

the COMPASS

BOYD-BUCHANAN SCHOOL 2025



Our MISSION



Boyd-Buchanan School offers a loving, Christ-centered environment fully nurturing the spiritual, intellectual, social, and physical potential of each student.

Boyd-Buchanan is a rare and special place for preparing students to walk with the Lord and to embrace life's challenges with joy, courage, and wisdom.

Our LEADERSHIP



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HEAD OF SCHOOL

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CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

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CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

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UPPER SCHOOL DEAN OF STUDENTS

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MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION HEAD

Kami Horton
MIDDLE SCHOOL DEAN OF STUDENTS

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LOWER SCHOOL DIVISION HEAD

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DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

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the **COMPASS**

BOYD-BUCHANAN SCHOOL 2025

Dear Boyd-Buchanan Community,

As Head of School, it is a true blessing to write to you as the leader of this incredible community of faith, learning, and service. Whether you are a long-time member of our school family or have just joined us, thank you for your commitment to partnering with us in our mission to educate students with academic excellence, strong character, and a foundation rooted in Jesus Christ.

At Boyd-Buchanan School, we believe that Christian education is fundamental in students' development of a Biblical worldview. We are called to cultivate the hearts and minds of students so they can stand strong in their faith, pursue God's calling, and impact the world around them.

While leading this school, I often reflect upon the direction and future goals of our school. Whether the focus is on academic opportunities, meeting the needs of families, or impacting the spiritual development of our students, we must be clear about our direction. When our world is filled with shifting values and changing priorities, our compass must be set on the unchanging truth of God's Word.

A compass always points north. In much the same way, we believe that Jesus Christ is our true North. He is our unwavering guide for all we do. He shapes our vision, grounds our values, and directs the hearts of our students as they grow in faith, knowledge, and character.

As our school continues to grow in our new mission and vision, we believe it's time for our annual report to better reflect who we are and where we're headed. Our annual report was named the Projector for many years. However, we have decided to transition from Projector to Compass. A compass symbolizes direction, clarity, and our Christ-centered focus as we guide students spiritually and academically. Our desire is for this publication to consistently reflect our community's commitment toward God's truth and purpose.

As we reflect upon the past, we give God the glory for the many blessings he has bestowed upon Boyd-Buchanan School. As we look to the future, may we keep our eyes fixed on Him.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

· PROVERBS 3:5-6 ·

Blessings,
Dr. Renee Murley

SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY

CHAPEL *in the pac*

Over the past two years, Boyd-Buchanan's Chapel and Spiritual Life program has been shaped by the themes "His Purpose" and, most recently, "Chosen." These themes have influenced chapel programming, speaker selection, and broader spiritual formation across campus, helping students reflect deeply on their identity in Christ and the calling He places on their lives. This year marked the first full year of chapel in the Performing Arts Center, a space that has transformed our gatherings by offering an intentional setting for worship. In this environment, students are better able to quiet distractions and lift their hearts and voices fully to God, making chapel a more focused and reverent experience.

The speaker lineup reflected our diverse faith community, featuring local ministers, faculty and staff, and alumni, including a powerful alumni panel sharing stories of faith beyond high school. We were also honored to welcome speakers from outside of the Chattanooga area like David Skidmore from North Boulevard Church of Christ in Murfreesboro, TN, whose message resonated deeply with students, and David Francisco who shared

his powerful testimony about overcoming adversity through God's forgiveness and love.

Looking ahead, the program continues to grow with the addition of Wednesday morning devotionals for athletic teams and monthly summer worship nights that invite students to gather in praise beyond the school day. The direction of the program is rooted in creating more spaces for connection, reflection, and student leadership. Whether through peer-led devotionals, service projects, or small group discipleship, our goal is to help students understand and live out their faith with boldness.

Spiritual life at Boyd-Buchanan is becoming increasingly integrated into every aspect of school culture, from the stage in chapel to the sidelines of athletic fields, and everywhere in between. These efforts reflect a continued commitment to spiritual growth that is joyful, guided by wisdom, and boldly directed toward Christ, a vision that perfectly reflects the heart of The Compass.



The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

Me nyame ye!
(Ghanaian for "My Lord is Good")

SPIRITUALLY *growing*

We are excited to share an important update regarding spiritual leadership for the 2025-2026 school year. As we continue to strengthen our commitment to the spiritual growth of our students and community, we are pleased to announce two key appointments:

Ross Wortman will serve as our new Spiritual Life Director. A 2017 Boyd-Buchanan alumnus, Ross has served in the BBS Math Department since 2021. He holds a degree from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, along with additional training in campus ministry. Ross brings a deep passion for mentoring students and fostering spiritual growth across all grade levels.

"My time at Boyd-Buchanan as a student had a large part in shaping my spiritual journey," Ross said. "I am so excited to be serving BBS in this way."

Anna McClung will take on the role of Spiritual Curriculum Coordinator. Anna brings a strong background in both ministry and education, with experience teaching Bible history to middle school students and writing Bible study curriculum for youth at Precept International Ministries. She holds a Master of Divinity from Candler School of Theology at Emory University and a Bachelor of Arts in Religion from Samford University, both magna cum laude. Anna has also led worship, coordinated spiritual retreats, and provided pastoral care in various ministry settings.

Anna said, "Working at BBS this year has renewed my spirit in a way that I didn't expect. I'm honored to be given the opportunity



to help foster a community where the presence of Jesus is felt, His characteristics are displayed among His people, and discipling under Him is taken seriously."

Together, Ross and Anna will work closely with students and families to ensure our spiritual life programs continue to foster growth, community, and faith. They will also provide resources and support for families seeking spiritual growth tools at home, collaborate with the Lower School to facilitate mentorship programs, assist with PreK-5 curriculum development, and offer pastoral care campus-wide.

Both of these roles are essential as we seek to nurture the spiritual development of every student and maintain a Christ-centered environment on campus. Please join us in congratulating Ross and Anna on these new positions! We are confident that their leadership and passion for spiritual growth will continue to bless and strengthen our school community.

GHANA *mission*

"I recently returned from a life-changing mission trip to Ghana, Africa. Our team traveled through several cities, staying at the Village of Hope and the Pearl House—two places that serve children facing incredibly difficult circumstances, such as poverty, orphanhood, and abuse.

