learn how to be part of a classroom community, build foundational skills, and discover the joy of learning. As both an educator and a parent, I deeply value the importance of creating a safe, nurturing space where every child feels seen, supported, and encouraged to grow.

Over the years, I've had the opportunity to teach and support young learners in a variety of settings—from public and private school classrooms to early learning centers and enrichment programs. Each experience has helped shape my teaching style and deepen my understanding of how children develop socially, emotionally, and academically. I earned my degree from the UNC Chapel Hill School of Education, where I built a strong foundation in child development, instructional practices, and inclusive teaching. I've worked with diverse groups of students and collaborated closely with teachers, specialists, and families to create positive, inclusive learning environments.

What brought me here is both my love for working with young children and my perspective as a parent. I understand how much trust it takes to hand your child over to someone else each day, and I don't take that responsibility lightly. My goal is always to bring patience, empathy, and creativity into the classroom while supporting both students and their families through this important stage. I'm truly grateful to be part of a school that values connection, curiosity, and community.

Go heels!

DRAFT Principal Goals 2025-26 DRAFT

Overall goal: Let's keep moving Woods forward on the path to excellence in a way that's true to The Woods Way!

1. **Support, retain, and develop our faculty.**
   - Provide regular and varied forms of constructive feedback for all faculty.
   - Steward processes for reflective practice. (e.g., peer-to-peer observations, school visits, teacher book groups, instructional rounds, evaluations, Beginning Teacher Support Program, etc.)
   - Continue Project Marigold to build collegiality and to emphasize the need for faculty self-care.
   - Hold one-on-one listening sessions with all teaching faculty.
   - Recognizing the overall teacher shortage in our region, boost our efforts at recruitment, ensuring that we're as proactive and thorough as possible in connecting prospective teachers to Woods.

2. **Strengthen and deepen the sense of community at Woods as experienced by students, faculty, and parents.**
   - Nurture the culture of Woods to make sure it continues to grow as a place that is inclusive, community-minded, and relationship-based where respect, civility, and a playful spirit thrive.
   - Foster a culture that supports diversity of thought and constructive, civil discourse.
   - Host community-building events for students, parents, faculty: e.g., Community Workday, All School Campout, Grandparents'/Special Friends' Day, Senior Retreat, 9th Grade Retreat, Into the Woods 5-K, 8th Grade Leadership Summit, Senior Dinner, etc.

3. **Practice Leadership-by-Walking-Around.**
   - Be present in classrooms, hallways, and at extracurricular/athletic events.
   - Visit each classroom at least once every month.

4. **Diversify our student body by increasing the diversity of our lottery pool and by attracting more job applicants from teachers of color.**
   - Ensure that admissions materials are broadcast widely, strategically, and available in Spanish.
   - Conduct a focused postcard campaign to boost enrollment in our Economic Diversity lottery.
   - Organize a team of Woods parent ambassadors to help attract more families to admissions tours.

5. **Communicate regularly and proactively with Woods families.**
   - Leverage traditional and digital media for articulating and reiterating our philosophy, mission, and values.
   - Compose a Principal's Letter to the Community approximately 1x/month.
   - Increase community survey participation in year #4. Make sure we have at least 100 parent and 40 faculty respondents.

6. **Oversee consistent, firm enforcement of our School Handbook.**

DRAFT

- Articulate to Woods families and faculty our philosophy and procedures governing student discipline.
- Provide consistency and clarity to discipline processes and consequences. Lead faculty in being more unified and cohesive in how we respond to infractions. Be as transparent as possible with faculty and families around Code of Conduct issues.

7. Provide meaningful ways for parents to engage with the school.

- Revamp our parent volunteer program. Provide ways for parents to assist the school that are communicated clearly and varied to match parent schedules and interests.
- Boost our recognition of volunteers.
- Enthusiastically promote our Parent Orientation Sessions in September.
- Host book discussion groups 1x/trimester.
- Research the feasibility/advisability of implementing a Woods family directory.

8. Strengthen Connections Between Woods Admin Team and Teaching Faculty

- Implement feedback mechanisms in both the fall and the spring to allow teachers ways to register feedback for directors.
- Provide support to new high school director in bringing unity, cohesion, and vibrancy to high school faculty culture.
- Encourage directors to hold one-on-ones with their team members at least 1x/trimester.

