

Ruby Garcia, Editor-in-Chief

## Everything that's new Editorial

The 2023-2024 school year will bring many changes for all our staff and students. The school has teachers in different rooms and students in different lockers and hallways. The remodeled auditorium and bathrooms look brand new, too.

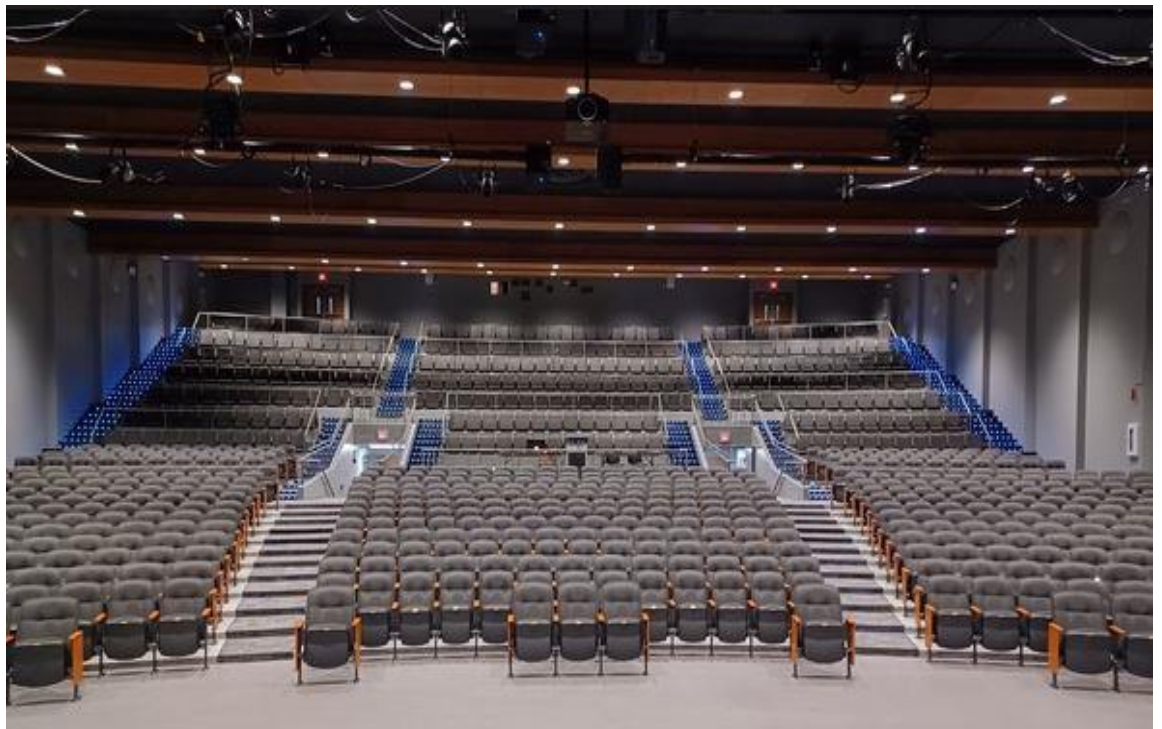
One of the biggest changes has been the newspaper staff which is entirely new. Mr. Stephan is the new Faculty Advisor, and I am the new Editor-in-Chief. This year will be a little different for the Thorntonian, and we're excited to share it with all of you. English and Social Studies classes will be a big part of our newspaper this year as we will be using Google Forms to encourage student engagement. We're excited to work with them and the students at TFN. As part of being the Editor-in-Chief, I'm super excited to see all the students and teachers read our newspaper and learn about what is occurring in the building.

Our goal for this school year's newspaper is to have 3 issues a semester. Each digital issue will be available online and on our social media platforms.

If you have ideas for stories or opinions you would like to share, we would love to hear your thoughts. I will be answering "Letters to the Editor" in upcoming issues. We can be reached at [thorntonian@tfd215.org](mailto:thorntonian@tfd215.org) or on our social media platforms.