Despite these hardships, the children were full of love, faith, and gratitude. Living among them opened my eyes to how blessed I am and showed me the importance of community, faith, and simplicity. At the Village of Hope, I formed deep connections with the children and was especially impacted by a girl named Grace, whom my family now sponsors.

Our time at the Pearl House involved service projects, such as painting and organizing, while witnessing the strength and resilience of the girls being given a second chance at life.

This experience taught me to slow down, disconnect from distractions, and draw closer to God."

- Evie Winn

CITY of children

James 1:27 says “Religion that God accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress.”

For over 20 years, Boyd-Buchanan School students have lived this verse at the City of Children in Ensenada, Mexico. Students spend a week building relationships and showing God’s love to the children at this special place. It’s a life changing experience and one that hundreds of students over the years have enjoyed.



Rooted IN SERVICE Growing IN LEADERSHIP

BOYD-BUCHANAN'S FFA CHAPTER CULTIVATES PURPOSE AND DIRECTION

As the first independent school in Tennessee to earn an official FFA chapter number, Boyd-Buchanan has nurtured a thriving, award-winning program since 2018, now 76 members strong. Centered on premier leadership, personal growth, and career success, our FFA chapter embodies the theme of The Compass: guiding students toward lives of purpose and stewardship.

This year, over 50 students earned Greenhand or Chapter Degrees in a ceremony attended by Tennessee agricultural leaders. Students received awards for leadership, community service, and scholarship, including FFA belt buckles and the prestigious State FFA Degree, earned by seniors Braden Deal, Eli Johnson, and Harper Sims.

Our chapter also made history with original entries in the Tennessee Valley Fair's Agricultural Photography and Mechanics competitions, bringing home top prizes. Members participated in state events like the Tennessee Leadership Summit and represented Boyd-Buchanan at the State Convention in Gatlinburg, where we received six chapter awards—including Superior Chapter and Platinum PLOW for our literacy efforts.

From hosting Ag Night with the Lookouts to reading “Rah, Rah, Radishes!” to elementary students, FFA members gave back through hands-on community service, totaling hundreds of volunteer hours. Seventeen officers led the charge, embodying integrity, creativity, and spiritual leadership.

Looking ahead, the chapter continues to grow its agricultural infrastructure, expanding gardens, classroom spaces, and animal care areas. Whether planting seeds, writing speeches, or mentoring younger students, FFA members are growing in faith, leadership, and vision for the future.

At Boyd-Buchanan, FFA is more than a program—it's a path.



SERVICE learning

Our BBS Service Learning ministry involves both middle and upper school students and attempts to accomplish three specific purposes. First, to help our students learn to model Jesus who “came not to be served, but to serve” (Mark 10:45). Secondly, to “love our neighbor” (Matthew 22:36-40) by helping those in our community who need assistance. Thirdly, to bring greater glory to GOD and shine as a “light” in the world (Matthew 5:16). Most weeks during the school year, middle and upper school students have the opportunity to sign up for service opportunities in the community. **Over the past four years BBS has partnered with more than 20 different organizations as well as individuals who need assistance.**

During the 2024-2025 school year we were able to complete 72 service learning trips with our Upper School students. 287 Upper School students participated in at least one service learning trip (many participated in more than one trip). Here are the organizations we were able to assist.

Audubon Acres
Chambliss Center for Children
Chattanooga Area Food Bank
East Brainerd Church of Christ (“Snack Packs” & “Father’s Table”)
Meow Meow & Jelly Bean Bunny Animal Rescue Farm
Orange Grove Center
Special Olympics
Camp WilderNest
Chattanooga Parks & Recreation
Martin Boyd Christian Home
Ronald McDonald House
Wreaths Across America



During the 2024-2025 school year we were able to complete 26 service learning trips with our Middle School students on Monday mornings at the Chattanooga Area Food Bank. 117 Middle School students participated in at least one service learning trip during the school year (many participated in more than one trip).



STEAM *program*



Just like a compass helps travelers stay on course, our STEAM program equips students with the tools and mindset to explore, create, and move forward with purpose.

At the heart of our program are the four C's—Creativity, Collaboration, Communication, and Critical Thinking. These skills act as a compass in a rapidly changing world, helping students navigate challenges, explore new ideas, and grow into confident problem-solvers.

The purpose of our STEAM initiative is to foster curiosity, hands-on learning, and real-world thinking. Students are encouraged to ask questions, test solutions, learn from failure, and design with empathy—skills that extend far beyond the classroom.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS YEAR'S JOURNEY

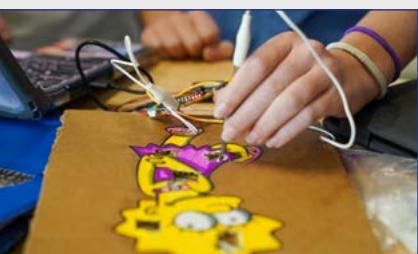
This school year has been full of exciting STEAM experiences that have empowered students to take ownership of their learning. Here are just a few highlights that show how students applied their skills and imagination:

- 3-D Printed Artifacts in Bible Class:** In a unique collaboration between STEAM and 6th-grade Bible, students studied the structure and symbolism of the Tabernacle and brought their learning to life by designing and 3D printing replicas of its sacred artifacts. This cross-curricular project deepened understanding and sparked meaningful connections between faith, design, and history.
- Hands-On Digital Fabrication:** Students across grade levels learned to use 3D printers and laser cutters to transform their designs into tangible creations. From custom-designed keychains and bookmarks to flat-packed chairs students developed practical skills and pride in their work.
- Coding and Robotics Challenges:** Through projects with Sphero robots and micro:bits, students practiced logical thinking and teamwork. Whether solving mazes, simulating animal behavior, or connecting movement to literature, these challenges made coding both meaningful and fun.
- EcoColumns and Environmental Learning:** In our 7th grade science-integrated STEAM unit, students designed and built their own eco-columns—small, self-contained ecosystems—to explore how energy flows and matter cycles through natural systems. These hands-on experiments connected science concepts to real-world environmental awareness.
- Designing for Others:** Students were challenged to use the design process to create projects that serve others. From personalized gifts for school staff to solving classroom problems, students discovered how design can build connection and community.

