

# BROOKSTONE

THE MAGAZINE • SPRING 2025



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***ALIGNING DONOR PASSION WITH OUR 2025-2030***

***STRATEGIC VISION***

***BE THE ONE DAY***

***CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2025***



# BROOKSTONE MAGAZINE SPRING 2025

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The Brookstone Magazine is produced by  
the Communications Office for alumni,  
parents, and friends of Brookstone School.  
Letters and suggestions for articles are  
welcomed.

## MISSION STATEMENT

Brookstone School, a college preparatory  
school founded in the Judeo-Christian  
ethic and committed to academic  
excellence, endeavors to build in its  
students the core values of loyalty,  
courage, wisdom, honor, service, respect,  
and leadership.

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### NON-DISCRIMINATORY POLICY

Brookstone School admits students of any race,  
color, gender, national and ethnic origin to all the  
rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally  
accorded or made available to students at the  
school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race,  
color, or national or ethnic origin in administration of  
its education policies, admission policies, scholarship  
and loan programs, athletic programs, and other  
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# BROOKSTONE MAGAZINE

SPRING 2025

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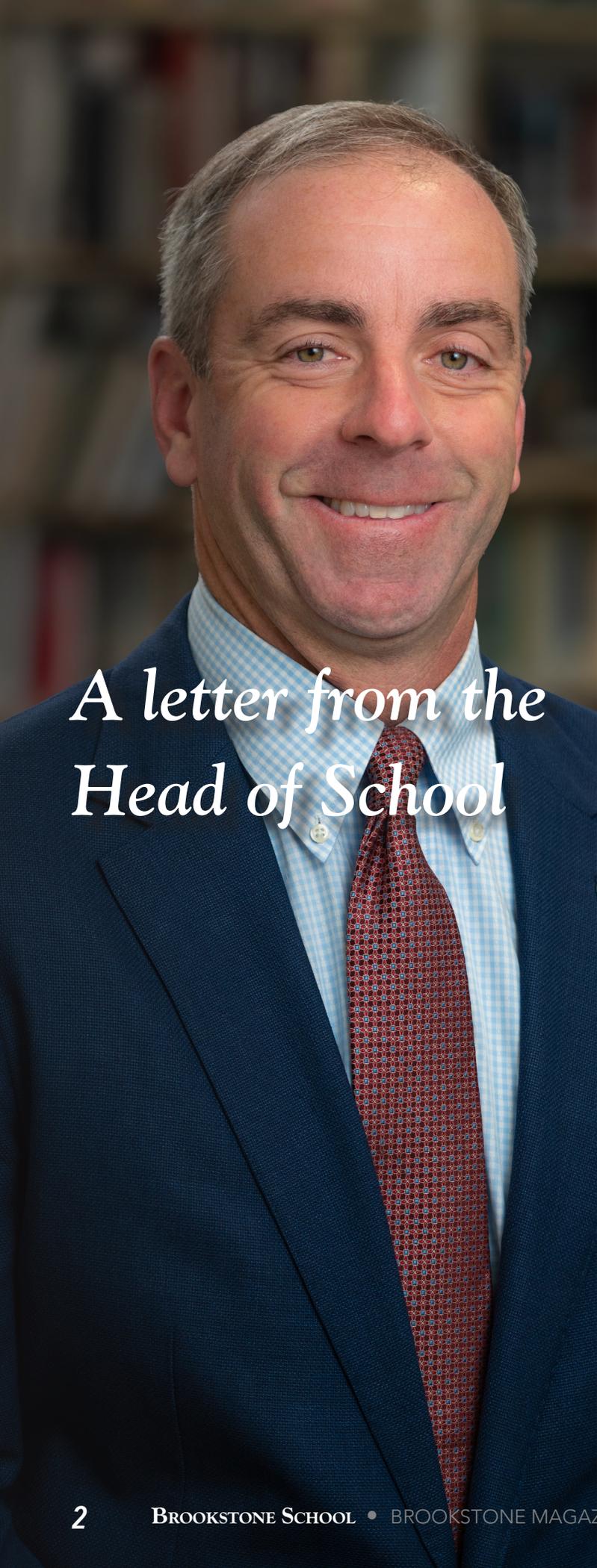
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CLASS OF 2025 COLLEGE CHOICE DAY: AVA CHANG, BRE'ANDON GARDNER, CHARLES MCPHERSON, AVA VALADI, GENEVIEVE FERDINANDS, HANK WYLIE, BO BLACKMON, AND ANKITA NUKALA



# Dear Brookstone Community,

It is often said that words matter. Maybe, as it turns out, conversation matters more.

Conversation, the exchange of thoughts and ideas through words, is generally informal but is also integral to our survival. Currently, one of the worst epidemics in our culture is loneliness, primarily the result of the absence of conversation in someone's life. Conversely, meaningful conversation can help us regulate our emotions, create stronger and more reliable memories, and arrive at better decisions.

One of the books I read this school year was *The Power of Words: How to Speak, Listen, and Think Better* by Mariano Sigman, one of the world's leading neuroscientists. Among the many takeaways in the book, Sigman emphasizes how the power of conversation can sharpen our judgment, expand our thinking, and enrich how we make decisions and live our lives.

As we engaged during the school year about how we use time and space here at Brookstone, Hunter Chapman led many conversations that were fruitful and enlightening. As a result of this dialogue, we arrived at a new schedule for next year, primarily impacting Middle and Upper Schools. The schedule creates more opportunities for students to interface with their teachers outside of the classroom, a new framework for

deeper learning in the classroom, and time for clubs, arts, and athletics to flourish beyond their current iteration.

Office hours will take place in the mornings, when both teachers and students are most fresh and have fewer competing interests. Academic teams and clubs, such as Mock Trial, Model UN, Robotics, and others, will have time set aside for their work; Middle School musical practices will be finished before dinner rather than starting afterwards, and students will have more opportunities to train in season before school. Finally, for our Upper Schoolers, when play practice runs late or a team returns in the wee hours from an away contest, they will have the chance to sleep later the next morning and arrive at school feeling better prepared to learn. These student-centered improvements are exciting because they reflect our commitment to enhanced learning, stronger relationships, and more meaningful experiences across campus.

As I think about what impact our curricular program has on our students' quality of life, I can't help but turn to the evidence that years of research has demonstrated. We know that [productive struggle](#) is essential to our children's academic development. We also know how important [the arts](#) have been and should continue to be in our curricular offerings. The benefits of [discovering purpose](#) through character education, leadership development, and serving others are resounding. And, how many of us have said, "I always did better in school when I was playing a sport"? [Research](#) validates the long-held sense that regular exercise is essential.

While in our care, we owe it to our students to provide them as many opportunities as possible to engage in these areas. When we maximize our time and space with this goal in mind, we create more opportunities to capture meaningful moments and fully support your children's growth.

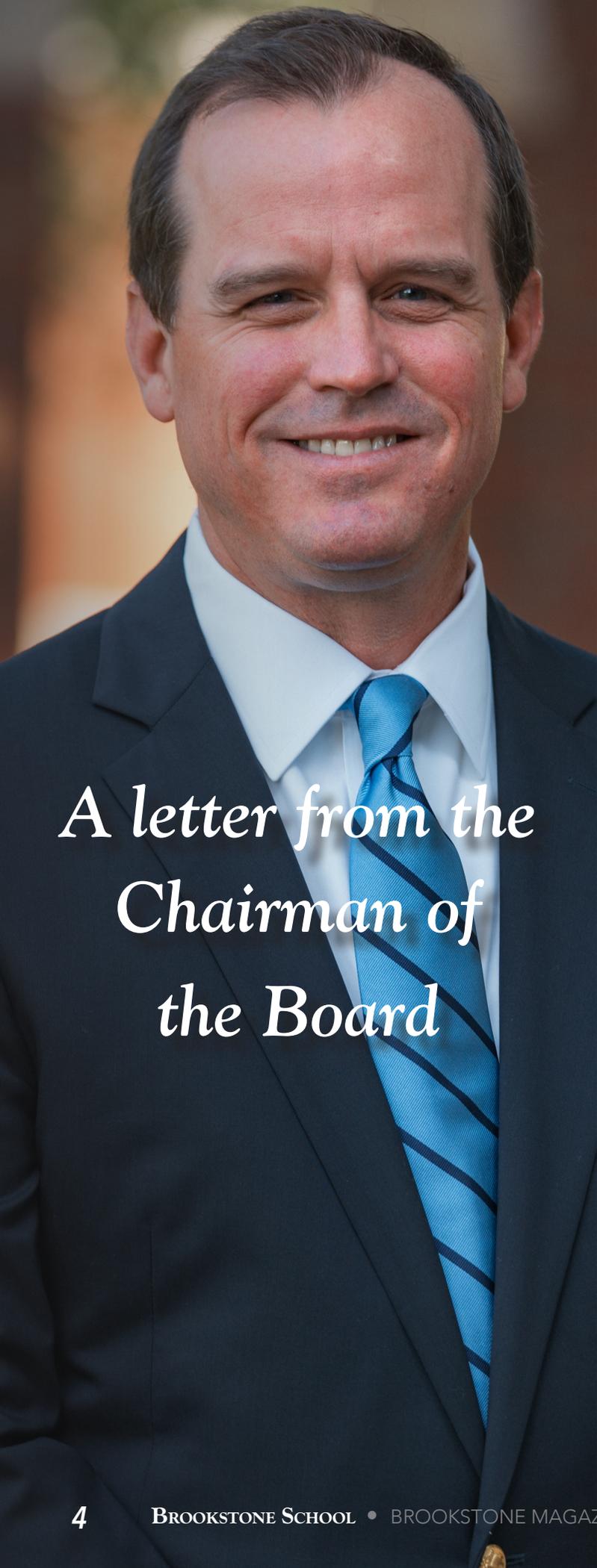
We are embarking on an important newly developed Strategic Plan that is thoughtful and comprehensive. Not only will we spend time evaluating and enhancing our curriculum, we will find ways to strengthen community engagement, thoughtfully consider our physical campus, and continue to reinforce our financial position. The value of a Brookstone diploma will continue to grow in the coming years. I am thrilled to be on this journey with you all and eagerly anticipate what we will accomplish together. Thank you for your partnership!

Sincerely,



Henry Heil  
Head of School

P.S. Feel free to join the Executive Leadership Team and the Board of Trustees in our summer read: *High Conflict: Why We Get Trapped and How We Get Out* by Amanda Ripley. I look forward to hearing your thoughts if you do.



## *A letter from the Chairman of the Board*

# *Dear Brookstone Family,*

Being a member of the Board of Trustees and a Brookstone parent provides a unique perspective on our school and its impact on families and students. I often receive real-time feedback from my daughter as new strategies and initiatives are announced! There is sometimes confusion about the level of involvement the board has in various changes around the school. The board is responsible for the vision, mission, and broad strategy, while Henry and his leadership team focus on implementation and detailed execution.

Over time, the work of the board influences what we call the Brookstone Experience. In reflecting on this work as a parent, a few key qualities rise to the top. As I think about both of my daughters' experiences as Brookstone "lifers," relationships, opportunity, and leadership have been cornerstones of their education and development.

Lifelong friendships and community are forged at Brookstone. Ask any senior what they value most about Brookstone, and almost to a person, they will tell you it is the relationships. Deep, meaningful, and lasting relationships with teachers, coaches, and fellow students are a true benefit of an independent school education. Many of these students have traveled from PreK to graduation together, and as the class grew, these

relationships were enriched and expanded by those who joined along the way. The size of our school and student-to-teacher ratio allow our teachers to get to know each of their students. Understanding their personalities, strengths, and weaknesses enables them to better educate each child. It has been such a gift to see my daughters continue in encouraging and supportive relationships made at Brookstone, even after graduation.

Another key to our students' development is opportunity. Brookstone creates an environment where doors are not closed. At every grade level, students can explore various avenues: academic, athletic, artistic, and, with the aid of teachers and advisors, discover their interests, gifts, and talents. This happens on the field or court, on the stage, and in the classroom. Brookstone-led travel offers exposure to new cultures, connections, and ways of seeing the world. It is a testament to our school that a graduating senior has often experienced all of these areas, placing them in a strong position to continue their education at the next level.

Last, but certainly not least, is leadership. Graduating seniors leave Brookstone with instruction and training in how to be leaders among their peers and servant leaders in their community. Programs like Link Crew, Ambassadors, and Seniors in the Classroom illustrate the importance of contributing to community in a way that elevates and even inspires those around you. Opportunities to put this training into action exist across the entire school through athletic and arts competition, academic club and team leadership, honor societies, and student government

programming. Work and projects coordinated by our Servant Leadership program instill the need to give back to the community. It is no coincidence that Brookstone graduates can be seen in their respective communities continuing this work, leading both professionally and as volunteers within the many organizations that are vital to the life and health of any city.

Brookstone is a college-preparatory school committed to academic excellence, and this preparation goes well beyond GPA. It also develops character and integrity, which are key to success. I'm proud to have seen my daughters grow and develop and am thankful, as a parent, for the whole-child approach utilized by Brookstone, positioning them for bright futures.



Travis Wade  
Chairman of the Board





# ***BUILDING THE FUTURE, TOGETHER***



As we highlight the many aspects that make Brookstone the place where every student is equipped to lead, innovate, and thrive, we invite you to view them through the lens of our strategic plan: the Brookstone EDGE.

***ENGAGED COMMUNITY***

***DYNAMIC CURRICULAR PROGRAMMING***

***GROWING FINANCIAL POSITION***

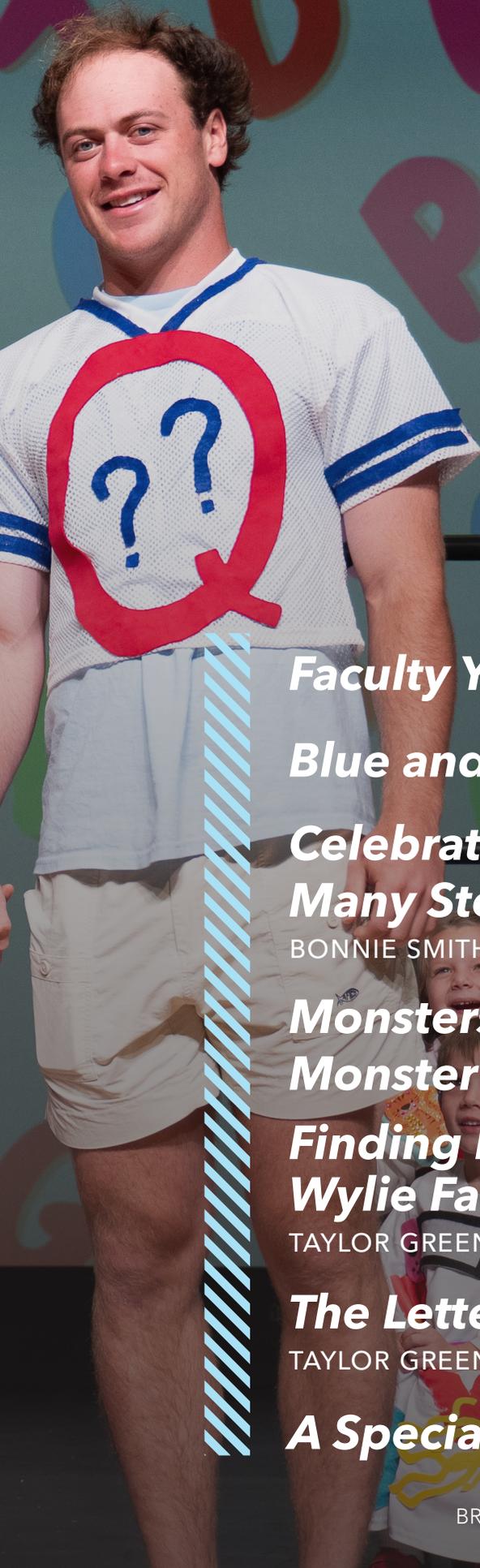
***EMPOWERED FUTURE***

Our strategic plan lays the groundwork for a future where we can continue to build a school that brings together students, families, faculty, and alumni to create something extraordinary. It is a place where tradition meets innovation, an engaged community is fostered, and the curriculum is as dynamic as our students. We create an environment where every investment shapes a student's path to success, building on a foundation of over 70 years to empower future generations of students and provide them with the resources and opportunities they need to thrive today and lead tomorrow.