Senior Ruby Garcia is the Editor-in-Chief of the Thorntonian and the Art Director of the Chronoscope. Photo credit: Chianté' Ridley, Chronoscope Staff



The remodeled A.C. Jaacks Auditorium opened in August. The first play will be Cinderella this fall. Photo credit: Mia Romo

Tianna Bowen & Mia Romo

## Auditorium ready for action

### Renovations completed in time for upcoming performances

In addition to the new bathrooms, childcare room, and classroom and locker assignments, T.F. North debuted its newly renovated auditorium. Although most have already seen it, there is much to know when it comes to the auditorium's history. According to our district's Grounds Director, Mr. Tim Stephan, the auditorium was originally a gymnasium when it was built in 1935 and was converted to an auditorium in 1963. Fast forward to May 2021, the school board made plans for renovations with construction breaking ground in January 2022. Despite small challenges and setbacks, two years after the process began the auditorium was finally finished. This roughly \$3.4 million renovation features new seats, a new sound system, and new spotlights. And it is ready to host all types of events for many years to come starting with this year's fall musical Cinderella performed by the award-winning T.F. North Drama Department in November.

Students of the TFN Drama Department shared their excitement and positive reactions after seeing the auditorium for the first time. Sophomore Kaniyah Stephenson shared her reaction and said, "Seeing the auditorium was a very magical experience for me. I was ecstatic to know that I'll be performing on that stage soon enough. It was a heartwarming feeling for me and many other kids in the performing arts department." Senior JayTee Terrell added, "I was so excited and shocked when I saw the new auditorium. It was a bittersweet moment because it was a totally new auditorium from what I was used to. But all in all, I love the new aspects of our auditorium. From the lights on the stairs, to the new light system, to the little drama icon in the lobby!" Lastly, junior John McBeth III said, "It was nice, a definite improvement from the previous condition of the area."

### New Interim Supt. Mr. Robinzine promoted

Mia Romo & Rogelio Romero

From student teaching to leading the CTE Department, Mr. Robinzine has done it all in District 215. Now he is ready for a new challenge.

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### Faces in the crowd Meet TFN's newest Meteors

Aidan Jordan & Ximena Gutierrez

The start of a new school year means more than 25% of the students are new to the building. The Thorntonian has met some of our newest peers.

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### North beats South New Head Coach

Mia Romo

Coach Pignatiello once played QB for the Meteors. Now he is their new Head Coach, and the team is off to an undefeated start.

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Mia Romo & Rogelio Romero

## District 215 names new Interim Supt.

Mr. Robinzine is ready for the new year, are you?

Did the new school year bring you a new challenge? Well, you aren't the only one! This year, District 215 is welcoming its new Interim Superintendent, Mr. John Robinzine. While Mr. Robinzine has been working for this district for roughly 23 years, his role as Interim Superintendent is a new one for him. Before becoming Interim Superintendent, Mr. Robinzine held many other positions from teacher, to dean, to Assistant Principal at TFS then C.A.T. Principal, and then the first Director of District 215's CTE Program. "If you would have told me 23 years ago that I would be in this position, I would have laughed," said Mr. Robinzine when asked how he felt about gaining the position.

The way he sees his job as superintendent is to serve you, the students of this district. He best explained it by saying, "I try to represent students the best I can."

Coming into the role as Interim Superintendent, Mr. Robinzine has a couple of goals that he wants to accomplish in his first year. Those goals include raising the graduation rate from 87% to 90%, and implementing and utilizing Naviance for both students and teachers which will help students and make sure that they will have a post-secondary plan for after school. Lastly, Mr. Robinzine wants to use the newly developed Junior Achievement Scholars Institute (JASI) program which will help juniors with credit deficiency so they can earn the credit they need to graduate on time.

Just as students struggle with new classes and schedules, Mr. Robinzine admits he sometimes struggles with balancing his time, but he has a message for you.