CHARTING THE PATH AHEAD

As we prepare for a new school year, we're excited to expand our focus on design thinking, deepen cross-curricular projects, and continue providing students with real-world learning experiences.

Our STEAM program is more than just science and tech—it's a mindset. It's about helping students discover who they are as learners, thinkers, and creators. We are deeply grateful to our families, staff, and community stakeholders for supporting this journey.



DUAL *enrollment*

Dual enrollment allows high school junior and senior students to earn both high school and college credit simultaneously by taking college-level courses. In partnership with Chattanooga State Community College, our school launched its dual enrollment program in the 2024-2025 school year with five course offerings. The program quickly gained popularity, with over 40 students participating in its first year. Because of Tennessee's Dual Enrollment Grant Program, our high school students who live in the state of Tennessee were able to participate in the dual enrollment courses and receive up to five college courses for free. Due to the strong student interest and success of the initial launch, we are expanding the program with additional course offerings for the 2025-2026 school year.

BBS dual enrollment program quickly gained popularity, with over 40 students participating in its first year.



SOAR *program*

Boyd-Buchanan School is committed to supporting students with a variety of unique learning needs across grades PK-12 through a Christ-centered approach to academic support. We offer two distinct programs designed to meet students where they are and help them grow into confident, independent learners. Our **Academic Coaching** program serves middle and high school students with documented learning disabilities by equipping them with tools and strategies to strengthen executive functioning skills such as organization, time management, study habits, and self-advocacy. Academic Coaches work closely with classroom teachers to ensure personalized support and accountability. For students who require more structured and targeted intervention, our **SOAR program** offers individualized educational plans, goal-setting, and differentiated instruction in a nurturing environment. SOAR supports learners in grades PK-12 with documented learning disabilities through services such as pre-teaching and re-teaching of core content, progress monitoring, and close collaboration with families and faculty. Both programs aim to prepare students for post-secondary success while fostering a love of learning with a supportive school experience.

MELISSA CONN | DIRECTOR OF SOAR





Exploring the World of Science

BBS finished

1ST IN ENTOMOLOGY

Carter Brown and Kylie Beagle

1ST IN FORENSICS

Cole Brewer and Paul Tran

2ND IN ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY

Eshanth Eriki and Jillian Schuster

2ND IN BUNGEE DROP

Zachary Moses and Pierce Nelson

2ND IN WIND POWER

Lance Wamaitha and Noah Weeks

3RD IN HELICOPTER

Lance Wamaitha

3RD IN MICROBE MISSION

Jillian Schuster and Kylie Beagle

3RD IN TOWER

Eshanth Eriki and Royce Robertson

4TH IN ECOLOGY

Channing Edmonds and Paul Tran

4TH IN GEOLOGICAL MAPPING

Carter Brown and Zachary Moses

4TH IN OPTICS

Lance Wamaitha and Cole Brewer

4TH IN ROBOT TOUR

Majdi Alameddine



Encouraged both by their success and the tremendous amount of fun they had, the team is already planning ahead. Next year they aim to expand and field two teams, giving even more students the opportunity to explore the world of science and discover where their own compass may lead them.



Vimalnath Selvam

THE REWARD BOX: MERGING IMPULSE CONTROL AND ENGINEERING TO MOTIVATE BETTER HABITS

CONCEPT:

At its core, **The Reward Box** is a student-built behavioral modification system—designed to incentivize positive habits using technology and psychology. By requiring a user to complete a self-defined goal before a reward box unlocks, Vimalnath's project bridges electronics, app development, and cognitive theory in a unified device that makes discipline more engaging, and achievement more tangible.

PURPOSE & INSPIRATION:

The concept began with a simple question: How do we train ourselves to follow through? With inspiration drawn from psychology and the concept of positive reinforcement, Vimal's original prototype in 2022 explored whether a locked physical box—containing a treat, video game, or personal incentive—could be digitally triggered to open only after a specific goal was met.

Over time, the idea matured into a refined senior project focused on goal tracking, delayed gratification, and digital accountability.

Why it matters:

This project isn't about locking snacks in a box—it's about rethinking how technology can reinforce good behavior, strengthen discipline, and encourage young people to accomplish their goals with measurable structure. It's a fusion of smart tech and psychology that teaches users how to self-regulate, not just how to unlock a reward.

NEW SCIENCE OLYMPIAD TEAM FINDS ITS COMPASS IN A STRONG FIRST YEAR

The 2024-25 school year marked the debut of the new Boyd-Buchanan Science Olympiad Team that quickly made a name for itself despite a late start. Formed shortly before competition season, the team embraced the Science Olympiad slogan—Exploring the World of Science—and found its “compass” not in prior experience, but in determination, curiosity, and teamwork.

With only a rough map, the team began their journey and, with each practice, charted a course of discovery through topics ranging from towers to forensics, from bungee drop to entomology. Their efforts paid off at the regional competition at Columbia State Community College, where the team medaled in 12 out of 22 events—an impressive feat for a first-year squad.

CLUB Spotlight

ROBOTICS program

Since 2014, the Boyd-Buchanan Robotics Team has proudly represented our school on the global stage through the FIRST Robotics Competition—the premier international contest in high school robotics. Each year, more than 3,700 teams from across the world tackle a brand-new, complex engineering challenge that demands teamwork, innovation, and advanced problem-solving. Boyd-Buchanan holds the distinct honor of being **Chattanooga's only school to compete** in this elite event, showcasing not only technical excellence but also leadership, creativity, and school spirit.

"This season was one of our best in recent years, and the team truly came together to tackle every challenge. Their collaboration and determination led to some impressive successes, surpassing what we've accomplished in the past. At the Rocket City competition in Huntsville, our team showed exceptional skill and ingenuity.

This year's challenge involved placing several 3-inch PVC pieces onto a stand, scoring a 16-inch round ball into a hoop, and having the robot lift itself off the ground by hanging onto a chain, all while avoiding opponent robots. Every year, I'm amazed by how well our students design and build the robot with minimal guidance, but this year they truly exceeded expectations.