DRAFT

Student Report

Good evening board,

The first few weeks of school have come to a close and the summer's starting to finally wear off. The long break has reenergized the students, and everyone (especially our new students) seems excited for the new year.

Our new exchange students are integrating well into the Woods community, and all the students love to hear more about the differences in culture between our countries. The senior class especially has gotten to learn so much about Spain, Germany, and France, and I'm sure that we'll learn even more in the coming months.

The other students new to Woods have also been given a warm welcome to our community, with our Senior Siblings holding several events to help introduce them. The upcoming Woods campout is sure to also be a great way to welcome them into our high school

The seniors are incredibly busy with their college applications, but that's to be expected at this time of year. The faculty have helped tremendously with the application process, with Ms. Finklestein holding classes all about college essays and the senior advisors hosting several presentations to help teach seniors about the basics of applications. They've also been detailing the many upcoming deadlines, such as the Morehead-Cain scholarship, Coca Cola Scholarship, and early application deadlines to schools. Just yesterday we got a visit from Appalachian State University, today we watched a presentation by UNC's financial aid committee, and on October 1st we'll get to see another presentation where they will share information on their admissions process.

Taking a break from only the seniors, all students had a chance to browse Woods' wide variety of clubs at our wonderful club fair. We saw established clubs like BIPOC, Model UN, and so many others make a return, but we also saw more recently-established clubs like FBLA (which just got reinstated last year after it disappeared due to covid) and mathletes gain lots of members from the event. It'll be very exciting to see all of the clubs organize their own events and trips, offering new experiences and learning opportunities to the student body.

The club I joined to be able to speak here, Student Council, has also started up again. We just had our elections where 12 candidates from across the grade levels were chosen, and while I might be a bit biased I would like to say that I think the student body made some great choices. I've heard some wonderful ideas from across the board, so I'm sure they'll go on to organize a great year.

On to reports from the different grades, the freshmen are doing well. Everyone seems to be getting along, and while many of them are a bit disappointed with how much more homework there is compared to middle school, I'm sure they'll get used to it.

The Sophomore class so far has been doing well with the back-to-school buzz! We have gotten to know each other and the teachers, and we are learning the ropes to our new classes. Many are looking forward to classes like Civics where we discuss enriching ethical dilemmas, or Chemistry, where we are currently learning about Thermochemistry! Advisors sprung new weekly traditions upon the Sophomores such as Two-Step Tuesday, where every advisory comes together to take two laps around the school, giving students fresh air, and bringing advisories together for brief community bonding. Moreover, the upcoming overnight class trip to Jamestown is approaching, and excitement is growing as it gets closer and closer! This has been a very successful first month for the Sophomore class.

The juniors are working hard to ensure their start of the year is a success. With AP classes, extracurricular activities, and athletics, the juniors are busy this September, but we are also up to the challenge junior year provides. There is a high attendance rate among the juniors, going to see (or play in) many of the Varsity games we have at Woods, especially volleyball and men's soccer! The junior class is also in the early stages of our Tremont trip, already ironing out details and filling out permission slips. Furthermore, many people are opting-in to take the PSAT next month, adding to the excitement surrounding the class of 2027. Overall, it has been a rigorous and compelling start to the school year, and the juniors are accepting it with grace.

To sum everything up, the first few weeks of school have gone great. Kids are adjusting well to the workload, our clubs and athletics have been successful in attracting members, and most important of all, our new students have been very welcomed to the Woods community. As always, board members are welcome to email the Student Council at stuco@woodscharter.org if any of you want to know more about how the students are feeling.

Woods Charter School

Committee Name: Finance

Mission/Responsibility:
The finance committee is commissioned by and responsible to the board of Directors. It has the responsibility for working with the charter school administrator to create the upcoming fiscal year budget; presenting budget recommendations to the board; monitoring implementation of the approved budget on a regular basis and recommending proposed budget revisions; recommending to the board appropriate policies for the management of the charter school's assets. The charter school administrator shall assist the finance committee.