"Be ready. Be ready to be in an environment to learn and grow, so when you finally get up on that stage and graduate, you'll be ready to succeed in the next step after high school."



Mr. John Robinzine  
Photo courtesy of www.tfd215.org



Mr. Posley left the English Department to become the newest Dean. Photo credit: Ruby Garcia

Miranda Cuanetl

## Meet the newest Dean

Mr. Posley hopes to help students succeed

Mr. Posley is the newest dean at T.F. North. Before switching to this position, Posley was an English teacher. He has had many career changes, but being a teacher was his favorite occupation. TFN is the only school he has taught at. Since 2013, he has made many connections with the students and is appreciated for his hard work and empathy, for being genuine, and for making people feel comfortable and safe. Mr. Posley believes being a dean is important because he feels he can help the school

community as well as helping students get on the right path for their future.

He also believes that he is able to make a real impact and inspire students to reach their potential. He said this position is a great opportunity for his advancement professionally and an opportunity to show his compassion for the well-being of others around him.

2023-2024

### Thorntonian Staff

#### Staff Reporters:

- Diamond Adams
- Tianna Bowen
- Miranda Cuanetl
- Ximena Gutierrez
- Aidan Jordan
- Jasmine Pastrana
- Taliah Robinson
- Emily Sanchez
- Jaela Westbrook
- Cormora Williams

#### Editorial Board:

- Mia Romo
- Rogelio Romero

#### Editor-in-Chief:

Ruby Garcia

#### Faculty Advisor:

Mr. Joseph Stephan

The Thorntonian is produced by the Advanced Journalism students of T.F. North High School. It seeks to provide an open forum for all members of the D. 215 community. Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the official position of District 215 unless otherwise noted.

\*To put it politely, the numbering of volumes has been somewhat inconsistent over the years. But that is bound to happen when your paper is almost 100 years old. Following the last Thorntonian Staff's lead, we will continue with their numbering until we can confirm which volume this really is!

Aidan Jordan &amp; Ximena Gutierrez

## What are you looking forward to during your freshman year?

Freshmen Survey



Freshman JeBron Loffman is one of 303 freshmen beginning the school year at T.F. North according to Ms. Boulder. Photo credit: Ximena Gutierrez

“Passing all my classes, getting good grades, and staying with my good grades until the end of the year,” said Nayeli Castaneda.

“In my freshman year, I’m looking forward to joining the speech team,” said Iyinoluwa Ogunyemi.

“I’m looking forward to playing football and baseball,” said Angel Ledezma.

“Being face-to-face and not watching prerecorded videos,” said Sophia Maxey.

“Signing up for cosmetology and maybe signing up for cheerleading,” said Neyalani Lofton.

“Doing cool experiments in Honors Biology,” said Al-ameen Kenku.

“I am looking forward to making the playoffs in football and passing my AP exam,” said JeBron Loffman.

“I’m looking forward to being in drama and getting out of my comfort zone,” said Mark Sanders.

“I’m looking forward to meeting new people, which I have already done a little, joining activities, going to the football games, and having good grades,” said Jayla Ruffino.

“I’m looking forward to chess club this freshman year,” said Jordin Funches.

Aidan Jordan &amp; Ximena Gutierrez

## Were your first two weeks at TFN what you expected?

Freshmen Survey

“I was expecting to have a somewhat worse experience, but overall the first two weeks have been great! I’ve met new people, and my teachers are very friendly,” said Acacia Hill

“No. My first two weeks at T.F. North were not what I expected. There are so many people here, and I thought we were going to have a freshman hall. I thought I wasn’t going to remember where my classes were, but now I do,” said Diamond McClain

“No. The school is much bigger than I thought, and it doesn’t look like how I expected it to look,” said Michelle Zaragoza.

“Yes, because I expected it to be a good school. So far it’s has been good,” said Alexis Perez.