From the business team, who handled all the logistics and unexpected hurdles, to the scouting team, who gathered critical information about the competition, to the mechanical and electrical teams, whose work on the robot was outstanding—everyone played an essential role. **It was a fantastic team effort, and I couldn't be prouder of what we achieved."**

Jason Owens, Robotics Team Mentor



ACADEMIC AWARDS

& Honors

CARSON SCHOLARS 2024 & 2025:

Majdi Alameddine (2024) and **Cole Brewer (2025)** were named Carson Scholars for their academic achievements, humanitarian qualities, and community service. Both Majdi (class of 2026) and Cole (class of 2027) were chosen for the Carson Scholarship because they demonstrate the highest standards of academic achievement, integrity, and civic and social responsibility. Congratulations to Majdi and Cole on this nationally recognized honor.



VALEDICTORIAN AND CO-SALUTATORIANS OF THE CLASS OF 2025:

Emily Thomaee was named the **Valedictorian of the Class of 2025**. Emily has been a shining example of what it means to be both an outstanding student and a compassionate classmate in her time at Boyd-Buchanan. Her impact on this community has been felt in every corner of our school. Emily plans to attend East Tennessee State University and major in Nursing. Emily graduated with honors in English, mathematics, science, social science, world languages, and technology. Congratulations to Emily!



Houston Hicks was named a **Co-Salutatorian of the Class of 2025**. A dedicated member of the football team and a member of Student Council - where he served as the co-president of the student body, Houston has balanced excellence in the classroom with leadership on the athletic field and a clear commitment to making a difference. Houston plans to attend Centre College and major in Biochemistry. Houston graduated with honors in English, mathematics, science, and social science. Congratulations to Houston!



Iniya Sakthivel was named a **Co-Salutatorian of the Class of 2025**. Iniya balanced a wide range of commitments with grace and excellence. In every role she took on, Iniya brought a sense of responsibility, creativity, and unwavering dependability. Iniya plans to attend the University of Georgia and major in Data Science. Iniya graduated with honors in English, mathematics, social science, and technology. Congratulations to Iniya!



2025 TOP SCHOLARS



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY



NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY



NATIONAL SPANISH HONOR SOCIETY

ARTS



DANCE *program*

Boyd-Buchanan Dance Program 2024-2025 Year in Review
CINNAMON SMITH, DIRECTOR OF DANCE

This school year was one of incredible growth and momentum for the Boyd-Buchanan Dance Program.

We officially moved into our new state-of-the-art dance studio in the Performing Arts Center—complete with professional flooring, ballet barres, rolling mirrors, and inspiring artwork. We launched the year with guest artists, including Marie Dance, Aimee Maschhoff, and a commissioned piece by Laurel Zahrobsky for our Upper School Dance Company.

In early fall, both the Middle and Upper School Dance Companies performed at the Ignite! Dance Festival, taking master classes and appearing in Chattanooga Dances and the Dance Gala. Senior Abbie Hilbert's original choreography was also selected and praised during the festival's student showcase.

Throughout the year, our dancers contributed to campus spirit—performing at football games, pep rallies, and school events. Many Upper School dancers starred in *Hadestown*, which received 11 Jewel Award nominations.

In the spring, we proudly hosted our first-ever Dance Concert in the Performing Arts Center—a fully produced evening of performance that showcased our students' talent and passion. We also took part in Arts A-La-Carte and the Jewel Awards workshops.

Looking Ahead to 2025-2026

We'll launch the year with our summer Dance Intensive, featuring guest artists, master classes, and another new commissioned piece. We're excited to return to Ignite!, collaborate with the band, and perform in next year's musical, *The Little Mermaid*.

Thank you for your continued support of the Boyd-Buchanan Dance Program and Performing Arts Department.



HADESTOWN



JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH, JR.

THEATRE *program*

The theatre program at Boyd-Buchanan School is alive and well and is serving over 200 students through our theatre classes, theatrical productions, and after-school enrichment opportunities for lower school students. While these things are not new to BBS this year, they are certainly more visual and vibrant because we now have a dedicated state-of-the-art performance space to showcase these students and their amazing talent.

The upper school theatre students took on the challenge of producing *Hadestown*, a show that weaves together the classic Greek myths of Orpheus and Eurydice, along with Hades and Persephone, into a modern, soulful story about love, sacrifice, and the choices we make when faced with impossible odds.

This production is set in a unique, immersive world, combining jazz, folk, and blues with a gritty aesthetic to bring the underworld to life. Our students have worked incredibly hard on every element of this performance—from singing and acting to creating striking moments of choreography, light, and sound. I hope that, as you watch, you will be transported alongside them into the haunting, inspiring journey of *Hadestown*.

None of this would have been possible without the creative team that has supported, challenged, and inspired both me and these students along the way. I am truly grateful to work alongside such talented individuals who have poured their hearts into this production.”