# ENGAGED COMMUNITY

*Brookstone School will strengthen its community by creating an inclusive, encouraging, accountable, and safe environment for learning. All students, faculty, and families will recognize, understand, appreciate, and implement the core values of loyalty, courage, wisdom, honor, respect, service, and leadership in their daily lives.*



***Faculty Years of Service***

***Blue and White Day 2025***

***Celebrating Cultures: One School,  
Many Stories***

BONNIE SMITH

***Monsters Come to Life: 2nd Annual  
Monster Reveal***

***Finding Home at Brookstone: The  
Wylie Family Story***

TAYLOR GREEN

***The Letter People Come Full Circle***

TAYLOR GREEN

***A Special Look: Grandparents Day 2025***



# THE HENRY SWIFT SERVICE TO SCHOOL AWARD

In 2019, the Henry Swift Service Award was established in honor of loyal board member Henry Swift to recognize those employees who have made a significant career commitment to Brookstone School. Henry served as a dedicated and engaged Brookstone Trustee for over 50 years. The program is designed to recognize and express appreciation to faculty and staff at each five-year milestone of service to Brookstone School. This year, the program took place May 22nd.



Allyson Blankenship, Hope Boswell, Alecia Cravey, Melanie Davis, Brittany Jordan, Jenni Lowell, and Brooke Turner



Justin Fentress and Lucy Saunders



Peter Parisi



Julie Lewis



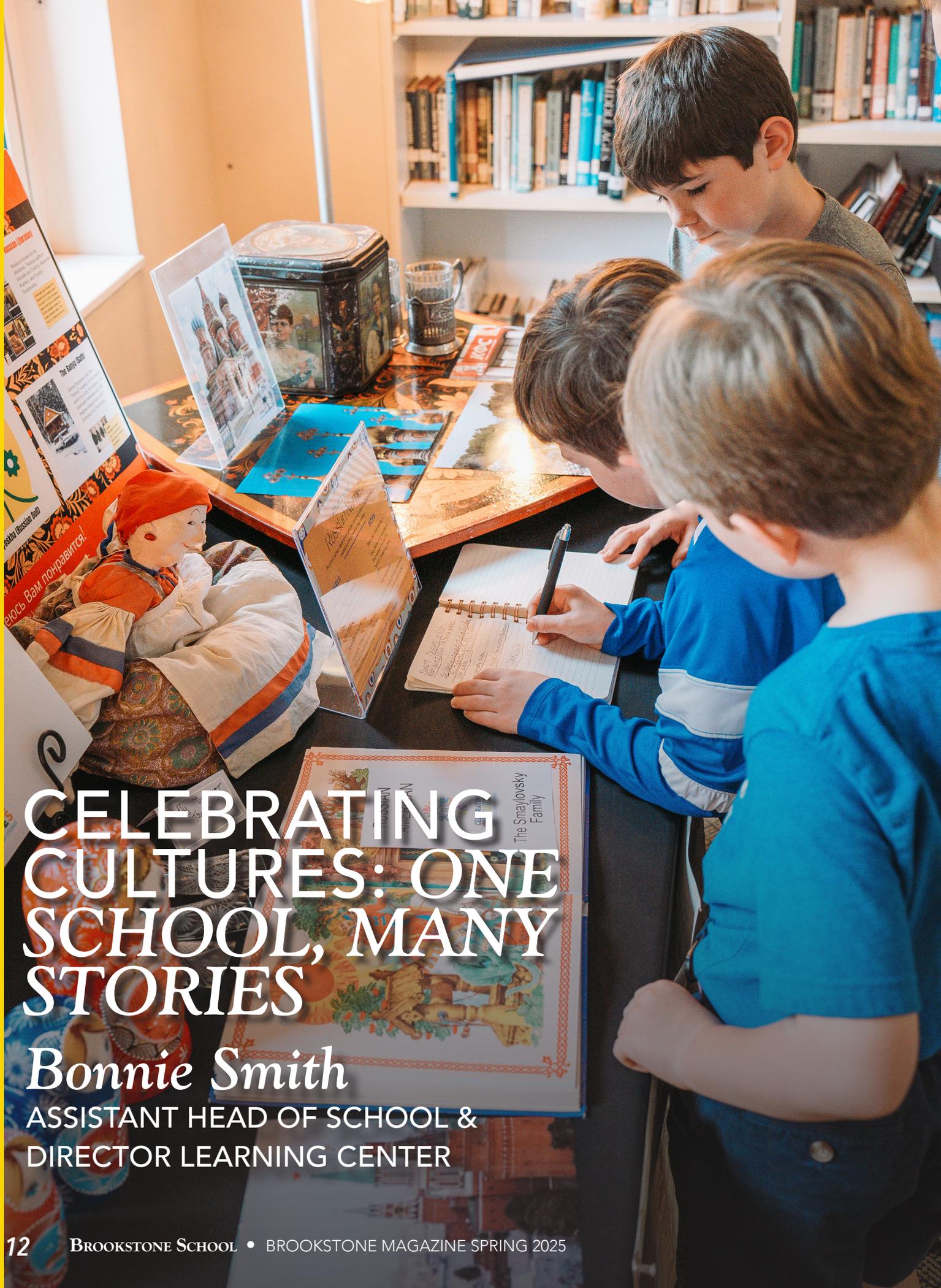
# GO BLUE!

# GO WHITE!

## BLUE AND WHITE DAY: A BROOKSTONE TRADITION

Each spring, our campus bursts with energy as students come together for a much anticipated Brookstone event: Blue and White Day. Every student from Beginners through twelfth grade is assigned to either the Blue or White team when they enroll, and they keep that color for life. It is a day full of friendly competition, field day games, and cheering, as the entire school joins in the fun. There is a lot of pride in each team, and the rivalry runs deep. This year, the White Team took home the win, but the true victory is seeing the entire Brookstone community celebrate together.

[VIEW BLUE AND WHITE DAY GALLERY](#)



# CELEBRATING CULTURES: ONE SCHOOL, MANY STORIES

*Bonnie Smith*

ASSISTANT HEAD OF SCHOOL &  
DIRECTOR LEARNING CENTER

We celebrated Brookstone's third annual *Celebrating Cultures: One School, Many Stories* in March. Held throughout the school days across all divisions, the week's event invited students to explore and appreciate the cultural identities that shape the Brookstone community.

At the heart of the celebration was the collaborative art installation, *Circles All Around Us*, inspired by Brad Montague's children's book of the same name. Students reflected on the social circles in their lives including family, friends, classmates, and neighbors and considered how those circles can grow to include new people, perspectives, and experiences. Each student created a circle to express how they hope to expand their connections, and these were displayed in a colorful installation in the Denson Bell Tower.

The week featured several key moments:

- **Author Visit:** On Wednesday, March 12, visiting author Brad Montague met with students to share his message of kindness, connection, and inclusion.
- **Pop-Up Museum:** On Thursday and Friday, students visited a Pop-Up Museum in the Kirven Media Center, featuring artifacts, photos, and displays created by Brookstone families. These personal exhibits gave students an opportunity to learn about the customs, histories, and heritage of others in their school community.
- **All-School Assembly:** The week concluded with a high-energy cultural performance by the Chien Hong School of Kung Fu, bringing all divisions together in Illges Gym on Friday morning.

**New This Year:** Flags of the many countries represented within the Brookstone community were displayed around the quad, serving as a daily visual reminder of the shared and individual stories that enrich our school.

Special thanks to the families who contributed to the Pop-Up Museum by sharing meaningful items and stories from their heritage. Their generosity helped bring depth and authenticity to the student experience.

*Celebrating Cultures: One School, Many Stories* reminded us that difference is something to be explored, not avoided, and that expanding our circles leads to greater understanding, empathy, and unity.



# MONSTERS COME TO LIFE IN THE SECOND ANNUAL MONSTER REVEAL



[VIEW MONSTER REVEAL GALLERY](#)

At Brookstone, imagination has a way of taking shape...literally. This spring, the second annual Monster Reveal brought Kindergarten art to life with the help of Upper School ceramics students. The project was started last year by Middle School art and Upper School ceramics teacher Heather Robinson, who has partnered both years with Lower School art teacher Brooke Parrish to make it happen.

Earlier this semester, each Kindergarten student drew a picture of a monster, using their creativity to dream up wild, colorful creatures. Unbeknownst to them, those drawings were then passed along to students in the Upper School Ceramics I class, who used their sculpting skills to bring the monsters to life in clay.

These Kindergarten artists didn't know they would soon be surprised with ceramic versions of their artwork. When they arrived in the art room for the reveal several months later they found their monsters waiting for them, fully formed, carefully crafted, and completely true to their original designs.

Some students even had the chance to meet the Upper School artist who created their monster and pose for a photo together.

Brookstone's Monster Reveal has quickly become a favorite tradition. It's a celebration of creativity, connection, and the joy that comes from turning a child's vision into something real.





# FINDING A HOME AT BROOKSTONE:

## THE WYLIE FAMILY STORY

Four years ago, the Wylie family moved to Columbus. As a military family, they were familiar with the process of starting over: new cities, new communities, new schools. Like many parents preparing for a move, Ryan and Amy Wylie began searching for a school that would be a good fit for their children.

What they didn't expect was to find a place like Brookstone.

"As we started doing research and asking friends, Brookstone kept coming

up," Amy said. "When I called, Avery Wolff was the one who answered. She sold us pretty quickly."

From their first visit, the Wylies sensed something different.

"We felt it the moment we stepped on campus," Ryan said. "It was clear this was a place where students are known. Where teachers care about your strengths and what you want to pursue. The faculty and staff are committed to their students."



Over the past four years, the Wylie family has seen that commitment in action. Their daughter Lucy graduated from Brookstone in 2021. Hank, a recent graduate from the Class of 2025 and Head Prefect, says his time at Brookstone helped him grow as a leader.

"I've been able to try new things, take on responsibility, and learn how to lead," Hank said. "I feel confident stepping onto a college campus and knowing how to get involved and make an impact."

Sam, a rising senior, shared what he believes sets Brookstone apart.

"When you join Brookstone, you really are joining a community," he said. "You always have people you can rely on."

What stands out most to Ryan as a parent is the strong sense of belonging he and his family have experienced.

"It's easy to list out values on a website," he said. "But over the past four years, we've seen Brookstone live them out. It's clear they take those values seriously."

*Written by Taylor Green*



“

FOR THE WYLIES,  
BROOKSTONE HAS  
BEEN MORE THAN  
JUST A SCHOOL.  
IT HAS BEEN A  
PLACE OF GROWTH,  
COMMUNITY,  
AND STEADY  
ENCOURAGEMENT.  
A PLACE THAT  
FELT LIKE HOME  
FROM THE VERY  
BEGINNING.

[LISTEN TO THE WYLIE FAMILY'S STORY](#)

# THE LETTER PEOPLE COME FULL CIRCLE

In 2012, a group of Brookstone Pre-K students walked across the stage in brightly decorated t-shirts, proudly representing letters of the alphabet in our annual *Letter People Show*. This spring, those same students, now the Class of 2025, returned to where it all began.

They came back not just to remember but to reflect: on tradition, their younger selves, and the joy of childhood that still lingers in the halls of Brookstone. Many of the seniors still had their original shirts. Some even stood beside

this year's Pre-K students who shared their same letter, offering words of encouragement and passing on the tradition.

*The Letter People Show* has long been a sweet milestone for our Preschool students. Each child selects a letter, decorates a t-shirt with items that begin with that letter, and takes the stage to



share it with the Brookstone community. It may be playful and lighthearted, but it's also unforgettable.

This year, we wanted to bring it full circle.

As seniors helped guide Pre-K students across the same stage upon which they once stood, you could feel the full weight of time and tradition. The same children who once wore their letter-themed shirts with nervous pride are now stepping into a new chapter, preparing to leave the place that shaped them.

It was a very nostalgic and meaningful moment for everyone involved. It was a glimpse into how Brookstone is not just a place for learning, but a place

where memories are made, year after year. For more than 40 years, the Letter People Show has marked a joyful milestone in the lives of our youngest students. It is just one example, an early chapter in a story that spans a lifetime.

And just after the Pre-K students performed, they gathered outside to witness another meaningful Brookstone tradition, the annual Alumni Walk. On their final day as Brookstone students, the seniors made one last walk around the Quad, cheered on by faculty, friends, and now, the youngest members of our community. In that moment, the journey from beginning to end came into full view.

To watch this year's full-circle moment unfold, click the logo below.

*Written by Taylor Green*





# GRANDPARENTS DAY

## A SPECIAL LOOK

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In February, Brookstone School celebrated Grandparents Day in a new and exciting way. For the first time, we expanded the event to include 4th and 6th Grades, while Kindergarten remained part of the tradition. This allowed grandparents to experience the school at various stages of our students' educational journey. With over 200 grandparents on campus, it was truly a memorable and engaging day.

Our visitors had the chance to tour classrooms, watch performances by their grandchildren, and enjoy lunch or refreshments together. The highlight of the day was seeing generations walk side by side through the halls of Brookstone as grandparents enjoyed a glimpse into their grandchildren's vibrant school community. It was a heartwarming sight.

Grandparents were also able to have their photos taken with their grandchildren, capturing special moments that will be cherished for years to come. We are so grateful for the wonderful turnout and the chance to see so many families come together on our campus. It was a beautiful reminder of the deep connections that make Brookstone such a special place.

We look forward to next year's Grandparents Day and can't wait to continue making memories with our families for years to come!

Rebekah and Joe Montgomery, Grandparents Day Co-chairs, shared their gratitude for the opportunities Brookstone offers for meaningful engagement:



BROOKSTONE HAS BEEN WONDERFUL TO OFFER OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGING WITH OUR GRANDCHILDREN ON CAMPUS. EACH TIME, WE COME AWAY IMPRESSED WITH THE AMAZING CLASSROOM EXPERIENCES AND INSTRUCTION THEY ARE RECEIVING FROM INCREDIBLE FACULTY AND STAFF. WE HAVE BEEN INVITED TO READ BOOKS IN THEIR CLASSES; WE'VE VENTURED INTO THE WOODS ON FOREST FRIDAY AND EVEN TAUGHT A CLASSROOM LESSON TO THE THIRD GRADE DURING THEIR CONSERVATION MONTH. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE CHERISHED TIMES AND THE MEMORIES THEY MAKE, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO MAKING MANY MORE.