Junior Ciara Jarrett and seniors Kira Jackson and Farod Lewis discuss having a fresh start at T.F. North. Photo credit: Ximena Gutierrez

Aidan Jordan &amp; Ximena Gutierrez

## Freshmen aren’t the only new TFN students

Three upperclassmen share their first impressions of their new school

Being a new student is tough already, but being an upperclassman coming to a new school must be really difficult. All the friendships formed, the relationships built with teachers, and the accomplishments that had been achieved in another school have to be done over again. Well that actually happened with three students here at T. F. North.

Senior Kira Jackson has transferred from Ridgeview High School in Columbia, South Carolina and was involved in many sports and activities there. Now Jackson is at T.F. North and is going to be involved in many activities here. So far, she thinks T.F. North is great, and she is excited to be here.

Senior Farod Lewis is from Longwood High School in Chicago. He played basketball there. He is interested in trying something new and is going to try out for the bowling team in this upcoming winter season. So far, the school has been “good and chill” for him.

Ciara Jarrett is a junior at T.F. North. She is excited to be coming back after being at Thornridge High School her sophomore year. Her first two weeks were good, and she enjoyed reuniting with her friends and being back. Jarrett said that while she was at Thornridge, “she could not wait to come back!”



Built during the Great Depression, the bathrooms in the 100 and 200 levels were remodeled during the summer and now look modern.  
Photo credit: Taliah Robinson

## Principal Rucinski explains changes

The school year opened with people in new places and updated spaces



Principal Rucinski

Story by Diamond Adams & Taliah Robinson

During the first month of the school year, Mr. Rucinski sat down and answered questions about all the changes around T.F. North. He had a good answer for every question. He was asked questions about the bathrooms, classrooms, and locker changes.

The reassigning of lockers was another result of the Freshman House ending. When asked about why some of the lockers weren't being used, Mr. Rucinski said it was "for space." He wants every student and staff member to have as much space as possible. The old senior hallway and the old sophomore hallway were always the most packed. He doesn't want everyone bumping into each other trying to get where they need to be so some lockers were left unassigned.

Of all the changes that were made, he likes every single one of them. The change he likes the most, though, is the remodeling. He said, "Students deserve a building to be proud of." Not one student would want to constantly go to a school that does not look decent enough. The school remodeled the oldest bathrooms that were built in the 1930s. Mr. Rucinski is very happy with the fact that students are very impressed by the changes. "I feel like the bathroom looks better than before because of the way it's set up [and] has a bunch of mirrors. Everyone has personal space. It looks much cleaner. And there is a lot more light," said Makayla Delony. The school also remodeled the auditorium.

He also discussed the removal of the Freshman House. Mr. Rucinski does believe that the freshmen should not be all cooped up together, and that they should be able to explore the school and meet other people. He said, "Freshmen should be surrounded by upperclassmen to gain more maturity." Senior Omarion Washington said it is a very new experience for freshmen and upperclassmen. "I love that the freshmen are around the upperclassmen. I have made friends with some of the freshmen."