- Lori Wortman, Director of Performing Art



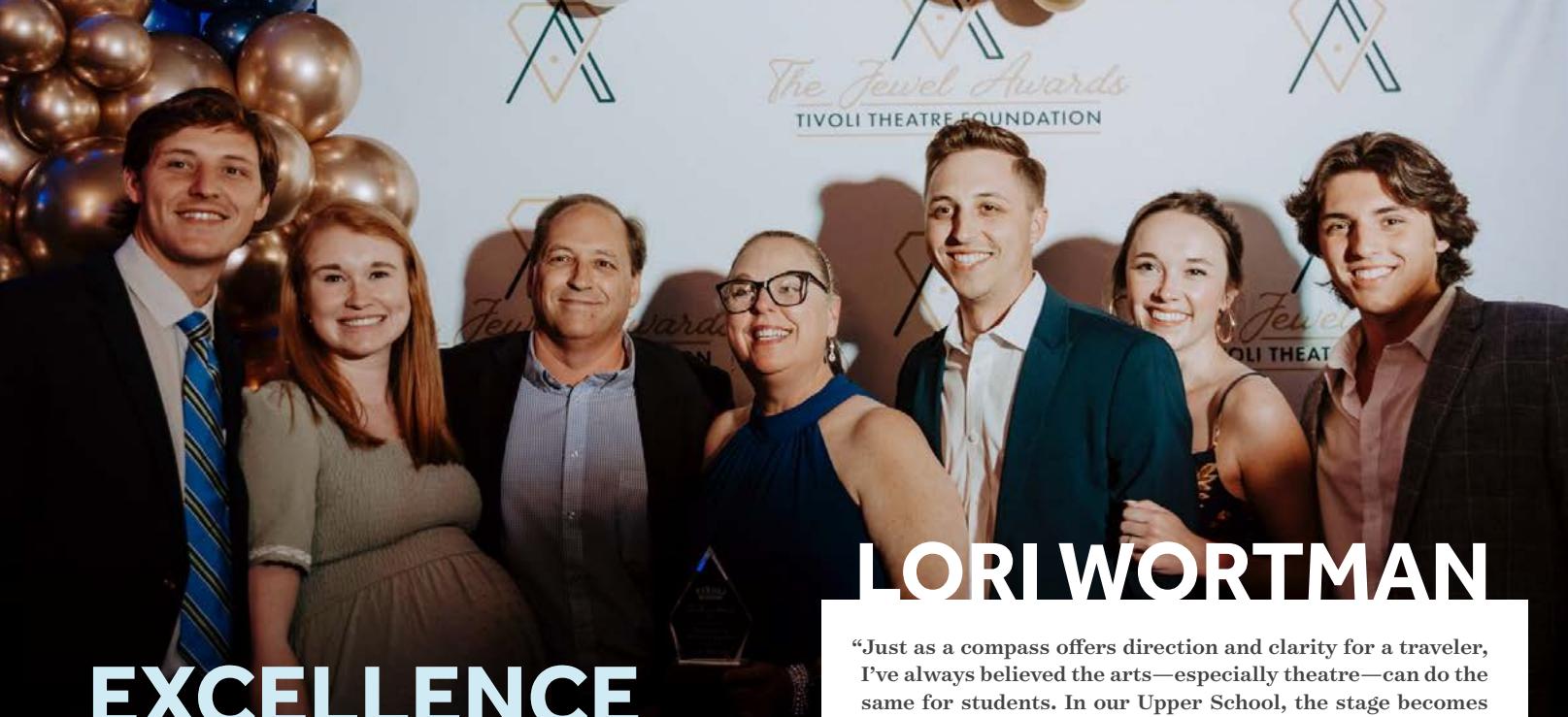
▲
The middle school chorus gave a delightful performance of *James and the Giant Peach, Jr.*, a whimsical musical about a young boy named James who, after losing his parents, embarks on a magical adventure inside a giant peach. Alongside a group of friendly, talking insects, James travels across the ocean, learning about friendship, courage, and finding family in unexpected places.

JEWEL AWARD *nominees*

This year, our cast and production of *Hadestown* were nominated for the following awards:

- Best Musical: Nominee
- Best Music Direction: Nominee
- Best Choreography: Nominee
- Best Ensemble: Nominee
- Best Technical Execution: Nominee
- Outstanding Dancer: Meredith Maschhoff: Nominee
- Outstanding Dramatic Actress: Abigail Lambert Won
- Outstanding Ensemble Actor: Lance Wamaitha: Nominee
- Outstanding Female vocalist: AJ Stone: Won
- Jimmy Award Best Actor/Actress: Thomas Sykes and AJ Stone
- Jimmy Award Best Actor Finalist: Thomas Sykes
- Adjudicator's Choice Recognition: Social Media

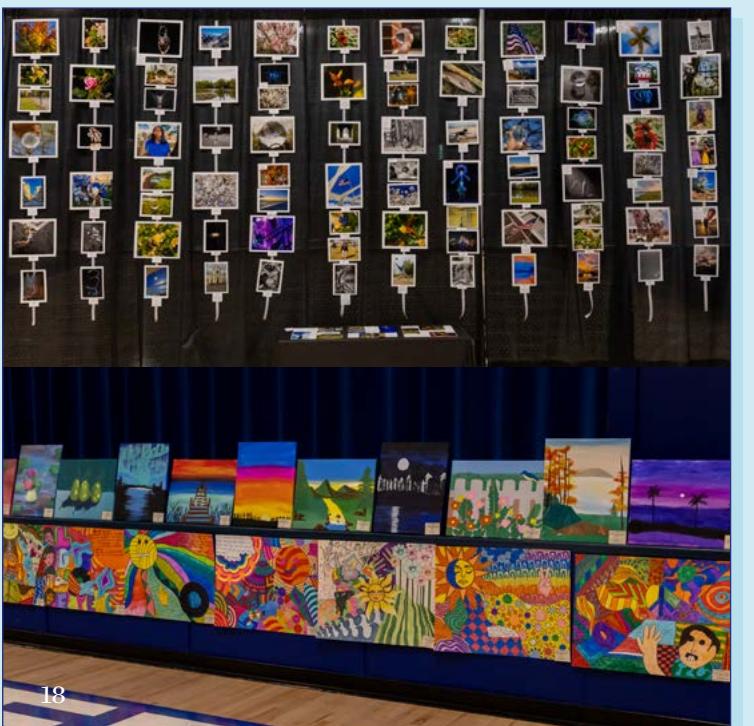
Chattanooga's high school musical theatre awards program, **The Jewel Awards**, seeks to cultivate a theatre community that supports, encourages, and grows high school theatre programs. Participating schools have access to community-building and learning opportunities each year as they work toward their musical productions. Schools receive constructive feedback and scores from a panel of theatre, music, dance, and design professionals at the Adjudication Level. Awards honoring these schools' achievements are given at the annual Jewel Awards ceremony in the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Auditorium. 99



EXCELLENCE in theatre education AWARD

ARTS a-la-carte

This year was the 10th anniversary of this event. It is a highlight of the year as it showcases all of the visual and performing arts students from the middle and upper schools. It is a day to see hundreds of art and photography pieces, as well as over 150 student performers in band, chorus, and dance, and individual performers on our spotlight stage.



LORI WORTMAN

"Just as a compass offers direction and clarity for a traveler, I've always believed the arts—especially theatre—can do the same for students. In our Upper School, the stage becomes more than a place for performance. It becomes a space where students grow in confidence, character, collaboration, and creativity. It's where they learn to listen, to lead, to persevere, and to take risks in the safety of a supportive community.

Last year, I was honored to receive the Excellence in Theatre Education Award, presented by the Tivoli Theatre Foundation. This recognition is given to a theatre educator who goes above and beyond in their work, building deeper curriculum connections and making a positive impact on students and the broader community. It is based on nominations submitted by school leaders and selected by the Foundation's Board of Directors, and it includes a generous scholarship for our theatre department.