Rebekah and Joe Montgomery, grandparents of Daniel, Rebekah, and James Parker  
Rome, Georgia



# DYNAMIC CURRICULAR PROGRAMMING

*Brookstone School will pursue programmatic excellence that will enhance the student experience and prepare the student for acceptance to their college of choice and life beyond.*

*\* Ask me about  
Extra Credit*  
GROWING FINANCIAL POSITION

EMPOWERED FUTURE



## ***The View From Year One: Reflections from the Head of Upper School***

CINDY TODT

## ***Meet the New Director of College Guidance***

DANIELA DUFRENE

## ***Standing on Our Roots: An Outdoor Education Experience***

JAVONNE STEWART

## ***Innovative Instruction: Engaging Strategies in Third Grade***

LESLIE TAYLOR

## ***8th Grade Trip to Washington D.C.***

KRIS MAGUIRE



# THE VIEW FROM

# Year

It's hard to believe my first year as the Head of Upper School at Brookstone has come to a close, and I'm already looking ahead with excitement to what's next.

I'm incredibly proud of this school, and I'm deeply humbled by the opportunity to serve as the Head of Upper School. "Grateful" doesn't even begin to capture how I feel. This first year has only strengthened what I already knew to be true about this place and about the people who make it special.

## OUR TEACHERS ARE AMAZING.

It is a true joy to work with such a dedicated and passionate faculty. They care deeply about our students, work incredibly hard, and consistently go above and beyond. Not only are they experts in their content areas, they are living, breathing examples of the very values that we are trying to

impart to our students: wisdom, leadership, respect, service, honor, loyalty, and courage. Senior Ankita Nukala said it best: "If I could describe the Brookstone faculty in one word it would be selfless. Every teacher that you have is passionate about the subject they teach and dedicated to helping you succeed academically. Not only are they determined to provide the best education to their students, but they also care about you as a person. They truly become your mentors, role models, and family."

## OUR STUDENTS ARE EXCEPTIONAL.

I feel honored to walk alongside them each day. In the Upper School, every day brings a full range of experiences: challenge and success, wins and losses, achievement and failure, mistakes and consequences, joy and heartache. And our students tackle each day head on no matter what comes their way. They are brave, resilient, and



## REFLECTIONS FROM THE HEAD OF UPPER SCHOOL

eager to learn and grow. We started the school year with a new phone policy, and yes, it was met with a few complaints from the students.

But those complaints didn't last long. Soon, I heard from parents, students, and teachers about how much better life was in the Upper School without everyone so attached to their phones.

### OUR STORY MATTERS.

Brookstone is more than a school; it's a community with mission and purpose. The culture we're building together, the values we uphold, and the relationships we form all contribute to a story worth telling. One of my favorite things is when something really special happens at a Brookstone event and somebody looks over at you, nods, and says, "That's Why Brookstone." The girls soccer team was in the state championship, locked in a 1-1 tie in second overtime, and playing lights out, when one

of the players from the opposing team went down with a cramp. Immediately, senior Claire Alexander went to the player and started to help stretch out her leg as she could tell the girl was in pain. The person next to me turned and said: "That's Why Brookstone."

At the beginning of the year, we introduced the theme of the *warrior*, a call to face challenges head-on, to do the right thing even when it's hard, and to become a better version of ourselves with each passing day. That message still rings true.

As we close this school year, I believe we can all say that we've grown and that we're ending this year stronger than we started. Thank you for an unforgettable first year. I'm truly honored to be part of the Brookstone story.

*Written by Cindy Todt*



**MEET  
DANIELA  
DUFRENE  
BROOKSTONE'S  
NEW DIRECTOR  
OF COLLEGE  
GUIDANCE**

**DEAR  
BROOKSTONE  
FAMILIES,**

I'm thrilled to be joining Brookstone this summer and eager to immerse myself in the Columbus community. From the very first round of virtual interviews to my day on campus this past winter meeting students, families, and faculty, I felt a deep sense that Brookstone was a place where my family and I would truly thrive.

What drew me here was more than just the beautiful campus or impressive track record. It was the collaborative spirit of the school, the warmth of the people I met, and the forward-thinking vision Henry is leading. Brookstone is a place that values tradition but isn't afraid to innovate, and that's exactly the kind of environment where I believe students and educators can grow.

**ULTIMATELY,  
MY VISION IS  
THAT EVERY  
BROOKSTONE  
SENIOR**

CROSSES THE  
GRADUATION  
STAGE NOT  
ONLY PROUD  
OF THEIR  
ACHIEVEMENTS  
BUT SECURE IN  
WHO THEY'VE  
BECOME AND  
EAGER TO  
TAKE ON NEW  
ADVENTURES IN  
COLLEGE AND  
BEYOND.



I'm especially excited to contribute to the continued development of a student-centered, high-touch, nationally recognized college guidance program. As we lead the Class of 2026 through their upcoming application season, I'll also be focused on cultivating curiosity, self-awareness, and resourcefulness in our younger students. Our programs will be thoughtful, age-appropriate, and hands-on. We'll learn how to ask great questions, how to research wisely, and how to think deeply. We might not always have the answers right away but we'll keep asking, exploring, and learning until we find clarity and confidence.

On a personal note, as an outdoor enthusiast, I'm looking forward to exploring everything this region has to offer—rafting the Chattahoochee, mountain biking the Standing Boy Trails, and hunting for epic camping spots. And who knows, maybe I'll even start a pickleball club!

I can't wait to get started and get to know you all. Here's to the journey ahead—we're in it together.

Warmly,  
Daniela Dufrene



# STANDING ON OUR ROOTS: AN OUTDOOR EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

*Javonne Stewart*

HEAD OF LOWER AND INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

As a lover of history, I enjoy going back and watching documentaries and videos about places and time periods that interest me. There is a video about the history of Brookstone that is shown to our newly initiated employees, one historical resource that is of great value. Each time I view it, I am awed by the intentionality that went into choosing the land on which the “new” Brookstone was founded and the close attention paid to the natural setting of the school. The video showcases the founding of Brookstone while explaining that the

naming of Brookstone came from a stanza in a song that went: *“Soft waves flow by the smooth brookstone.”*

From this stanza in 1969, a number of community leaders embarked on a mission to relocate and reopen the former Trinity School as Brookstone, a school positioned on a once working farm and also a quick walk to the Chattahoochee River. Brookstone is a school literally founded in the midst of a natural landscape where the core values of wisdom, courage, and loyalty became the foundation of an educational experience



unlike any other in the Columbus, Georgia, area. Thus, a commitment to incorporating an outdoor experience into our curriculum is part of the roots of Brookstone, both literally and figuratively.

Keeping with the vision of the founders, a beautiful nature trail circles the rear of our school, complete with a bubbling creek, a woody amphitheater, a rustic chapel, and a science cabin. While various teachers have conducted classes and explored the trails and the many animals that inhabit the area, a group of Lower and Intermediate School faculty and staff came together to create a vision for what "learning outside" could and would look like. Thus, in 2021, Forest Friday, a nature based learning curriculum, began. The mission - to explore, investigate, ask questions while instilling a love for nature and the great outdoors

Forest Friday has become a staple and a significant part of expanding on and developing an outdoor education curriculum. The Forest Friday Crew - Brooke Schneider, Whitney Conwell, Brooke Parrish, and Jessica Knight - have guided our students through the hiking trails, have created art pieces from things in nature, and have secured guest speakers who have shared their love of nature and learning. The program has grown and morphed into a curriculum that is just as intentional as the founding of Brookstone. This purpose continues as we work on extending

an outdoor learning experience to the Intermediate School with our annual trip to Twin Lakes.

Twin Lakes, a 1980s style camp nestled in the middle of rural Georgia, is an active summer camp site that welcomes participants to experience learning in a natural setting. For the past three years, Brookstone Fifth Graders have stayed overnight to experience school and learning outside of the walls of Brookstone. This experience allows them to be curious and wonder about their surroundings, to lead and motivate one another, and to grow and strengthen bonds among their classmates. Two days away from all things electronic and social media based, students are encouraged to take risks, reflect on their year, and simply play in nature's playground. This trip has become the highlight of the Fifth Grade experience, as students explore a working farm, rock climb, paddle board, and fish. Each activity comes with a guided understanding of teamwork and collaboration, leadership skills, and finding joy and beauty in the simple things.

So as you think about the mission and vision of Brookstone, I encourage you to think outside of the box. Of course, we have fabulous classrooms with incredible teachers. Just as important is our commitment to making sure that our students are awed by nature, both on and off of our beautiful campus, and know that learning happens all around us.



# INNOVATIVE INSTRUCTION: ENGAGING STRATEGIES IN THIRD GRADE

*Leslie Taylor*

LOWER SCHOOL TEACHER

In my third-grade classroom, learning is dynamic, interactive, and rooted in research-based instructional strategies that promote student growth across all subjects. Whether we are working on reading, writing, or math, my approach prioritizes deep understanding and critical thinking. I am excited to share the strategies that make a difference in my classroom every day.

Our daily math block is filled with engaging techniques that foster deep mathematical thinking. I use a combination of anchor tasks, randomized small groups, and

vertical non-permanent workstations (VNPS, or whiteboards) to create a vibrant learning environment. Anchor tasks provide students with rich, open-ended problems that encourage multiple solution paths and deep thinking. Randomizing small groups each day helps students collaborate with different peers, ensures equitable participation, and prevents reliance on familiar group dynamics. Because research shows that student engagement decreases when seated, I have students stand while working on anchor tasks at whiteboard stations. This promotes healthy risk-taking and allows for immediate revisions without

the fear of making permanent mistakes. I have found that this approach builds independence, critical thinking, and mathematical discourse.

I often tell my class, “I know many of you know the answer without having to write anything down, and that’s great. What I’m interested in seeing today is how many different strategies you can use to solve the problem.” This encourages flexible thinking and helps students gain confidence in tackling challenges.

Math journaling is another powerful strategy that supports conceptual understanding. Students explain in writing the steps they took to solve a problem, reinforcing their understanding and helping them connect abstract ideas to concrete actions. Writing about math encourages students to articulate their thought process, strengthen their reasoning, and identify gaps in understanding. It also fosters a growth mindset as students begin to view mistakes as opportunities to learn. Through journaling, students develop a deeper grasp of mathematical concepts and provide me with insight into their thinking, allowing instruction to be tailored to their needs.

One of the most popular parts of our math block is the “spicy problems”—optional, more challenging word problems available after the core assignment is completed. These problems reinforce or extend key concepts while cultivating perseverance and resilience. I have seen students attempt the same problem multiple times before solving it successfully.

As their confidence grows, I invite them to create their own spicy problems, which the class then solves together. This process builds pride and helps students understand that mistakes are a natural part of learning. The sense of satisfaction they experience when solving a difficult problem reinforces the value of persistence.

Reader’s Theatre and “Read with a Friend” books are strategies I use to improve reading fluency, build confidence, and deepen content knowledge. In Reader’s

Theatre, students repeatedly read and perform scripts, focusing on expression, pacing, and phrasing in a low-pressure setting. This supports oral reading development without the stress of memorization, which can benefit reluctant or struggling readers. Scripts often tie into our social studies content or reflect themes from reading lessons, helping students connect new material to existing knowledge. Their enthusiasm during practice and performance directly supports their growth in fluency and confidence.

During independent reading (IDR) time, students may choose “Read with a Friend” books aligned with our genre study. These student-led activities allow small groups or pairs to read aloud together. For many reluctant readers, this format offers increased voice, choice, and purpose. It also provides a safe space to practice fluency and build confidence. As students read, they decode unfamiliar words, discuss the material, and use sticky notes to record thoughts and strategies. This introduces them to annotation and enhances their engagement with the text.

Whether anchor tasks, Reader’s Theatre, or math journals, the instructional strategies in my classroom are designed to promote problem-solving, critical thinking, and collaboration. My goal is for all students to leave my classroom as confident learners who understand that mistakes are a valuable part of the learning process. By encouraging exploration, reflection, and teamwork, I strive to equip them with the skills and mindset they need for continued success.

[CLICK HERE TO HEAR LESLIE’S STORY](#)

# A VISIT TO WASHINGTON D.C. 8TH GRADE TRIP

*Dr. Kris Maguire*

HEAD OF MIDDLE SCHOOL

*“Whoa...this  
historic...”*

remarked one of our eighth-grade young men as we all beheld the majestic nature and life-changing meaning of the Lincoln Memorial in the brisk night air in Washington, D.C. Yes, he was being completely serious and not facetious at all, despite how “on the nose” his statement appeared upon first being uttered. However, his words completely capture our experience this year on our inaugural capstone trip to our great nation’s capital.

**O**ur grand adventure began extremely early, as we left Brookstone at 3:00 AM to board a 7:00 AM flight to D.C. As I reflect upon our preparations and the moment I received our flight itinerary, I believe my exact response to the travel company was, “What!? You expect me to have 53 eighth-grade students at school by 3:00 AM?!”

# It is so

Well, we all made it, with our students far more awake than I could have possibly imagined at that hour. Upon arriving in D.C., we hit the ground running, heading straight to the National Zoo where we saw the pandas. From that point onward, we never stopped moving, as this grand journey through historical and personal reflection continued for each of us. Every stop was truly an epic sight to behold. (By “every stop” I mean The Natural History Museum, The American History Museum, The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, The Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial, The World War II Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, The Washington Monument, The White House, The Supreme Court, The National Archives, The National Air and Space Museum Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center . . . just to name a few.)

Although we saw and experienced so much, a favorite for many was the Vietnam War Memorial, where students met two esteemed



veterans. Many students reflected on the moment, with one sharing, “My favorite site was the Vietnam War Memorial because of that old guy we talked to who was in the war. He was the sweetest man and truly a great American.”

It was an amazing adventure-and exciting, engaging experience for our students. They learned and grew. And so did we.





# GROWING FINANCIAL POSITION

*Brookstone School will ensure the future financial stability and future of the institution through the balancing of the school's budget, management of the institution's endowments, and continued investment in our students and faculty.*

**Be The One Day**  
Provides the Brookstone community with an opportunity to showcase our history, honor our core values, reflect on our school's significant milestones, and celebrate the accomplishments and impact of our students and alumni.

***Blanchard Leadership Institute***

MEGHAN BLACKMON

***Aligning Donor Passion With Our 2025-2030 Strategic Vision***

ED MARTIN

***Parents Making an Impact: BPA 2024-2025***

ROBIN GOSLING & JENNIFER ADAMS



# BLANCHARD LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

2024- 2025

*Meghan Blackmon*

DIRECTOR OF SERVANT LEADERSHIP  
& BLANCHARD LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

“

EVERY SMALL,  
POSITIVE  
CHANGE WE  
MAKE IN  
OURSELVES  
REPAYS US IN  
CONFIDENCE IN  
THE FUTURE.

*Alice Walker*

In the same spirit of growth and development, BLI experimented with a new rhythm for student Developmental Sprints and some enhanced programming for the 2024-2025 school year. Students in the odd-numbered grades all took part in an age appropriate Developmental Sprint<sup>®</sup>. Students in even-numbered grades took part in a variety of activities including an Empathy Escape Room and programming from the Leadership Institute at Columbus State University for our seniors (Gallup StrengthsFinder) and our sophomores (Conflict is Like a Zoo).