Job Descriptions

Chair	Members
Must be a member of the Board	Regularly attend committee meetings
Oversees the logistics of committee's operations including gathering information necessary for committee to work	Serious commitment to participate actively in committee work, including accepting assignments, staying informed and reviewing minutes of prior meetings
Reports to the full board on committee's decisions/recommendations	Builds a collegial working relationship with other committee members and works to build consensus
Assigns work to the committee members, sets the agenda and runs the meetings	
Initiates and leads the committee's annual goals and evaluation	

2025-26 Members

Name and Role
1. Courtney Cabe, Chair, Board Representative
2. Alex Protzman, Board Representative
3. Kim Rossi, Administrative Representative
4. Cotton Bryan, Principal (ex officio)
5. Beth Kennedy, Foundation Representative
6. John Sheridan, Faculty Representative

Meeting Schedule:

The Finance Committee will meet once a month via Zoom (or other virtual meeting platform) during the week before each regularly scheduled Board meeting at 12:30pm. The scheduled meetings for 2025-26 are as follows:

Monday, September 15, 2025

Monday, October 13, 2025

Monday, November 17, 2025

Monday, December 15, 2025

Monday, January 12, 2025

Monday, February 16, 2025

Monday, March 16, 2025

Monday, April 13, 2025

Monday, May 18, 2025

Monday, June 1, 2025

Board Reporting Process:

The Finance Committee Chair will report to the Board at its monthly meetings.

2025-26 Annual Goals and Actions Items

Goal	Action Item	Assigned To	Target Date	Completion Date
1.	Update authorized signers on bank accounts.	All signers	Jan 15, 2026	
2.	Complete the Annual Budget for the School.	Courtney / Cotton / Kim	1/31/26 (initial draft)	
a.	Present initial budget to the prior to contract negotiations	Courtney	2/15/26	

b. Present the final budget to the Board for approval	Courtney	6/10/26	
3. Recruit and mentor new finance committee members.			
4. Monitor legislation related to teacher salaries with particular focus on maintaining, or increasing from, the state standard at Woods. Review possibility of adjusting budget line items during the academic year based on increases in revenue sources.			
5. Communicate with Woods' community the Woods Charter School finances, goals, and challenges.			
6. Find additional investment opportunities for cash reserves.			
7. Start thinking about Refinance of Building Loan (Spring 2027)			

Woods Charter School Foundation, Inc.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: SEPTEMBER 2025

FOUNDATION BOARD

Last June, the Foundation Board held an election to add one more director to our board. We are excited to re-welcome Erin Grossmann, who served on our board school years 2018 through 2023! Erin joins a wonderful team that includes President Dana Crotts, Vice President Dominique Gignac, Treasurer Beth Kennedy, Secretary Nicki Schreiber, Directors Ashley Abert, Qiana Eaglin, and Richard Nuss, along with Faculty Representative Eryn Dillard, Principal Cotton Bryan and me. Assistant Principal Cindy Sperry is not a voting member of the Board, but attends our meetings.

To kick off the year, we held a brainstorm last month, focusing ideas to improve our fall happenings: New Parents Welcome Reception, All School Campout, Annual Fund Week and Into the Woods 5K. I appreciate the thoughtful discussion we had and feel confident the ideas generated will help level up these events.

ANNUAL FUND

Our Annual Fund goal this year is $545,000! Reaching $545,000 will mean we can support:

- $20,000 in Teacher/Director/Department Support ($17K last year)
- $9,000 in Faculty Appreciation
- $20,000 in Curricular Materials ($11K last year)
- $55,000 in Student Consumables ($50K last year)
- $25,000 in Professional Development ($21K last year)
- $320,000 in Faculty Supplement ($290K last year)
- $1,000 in Co-Curricular Club Matching
- $72,000 in Operational Expenses

Additionally, the Foundation will fund the 2026 Teacher Discovery Fund grant. Last year's winners, Vanessa Costa and Karen Hawkins, will present their experiences to the faculty in October. Applications for this year's grant are due upon return from Winter Break.

As of August 31st, our Annual Fund stands at $62,319, which is the highest it as ever been at this point.

Of other financial note, we are in the initial stages of our annual audit, again using the firm Sharpe Patel CPA.

FAMILY AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Last year, we launched a Family Ambassador Program to help welcome new families into our community. Based on feedback we received from the ambassadors, we've simplified the program. This year, we have four ambassadors total, rather than one ambassador for every 2-3 new families:

- Ginny Byrd Porter for K-2
- Maggie Borum for 3-4
- Qiana Eaglin for 5-8
- Dominique Gignac for 9-12

I've emailed our new families to connect them to their ambassador. All of the ambassadors will be at our New Parents Welcome Reception to make face-to-face connections with their families.