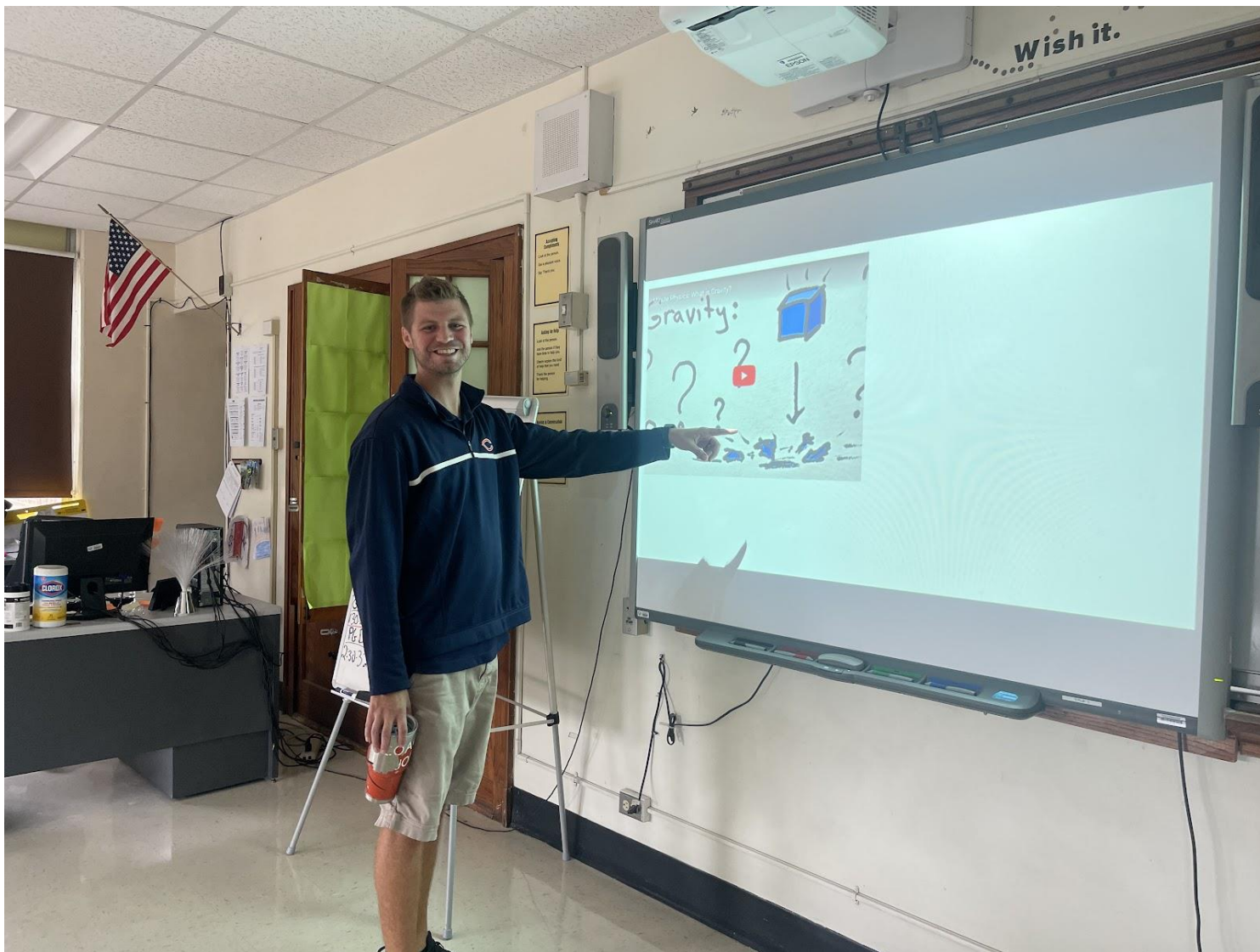
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**"Students deserve a building to be proud of."**  
- Mr. Rucinski

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Mr. Rucinski said that he wants the students at T.F. North to have the same opportunities as those at T.F. South. He also said, "the childcare class is here to make a point." He wants to show people that T.F. North cares very much about a lot of subjects.

Finally, when asked why he moved the classes around, he said, "so the teachers who teach in the same department can be next to each other." This makes things easy for the teachers, especially if they need to discuss their work with each other.



Mr. Faron joins the T.F. North faculty Photo credits: Jasmine Pastrana & Emily Sanchez

## North welcomes two new teachers

### Ms. Briggs and Mr. Faron are excited to get to work



Ms. Briggs

Story by Jasmine Pastrana & Emily Sanchez

The Thorntonian Staff is excited to introduce the two newest faculty members: Ms. Briggs and Mr. Faron. Ms. Briggs is joining the CTE Department. Mr. Faron is joining the Special Education Department.