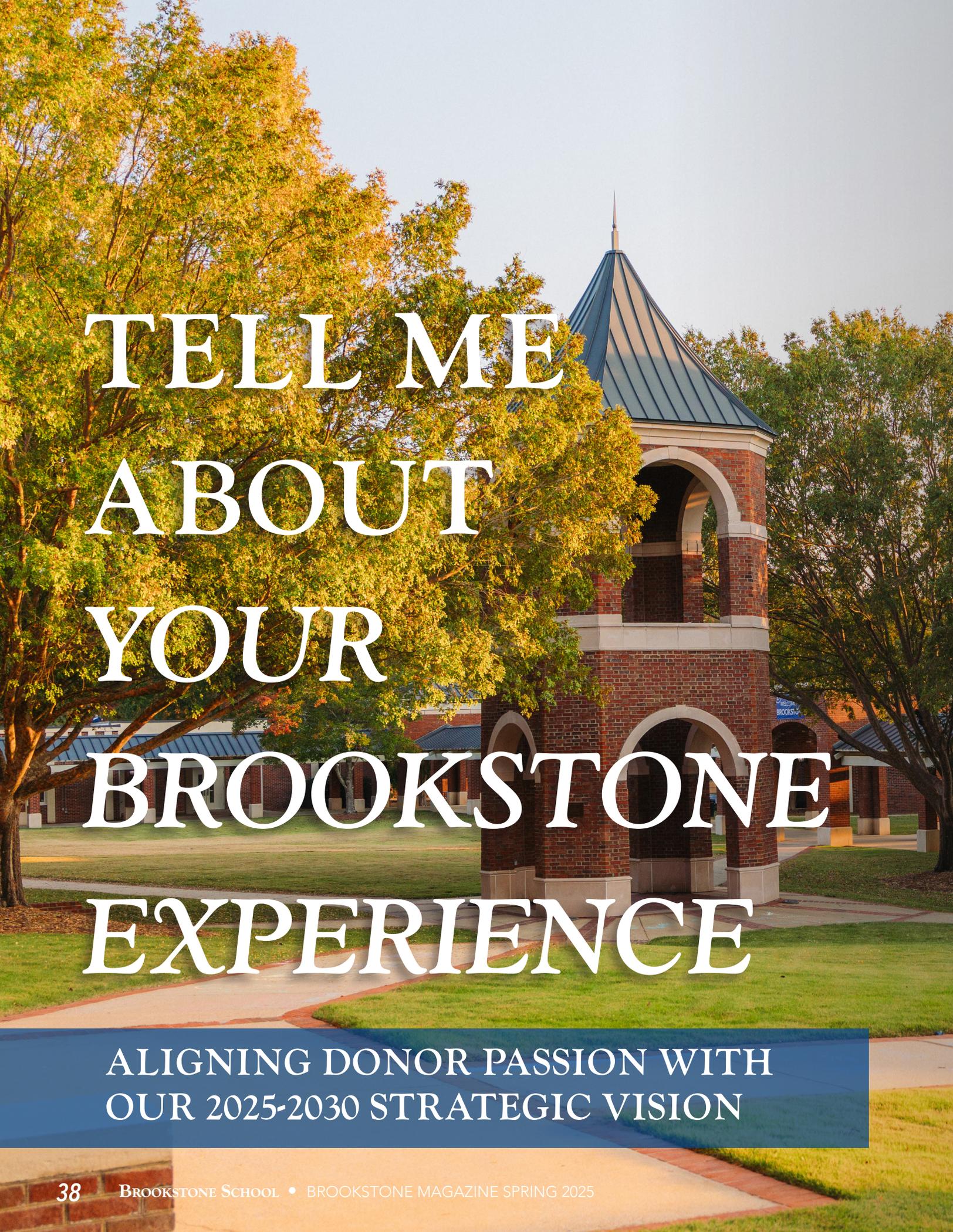


This sentiment underscores the heart of the Blanchard Leadership Institute efforts. Formally established in 2020 through a partnership with The Developmental Edge<sup>®</sup>, The Blanchard Leadership Institute has allowed all of our students and faculty to experience a Developmental Sprint<sup>®</sup>. The Sprints are a process based in human development research that combines workshops and real-time experiments, all focused on helping participants identify and overturn limiting assumptions to help them achieve traction on an improvement goal important to them.

For the past four years, students in Kindergarten through twelfth grade have taken part in a Developmental Sprint<sup>®</sup> in an age-appropriate way. This focus on self-awareness and growth goes hand in hand with Servant Leadership and our commitment to helping students serve others while developing as leaders.

Additionally, Andy Fleming of The Developmental Edge<sup>®</sup> joined us in January and spoke to all Middle and Upper School students. Mr. Fleming reminded us of the importance of continuing to grow and develop by challenging assumptions, inspiring a shared vision, and modeling the way. Another friend of Brookstone who served with the Young Life organization for over twenty years, Mr. Jeff Jones, also spoke to Middle School students about the importance of being a positive leader who shows kindness to others.

Our focus on Leadership and our core values continues to be central to our mission, and we are grateful for the Blanchard Leadership Institute's focus on self awareness and growth that is helping our students develop as strong leaders who are poised for success at Brookstone and beyond.

A photograph of a brick tower with a blue roof and arches, surrounded by trees with yellowing leaves, suggesting an autumn setting. The tower is the central focus, with a paved path leading towards it. The background shows a brick building and more trees.

# TELL ME ABOUT YOUR BROOKSTONE EXPERIENCE

ALIGNING DONOR PASSION WITH  
OUR 2025-2030 STRATEGIC VISION



**E**NGAGED COMMUNITY  
**D**YNAMIC CURRICULAR PROGRAMMING  
**G**ROWING FINANCIAL POSITION  
**E**MPOWERED FUTURE

A few times every week, I am inspired by conversations with parents, grandparents, and alumni who share stories that highlight the value of a Brookstone education, praise current and former faculty, and describe unforgettable experiences that shaped their lives or the lives of their family members. Reliving these treasured memories and connecting them to an opportunity to pay it forward often leads to transformational philanthropy. Passion and generosity fuel the mission at Brookstone.

For many past, current, and future parents and grandparents, the construction of a new Lower School aligns with their philanthropic goals. As a new gateway to the Brookstone educational journey, and one unlike any other in the Chattahoochee Valley, this facility will provide indoor and outdoor spaces that encourage curiosity and collaboration among our youngest learners and their teachers. It will also enhance both the strength of our instruction and the overall student experience. Significant commitments are already being designated to the future Lower School.

For an alumnus and attorney in Atlanta, the most impactful part of his Brookstone experience was the Mock Trial program, which was a powerhouse in regional and state competitions for many years. He was excited to review Brookstone's new strategic vision and to learn about the school's renewed focus on student-centered education and on programs

like Mock Trial that are as dynamic as the students themselves. As the lead donor for this project, he is proud that his gift, along with contributions from fellow Mock Trial alumni, will help revive the program in the 2025-26 school year.

For another group of Brookstone grandparents, the opportunity to support enhanced leadership programming that helps students reach their full potential and discover their purpose in life is deeply meaningful. Their substantial gift to the future of leadership development at Brookstone is allowing us to truly dream big.

At the heart of Brookstone's mission to prepare students for college and life is the freedom to explore, take risks, and enjoy the process of learning, growth, and self-discovery. Our 2025 to 2030 strategic vision reflects the same challenge we extend to our students from preschool through graduation: discover your purpose and dream big.

*Ed Martin*

Assistant Head of School for  
Institutional Advancement

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Contact Ed at [emartin@brookstoneschool.org](mailto:emartin@brookstoneschool.org) to learn more about the strategic vision and giving opportunities.



# BPA BROOKSTONE PARENTS ASSOCIATION

## PARENTS MAKING AN IMPACT 2024-2025 RECAP

### *Dear Brookstone Families,*

Wow! I am in awe of the wonderful year of community and volunteerism I have witnessed as your BPA President this school year. I am so grateful for the dedication of all the volunteers, from committee chairs to the BPA Executive Board to all parents who have served in any capacity for the BPA. YOU are the secret sauce behind the BPA's success, and this year was no exception!

Brookstone's spring is always buzzing with activity and a plethora of great events. We kicked off the new year with one of my favorite events, the Sweetheart Dance, where girls and their special guests danced the night away. Bubba the Cougar even made a special appearance to the delight of all our girls.

In March, Ashley Turner and Lane Riley led an amazing team of volunteers in Bidding for Brookstone. The BPA raised over \$109,000 for the online auction, and all funds will be poured back into our students and campus.

And then came April...what a month!

The BPA Arts Alliance did a phenomenal job with its annual Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre, including an addition to the fundraiser– a reverse raffle of a beautiful piece of art by Brookstone alumna Lulie Wallace. The reverse raffle alone raised over \$10,000. The BPA also hosted a very meaningful Senior Mentor Breakfast and brought New York Times Best Selling Author, Harlan Cohen, to campus for the BPA's Literature Live series. April continued with the Spring Arts Festival, Country Fair, and Market on the Quad, all in one week! The arts took center stage that week along with delicious culinary delights and beautiful plants for purchase.

In May, we celebrated the hardest working faculty and staff with Teacher Appreciation Week, including a special breakfast from The Waffle House truck and so many wonderful gifts for them to enjoy!

As I reflect on this past year, I again want to give you my heartfelt thanks for a fantastic year with the BPA. I loved serving alongside you! I am leaving you in the best of hands with our next president, Eileen Halter. She will continue to build our sense of community, and I know she will be so impactful.

[This BPA Connect highlights](#) all of the spring events as well as our special allocations.

I hope you smile when you read it, knowing all that the BPA has accomplished this year for the Brookstone community! If you are interested in serving in a leadership capacity for the 2025-2026 school year, please reach out to Eileen at [bpa@brookstoneschool.org](mailto:bpa@brookstoneschool.org). We welcome you!



Thank you to all who have served; you are the absolute best around! Go Cougars!

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***Jennifer Adams***

BPA President (2024-2025)

[CLICK HERE TO HEAR MORE](#)



## Bidding for Brookstone

- **Bidding for Brookstone** is the BPA's premier annual fundraising auction event. Co-Chairs Lane Riley and Ashley Turner led a fabulous team of volunteers delivering on so many exceptional auction items, including beautiful artwork from Brookstone alumni and local artists, unique Brookstone treasures, travel adventures, gorgeous grade baskets, and culinary delights. In addition to the auction, the BPA held a tuition raffle where lucky winner won half off tuition for the 2025-2026 school year.

- On March 20th, the entire Brookstone community was invited to the **Bidding for Brookstone** Preview Party, where parents had the chance to peruse the auction items in person while the kids enjoyed a sweet treat from the Icey Girl and bounced all of their energy out on an inflatable slide.

- Thank you to all of the hard-working volunteers, including Lane Riley, Ashley Turner, Lucy Cochran, Whitney Waldrop, Sara Varner, Sally Norman, Samantha Blair, Carson DeMars, Lulie Wallace, Brittany Harris, Suzanna Lampton, Anna Garcia, Brooke Peak, Dori Jones, Jennifer Adams, Robin Gosling, and Carrie Beth Wallace. **Bidding for Brookstone** raised \$109,000!

## Sweetheart Dance

- Co-Chairs Carrie Beth Wallace, Lulie Wallace, Molly Wallace, and Lauren Chambers transformed Green Island Country Club into a tropical paradise for 172 girls and their special guests for the annual **Sweetheart Dance**.

The girls and their dads tested their limbo skills on the dance floor, laughed the night away, and were greeted by special guest, Bubba the Cougar.

- A big MAHALO to our committee chairs along with their team of volunteers for creating wonderful memories to last a lifetime for these girls and their special dates!

## *Market on the Quad*

- We extend our gratitude to Chair Katie Bickerstaff and her Co-Chairs Karin Baker, Ginny Lawrence, and Katherine Turner for their impeccable coordination and successful execution of the perennial favorite—**Market on the Quad**. Homemade baked goods and delicious casseroles always sell out fast, and the “green team” spruces up our containers with beautiful plants and flowers. The dedicated efforts of the volunteer team raised over \$11,000. Amazing!

## *All School Initiatives*

- In January, the BPA held its All-School BPA Meeting where parents heard first-hand from BPA President Jennifer Adams on all the numerous initiatives and contributions of the BPA on campus.
- The BPA provided special treats to our amazing faculty and staff with a special coffee truck in March and a charcuterie box in April. Thank you to all of the Division Representatives for coordinating these pick-me-ups!
- On April 7th, the BPA sponsored **Literature Live!** with author Harlan Cohen for the parents of Juniors and Seniors.

# *BPA Campus Contributions*

## *Preschool*

- Gross motor development equipment
- Science and language manipulatives for 3K
- Playground safety mats
- Easel for Pre-K

## *Lower School*

- Bookshelves and decodable readers for Kindergarten
- Centers refresh for cognitive, social, and emotional skill building for Kindergarten
- Whiteboard for 1st grade
- *Engaging Series* books for 2nd grade
- Chromebook cases for 3rd grade
- *Being a Reader* Books for 3rd grade

## *Intermediate School*

- Protective iPad cases
- Sensory and fidget items

## *Middle School*

- Middle School Science Olympiad entrance fees

## *Upper School*

- Spectrophotometer for Chemistry
- Science goggle cabinet
- *Taking Off with Earth and Space Science* materials
- Rotunda furniture refresh

## *All School*

- Bass E Bar and Bass B Bar
- 2 Guitar wall racks

# COUGAR NATION

## *Approved Requests for this Spring*

- JUGS field football machine
- 3 Suples power dummies with legs for wrestling
- Wrestling signs for Illges Gym
- Sweat mops and dust mops for gyms
- Scorer's table
- Pro Package and Face-Impact Location System for Golf
- Volleyball program equipment

*Cougar Nation  
provided \$97,723 to  
Brookstone Athletics  
from proceeds of the  
2024 Cougar Cup.*

- The BPA and the Arts Alliance sponsored the **Spring Arts Festival** the week of April 21st-25th to include paying for all the wonderful resident artists during the week.

- On May 22nd, the BPA hosted the 8th grade breakfast for all 8th graders, Middle School faculty, and parents. Thank you to Middle School Division Representatives Liza Boykin and Whitney Pease and Co-Chairs Mary Lynn Grubb and Susanne Holbrook for celebrating our 8th graders' graduation from Middle School.

- The BPA helped fund the following: supplies for the 5th grade boat regatta, parent education in collaboration with the Brookstone Department of Wellness, ocular screening for Preschool, Middle School math tournament, and special events for Forest Friday.

## *Country Fair*

- Thank you to Chair Wimberly Comer and Co-Chair Courtney LeBleu for organizing the **Country Fair!** The games and inflatables were a hit, and everyone enjoyed dunking their favorite teacher and principal! With Blue & White Day t-shirt sales, fair wristband and dunk tank proceeds, the BPA raised \$3,500. Great job, ladies!

## *Senior Mentor Breakfast*

- We are so grateful to Co-Chairs Ginny Lawrence and Lauren Briscoe for hosting 142 Brookstone seniors, mentors, and faculty members for the Senior Mentor Breakfast. Thank you also to LTC Tim Palmer of the U.S. Army for his inspiring speech to the graduating seniors.

The Senior Mentor Breakfast is one of Brookstone's many cherished traditions, and the BPA is a proud sponsor.

## **Arts Alliance Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre**

- On April 17th, Chair Anna Flournoy and the Arts Alliance hosted another unforgettable evening at its 3rd annual Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre held at the Country Club of Columbus. This year's event provided a wonderful celebration of the arts.
- A highlight of the evening was the debut of the Brookstone Poppy Project - a beautiful display of ceramic poppies handcrafted by students to honor local veterans. Funds raised from last year's event made this touching tribute possible.
- Emcee Jacob Crowder kept the crowd entertained with a brand new addition: a reverse raffle, which raised an impressive \$10,000. Lucky winner Robin Gosling took home a stunning original oil painting, *Highlands Botanical Garden I*, by alumna Lulie Wallace.
- The evening's main event, *Fatal Romance*, directed by Robby Davis, was a hilarious and thrilling performance

about romance writers competing for the coveted Love Knot Award - until mayhem, mystery, and murder turned the competition upside down. Guests worked together to hunt for clues and unmask the culprit, adding an interactive twist to the evening.