RESTAURANT NIGHTS

In the thought that a strong community makes for stronger support, we are going to attempt to hold regular restaurant nights this year.

Restaurant nights do bring in a bit of money (which is welcome!), but also could serve as a valuable connection point for our families. We have three parents who volunteered to spearhead the effort this year. Gina Difino will reach out to Pittsboro restaurants, Amy King will handle Durham and Ginny Byrd Porter will be in charge of Chapel Hill spots. The goal is for each area to have 1-2 restaurant nights a semester.

Our first restaurant night will be Monday, September 29th at Guanajuato Mexican Restaurant.

If any high school clubs would like to assist in marketing these nights to get folks there, the club could be the recipient of the money raised.

GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER

Our gift card fundraiser is starting off on par with last year. Parents Amy King and Kaitlyn McKee have both volunteered to purchase the cards this year, which is a huge help. Ginny Byrd Porter labels the envelopes each month. The first orders went out last week – $10,400 worth of cards! I've attached the order form if you'd like to place a monthly or one-time order.

PARENTS WELCOME RECEPTION

Our Parents Welcome Reception will have happened by the time you read this, but I am looking forward to it as I write this report! All parents of new Woods students are invited to this event, which we are holding at school for the first time. It is an adult-only night, but Prom Committee is offering childcare.

Carolina Brewery is catering a taco bar for our guests to enjoy before we have a series of speakers (Cotton, Eryn Dillard, Tommy Johnson, and myself) talking to Woods vision, culture, strength and needs of the school.

About 50% of the invited families have rsvp'd "yes" to the night. For next year, we've discussed marketing the event as a more casual evening. We'll rename it "Welcome to the Pack: New Parent's Social" and reword the invite to make the night feel more mellow. We also are looking at pushing it

back a week or two so it isn't right on top of Parent Orientation Night, but still before Annual Fund Week.

ALL SCHOOL CAMPOUT

Our All School Campout will be held Saturday, September 27th. It has gone out in Woods News and we already have over 179 people coming! I expect to be at our typical 450ish in rsvp's by the end of the month.

On the school website, there is sign-up for both food and volunteers, and folks are starting to fill in those needs – I'd love any support you all can give! High school students who volunteer earn community service hours and I've put the call out to them. We'll have our Senior Sibs helping with the Night Hike.

WALK TO SCHOOL DAY

Our 5th Annual Walk to School Day will be on Wednesday, October 8th. We invite all school families to meet at the pavilion in Briar Chapel's Great Meadow Park before school. Cotton will again make the long trek from his house to meet us at the park! Our buses will drop students there, and then we'll head to school on foot together at 8:10am. Our Senior Sibs will be there to hand out participation bracelets to attendees and the Chatham County Sheriff's Department will serve as our escorts.

ANNUAL FUND WEEK

Annual Fund Week will be here before we know it – October 13-17th, with Grandparents' & Special Friends' Day on the 17th.

We are moving away from Bounce Out of Class to a school-wide incentive; incentive still tbd!

For Grandparents' & Special Friends' Day, we've sent home invitation postcards to elementary students and promoted the event in Woods News. We will do a couple of more pushes as the date approaches, but rsvp's are already coming for the day, and it should be a great day! Creighton Irons, Jessi Knight and Ashley Lorusso are working on a sweet performance of "Good Things Grow" for the morning will include the 7/8 chorus with all of elementary school, plus some of the high school band. Carolina Brewery will again donate catering for all of our guests, and our 8th Grade Ambassadors will assist us in putting on the morning!

SPONSORSHIPS

We are just starting our sponsorship push and are fortunate to have businesses in our community who support us year after year! Access Paving has signed on to again be our 5K's Presenting Sponsor and Fidelity Bank has agreed to again be our Auction's Presenting Sponsor, for the 8th year! Additionally, both of these sponsorships are at $6,000 each instead of the historical $5,000! A sponsor who joined us last year, Chapel Hill Dental Group, has signed on as a $4,000 Raise Your Glass sponsorship – a new level that will cover both our glassware and the wine for the Auction! And, we have a new sponsor – Langino Law Firm signed on as a $2,000 sponsor for our Auction.