Curious about your new childcare teacher? Well, T.F. North, here are some things to know about Ms. Briggs. She graduated from and also began teaching at T.F. South. When she heard that a position was open at T.F. North, she applied for it. She felt T.F. North was a great place to further expand her career. Ms. Briggs enjoys mentoring. She is a very passionate teacher for the children she works with and her childcare students, as well. She felt it was rewarding to be able to teach childcare, since she took the class when she was in high school herself. The moment when she realized childcare was something she wanted to do was early in her life. She was always wanting to do activities with children and coming up with ideas to do with them. The program was first offered to her at T.F. South and she looked at it like it was something that truly made her happy. After high school, she went to South Suburban College to get a degree in early childcare education. The person who inspired her to teach was herself! It came to her naturally, and it was something that she always wanted to do. It is her first year of teaching at T.F. North, but she is very excited to be teaching there. If you have any questions involving childcare, Ms. Briggs is there to provide any information at any time.

This is Mr. Faron's first year at T.F. North. Mr. Faron started teaching 9 years ago on the west side of Chicago. He taught wellness at Austin High School for 2 years. Then he started working at Thornton, Thornridge, and Thornwood. He moved to be closer to his family. He taught at Thornton, Thornridge, and Thornwood for 6 years. Mr. Faron had a great teaching experience there. Mr. Faron really liked the students over there. Mr. Faron heard some good things about T.F. North and that T.F. North has a good culture, so he accepted the offer they gave him.

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“If you do what you love,  
you’ll never work a day in  
your life.” - Mr. Faron

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Mr. Faron was inspired by his dad. His dad had once told him, “If you do what you love, you’ll never work a day in your life.” He did what he loved and that was teaching. He enjoys being around kids, being a coach, and helping others. Mr. Faron is very social and would like to get to know some students around the school. He loves being very proactive and moving around places. He loves seeing kids enjoying high school and smiling and being around their friends.

## Meet the 2023-24 Thorntonian Staff

Diamond Adams is a senior who loves to read books. Journalism is the first club she has joined. Diamond dreams of being a pediatric nurse. Diamond loves children, and she also has worked with children. Diamond's favorite social media platforms are TikTok, Instagram, and Twitter. Prom and Homecoming are some events that Diamond is looking forward to.

Tianna Bowen is a junior. She is very involved in the T.F North play, "Cinderella," and is currently part of the Thorntonian Staff. She enjoyed AP Psychology because she would like to know how people act in a certain way. She enjoys doing some stuff outside of school like bothering her siblings, and she also really likes to sing. After high school she wants to become a licensed esthetician and cosmetologist. You can find her on Instagram @itz\_tixnrx.

Miranda Cuanetl is currently a senior. She is really looking forward to being in her first club. Her goal as part of the Thorntonian Staff is to meet new people and connect with our audience in a positive way. You are more than welcome to ask Miranda for any information, as she is very kind-hearted and respectful! You can also contact her personally on Instagram @miiraanda.a !

Ruby Garcia is a senior and has been here at TFN since her freshman year. This is her first year in the newspaper class, and she is the Editor-in-Chief. This is also her second year in the yearbook class. Last year she was the photographer. This year she is the Art Director for the yearbook. These classes help her get out of her comfort zone and communicate with other people. If you have any questions or concerns you can contact her on Instagram @rubyyyxg.

Ximena Gutierrez is currently a junior. Her goal while working on the 2023-2024 Thorntonian newspaper is to step out of her comfort zone and to help the new students get familiar with their new school. She is caring and gentle with new people she meets. If you would like to contact Ximena for any questions or concerns she can be reached through Instagram @ximegrtz.

Aiden Jordan is a junior who is involved in golf, bowling, and now journalism. His experience in golf began with mini golf, where he played with friends and family.

Once he did mini golf, he decided to try the real thing. He ended up enjoying it! Aiden has been playing golf for three years now. As for bowling, it is something that he decided to try here at North. This year will be his third year of bowling. He is involving himself more within the school as he is now a part of the Thorntonian Staff. The things he thinks he will enjoy the most being a part of the Thorntonian are going around the school and taking photographs of different things.