- The event raised over \$24,000 to support Fine Arts students across campus, funding that will help provide new art supplies, instruments, and creative opportunities in the year ahead. Bravo!

## **Faculty Appreciation Breakfast**

- On May 7th, the BPA honored its dedicated faculty, staff, and administration with a breakfast event on the Quad. Rain could not stop Co-Chairs Gayla Arrington, Kristen Lane, Michelle Blanchard, and April Miller from celebrating with breakfast from the Waffle House truck and distributing gift cards to each attendee. Plus, several guests won fun door prizes. Thank you to the co-chairs for celebrating the best faculty and staff!

*Written by Robin Gosling*

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***Thank you to everyone who served this year including the 2024-25 BPA Executive Board, the BPA committee chairs, all of the numerous volunteers, and a special thank you to Jennifer Adams and Eileen Halter for leading us so well!***

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# EMPOWERED FUTURE

*Brookstone School will design a campus that supports its mission through state-of-the-art facilities, sustainable growth, and spaces tailored to inspire academic excellence and lifelong learning for today's students and future generations.*

***Celebrating The Class of 2025***

***A Fatal Romance Mystery Dinner Theater***

BROOKSTONE ARTS ALLIANCE

***Fall Sports & Fine Arts Highlights***

***Lillie Buffington '25***

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

***Ella Hudson '25***

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

***Distinguished Alumni 2024***

MEG STEWART

***Be The One Day***

MEG STEWART



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# *SHAPING LEADERS, EMPOWERING FUTURES.*

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Spring brings a sense of energy and purpose to campus as we approach year-end milestones. At Brookstone, that momentum builds toward one of our most meaningful traditions: graduation. The Class of 2025 leaves behind more than a record of academic achievement—they've demonstrated leadership, resilience, and a deep commitment to their community. These qualities have been nurtured by the intentional experiences, relationships, and challenges that define a Brookstone education.

As we bid farewell to this remarkable class, we look ahead with hope and anticipation. Their accomplishments serve as a reminder of what's possible when students are challenged, supported, and inspired. Their legacy strengthens our commitment to cultivating a vibrant academic community, one that equips future generations to think boldly, pursue knowledge with purpose, and lead with integrity. We send the Class of 2025 forward ready to lead, knowing they are prepared to make a difference and that they'll carry the best of Brookstone wherever they go.



HCC Jr  
2019  
CLC  
2022  
SEC  
2025

# CLASS OF 2025 SENIOR AWARDS

## THE TIMOTHY BALDWIN TARPLEY AWARD

Established by the Class of 1979 in perpetual honor of their friend and classmate Timothy Tarpley, this award is presented annually by a vote of the Brookstone School senior class to a teacher who has consistently and selflessly demonstrated extraordinary personal commitment to serving the interests of Brookstone School and its students.

PRESENTED TO **MRS. JODY LUMSDEN**



## HALLMARK AWARD

This award is presented to the senior who has distinguished himself by consistently demonstrating integrity, honesty, and good moral judgment through humble actions. As the name *Hallmark* suggests, this individual is “marked” by their exceptional character.

PRESENTED TO **JAMES PALMER**



## THE L. ASHLEY WALTERS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The Outstanding Senior Speech Award was established in memory of Lenora Ashley Walters, a member of the Class of 1984. This one-time cash award, intended to be applied toward the recipient’s college tuition, is funded by the L. Ashley Walters Memorial Endowment Fund.

PRESENTED TO **GRADY MILLER**



## MARTHA K. HEARD COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

This award, given in memory of Martha Karen Heard, a member of the Class of 1985, is presented to the senior who has demonstrated exceptional dedication to community service.

PRESENTED TO **ELLA KERSEY**



## TROTTER LEADERSHIP AWARD

This award is given in honor of Catherine Trotter to a deserving member (or members) of the senior class who exemplifies leadership and embodies the spirit of servant leadership.

**PRESENTED TO ANAYA JOHNSON AND CHARLES MCPHERSON**

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## COUGAR SPIRIT AWARD

This award recognizes one senior girl and one senior boy who, throughout their time in the Upper School, have demonstrated the true spirit of Brookstone and exemplary sportsmanship.

**PRESENTED TO CATHERINE PERRY AND ASHTON GLOYSTEIN**

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## DEE DEE BRANHAM TENACITY AWARD

This award, given in memory of Dee Dee Branham, is presented to a senior who exemplifies grit, tenacity, and resilience.

**PRESENTED TO JACKSON PRESLEY**

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## WALTER E. MEINZEN AWARD

This award is presented to a senior who has demonstrated exceptional perseverance and growth in the study of mathematics. It is given in memory of Retired Colonel Walt Meinzen, a devoted Upper School teacher who firmly believed in every student's potential to succeed in math.

**PRESENTED TO BRIANNA OGLESBY**

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## MCKENZIE- CHAPPELLE MATHEMATICS AWARD

This award is presented in honor of former Upper School mathematics teachers Windle McKenzie and John Chappelle. It recognizes a senior who has achieved success in upper-level math courses through perseverance, dedication, hard work, and an outstanding attitude.

**PRESENTED TO ASHTON GLOYSTEIN**



## THE CHARLES J. CUMISKEY AWARD

This award is presented to two seniors—one female and one male—who have attended Brookstone School for at least six years and who personify the spirit of Brookstone through tenacity, perseverance, congeniality, optimism, and loyalty.

**PRESENTED TO LULIE LAMPTON AND CHARLES MCPHERSON**

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## THE JOHNSTON–MCKENZIE AWARD

This award is presented by a grateful faculty to one senior in recognition of their cheerful and selfless service to Brookstone School.

**PRESENTED TO ANKITA NUKALA**

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## THE SALUTATORY AWARD

This award is presented to the senior with the second highest cumulative academic weighted numerical average.

**PRESENTED TO AVA CHANG**

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## THE JAMES P. MCCALLIE VALEDICTORY AWARD

This award is presented to the senior with the highest cumulative academic weighted numerical average.

**PRESENTED TO JOANNA WANG**

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## THE DORIS AND TOM BLACK AWARD

This award is presented to the senior who has contributed the most to Brookstone School through personal achievement, leadership ability, and character.

**PRESENTED TO HANK WYLIE**

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## SENIOR AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

### HERNDON MATHEMATICS AWARD

Presented to NANCY SCHLEY

## ROTHSCHILD ENGLISH AWARD

Presented to LULIE LAMPTON

## MARY AND JACK PASSAILAIGUE FOREIGN LANGUAGE AWARDS

for Spanish: Presented to AVA VALADI

for French: Presented to HANK WYLIE

for Latin: Presented to JOANNA WANG



## KIRVEN HISTORY AWARD

Presented to LULIE LAMPTON

## HAZOURI SCIENCE AWARD

Presented to ANKITA NUKALA

## DRAMATICS AWARD

Presented to BO BLACKMON



## JORDAN MUSIC AWARD

Presented to CATHERINE PERRY

## SARAH SMITH HART ART AWARD

Presented to AVA CHANG



## OUTSTANDING OVERALL SENIOR ARTIST AWARD

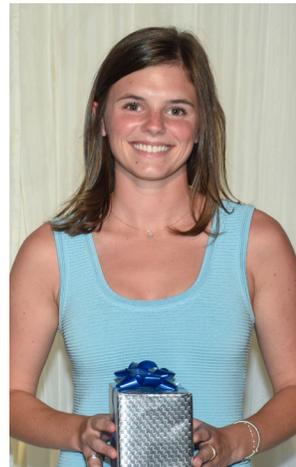
Presented to CHARLES MCPHERSON

## KENNON COMPUTER SCIENCE AWARD

Presented to THOMAS MAHOLICK

## MCCONNELL -TUCKER JOURNALISM AWARD

Presented to AVA CHANG



## COACHES' OUTSTANDING ATHLETE AWARD

Presented to LUCY JONES AND MERCER HUDSON



**JOSIE LYNN ALEXANDER** 

*Sewanee: University of the South*

**LINDLEY CLAIRE ALEXANDER**

*University of Alabama*

**ABBIE GRACE ARRINGTON**

*University of Alabama*

**IBRAHIM BALOCH**

*Augusta University*

**ELIZABETH WHITAKER BICKERSTAFF**

*Auburn University*

**SIDNEY DYKES BLACKMON, JR.**

*Savannah College of Art & Design - Atlanta*

**MARIAN FRANCES BLANCHARD**

*Auburn University*

**JOSEPHINE CAROLE BOLINGER**

*Furman University*

**NATALIE LOUISE BOYKIN**

*Texas Christian University*

**CHARLES HOGAN BRISCOE**

*University of Georgia*

**LILLIE ELIZABETH BUFFINGTON**

*Auburn University*

**BAYLINN LIDELL-DOYLE CARR** 

*University of West Georgia*

**KATHRYN MAY CASTO** 

*Georgia Southern University*

**SAMUEL ALBERT CAVES, JR.**

*University of Georgia*

**SPENCER EDMUND CHAMPION**

*Auburn University*

**AVA TAYLOR CHANG**

*Emory University*

**BRYAN STANLEY CHRISTOPHER, JR.**

*University of Alabama*

**JOHN HAMILTON DIXON**

*University of Alabama*

**ROBERT MACK DIXON, III**

*University of Alabama*

**GORDON CHAPMAN DYKES** 

*Spring Hill College*

**JOSEPH PARKS EVANS**

*Auburn University*

**GENEVIEVE LEIGH FERDINANDS**

*Georgia Institute of Technology*

**BRE'ANDON TO'MAE GARDNER**

*Howard University*

**ROBERT ZACHARY GILLEN**

*Auburn University*

**ASHTON CONNER GLOYSTEIN**

*Clemson University*

**SAMEERA LYNN GOR**

*Georgia State University*

**SAMUEL LEWIS GRUBB** 

*Barton College*

**ELAINE AVA HUDSON**

*University of Georgia*

**JEFFREY MERCER HUDSON, JR.** 

*Pensacola State College*

**MAKON JACKSON**

*United States Air Force*

**JAXSON BERNARD JAMES** 

*Shorter College*

**ANAYA KARIS MARY JOHNSON**

*Loyola Marymount University*

**LUCILLE BOWEN JONES**

*University of Georgia*

**MAXWELL JAMES JONES** 

*South Georgia State College*

**ELLA REID KERSEY**

*Mississippi State University*

**CHANWOO SEAN KIM** 

*Berry College*



**LUCILE LOTT LAMPTON**

*Wofford College*

**MILLIE MAE LAWRENCE**

*Rhodes College*

**CARSON JOSEPH LOTT**

*Texas Christian University*

**JAMES THOMAS MAHOLICK, II**

*Auburn University*

**JOHN BRAY MANDERSON, JR.**

*University of Georgia*

**ROBERT LEVI MARTIN**

*Southern Union State Community College*

**CHARLES HERRIN MCPHERSON**

*Brown University*

**AVA RENEE MICKELSON**

*Georgia Southern University*

**CLARA MARTIN MIDDLEBROOKS**

*University of Alabama*

**GRADY THOMAS MILLER**

*University of Alabama*

**LILY TURNER MOSHELL**

*Auburn University*

**ANKITA NUKALA**

*Rice University*

**BRIANNA KAE OGLESBY**

*New York University*

**JAMES THOMAS PALMER** 

*Gardner-Webb University*

**WYATT HENRY PARKER**

*University of Mississippi*

**JASON EUGENE PERNELL**

*Clayton State University*

**CATHERINE WAKELEY PERRY**

*Samford University*

**ELEANOR ADELE PEZOLD**

*Auburn University*

**JACKSON TYLER PRESLEY**

*University of West Florida*

**LILY SEMMES SANDERS**

*University of Mississippi*

**NANCY JARRELL HARDAWAY SCHLEY**

*Georgia Institute of Technology*

**MARY KIMBLE SIGMAN**

*Sewanee: University of the South*

**AVA LYNN SINGLETON** 

*Full Sail University*

**JA'KEITH EDWARD TOLBERT**

*United States Air Force*

**HENRY SHERAM TOMMEY**

*University of Mississippi*

**AVA GRACE TREILOBS**

*University of Georgia*

**JACKSON THOMAS TUCKER**

*University of North Georgia*

**WILLIAM BRADLEY TURNER, IV**

*University of Georgia*

**AVA YASMIN VALADI**

*Georgetown University*

**KAYLA GRACE VILLEGAS**

*Auburn University*

**BLAKELY MORGAN WADDELL**

*University of Alabama*

**JOANNA CATHERINE WANG**

*Peabody Conservatory | Johns Hopkins University*

**HUNTER DYLAN WEIS**

*University of Mississippi*

**HENRY MICHAEL WYLIE**

*Georgia Institute of Technology*



INDICATES ATHLETIC SIGNING

# Lasting Legacies

A Brookstone “legacy” is a graduating senior with a sibling, parent, or grandparent who is a Brookstone graduate, current or former trustee, or faculty member. This year, thirty-six members of the Class of 2025 are shown who have earned this special distinction.

**1. RILEY ('23), JULIE (POWELL) ('10), ANSLEY (COPE) ('08), JOSIE, AND CLAIRE ALEXANDER**



**2. LANE ('22), LUKE ('23), AND ABBIE ARRINGTON**



**3. AHMAD ('24) AND IBRAHIM BALOCH**



**4. BO ('96 AND BOARD) AND LIZZIE BICKERSTAFF**



**5. DYKES ('91), MEGHAN ('99 AND FACULTY), BRIGHT ('23), AND BO BLACKMON**



**6. EVANS ('19), BO ('21), AND MAE BLANCHARD**





7. CHUCK ('87), JOHN POPE ('17), AND CHARLES BRISCOE



8. BROOKS ('22) AND LILLIE BUFFINGTON



9. KRISTI (FACULTY) AND KATIE CASTO



10. AL ('92) AND BO CAVES



11. HUNTER ('19), CALLAWAY ('22), AND SPENCER CHAMPION



12. BOB (BOARD), HAMILTON, AND MACK DIXON



13. TRA ('86) AND CHAPMAN DYKES



14. TRIPP ('22) AND PARKS EVANS



15. JARIN ('23) AND SAMEERA GOR



16. WIN ('23) AND SAM GRUBB

17. JEFF ('89)\*, RIDLEY ('19), AND MERCER HUDSON

\*NOT PICTURED

18. ALLYSON (FACULTY) AND MAXWELL JONES



19. HYUNSU ('21) AND CHANWOO KIM

20. HENRY ('23) AND LULIE LAMPTON



21. MARK ('88), CREIGHT ('23) AND MILLIE LAWRENCE

22. BRANTLEY ('86) AND BRAY MANDERSON



23. TURNER ('98) AND LILY MOSHELL

24. TOMMY ('22) AND WYATT PARKER



25. LISA (FACULTY) AND JACKSON PRESLEY

26. TREY ('21) AND LILY SANDERS





27. JARRELL ('92), JENNINGS (CHESTER) ('93), AND NANCY SCHLEY



28. JOHN ('91) AND MARY SIGMAN



29. SHRIVER ('95), ELLIE ('22), AND HENRY TOMMEY



30. TIMO ('88) AND AVA TREILOBS



31. MALLORY ('24) AND JACKSON TUCKER



32. BILL ('96 AND BOARD) AND WILL TURNER



33. TRINITY ('23) AND KAYLA VILLEGAS



34. SPENCER ('23) AND BLAKELY WADDELL



35. JOSEPH ('20) AND JOANNA WANG



36. LUCY ('21) AND HANK WYLIE



# What's New Class of



# next for the 2025?

Members of the  
Class of 2025 were  
accepted to

**95**

colleges and  
universities  
in

**12**

different states  
and the District of  
Columbia.