I've attached the sponsorship levels and benefits if you know of anyone who is interested!

2025-26 EVENTS

SEPTEMEBER 17	NEW PARENTS WELCOME RECEPTION
SEPTEMBER 27	ALL SCHOOL CAMPOUT
OCTOBER 8	WALK TO SCHOOL DAY
OCTOBER 13-17	ANNUAL FUND WEEK
OCTOBER 17	GRANDPARENTS & SPECIAL FRIENDS DAY
DECEMBER 6	INTO THE WOODS 5K
DECEMBER 11	McINTYRE'S BOOKS SHOP-IN DAY
MARCH TBD	BOOK FAIR
APRIL 17	BENEFIT AUCTION

2025-26 GRANTS TO WCS

Individual Teacher, Director & Dept Support	Up to $20,000.00
Faculty Appreciation Events	Up to $9,000.00
Curricular Materials	$3,969.33
Student Consumables	$21,826.17
Professional Development	$5,231.30

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

As of 08/31/24

Fidelity Bank Checking: $294,528 ($155,767 is designated)

Treasury Bond: $101,321

Woods Endowment: $77,400

LPL Financial: $55.44

GROCERY & GAS CARD ORDER FORM 2025/26

Gift card sales provide significant funding for our school – and it doesn't cost you anything more than what you already pay each month for gas and groceries! We are happy to mail cards out of town as well, so please share with your extended family if they shop at any of the below retailers.

If you'd prefer to fill out this form online, go to www.woodscharter.org/Gift-Card-Program

Name: _____

Phone & Email: _____

Indicate the number of grocery & gas cards you would like to order below. Beside each retailer is the percentage of your purchase that the retailer donates back to Woods.

Circle one: MONTHLY ORDER -or- ONE TIME ORDER

STORE	$25	$50	$100	$200	$500	TOTAL$
Lowes Foods (10%)						
Food Lion (5%)						
BP Fuel Gas Card (10%)						
Shell Gas Card (10%)						
Amazon.com Card (10%)						
Starbucks (10%)						

Delivery Options (orders distributed the first Wednesday of each month):

__Hold at Front Office for pick up ___Put in my office mailbox (*faculty*)

__ Send home with my student. Student name: _____

__Mail (*only an option if you do not have a student at Woods*).

Mailing Address:_____

Payment is due on the 15th of each month. The program runs September through June.
****Credit Card payments will have a 2.5% processing charge added.****

Check (circle if yes)	Please make out to WCSF and write "Gift Cards" in memo line.
Auto Draft Check (circle if yes)	Set up with you bank as a bill paid to: WCSF (160 Woodland Grove Ln, Chapel Hill, NC 27516). Please write "Gift Cards" in memo line.
Credit Card (circle card type)	Visa MasterCard American Express
Credit Card #	
Expiration Date	CSC#:
Name on Card	
Billing Address	
Authorized Signature	

If you'd prefer to give your credit card over the phone, call Jessica Oliver at 919.960.5393.
Questions? Email joliver@woodscharter.org.



WOODS GIFT CARD PROGRAM

The Gift Card Program is a big fundraiser for our school, and it costs you NOTHING!

Through Woods, buy a gift card for the amount you choose for **Amazon, Lowes Foods, Food Lion, Starbucks, BP or Shell**. If you purchase a $50 gift card, it costs you $50 and you receive a $50 card. It is a straight exchange. The retailer donates a percentage of your gift card to Woods. Each of the above retailers brings in 10% of your purchase to the school, except for Food Lion, which brings in 5% of your purchase. Win-win!

Last year, we raised more than $10,000 through our Gift Card Program with participation from Woods faculty, families and friends. This program is a great way to help Woods at ZERO cost to you!

You can become a monthly subscriber (which is a huge help in our budgeting!) or place a one-time order (which is still very much appreciated!).

To order your cards, go to www.woodscharter.org/Gift-Card-Program and cards will be sent home/available for pick up on the first Wednesday of each month. Or, you can fill out the back of this form and turn it into the front office.

We are happy to mail cards out of town, so please share the form with extended family if they shop at any of the above retailers!