While I am deeply grateful for the recognition, the real reward is walking alongside students as they discover who they are and where they're going—not just on stage, but in life. Theatre offers a powerful way to explore ideas, navigate challenges, and understand the world more deeply. If I've helped students find their direction through the arts, then I've done what I set out to do."

- Lori Wortman, Fine Arts Department Chair



PAC grand opening

The new Performing Arts Center marks a significant milestone for our school, as it serves as a hub for creativity, innovation, and cultural enrichment. The center boasts additional classrooms, office spaces, and a fully equipped auditorium, providing a dynamic space for musical and theatrical performances, as well as weekly Chapel programs.



Welcome COACHES and Staff



Tracey Walker '89
SENIOR WOMEN'S ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATOR



Matt Hoppe
HEAD MEN'S BASKETBALL COACH



Sarah Bowles
HEAD SOFTBALL COACH



Adam Connell
MIDDLE SCHOOL WRESTLING COACH



Dustin Walker
HEAD UPPER SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY COACH



Ashley Walker
HEAD UPPER SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY COACH



Wes Moore
HEAD WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COACH



Bobbi Troxell
HEAD WOMEN'S LACROSSE COACH



Cory Lusk
MIDDLE SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL COACH

Go Bucs!

HALL OF Fame

Pictured below left

Michael Gaines '92 – A versatile three-sport athlete, Gaines excelled in basketball, scoring over 2,500 points. He earned All-City honors and was named the 1992 Scrappy Moore Male Athlete of the Year.

Matt Peardon '05 – Boyd-Buchanan's only TSSAA Mr. Football award winner, Peardon led the Bucs' rushing attack to three consecutive state championship appearances.

Will Healy '03 (Rob Healy pictured here, father) – A standout in football and basketball, Healy was a four-time All-Region and two-time All-State football selection, as well as a Mr. Football finalist. He is currently the head football coach at ETSU.

Tracey Barnett Walker '89 – A star in softball and basketball, Walker helped lead the Lady Bucs softball team to three straight state finals, winning titles in 1987 and 1989.

Jeff Legg '85 – Boyd-Buchanan's first football All-State selection, Legg was a top punter in Chattanooga and went on to play at UTC.

Joe Legg – A dedicated assistant coach for Lady Bucs softball, Legg helped guide the team to three state finals, including championships in 1987 and 1989.

ATHLETICS



LAX WOMEN'S Team

Boyd-Buchanan School proudly completed its inaugural Women's Lacrosse season, launching an exciting new chapter for both Middle and Upper School athletics. In this first year of TSSAA-sanctioned play, over 35 girls joined the program under Head Coach Bobbi Troxell and Assistant Coach Cole Foster ('24), showing strong enthusiasm and commitment.

A season highlight came as the Middle School team earned its first victory, defeating Signal Mountain 8-4—a milestone that reflects the team's rapid growth and rising school spirit.

With a strong foundation in place, Boyd-Buchanan Women's Lacrosse is poised for a bright and promising future.



BUCCANEER Accomplishments

- Swimming - Brody Harcrow - 2024 State Qualifier in Swimming State Meet, 2025 Alex Brumley-3rd place TISCA State Diving Meet
- 2024 Baseball Team - TSSAA Final Four
- 2024-2025 Men's and Women's Bowling - East Region Champions- TSSAA State Tournament Qualifier
- 2024 Football Team - TSSAA Final Four
- 2024 Girls Golf Team - State Finalist
- 2024 Wrestling - TSSAA Duals State Finalist
- 2024 Cheer-FCC - National Champions, 2025 - UCA Semi-Finalist
- 2025 Ethan Lane - Tennessee Titans Mr. Football Award Finalist
- 2025 David Green - Tennessee Titans Mr. Football Award Semi-Finalist
- 2024 Girls Cross Country Team - TSSAA State Meet Qualifier
- 2024-2025 Over 30 College Athletic Signees
- 2024 Girls Track - Lesley Burton - State Champion- Shot Put 2025 Ireland O'Connor- State Champion - High Jump 2025 Lesley Burton- State Champion - Shot Put
- 2024 Boys Track - Mason Bates- State Champion - Discus 2025 Jayden Moore - State Champion - 100M 2025 4x 100 Relay Champions 2025 Will White - State Champion - Shot Put and Discus
- 2024-2025 35 All State Selections
- 2025 Girls Tennis Team - State Tournament



2024 & 2025 TRACK STATE CHAMPIONS



GARY RANKIN | NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME

MATT POBIEGLO | TSSAA ATHLETIC DIR. OF THE YEAR



2024 MEN'S SOCCER STATE CHAMPIONS



MALLOREE HARR | 2024 JUNIOR USA NATIONAL TEAM



BBS COLLEGE ATHLETICS Signees

SLATE SMITH - MEN'S LACROSSE - COKER UNIVERSITY

SAM JONES - MEN'S SOCCER - WEST LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

JADA SANDERS - WOMEN'S BASKETBALL - COVENANT COLLEGE

LOGAN MARTIN - BASEBALL- BRYAN COLLEGE

NOAH ELAM - MEN'S LACROSSE - YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE

HUDSON WAMACK - FOOTBALL - WOFFORD COLLEGE

BRAYDEN STANDEFER - FOOTBALL- MARYVILLE COLLEGE

ETHAN LANE - FOOTBALL - EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

HOUSTON HICKS - FOOTBALL - CENTRE COLLEGE

FISTON MUGISHA - SOCCER - PELLISSIPPI STATE

HAYDEN SARCHET - SOCCER - TREVECCA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

DREW POLLARD - SOCCER - LEE UNIVERSITY

JAYDEN MOORE - TRACK - MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

BRODIE LOWE - BASEBALL - ROANE STATE

HUDSON SPEARES - BASEBALL - CLEVELAND STATE

XAVIER EMBRY - BASEBALL - PELLISSIPPI STATE

HADEN GRIFFITH - BASEBALL - PELLISSIPPI STATE

CAMPUS *improvements*

WEIGHT ROOM RENOVATIONS

Our Buccaneer Athletic Complex has recently been improved in several impactful ways. Primarily, investments have been made in infrastructure improvements such as flooring upgrades to ensure a safe and conducive environment for our athletes and customized equipment, enhancing their training experience and performance potential.