**3 STUDENTS WILL  
STILL HAVE A  
COUGAR AS THEIR  
COLLEGE MASCOT**

**1**

student will be  
heading to an Ivy  
League School

**11**

**GRADUATES  
WILL GO ON  
TO PLAY THE  
SPORT THEY  
LOVE IN  
COLLEGE**

**2**

**ATHLETIC SIGNINGS FOR THIS  
CLASS SPANNED ACROSS 7  
SPORTS: FOOTBALL, CROSS  
COUNTRY, SWIM, BASEBALL,  
WRESTLING, SOCCER, AND  
BASKETBALL**

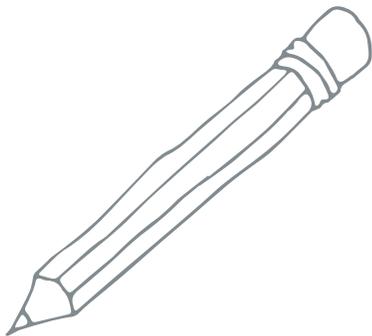
graduates will  
attend the  
United States  
Air Force.

OUT OF THE  
**70**

GRADUATES IN  
THE CLASS,

**26**  
ARE LIFERS AND

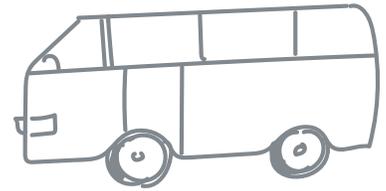
**41**  
ARE LEGACIES.



**100%**  
COLLEGE  
ACCEPTANCE

**1**  
GRADUATE  
WILL  
ATTEND  
A HBCU

**21**  
graduates  
will attend a  
university in the  
state of Georgia  
or Alabama



THE FARTHEST  
DISTANCE A  
MEMBER OF  
THE CLASS  
OF 2025  
WILL TRAVEL  
TO ATTEND  
COLLEGE IS  
OVER

**2,000**  
**MILES**

FROM  
BROOKSTONE  
SCHOOL

1 STUDENT WILL  
BE ATTENDING  
A UNIVERSITY  
DEDICATED TO  
ART & DESIGN





Awards 2025



# APPRECIATE, CREATE, EXCEL: BROOKSTONE FINE ARTS

This spring, the Fine Arts Department closed out its theater season with the Upper School production of *The Drowsy Chaperone*, a performance that once again highlighted the talent and dedication of our students and faculty. While art and music are integral parts of the Brookstone curriculum, theater offers many students a unique opportunity to step into new roles, whether as actors, dancers, musicians, or behind-the-scenes leaders. From set design to lighting and sound, the technical crew played an essential part in bringing the production to life. Their collective effort impressed the Brookstone community and reflected the department's commitment to excellence in all facets of performance.

In addition, the Brookstone Arts Alliance hosted its third annual Mystery Dinner Theatre, which has quickly become a highly anticipated event. This year's production, *A Fatal Romance*, featured a dynamic cast and delighted guests with humor, mystery, and interactive fun as attendees pieced together clues throughout the evening. The event also featured spotlight artist Lulie Wallace, who generously donated an original painting for the reverse raffle. The season culminated in the Spring Arts Festival, a weeklong celebration of creativity and expression where students performed, created, recited, played, and engaged as audience members. Whether on stage, in the studio, or behind the scenes, the Fine Arts Department continues to create experiences that celebrate our students' talents and enrich the Brookstone community.



# A FATAL ROMANCE

## ARTS ALLIANCE MURDER MYSTERY DINNER THEATRE

### *Anna Flournoy*

#### BROOKSTONE ARTS ALLIANCE EVENT CHAIR

The Arts Alliance hosted another unforgettable evening at its 3rd annual Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre on Thursday, April 17th, at the Country Club of Columbus. This year's event was bigger and better than ever.

A highlight of the evening was the debut of the Brookstone Poppy Project, a beautiful display of ceramic poppies handcrafted by students to honor local veterans. Funds raised from last year's event made this touching tribute possible.

Guests were welcomed with the soothing piano music of Micah Pate, setting the perfect ambiance for the night. Meanwhile, emcee Jacob Crowder kept the crowd entertained with a brand-new addition: a Reverse Raffle, which raised an impressive \$10,000. Lucky winner Robin Gosling took home a stunning original oil painting, "Highlands Botanical Garden I," by alumna Lulie Wallace.

The evening's main event, *Fatal Romance*, directed by Robby Davis, was a hilarious and thrilling performance about romance



“

**SAM AND I HAVE PARTICIPATED IN MANY PROFESSIONAL MURDER MYSTERY DINNER SHOWS BEFORE, AND BROOKSTONE'S PRODUCTION SURPASSED ALL OF THEM! IT WAS AN EPIC EVENING!**

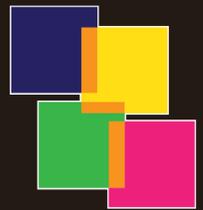
*Judge Tippi Cain Burch*

writers competing for the coveted Love Knot Award—until mayhem, mystery, and murder turned the competition upside down. Guests worked together to hunt for clues and unmask the culprit, adding an interactive twist to the evening.

The all-star cast, featuring cameos by Phillip Farmer, Paul Hampton, Lulie Lampton, Sam Lord, and Carrie Beth Wallace, delivered performances that were nothing short of Oscar-worthy.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of attendees, the event raised over \$24,000

to support Fine Arts students across campus—funding that will help provide new art supplies, instruments, and creative opportunities in the year ahead.



**BROOKSTONE SCHOOL ARTS ALLIANCE**

Mark your calendars now: the Arts Alliance promises to make next year's event even bigger and better! Join us on Thursday, April 16, 2026, for another unforgettable night of intrigue, entertainment, and community.



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# *WE DON'T JUST TEACH WE EMPOWER STUDENTS*

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Looking back on the winter and spring seasons, we are incredibly proud of the hard work and determination shown by our student-athletes. Winter sports such as basketball, wrestling, and swimming had great seasons, with athletes showing remarkable skill and dedication. Our spring sports, including soccer, track and field, tennis, golf, and baseball, also had outstanding seasons. A special congratulations goes to our baseball team for their back-to-back state championships. This remarkable achievement highlights the team's commitment to excellence and their hard work throughout the season.

At Brookstone, athletics are more than just games. They are opportunities for students to grow as leaders, contribute to their communities, and develop important life skills. Our coaches emphasize the importance of balancing athletic performance with academic success, ensuring our students are prepared for both future academic challenges and the opportunities that lie ahead. We are excited to build on this foundation and look forward to continued success in the seasons to come.





**MEET JAMIE  
WILLIAMS  
BROOKSTONE'S NEW  
DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS**

Beginning this role as your Director of Athletics has been one of learning and excitement for me- learning about what makes Brookstone, well, *Brookstone*.

***It's the people.***

Past and present Brookstone families have generously gifted me their time, sharing their stories and journeys. I have enjoyed their company tremendously. While listening to their great testimonies, two very clear and common threads emerged quickly: community and generosity. That's you! You are the very ones who make the community and are so generous with your time, effort, and energy. Please allow me, as the new man on campus seeing it all from the outside looking in, to remind you just how refreshing and inspiring it is to witness and become part of a place that exemplifies what it encourages.

I am excited to begin my purpose here. It's simple: take an already successful athletic program with a long-standing tradition and build upon it. With the help of the entire Brookstone family, through action and prayer, we will progress to the highest of levels.

**OUR GOAL IS TO ALIGN ALL OF OUR ATHLETIC TEAMS WITH THE MISSION AND VALUES OF BROOKSTONE,**

**TO DEVELOP YOUNG PEOPLE, AND TO PROVIDE A GREAT EXPERIENCE FOR EVERYONE INVOLVED.**

It takes an enormous amount of commitment and support from all, and I am confident that each person will rise to the occasion and choose to BE THE ONE to make Brookstone even better.

I believe the single greatest duty of an educator is to make a positive impact in the lives of our students. I am eager to get to know our student-athletes and families and anticipate seeing athletics come alongside the arts and academics to help develop each and every one of our student-athletes.

I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge God's hand in this opportunity as we join Brookstone as a family this school year. I freely admit that I have been blessed beyond measure, and that the sources of my strength are my family and, most importantly, my faith in Jesus.

Go Cougs!



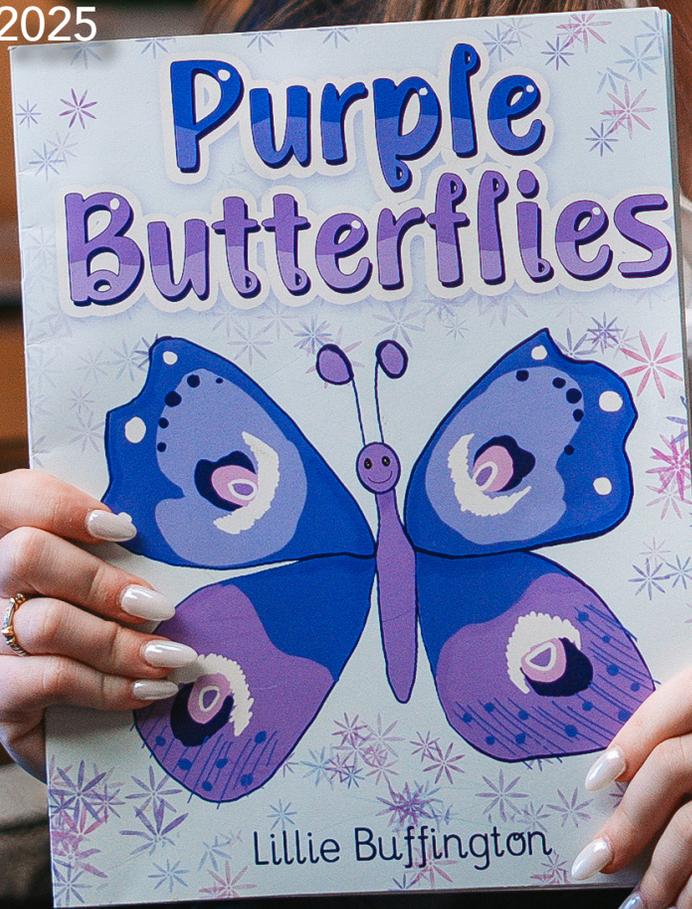
Jamie W. Williams

# PURPLE BUTTERFLIES:

A STORY OF  
COURAGE AND  
CREATIVITY

*Lillie Buffington*

CLASS OF 2025





**W**hen Lillie Buffington was just five years old, she was diagnosed with Crohn's disease. While many who face this diagnosis prepare for a lifetime of managing symptoms, Lillie's journey took a different turn. She made a full recovery at an early age, and her story continues to inspire others through her creativity and heart.

During a hospital stay at Piedmont Columbus just before going into surgery, a nurse gently told Lillie she might see purple butterflies as she drifted off to sleep. The next day, as she began to recover, a friend walked into her hospital room holding a balloon shaped like a purple butterfly. No one knew about the nurse's comment, but for Lillie, the moment felt like a sign of hope.

That image stayed with her.

A talented artist and storyteller, Lillie later chose to write and illustrate a children's book inspired by her experience. Titled *Purple Butterflies*, the book is a story about joy, positive thinking, and inner strength. In it, she writes, "The color purple is thought to be the perfect color for someone who needs extra courage."

All proceeds from the book support the Children's Miracle Network, and every child who checks into the Children's Hospital at Piedmont Columbus receives a copy. For young patients facing fear or uncertainty, Lillie's story offers a moment of encouragement and something to smile about.



**I'M JUST GLAD  
THE KIDS HAVE  
SOMETHING TO  
ENJOY AND BE  
ENCOURAGED  
BY WHILE  
THEY'RE THERE.**

Through *Purple Butterflies*, Lillie Buffington is sharing more than her story. She is giving children a small reminder that courage can be found in the most unexpected places.

[CLICK HERE TO HEAR LILLIE'S STORY](#)





# BE THE ONE DAY

HONORING OUR HISTORY, OUR VALUES, & OUR STUDENTS





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## *A NEW TRADITION BORN TO HONOR OUR LEGACY*

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On Monday, March 3rd, Brookstone hosted its inaugural Be The One Day, an exciting celebration that brought the entire campus community together. This special event showcased the school's rich history, honored its core values, and reflected on significant milestones, while also celebrating the remarkable achievements of both students and alumni. The day included Distinguished Alums speaking to Middle and Upper School during program time, a tour around the Turner Center Gallery that held information on Brookstone's history, and fast facts posted around the Quad for students to see. Be The One Day will serve as a reminder of the impact and legacy of the Brookstone spirit, fostering a sense of pride and unity among the Brookstone community for years to come.

[VIEW THE BE THE ONE DAY GALLERY](#)

[HEAR MORE ABOUT BROOKSTONE'S HISTORY](#)

# 2024 Inductees

## DR. BRAD GUFFEY '93



- ◇ Graduated from Auburn University in 1996 with a degree in Molecular Biology.
- ◇ Participated in mission trips to Brazil, Venezuela, and Kenya during his time at Auburn University, experiences that played a significant role in shaping his calling as a pediatric HIV doctor.
- ◇ Earned his medical degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 2001, with specializations in Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, and Infectious Diseases (including Pediatric Infectious Diseases).
- ◇ After completing his medical training and postdoctoral studies, Brad and his wife, Christie, moved their family to Zambia—integrating his professional calling with his lifelong passion for service. Founded Guffey Family Ministries in Zambia in 2002.
- ◇ Maintains a broad medical practice, providing comprehensive care for some of Zambia's most vulnerable and critically ill patients.
- ◇ Currently serves as a career missionary and Vice President of Health and Nutrition at Family Legacy Missions International, an organization dedicated to transforming the lives of approximately 13,000 orphans in Zambia.
- ◇ Has served as the Chief Medical Director of the Hill Wellness Center in Lusaka, Zambia, for the past eleven years.
- ◇ Specializes in the treatment of infectious diseases, with a particular focus on pediatric HIV.

## MR. CHANDLER RILEY '97



- ◇ Graduated from the University of Georgia in 2001 with honors, earning a B.S. in Biology, cum laude.
- ◇ Earned his Juris Doctor from Emory University School of Law in 2005.
- ◇ Currently a Shareholder at Page Scrantom, Sprouse, Tucker & Ford Attorneys and Counselors at Law in Columbus, GA.
- ◇ Practice areas include trademark infringement, litigation, and copyright protection.
- ◇ Member of the Columbus Bar Association and the Chattahoochee Bar Association (Past President).
- ◇ Serves on the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Club of the Chattahoochee Valley (Past President), The Pastoral Institute (Chair-elect), St. Francis-Emory Healthcare, Open Door Community House (Past Chair), St. Luke United Methodist Church, and The Family Center.
- ◇ Specializes in corporate law, including guiding clients in forming new corporate entities, acquiring or selling businesses, and navigating complex real estate and development transactions.
- ◇ Advises multifamily developers, local housing authorities, and landlords, handling property management matters.
- ◇ Has extensive experience assisting construction professionals with securing payments and advising financial institutions on optimizing assets.