If you have any questions, contact Jessica Oliver at joliver@woodscharter.org. Thank you for your help in bridging the gap!

WOODS CHARTER SCHOOL FOUNDATION est 2007

WOODS CHARTER SPONSORSHIPS 2025-26

SPONSOR LEVELS

Only 1 available.

5K PRESENTING SPONSOR

TAKEN

$6000

- **Name as part of title.**
- Finish Line Sponsor.
- Prominent logo placement on race shirt & banner.
- 12 month Gym Banner.
- 8 race entries & shirts.
- Optional Swag Bag inclusion.
- Benefit Auction presence with logo on Auction signage, program & bidding website.
- Recognition on Facebook & Newsletter.

5K MAPLE SPONSOR

$2000

- 12 month Gym Banner.
- Mile Marker sign.
- Prominent logo placement on race shirt & banner.
- Optional Swag Bag inclusion.
- 4 race entries & shirts.
- Recognition on Facebook & Newsletter.

5K DOGWOOD SPONSOR

$750

- Logo placement on race shirt & banner.
- Optional Swag Bag inclusion.
- 2 race entries & shirts.
- Recognition on Facebook & Newsletter.

RED OAK SPONSOR

$3500

- 12 month Gym Banner.
- 4 5K entries/shirts & 4 Auction tickets.
- 5K Mile Marker sign.
- Prominent logo placement on 5K shirt & banner.
- Optional Swag Bag inclusion.
- Recognized as Top Level Sponsor on Auction bidding site.
- Thanked during Live Auction and prominent logo placement on program & signage.
- Recognition on Facebook & Newsletter.

AUCTION MAPLE SPONSOR

$2000

- 12 month Gym Banner.
- Recognized as Top Level Sponsor on bidding site.
- Thanked during Live Auction and prominent logo placement on program & signage.
- 4 tickets to event.
- Recognition on Facebook & Newsletter.

AUCTION DOGWOOD SPONSOR

$750

- Listed on bidding site.
- Logo placement on program & signage.
- 2 tickets to event.
- Recognition on Facebook & Newsletter.

Only 1 available.

AUCTION PRESENTING SPONSOR

TAKEN

$6000

- **Name as part of title.**
- Exclusive logo on bidding paddles.
- Dedicated page on bidding website with link.
- 12 month Gym Banner.
- 8 tickets to event.
- Thanked during Live Auction and prominent recognition on program & signage.
- 5K Mile Marker sign & logo on race banner.
- Recognition on Facebook & Newsletter.

EVENTS

INTO THE WOODS 5K

- Saturday, December 6th at Woods Charter School.
- The course is a unique combination of road & trail - fun for all ages!
- We expect 250 participants and to raise $15K!

ANNUAL BENEFIT AUCTION

- Friday, April 17th at Ardenwood Farm in Chapel Hill.
- An adult-only night of music, food, drink, raffle winners and lively silent & live auctions.
- We expect 200 attendees with 100+ more participating online. Last year's event raised over $208K!

Please contact Jessica Oliver at joliver@woodscharter.org or 919.960.5393 for more information.

Personal Wireless Communication Device Policy

Purpose and Background. The School is committed to preparing students not only for academic achievement but also for responsible digital citizenship. The School seeks to empower students to stay focused, build healthy habits, and make safe, responsible choices with their wireless devices—skills that extend beyond the classroom.

In July 2025, the North Carolina General Assembly enacted **House Bill 959 (S.L. 2025-38)**, which, among other things, directs all public schools to implement procedures and guidelines limiting the use of wireless communication devices in public schools to minimize disruptions to the learning environment.

Based on HB 959 and the School's desire to limit disruption, this policy is established to help students thrive in a safe, respectful, and focused school environment.

Definition. A Wireless Communication Device ("WCD" or "Wireless Devices") includes, without limitation, cell phones, tablet computers, paging devices, two-way radios, gaming devices, headphones, earbuds, smartwatches, and any other device by which wireless communications may occur.

General Restriction (During School). Students must keep their Wireless Devices secured in their lockers (or book bags if lockers are not used) during the school day.

[INSERT DESIRED SCOPE OF RESTRICTION BEYOND INSTRUCTIONAL TIME]

Exceptions. Exceptions to these restrictions include:

(1) If authorized by a teacher for educational purposes or for use in the event of an emergency. The governing body may establish parameters to be followed by a teacher in granting authorizations.