Jasmine Pastrana is a junior. She says her favorite subject is English because she feels as if it's just an easy class and talks more about society and our world. She is a current member of the girls soccer team and is a former girls basketball player and is now a member of the Thorntonian Staff. She is very excited to help bring the newspaper to life and can't wait to start interviewing. She describes herself as a very outgoing and goofy person, and she looks forward to hanging out with close friends and family. After high school she plans to go to college to become a traveling neonatal nurse. You can find her on Instagram @ayooo.jasmine.

Gabrielle (Gabby) Payton is an outgoing senior! She is a part of our legendary T.F. North Track and cross-country teams. Currently on her mind, is deciding whether to also do basketball! Not only is she extremely talented athletically, but also in spirit as she is an extremely friendly person. Although she's got a lot on her mind, in the future she is debating joining the military after high school. There is no doubt that Gabby is wonderful, extraordinary, and so fun to talk to! Look out for Gabby's talent this year in our new newspaper.

Taliah Robinson is a senior who dreams of becoming a registered nurse. This is her first time taking Advanced Journalism. She also is taking Intro to Childcare. In her spare time, she enjoys working, taking walks, journaling, and making vision boards. Her favorite social Media platforms are TikTok and Pinterest. She's also looking forward to prom this year.

Rogelio Romero is a junior who is a little nervous for his junior year. He's an introvert, but he has enough confidence to have great conversations with others. He is very active with clubs at North. The club that stresses him out the most is Drama. The club that he loves the most is Scholastic Bowl. Now he is a new staff member of the Thorntonian, and he enjoys it. If you want to learn more about Rogelio Romero, you can check out his Instagram @rogelio\_j\_romero.

Mia Romo, an ambitious senior, is a part of the Thorntonian Staff. If her face looks familiar it might be because she is also a part of Meteor Productions along with many other clubs and activities including NHS, softball, Connections, literary magazine, Art Club, drama, Scholastic Bowl, and Meteor Ambassadors. If you couldn't tell already, she is an outgoing scholar who aspires to be a film director. Once she graduates, she plans on going to DePaul University. If you see her in the halls do not be afraid to spark up a conversation, for she has very big plans for the world!

Emily Sanchez is in 11th grade and is an artistic person who is a lovely artist and is a part of the T.F. North Art Club. So, if you're new here to T.F. North or a returning student, you can come to her if you want to be a part of the Art Club as well. She has been in the Art Club for 3 years and is now a part of the Thorntonian Staff. Although she may be shy, she is not one to shy away from giving a helping hand. She hopes to be a part of more activities T.F. North has to offer through the help of being on the Thorntonian Staff.

Jaela Westbrook is a senior here at T.F. North. She is happy to finally be leaving high school, but just a little sad that she has to leave her friends behind. She is not a part of any clubs or sports here at North, but now she is a new staff member of the Thorntonian. She loves clothing and fashion and can mostly be seen wearing her best fits. She is also a sneakerhead. She has so many pairs of sneakers in her collection that she has lost count. She is a Pisces and an introvert, but she has enough confidence in herself to speak with others. If you want to know more about her, you can check out her Instagram @prettyliljaee.

Cormora Willaims is a senior. She's been here at TFN since freshman year. She's the leader of the homecoming dance committee for student council. She also is one of the leaders in Connections. She has been on the honor roll since freshman year. Cormora used to play volleyball at TFN freshman year and sophomore year. Cormora is very good at communicating with others and is always open. If you have any questions you can contact her @cormorasobold.

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Seniors Gabby Payton and Diamond Adams and Ms. Ramos participate in the first day of spirit week. Student Council sponsored the week and plans to host one every month. Photo credit: Ruby Garcia

## A new monthly tradition

Student Council looks to promote school spirit throughout the year



Ms. Stramaglia

Ms. Stramaglia, the Student Council sponsor, is the teacher in charge of the spirit weeks for the whole school year. The spirit weeks are once a month for the remaining school year. Each month there will be a different decade. She came up with what the school will do for the spirit weeks by having the whole school vote on what the theme should be last year.