## DR. CHRIS McCLURE '01



- ◇ Attended The University of Georgia where he graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Economics in 2005.
- ◇ Received his PhD from Auburn University in Biological Sciences
- ◇ Conducted postdoctoral research at Boise State University
- ◇ Serves as Executive Vice President of Science and Conservation at The Peregrine Fund
- ◇ Oversees all research and conservation performed by the organization
- ◇ Published over 130 peer-reviewed articles
- ◇ Associate Editor for the Journal of Raptor Research
- ◇ Honorary fellow of the American Ornithological Society
- ◇ Affiliate faculty at Boise State University



## **DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI 2024**

*CHANDLER RILEY ('97), BRAD GUFFEY ('93), & CHRIS MCCLURE ('01)*

Brookstone is full of long lasting traditions that have been passed down from those who came before us and are woven into the fabric that makes Brookstone so special.

For over a decade, Brookstone has recognized outstanding alumni through the Distinguished Alumni Society. As planning began for the induction of the 12th class of Distinguished Alumni, the celebration was reimagined and brought forth an additional element: an opportunity for our current students to meaningfully connect with alumni.

Throughout the day on March 3rd, students had the privilege of hearing from the 2024 Distinguished Alumni and engaging in activities that highlighted Brookstone's rich history and foundational values. The Day was all about inspiring our next generation to Be The One. The awards Presentation was at the Bibb Mill that evening.

The Distinguished Alumni Society's purpose is to recognize the contributions our alumni have made to their communities. For over 70 years, Brookstone has produced strong minds, willing hands, and servant leaders. This program allows the school to thank them for their service.

Honor Scholar Ella Hudson joined the Brookstone community as a freshman, but her entrepreneurial journey began even earlier. In the spring of 2020, while still in seventh grade and navigating the uncertainty of the pandemic, Ella began babysitting for families in her neighborhood.

What started as a few local jobs grew into something more. Ella began connecting her friends with families in need of sitters and gradually built a network of trusted peers offering childcare across Columbus. For nearly two years, she ran this system informally. Then, in October of 2022, she turned it into an official business.

She named her company Fountain City Babysitting in honor of Columbus, the Fountain City, and built it from the ground up. With a website, active social media presence, and strong word-of-mouth support, the business now averages around 50 bookings per week and includes more than 70 sitters on its roster.

This past year, Synovus featured Ella in a video that was shown at their inaugural Women Mean Business luncheon. The event highlighted successful women entrepreneurs across the region and aimed to inspire the next generation of business leaders. Being included was a meaningful recognition of Ella's impact and vision.

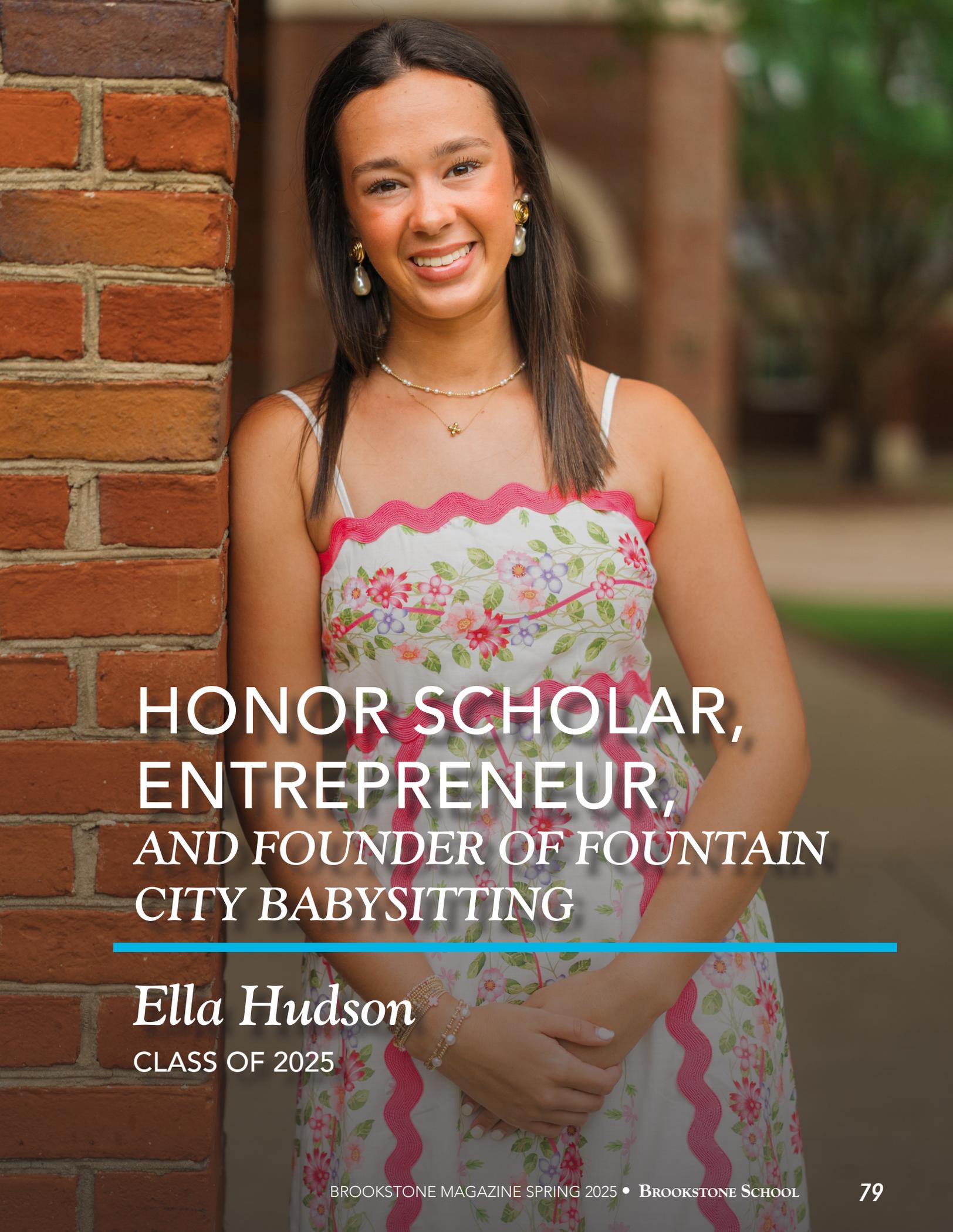
Managing a growing business while staying on top of academics and student life has required discipline and balance. Ella credits Brookstone with helping her develop both. From juggling AP classes to participating in senior traditions, she has been intentional about making the most of her Upper School experience.

“  
**BROOKSTONE HAS  
REALLY SHAPED  
ME TO BE A  
BETTER STUDENT-  
LEADER AS WELL  
AS A BUSINESS  
LEADER,” SHE  
SAYS. “THEY HAVE  
GIVEN ME SO  
MANY HANDS-ON  
OPPORTUNITIES  
TO LEAD.**

”

Ella will attend the University of Georgia this fall, where she plans to study business management and entrepreneurship. As she looks ahead, she carries with her the confidence that comes from building something meaningful and the lessons learned from a community that believed in her from the start.

[CLICK HERE TO HEAR ELLA'S STORY](#)

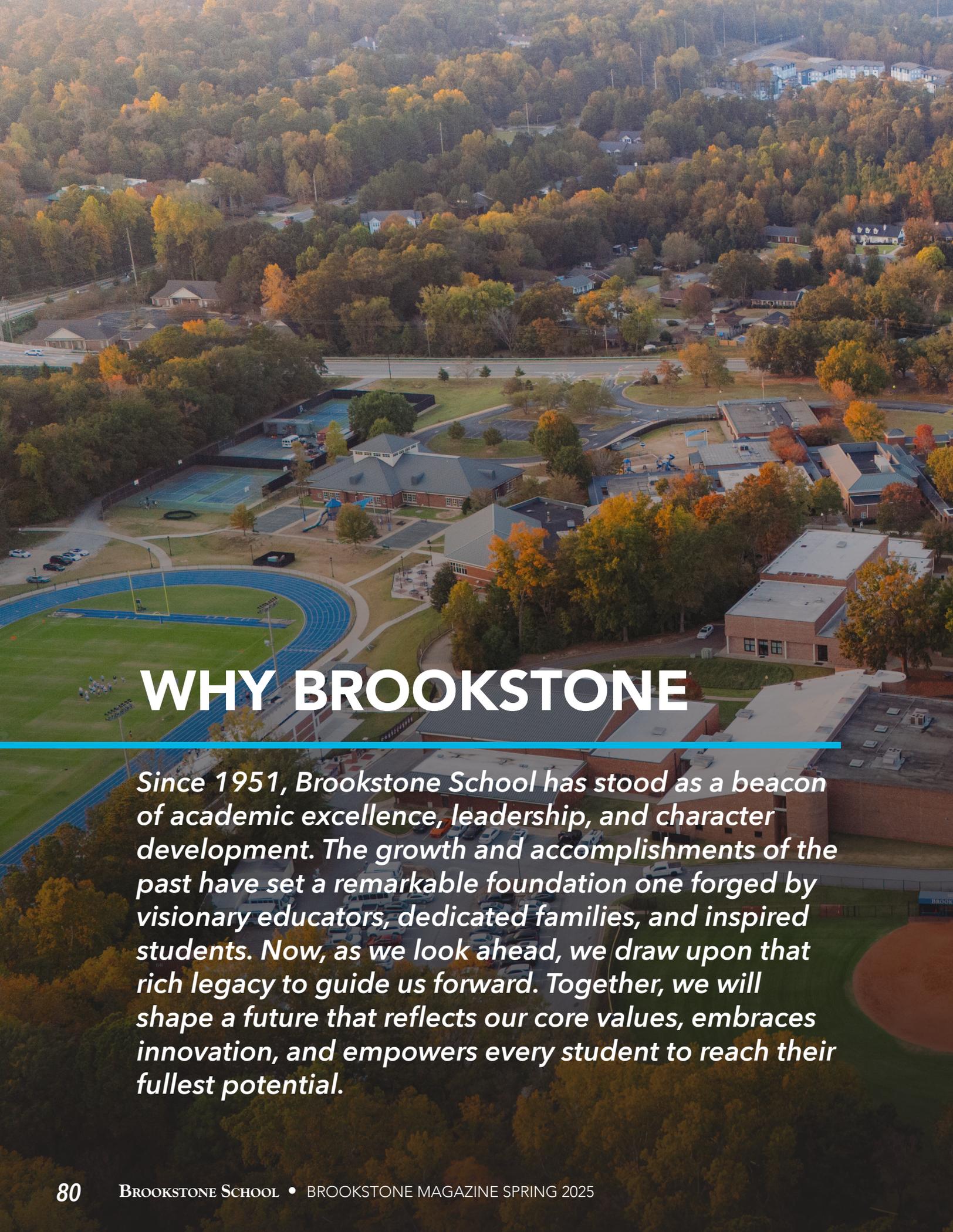
A portrait of Ella Hudson, a young woman with long dark hair, smiling and leaning against a brick wall. She is wearing a white dress with a pink scalloped neckline and a floral pattern. She has gold hoop earrings, a pearl necklace, and a gold cross necklace. Her hands are clasped in front of her.

HONOR SCHOLAR,  
ENTREPRENEUR,  
AND FOUNDER OF FOUNTAIN  
CITY BABYSITTING

---

*Ella Hudson*

CLASS OF 2025



# WHY BROOKSTONE

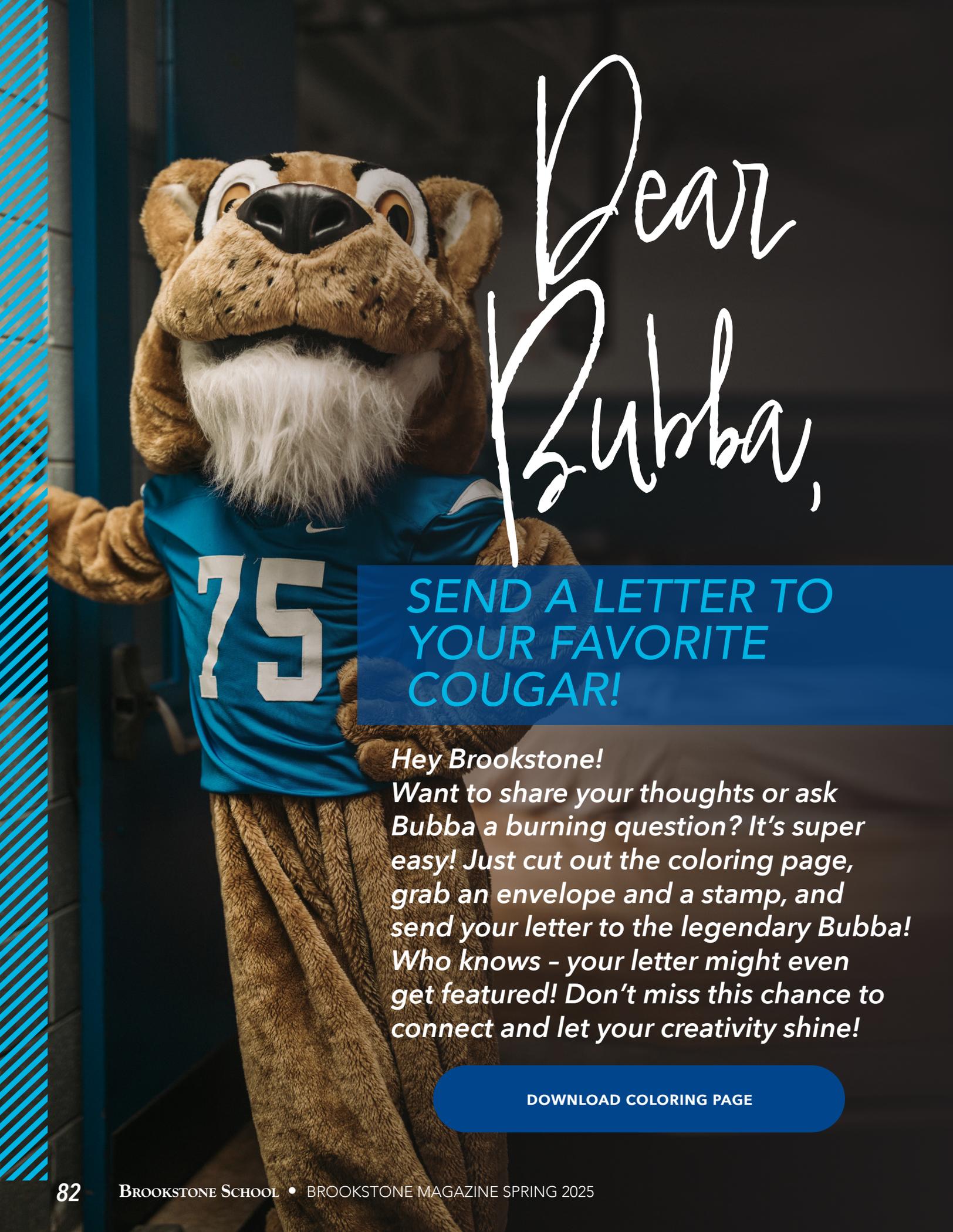
*Since 1951, Brookstone School has stood as a beacon of academic excellence, leadership, and character development. The growth and accomplishments of the past have set a remarkable foundation one forged by visionary educators, dedicated families, and inspired students. Now, as we look ahead, we draw upon that rich legacy to guide us forward. Together, we will shape a future that reflects our core values, embraces innovation, and empowers every student to reach their fullest potential.*



***Dear Bubba***

***Upcoming Events***

***Class Notes***



Dear  
Bubba,

**SEND A LETTER TO  
YOUR FAVORITE  
COUGAR!**

**Hey Brookstone!  
Want to share your thoughts or ask  
Bubba a burning question? It's super  
easy! Just cut out the coloring page,  
grab an envelope and a stamp, and  
send your letter to the legendary Bubba!  
Who knows - your letter might even  
get featured! Don't miss this chance to  
connect and let your creativity shine!**

[DOWNLOAD COLORING PAGE](#)

# SAVE THE DATE



## UPCOMING CAMPUS EVENTS

Mark your calendars for an exciting fall season! Join us for these special campus events, starting with our BPA Block Party hosted in the Quad as part of our back-to-school events. Don't miss the Cougars first home football game at Mack Strong Stadium and be sure to save the date for the BPA's epic Back to School Bash, an event filled with food, music, and community!