Additionally, cutting-edge technology has been integrated, including cameras to track athlete movement at the weight rack, enabling the monitoring of quality and performance data crucial for optimizing training regimes. A notable addition will include Catapult fitness tracker vests, which offer invaluable insights to optimize performance and mitigate injury risks.



ROLAND HALL RENOVATIONS

Completed in September 2024, the renovation and expansion of the Boyd-Buchanan Dining Hall has transformed the way our students experience meals together. The upgraded kitchen now features state-of-the-art equipment, allowing our dining team to provide nutritious, high-quality meals with greater efficiency. The redesigned layout with multiple serving lines and an improved traffic flow has made lunchtime transitions smoother and more enjoyable for students across all grades. With over 3,900 additional square feet, the expanded space now allows our entire student body to gather and eat together in one inviting, communal setting. This renovation not only enhances the daily dining experience but also strengthens the sense of connection and belonging that defines our Buccaneer family.

NEW SOCCER FIELD

We're excited to share that construction is underway on a brand-new soccer field at Boyd-Buchanan School. Located at the North Moore Road entrance, this addition reflects our ongoing investment in student life, athletics, and community connection.

Designed to support both competitive play and school spirit, the new field will serve as a central hub for soccer teams, fans, and school events. We look forward to sharing progress updates along the way and celebrating together at a ribbon-cutting ceremony once the field is complete.

NEW TURF FIELD

Boyd-Buchanan School is proud to announce the renovation of David L. Boyd Field, featuring a new state-of-the-art turf system designed to enhance player safety, comfort, and performance. Installed by Turf of America, the new surface incorporates advanced sub-padding and Brock infill technology, which provides improved shock absorption and durability.

This innovative system reduces surface temperature, enhances cushion for all users, and creates a safer and more supportive environment for student-athletes and the entire school community. The upgrade ensures that Boyd-Buchanan continues to lead the way in providing top-quality facilities for its students, athletes, and programs.

The newly renovated field is not only a major investment in athletics but also a resource for the entire student body, offering a premier surface for physical education, school events, and community activities.



PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Opened in March 2024, our new Performing Arts Center was thoughtfully designed to inspire excellence in the arts while serving as a versatile space for community and fellowship.

The 480-seat auditorium offers a professional-grade performance environment for theater productions, concerts, weekly chapel services, guest speakers, and community gatherings. Beyond the stage, the building features a fully equipped choral room, music classroom, dance studio, and a dedicated STEAM lab, providing students from every division with the tools and space to explore and express their God-given gifts.



RECOGNITION

CONGRATS

DISTINGUISHED TENNESSEAN AWARD

Evie Winn, BBS Class of '25 received the Distinguished Tennessean Award from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. This award recognizes students with exceptional academic performance and demonstrated engagement in their community. One winner is chosen from each of Tennessee's counties, and Evie is the winner for Hamilton County.



MR. AND MISS BBS

Congrats to Mr. and Miss BBS, Thomas Sykes and Kate Wood, Class of 2025!



2025 BBS GRADUATING CLASS

BBS Graduates (Pictured at top)

Congratulations to the Boyd-Buchanan School Class of 2025! Your hard work, perseverance, and faith have brought you to this milestone moment. We celebrate your achievements and look forward with excitement to all that God has in store for your future. **Go Bucs!**

34 DIFFERENT
UNIVERSITY
ENROLLMENTS

38 NATIONAL
HONOR SOCIETY
MEMBERS

BUCCANEER *retirees*

To serve for decades with love, patience, and grace is a rare and beautiful gift. These educators have done more than teach lessons; they've nurtured hearts, built lasting connections, and blessed our community with a spirit that will continue to inspire for generations to come.



Mrs. Lori Bowen
SOAR DIRECTOR
Retired after 22 years of service .



Mrs. Edie Floyd
LOWER SCHOOL PRE-K
Retired after 31 years of service.



Mrs. Becky Brandt
UPPER SCHOOL ART
Retired after 33 years of service.



Mrs. Karen Hedgecorth
ENGLISH & SECONDARY LIBRARIAN
Retired after 26 years of service.



Mrs. Tina Lee
UPPER SCHOOL SPANISH
Retired after 36 years of service.

ALUMNI *update*



ALUMNI HONORS

BRODIE JOHNSTON
CLASS OF '24

Brodie Johnston, a freshman third baseman for Vanderbilt, was named the SEC Tournament MVP after a stellar performance in the 2025 SEC Baseball Tournament. He played a pivotal role in Vanderbilt's championship run, highlighted by a clutch two-run home run in the first inning of the title game against Ole Miss, which helped secure a 3-2 victory. Over the tournament, Johnston went 4-for-12 with a homer, two RBIs, and two runs scored—showcasing poise, power, and consistency that earned him the tournament's highest individual honor.



HARRISON VAN EATON
CLASS OF '20

Harrison Van Eaton received the **Torchbearer Award**, the University of Tennessee's highest honor for undergraduate students, recognizing his exceptional leadership, service, and academic achievement. A neuroscience major on the pre-physician assistant track, he served as vice president for health and safety for the Interfraternity Council and outreach chair for Beta Upsilon Chi's Matthew 5:16 Initiative. He also contributed through undergraduate research, volunteering, and clinical work at UT Medical Center, embodying the Volunteer spirit that defines this prestigious award.



COLE WEBSTER
CLASS OF '09

Cole Webster, President of Barn Nursery and President of Lana's Love Foundation, will be the recipient of the prestigious **2025 Dr. Hedrick Distinguished Service Award**. This award honors individuals who demonstrate exceptional service, compassion, and dedication in the fight against cancer. Mr. Webster will be honored in November at the Annual Gala of Hope for his impactful work, heartfelt leadership, and unwavering commitment to those affected by this disease.

CAREER UPDATES

WILL HEALY | CLASS OF '03

Will Healy was appointed as the head football coach at East Tennessee State University (ETSU) on December 12, 2024, becoming the 21st head coach in the program's history. He brings a wealth of experience, having previously served as head coach at Austin Peay, where he led a remarkable turnaround, and at Charlotte, where he guided the 49ers to their first winning season and bowl appearance. Healy's coaching career also includes assistant roles at UCF and Georgia State, and he began his coaching journey at UT Chattanooga. Known for his energetic leadership and ability to revitalize programs, Healy aims to elevate ETSU's football program within the Southern Conference.