Ms. Lencioni also participated in spirit week and thinks it's important for students and staff to embrace their community at TFN. When everyone participates it shows our sense of family. She felt like this spirit week touched everyone even if they didn't participate every day and only did one day. She will continue to do the spirit weeks as long as they are like the ones we had. She thinks COVID-19 messed things up in the past but it's becoming more normal as time goes on.

Students and staff can find the spirit week information in the future on the Student Council's Instagram and Twitter accounts. There are also signs all over the school. Each month either the class or staff will win something based on how much people participate. She wants it to be like a rivalry against the students and staff. Starting soon during lunch time there will be games and activities to increase participation points for each class too.

Mr. Schuldes participated in spirit week, and he felt like the school should have more school spirit. He wanted to feel more connected to the school and support Ms. Stramaglia. In his opinion, more freshmen should try and get involved and show more school spirit. He enjoyed participating in spirit week. Mr. Schuldes will continue to be involved in spirit weeks in the future.



Mr. Schuldes wore a Notre Dame jersey to show his school pride on Football vs. Soccer Day.

Story and photos by Cormora Williams & Jaela Westbrook

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*WE are PROUD to SUPPORT TFN!*



*Dine in or Carry Out*

*Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

*Simply, present this flyer or mention TFN Junior Board/Visual Arts Club & Don Pedro will DONATE 15% of your food sales!*



*Spread the word ~ tell everyone you know!*

*316 Torrence Avenue, Calumet City*

*Call 708.862.7747 to place a carry out order or Dine in*

*NO DELIVERY ORDERS/UBER Eats/Doordash apply to this event*

Donation is on FOOD sales only. Present this flyer upon ordering. No credit cards taken over the phone.





*Visual Arts Club Presents:*

# Art Contest

*Hispanic Heritage Month*

**Details:**  
Create a piece of art using any media  
and the theme Prosperity, Power, & Progress

**Submission:**  
Email your submission to  
[jbasinger@tfd215.org](mailto:jbasinger@tfd215.org)  
or [mweber@tfd215.org](mailto:mweber@tfd215.org)  
Due by: October 13<sup>th</sup>

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Under the leadership of first-year Head Coach Anthony Pignatiello the Meteors defeated their rivals, T.F. South, 17-14 to start the season 4-0. Photo credit: Mia Romo

## **New Head Coach Pignatiello talks rivalry**

Interview by Mia Romo

After beating T.F. South, the former TFN QB turned Head Coach, Mr. Pignatiello, discussed with the TFN journalism students what the North-South game means to him. Mr. Pignatiello now has the rare distinction of beating TFS as both a player and a Head Coach.

**How do you feel after the win against our rivals, T.F. South?**

Anytime you beat your rivals, it's a really good feeling. I think the most important part though is that I feel proud of our players because they have to go out there and execute. They have to go out there and make the plays. They have go out there and do the things necessary to win. It's really all about the players, and I can't be more proud of them.

**What does winning the District 215 Wooden Shoe Mushroom Trophy mean to you?**

My roots are deep. My mother is a 1977 graduate of T.F. North. I have other family members who have been a part of this rivalry. To hold that trophy and knowing how long back it goes with the rivalry being there as many years as it has--it's really special to me. I'm really proud to be doing it with the guys I'm doing it with, coaches included. Everybody that's involved and to have my family and these guys I'm doing it with cemented in that legacy--it's pretty cool.

**Do you believe this win will bring back the school spirit?**

I sure hope so! That's our goal, We want to win football games. We want to do things the right way. We want to spark the community inside and outside the building. There's a lot of good stuff going on in Calumet City. It's my hometown.

**Do you have any goals for the rest of the season?**

Enjoy this victory for about 24-48 hours and get ready for Tinley Park

**Is there anything else you want to say to our readers?**

Stay North!