### **Classroom Visits**

August 12

### **BPA Block Party**

August 12

### **First Day of School**

August 13

### **BPA Back to School Bash**

August 15

### **Brookstone vs. Tattnall At Mack Strong Stadium**

August 15

### **Fall Break**

October 2 - October 3

### **BPA Cougar Cup**

October 14

### **Homecoming Weekend**

October 24 - October 25

### **State of the School**

November 10

### **Thanksgiving Break**

November 24 - November 28

### **Holiday Break**

December 22 - January 5

### **Spring Semester Begins**

January 6

# CLASS NOTES

This past fall, we transitioned our traditional printed publication to a digital format. Moving forward, the only printed edition will be our spring issue, which will be mailed out in July. In the meantime, we've included the class notes and updates we received from alumni in the fall, which were featured in the digital publication, to ensure that all friends and family are up to date on these exciting life milestones. Remember, you can submit class notes at any time throughout the year by emailing Meg Stewart at [mstewart@brookstoneschool.org](mailto:mstewart@brookstoneschool.org). We love staying connected with our incredible alumni and celebrating all they are accomplishing!



**Catherine Biggers Trotter '73** was honored at the Columbus City Council Meeting this Spring for her service to the community. March 11th, 2025 was officially proclaimed Catherine Trotter Day. Many Brookstone employees and alums were in attendance to celebrate with her.



**Jeff Beal '81** is excited to announce the birth of his 1st grandchild, Beau Fredrick Beal.



**The Class of 1975** celebrated their 50th reunion this Spring. The class enjoyed time together back on campus and at classmate John Knight's home.



**Dr. Luke Wolff '91** recently opened the new Columbus Orthopaedic Associates here in Columbus. Dr. Wolff specializes in hip and knee disorders and is passionate about caring for veterans in particular, having served 13 years in the Army Reserves and obtaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. In addition to his private practice, Dr. Wolff enjoys teaching medical students as an Assistant Professor in surgery with Mercer Medical School, and is on the Board of Governors of Mercer University School of Medicine.



**Tippi Cain Burch '94** is Superior Court Judge for the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit (Muscogee, Harris, Talbot, Taylor, Marion, and Chattahoochee Counties). She was appointed by Governor Kemp and sworn in earlier this year after practicing law for 23 years in Atlanta and Columbus.



**Anna Betbeze '99** received tenure at the University of California-Riverside where she is an associate professor of art. She recently completed a residency fellowship at the BAU Institute in Cassis, France, and was awarded the Guggenheim Fellowship.



**Carrie Roberts '94** graduated the University of Memphis with her Masters of Nonprofit Management and joined the Nu Lambda Mu Honor Society. Carrie is currently employed at Christian Brothers High School as the Director of Alumni and Community Engagement. Her husband Joel recently received tenure as Associate Professor and Music Librarian at the University of Memphis. Their children Collin and Hana are living their best lives at the University of Tennessee as Electrical and Nuclear Engineering majors.



**Julie (Hicks) Petrie '02** has accepted a position with the W.C. Bradley Company as their *Director of Property Management*. Julie brings more than 15 years of experience managing diverse commercial portfolios and leading high-performing property management teams. Julie and her husband, Kyle, are excited to be in Columbus!



**Leslie Harrelson Blackwell '04** and her husband, Duncan, are thrilled to announce the arrival of their son, James Blake Blackwell, born in March. He is already adored by his proud big sisters, Anna Claire and Grace. The family lives in Richmond, Virginia.



**Shoaib H. Subhani '98** and his wife Melissa joyfully welcomed their baby daughter Sophie Leia Subhani born December 7, 2024.



**Laura Rickman Potts '05** and her family raised over \$40,000 and delivered 7 truckloads of supplies to Yancey County, NC, to help those impacted by Hurricane Helene. Her parents reside in Yancey County, which was devastated due to catastrophic flooding from the storm.



**Andrew Cartledge '07 and Landy (Sudduth) Cartledge '12** baptized their daughter, Lillian Louise Cartledge "Weezie," at St. Paul Church on October 14, 2024.



**Palmer Trawick Colson '05** and her husband John welcome their daughter, Claire Alexander Colson, born July 23, 2024.



**Nicholas Riddle '07** married Elizabeth Allred on December 9, 2023, in Luthersville, Georgia. **Nate Copeland ('07)** was a member of the wedding party.



**Katie Jacobson Dion '08** and husband Regan welcomed Gardner Luca Dion on August 14th, 2024. Katie, Regan, and Luca have recently moved back home to Columbus after being stationed in Hawaii for the past 2 years.



**Cameron Saunders '08 and Lucy Pound '09** welcomed Henry Alexander Pound "Hap" Saunders on April 9th, 2025.



**Mallory (Mize) Norman '09** is a self-taught, mixed-media artist working primarily with paper and fabric. Her work is rooted in simplicity, with a focus on creating pieces that feel both classic and timeless. Mallory lives in Columbus with her husband, Sam, and their golden doodle, Louis, where she practices art full-time.



**Catherine (Hudson) '09 and Kenny Henson '09** joyfully welcomed Camille Wright Henson "Millie" on October 17th, 2024, weighing 8 lb 1 oz and measuring 20.25 inches long. They live in Atlanta, Georgia.



**Carolyn (Shuler) Bettin '09** and husband, Nick, welcomed their second child. "Jack" Nicholas Bettin was born March 22, 2025. Big brother Charlie is over the moon.



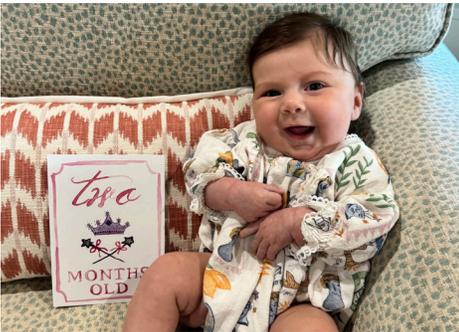
**Tori Kennedy '10** married Bryan Brown in March of 2024 at St. Luke Church in Columbus, GA. The wedding party included many fellow alums: **Avery Carreker Woolfolk '10, Morgan Batson Amos '10, Elizabeth Sudduth Cliatt '10, Rosemary Rice '21**, current Brookstone teacher Joy Beth Brown, **Tyler Jordan '11, and Timothy Kennedy '13**.



**Andrew Hearn '13** has been named Academic Chief Resident for the 2024-2025 academic year for the St. Francis-Emory Healthcare Internal Medicine Residency. Andrew and his wife, Kristen, also welcomed their second daughter, Rosemary "Rosie", on September 22, 2023! Big sister, Lily, is a current student at Brookstone '38.



**Wages Carroll '15** married Janie Plowden on June 7, 2025 at Porterfield Methodist Church in Albany, GA. The wedding party included fellow Brookstone alumns: **Chris Shields '15, Hal Mansour '15, and Hudson Terrell '15**. The couple lives in Atlanta, GA.



**Avery (Carreker) '10 and Robert Woolfolk '05** welcomed Hollins Lane Woolfolk on July 28, 2024. Hollins was 8 lbs 9 oz and 21.5 inches long.



**Jeremy Mack '13** accepted the Dean of Admissions position at LaGrange College beginning June 2025.



**William Jenkins '16** is a Forecasting and Analytics Manager at Walt Disney World where he supports the Transportation Operations team. He recently married **Emily Teague '17**.



**Hudson Terrell '10** and wife Brooke welcomed baby, Andie Jane Terrell, on April 3, 2025. She weighed 7lbs 4 oz and was 21 inches long. Her parents are loving this special time with her. The day after Andie was born, Hudson opened his second restaurant, Gabagool, in Uptown Columbus!



**Mary Ashby (Ward) Gaskins '15** and her husband, Matthew, welcomed son, Benjamin "Ben" Preston Gaskins on October 2nd, 2024 weighing a whopping 11 pounds 5 ounces and 22.5 inches long. We are over the moon with our new addition, and Evelyn is proving to be the best big sister!



**Marianna Branch '19** graduated from Wake Forest in May and is currently applying to PA school. This summer, Marianna will be in Washington, D.C., for a bridge year program working as a medical assistant in an Advanced Dermatology Practice alongside 20 other undergraduates from universities nationwide.



**Haley (Johnson) Holloway '19** started medical school at Mercer University School of Medicine on the Columbus Campus. Haley is pictured with husband, Brenn Holloway, and their son, Kase Holloway-11 months old.



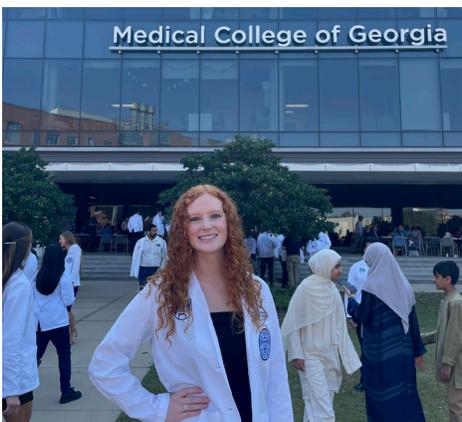
**Ayo Oloyede '19** was selected as the 2025 Wendell Phillips Speaker, an honor given each year to a senior who demonstrates both a commitment to public service and powerful public speaking. After a competitive application and speech process, he was chosen by the Committee on Student Life to deliver the address at this year's Baccalaureate Ceremony. After graduation, Ayo will attend Stanford Law School.



**Noah Stenslie '19** graduated from Samford University with a BS in Biology in 2023. Following graduation, Noah moved to Blacksburg, VA, for one year to get his Masters of Biomedical Science from VCOM/Bluefield University. Currently, he is in his first year of medical school at Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine in Auburn, AL. Pictured with **Jonas Stenslie '21** and **Siri Stenslie '23**.



**Vanessa Rice '19** served last year as one of the first Fulbright English Teaching Assistants to live in Switzerland. During that time, she was selected for the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Graduate Fellowship, which prepares students for careers in the Foreign Service. Vanessa recently finished her first year of her master's in public policy at Pepperdine University and is spending the summer interning at the U.S. Embassy in Nicosia. Vanessa Rice graduated from Berry College with a bachelor's degree in German studies and in history with a concentration in justice, as well as a minor in business. After spending four months in Ankara studying Turkish as a Critical Language Scholar, Venessa served as one of the first Fulbright English Teaching Assistants to live in Switzerland. During that time, she was selected for the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Graduate Fellowship, which prepares students for careers in the Foreign Service. Vanessa recently finished the first year of her master's degree in Public Policy at Pepperdine University and is spending the summer interning at the U.S. Embassy in Nicosia, Cyprus.



**Elizabeth Sigman '20** graduated from Georgia Tech in May and began her first year of medical school at The Medical College of Georgia, following in her father, **Chris Sigman's '87**, footsteps. Elizabeth has also been elected Social Chairman of her medical school class.



**Lillie Peek '20** and **Parker James '15** were married on November 23, 2024 at Trinity Episcopal Church with a reception held at The Big Eddy Club. The wedding party included fellow Brookstone alums: **Katherine Buracker '20**, **Sara Hill '20**, **Abby Leary '20**, **Nan Sheek '20**, Gracie Pearson, Frances Raines, **Lynn Pearson '20**, Eliza Herrington, AC Nichols, Virginia Edwards, Betsy Blanchard, **Mary Stewart Mullin '20**, **Sanders Hinds '20**, Virginia Cole Peek, Cate Prince, **Guy Peek '15**, **Ben Jones '15**, Will Steward, **Parker Derby '13**, **Mark McVay '14**, **Jack Peek '18**, **Tripp Valentini '15**, Carson Cummings, **Robert Woolfolk '05**, **Carter Woolfolk '05**, Chase Reeves, **David Thayer '17**, **J.P. Thayer '15**, **David James '12**, Sandy James, **Will Peek '85**. The couple lives in Columbus.



**Dréa Singleton '21** was recently crowned Miss Georgia Southwestern State University. Mr. and Miss GSW are awarded to two students, chosen by their peers, who exemplify leadership, academic excellence, and a commitment to serving the university community. Both Mr. and Miss GSW serve as ambassadors for the university, participating in various events and initiatives, while also upholding the values of the institution both on and off campus. Dréa has been named Georgia Southwestern's 2025 Outstanding Scholar, the highest academic honor awarded by the institution.

**BE THE ONE  
WHO COMES  
H  ME**

**2025**

# HOMECOMING

**SAVE THE DATE**

**ALL ALUMNI PICNIC**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24<sup>TH</sup>**

**REUNIONS FOR THE CLASSES OF**

**1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015, 2020**

**OCTOBER 24<sup>TH</sup> - OCTOBER 25<sup>TH</sup>**

**QUESTIONS?**

REACH OUT TO MEG STEWART AT [MSTEWART@BROOKSTONESCHOOL.ORG](mailto:MSTEWART@BROOKSTONESCHOOL.ORG)



**MORE DETAILS COMING SOON**

# *The* **BROOKSTONE** *Annual Fund*

## HOW DOES THE BROOKSTONE ANNUAL FUND WORK?

All members of the Brookstone family including parents, alumni, grandparents, parents of alumni, trustees, faculty and staff, and friends are asked to make a contribution to The Brookstone Annual Fund.

## WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?

“Every family; every year” is the motto of The Brookstone Annual Fund. Parents, alumni, staff, trustees, and friends are important members of the Brookstone family and are encouraged to contribute to The Brookstone Annual Fund. This collaborative effort reflects a shared commitment to upholding the school’s educational excellence and accessibility.

## QUESTIONS?

Contact Ed Martin at [emartin@brookstoneschool.org](mailto:emartin@brookstoneschool.org) or Meg Stewart at [mstewart@brookstoneschool.org](mailto:mstewart@brookstoneschool.org)



# *The* **BROOKSTONE** *Annual Fund*

## **WHAT IS THE BROOKSTONE ANNUAL FUND?**

The Brookstone Annual Fund is the most important annual fundraising effort at our school each year. The Brookstone Annual Fund fills the gap between tuition income and operational costs, ensuring a balanced budget and minimizing tuition hikes. With tuition covering only 71% of expenses, the fund plays an important role in the implementation of our:

- Safety and Security Plan
- Academic Programs
- Fine Arts Program
- Athletics Program

## **HOW DO YOU GIVE TO THE BROOKSTONE ANNUAL FUND?**

From July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, Brookstone's entire community is encouraged to support the Brookstone Annual Fund.

- Gifts and pledges may be mailed to Brookstone School using the following:
- [Click here to give your best gift today.](#)

For those donors who wish to contribute but pay later, you may submit a pledge now and pay anytime before June 30, 2026.



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ONE

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Parents: If this issue is addressed to a son or daughter who no longer lives at home, please send the correct address to [mstewart@brookstoneschool.org](mailto:mstewart@brookstoneschool.org).

Thank you.

## WHERE TO FIND US?



We hope you enjoyed the newest issue of the Brookstone Magazine. To keep up with Brookstone School, make sure to check out and follow our official social media pages on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. For all up-to-date school information, please visit [www.brookstoneschool.org](http://www.brookstoneschool.org).