(2) As required by the student's individualized education program or section 504 (29 U.S.C. § 794) plan.

(3) As required to manage a student's health care, in accordance with a documented medical condition.

Disciplinary Measures

In the event a student does not comply with this policy, the School will follow a supportive, step-based approach focused on accountability and reflection:

Offense	Action Taken	Consequence	Parent Notification
1st	Device to office	Warning issued	Not Required
2nd	Device to office	Phone Check-In for 2 weeks	Parents Notified
3rd	Device to office	After-School Detention Phone Check-In for 2 weeks	Parents Notified
4th	Device to office	In-School Suspension Phone Check-In for Trimester	Parents Notified

Administrative Discretion. The School administration shall have reasonable discretion to apply this policy based on the unique circumstances of each situation.

Carolina BUS SALES | Sales, Service & Parts

Purchasing Agreement

9/11/25

Woods Charter School
160 Woodland Grove Lane
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Contact Name: Ann Kaiyala
Contact Phone: 919-960-8353
Contact Email: akaiyala@woodscharter.org

Stock #1486
2012 Freightliner Thomas C-2
Vin #4UZABRDT4CCBJ2843
Mileage: 121K
Passenger: 78
$32,900.00

Stock # 1488
2011 Chevrolet Thomas
1GB3G3BG8B1176462
Mileage: 97K
Passenger: 14
$36,900.00

List Price:	**$69,800.00**
Package Discount:	**-$ 7,000.00**
IMF Tax:	**$ N/A**
Total:	**$62,800.00** FOB Chesnee, SC

Price Includes:
Clean & Detail

Buses subject to prior sale.

Purchaser agrees to pay a non refundable deposit in the amount of **$ N/A**. Purchaser agrees to take delivery of vehicle within five (5) days after Seller notifies that bus is ready.

Absent an agreement, in writing, to the contrary, Purchaser agrees to make payment in full and take receipt of vehicle no later than 5 days after Seller has notified Purchaser that vehicle is available and ready for pick up.

Absent an agreement, in writing, to the contrary, it is understood that Purchaser will arrange for pick-up of the vehicle at the Seller's place of business. If the Purchaser desires for the Seller to deliver the vehicle, Purchaser shall notify Seller of the desire as of the date of the Agreement. Any delivery charges incurred by the Seller shall be paid in advance, by the Purchaser.

Any amounts owed by the Purchaser to the Seller shall be paid prior to the vehicle being delivered to the Purchaser at the agreed place of delivery. Failure to pay any amounts owed the Seller will result in delivery being delayed until payment in full is received by the Seller. Payment shall be made by cashier's check, money order or wire transfer. PO Numbers are accepted as quarantine of payment in full, but monies must be paid before bus will be released to Purchaser.

This is a legally binding contract between Seller and Purchaser. Purchaser agrees to purchase the above-described vehicle from Seller, and if Purchaser fails to perform as obligated pursuant to the Contract, and Seller has to retain the services of legal counsel to seek payment or enforce the terms of the Contract, Purchaser shall be liable to Seller for any damages sustained by Seller, including, without limitation, any costs and attorney's fees incurred by Seller.

Purchaser	Title	Date
Carolina Bus Sales & Service LLC.	Title	Date

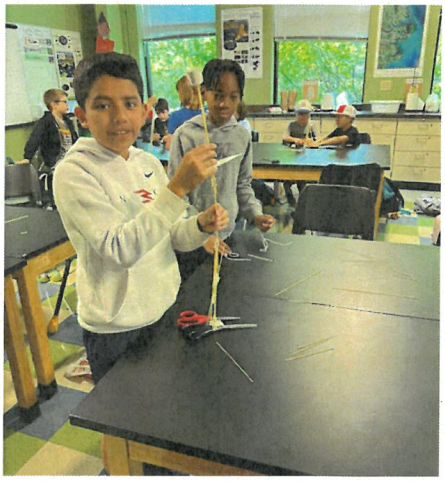
September 2025 Faculty Board Report

Prepared by Rachel Lawrence, 9/18/2025

The year is off to a great start! High School hosted a club fair to help students learn about and connect with clubs they may be interested in.