BERKAY DEAN | CLASS OF '18

Berkay Dean is a **Radiation Hardness Assurance Engineer** working with one of NASA's major contractors, specializing in ensuring the reliability of electronic systems in space environments. After completing his master's degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering at Vanderbilt University, Dean leveraged his involvement in the SCALE (Scalable Asymmetric Lifecycle Engagement) program to gain hands-on experience through internships and research in microelectronics. His work focuses on safeguarding spacecraft electronics against radiation, a critical aspect of space missions.

WILL WORTMAN | CLASS OF '21

Will Wortman serves as an Assistant Category Manager at AutoZone, Inc. In this role, he collaborates with the Category Manager to drive sales and manage product assortments. His responsibilities include maintaining product data, developing strategic business plans, coordinating with vendors, and overseeing inventory management. This position is integral to AutoZone's merchandising strategy, ensuring that product offerings align with customer needs and market trends.

BRODY GRANT | CLASS OF '22

Brody Grant is an incoming senior at Washington and Lee University. He was elected the 158th President of the Alpha Chapter of the Kappa Alpha Order, founded by General Robert E. Lee. He has been selected as a Career Fellow for the 2025-2026 academic year and is a member of the Student Consulting Cohort from 2023-2026. He completed a Public Policy Internship at Wilkinson Barker Knauer LLP, a law firm in Washington, D.C. He plans to attend law school in Fall 2026.

ALUMNI *updates continued*

DAVEY SMITH | CLASS OF '01

Davey Smith currently serves as the Senior Operations Manager at Hunter Oil Company. In this role, he oversees daily operations and contributes to the company's strategic initiatives. Smith's leadership is integral to Hunter Oil's ongoing success in the energy sector.

REED HAYES | CLASS OF '06

Reed Hayes is a proud Boyd-Buchanan alumnus who now serves as Vice President of AI/ML at Unum and brings a remarkable track record of innovation to everything he does. A graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Reed is known for building transformative technologies from the ground up. He co-founded Rendever, a virtual reality platform designed to combat social isolation among seniors, and has since led the development of award-winning AI projects, including Disney Genie, Maverick, Trident, and Apollo. From healthcare to hospitality, Reed is shaping the future with vision, creativity, and a heart for problem-solving.

ABIGAIL WILLMORE | CLASS OF '20

Abigail Willmore is set to begin her first year as a teacher at Boyd-Buchanan School in the fall of 2025. A recent graduate of Lipscomb University, she is excited to return to her alma mater and contribute to the school's mission of providing a Christ-centered education. Abigail's journey from student to educator at Boyd-Buchanan reflects her deep connection to the school community.

KATIE MEI SHARPE | CLASS OF '24

Katie Mei Sharpe, a student at Lipscomb University in Nashville, served as an intern with The Pearl House, an organization in Ghana focused on empowering young women through education, vocational training, and spiritual growth. As part of her internship, Katie Mei is actively involved in supporting programs that promote leadership and independence among girls in the community, reflecting her passion for service and global impact.

KATY ELKINS | CLASS OF '04

Katy Elkins serves as an Upper School Counselor at Boyd-Buchanan School. In her role, she provides guidance and support to high school students, assisting them with academic planning, college preparation, and personal development. Her contributions are integral to fostering a supportive and nurturing environment for the student body, and she is an amazing addition to the Upper School staff.

GARRETT PAYNE | CLASS OF '09

Garrett Payne is a science teacher at Boyd-Buchanan School. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, he serves as an assistant football coach for the school's varsity team, contributing to both the academic and athletic development of students.

JILL HARTNESS | CLASS OF '86

Jill Hartness has recently taken on a new role at the Maclellan Foundation Inc. as Executive Director of the Christian Education Charitable Trust, effective on September 1st of 2025. Her previous position was Senior Vice President and Chief of Staff of The Council for Christian Colleges and Universities.

SARAH BOWLES | CLASS OF '04

Sarah Warren-Bowles is an upper school math teacher at Boyd-Buchanan School and serves as the head coach of the varsity softball team. An alumna of Boyd-Buchanan, she returned to her alma mater to lead the Lady Bucs, marking her coaching debut with an impressive 11-3 victory over Soddy Daisy on March 3, 2025.

MILITARY

ASHER KECK | CLASS OF '24

Asher Keck is serving in the Air Force as a logistics readiness officer. He is currently stationed in Kunsan, South Korea.



Visit www.bbschool.org/alumni to submit updates and photos.

MARRIAGES & Engagements



Karson Gay & Avery Lane
DEC. 30, 2025 | BBS CLASS OF '22



John Beasley & May Hartness
JUN. 7, 2025 | BBS CLASS OF '16 & '17



Berkay Dean & Elizabeth Hoilman
AUG. 16, 2025 | BBS CLASS OF '18



Jax Lelle & Emily Barnett
OCT. 18, 2025 | BBS CLASS OF '20



Wesley Wortman & Makayla Brooks
OCT. 12, 2025 | BBS CLASS OF '20



Carter Wamack & Grace Kretzmeier
JUL. 18, 2025 | BBS CLASS OF '22



Garret Wright & Julie Hawkins
OCT. 4, 2025 | BBS CLASS OF '13

Say hello TO OUR BABY Buccaneers



Sutton Elizabeth Wortman

Ross Wortman '17 & Shelby Wortman
BORN MAY 17, 2024



Beckham Charles Wortman

Mason Wortman '12 & Kelsey Wortman
BORN NOV. 26, 2024



Morgan Elaine Owens

Kade Hatten Owens '17 & Jaime Elaine Owens '17
BORN SEPT. 14, 2024

Cory Goad '08 & Julia Rox '10
BORN MAR. 22, 2025



Theron "Theo" Murrell

Nathan Murrell '14 & Claire Murrell '16
BORN JUL. 11, 2023



Magnolia "Maggie" Gambrell

Jacob Gambrell '15 & Hannah Gambrell
BORN OCT. 9, 2023

Visit www.bbschool.org/alumni
to submit updates and photos.

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