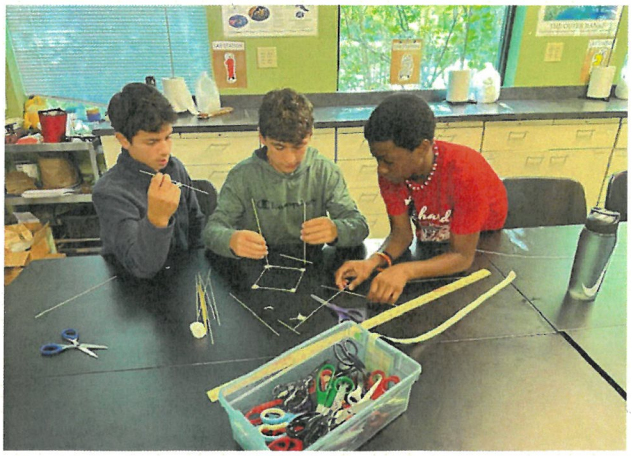


Elementary teachers are all using Mystery Science this year to unify the science curriculum and align it with the North Carolina standards. Kits will be distributed to all elementary classrooms by the end of this week.



Ms. Dowden's middle and high school engineering students just completed a unit on computer aided drafting and design. Middle school students used Sketchup and Tinkercad to create and print 3D models. High school students used Sketchup to create and print their designs.

Middle school students have been working on STEM challenges practicing collaboration, teamwork, building and prototyping skills.



High School Biology students also worked to build towers that had to hold 100 pennies, including budgeting for and "purchasing" materials!





The creative writing class in middle school is doing research and meeting with first grade to write a children's book this semester. In this picture they are showing how to act out the voices of characters.

The 7-12 science team (Jess W-G, Jess S., Lindis C., Denise O'G.) has started attending a year-long training to implement the new science standards, which emphasize integrating Science and Engineering Practices into core content objectives. They spent two days (September 3 & 4) at the S-cubed training at The Science House at NC State. They will continue to meet in person and via online check-ins with their cohort throughout the year.

AP Statistics Students collected data to help learn about linear regression by bungee jumping action figures with rubber bands, at the end of their unit they'll compete to see whose action figure can Bungee the closest to the ground without hitting it, predicting how many rubber bands they need using the statistical tools they've learned.



Led by Environmental Science Educator Denise O'Gorman, the high school is celebrating Fat Bear Week!



Woods teachers participate in a wide variety of professional development opportunities over the summer, thanks to the generous support of the Woods Charter Foundation and school families who donate to the annual fund. This past summer activities included:

- A variety of trainings completed by Occupational Therapist Angela Bell:
    - Assessment and Integration of Primitive Reflexes
    - Series for Childhood Trauma Consultant:
        - Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Its Connection to Trauma
        - Adverse Childhood Experiences
        - Toxic Stress: Causes, Consequences and Interventions
        - Complex Trauma Among Pediatric Populations
        - Childhood Trauma and Executive Function Deficits
        - Childhood Trauma and Self-Regulation Deficits: Screening, Intervention, and Common Concerns & Complications
        - Childhood Trauma and Theory of Mind
        - Childhood Trauma and Sleep Disturbances
        - Trauma-Informed Treatment Interventions for Pediatric Therapists
        - Neurodevelopmental Disorders and Adverse Life Experiences
    - The Tao of Client-Centered OT: Deepening Your Practice
    - Integrating Evidence Based Keyboarding
    - Ethical Considerations in Rehabilitation: A Clinical Perspective for Therapists
- Rachel Lawrence and Craig Carlson attended the SACAC Summer Seminar in Nashville, TN. This included three college tours and a variety of sessions presented by High School College counselors and College Admissions Counselors from across the country on a variety of topics including how to write better letters of recommendation, FAFSA, the importance School Profiles, and understanding exceptional admissions processes such as Military Academies and recruited athletes.
- Gwendolen Bushek attended a two-day Yearbook "camp" to learn the latest trends, mingle with peers, and refresh all things yearbook.
- Teacher Discovery Grant recipient Vanessa Costa completed her planned trip to Spain and has already presented to the Foundation Board about her experience. She will present to the faculty soon.
- Kelly Norris began her MSA at UNC. She completed two subjects over the summer: educational law, and the social context of educational leadership