



# FPD

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN DAY SCHOOL

# MAGAZINE

Inside:

Celebrating the Class of 2024 | Reshaping the College Conversation | Annual Report

# FPD Magazine

First Presbyterian Day School  
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Dr. Andrew Strickland, Director of Fine Arts  
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# FPD's Accreditations Renewed

Accreditation teams from the Council on Educational Standards and Accountability (CESA), the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), and the Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS) held their site visits in March 2024.

They met with FPD administrators, teachers, students, and other constituents associated with our school. FPD's accreditation for all three agencies was renewed based on the documentation provided and the on-campus consultations.

For ACSI, FPD was one of only 19 schools that received exemplary accreditation status. The reports of the agencies were thorough and extensive, but the one commonality they found was best stated by the ACSI Accreditation team: "FPD provides a distinctly Christian environment in which students are well cared for, feel supported and secure, and are encouraged to pursue Godly and healthy living." A special thanks to Mrs. Kristen Kreutner, who led the accreditation process.



COUNCIL ON EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS & ACCOUNTABILITY



## Head of School Selected Artwork of the Year

Dr. Patterson has created a Head of School Selected Artwork of the Year award for our students. Each year, he selects his favorite art pieces from one student in the elementary, middle, and high school levels that showcases the incredible talents of our fine arts students. The selected pieces will be displayed in the Administration Building for the following school year to honor these students.

Congratulations to the 2024 winners:

- Ellie Hooper, 1st grade
- Kyla Sardoma, 8th grade
- Mia Hendley, 12th grade

## Realtor Luncheon

FPD hosted a Realtor Luncheon on campus February 7, 2024. Middle Georgia Realtors were treated with lunch while they learned more about FPD. The event was sponsored by Ben McElreath, an attorney, FPD parent, and Board Member. He spoke about his family's experience at FPD, then Admissions Director Kris Vaughn provided information about the school, as well as a tour of campus.





The Upper School Science Department from left to right: Megan Smith, Katie Kemper, Robyn Robertson, Nancy Massey, Alex Minter, and Shane Self.

## Mrs. Robyn Robertson named 2024 Teacher of the Year

Mrs. Robyn Robertson has been named the 2024 Teacher of the Year. Her colleagues describe her as the “fearless leader” of the Upper School Science Department. She has taught at FPD for 24 years.

A true professional, Mrs. Robertson is known as the ideal example of what makes a great teacher. She serves the students well with her upbeat attitude. She empowers students curiosity and freedom, while also holding them to high expectations. Always the first to help someone out, she serves her fellow teachers well and is a natural, Godly leader.

“Robyn is so deserving of this award. She’s a perfect blend of competence and character, and she approaches her job like a true calling,” Principal Matt Kitchell said. “I’ve had the pleasure of working with Robyn for twenty years, and I can honestly say that I don’t remember one person having a negative thing to say about her. She is truly loved by her students and peers, and I couldn’t be happier for her.”

FPD’s Teacher of the Year Award is given in memory of Mr. William Harris Bragg by Steve and Ginger Bragg. They wanted to remember their dad in a way that recognized an FPD teacher’s commitment to honor Christ and make a difference in students’ lives. The criteria for selection includes Christian character, professional excellence, concern for students, and a commitment to school.

# Scholarship Winners

Each year, select FPD students are awarded academic and character-based merit scholarships. These scholarships are applied to the following year’s tuition.



### Front Row (left to right):

Judy Jones Scholarship: Zoie Burnsed and Peyton Morgan  
Ponder Family Scholarship: Megan Casey  
Andy Bridges Memorial Scholarship: Emory Thompson

### Back Row (left to right)

James Tate Girardeau Scholarship: Kip Cawley  
Alumni Scholarship Award: Jacob Burnsed  
McKay Family Scholarship Award: Oliver Hunt



Judy Jones Middle School  
Scholarship:  
Bailey Pearson and  
Harper Haddock



Larry Lee  
Scholarship:  
Sophie Wilford



James Tate Girardeau  
Scholarship:  
Kip Cawley



McKay Family  
Scholarship:  
Oliver Hunt

Each spotlighted student exemplifies characteristics of FPD's Graduate Profile and has unique interests they plan on pursuing in college.

# Senior Spotlights



## Catch Kitchell

**College Choice:** University of Georgia  
**Planned Major:** Major in Biology

FPD is so great because the teachers always poured into us and had a personal relationship with us. I enjoy the atmosphere around campus because most everybody has a smile on their face all the time. My faith has grown through Bible classes, chapel, and being taught and mentored by our great Christian teachers. They all made a big impact on my life. Some advice I would give to underclassmen would be to not take the time for granted. Enjoy the present and don't let it pass you by!

## Faith Layton

**College Choice:** Georgia Institute of Technology  
**Planned Major:** Major in Mathematics

The aspect I enjoy the most about FPD is the community that I've gotten to be a part of. I have been at FPD since first grade so my faith has definitely grown a lot over the past 12 years. I've learned not only about the Bible and Jesus but also factual evidence to prove those in upper level Bible classes. The teachers always make sure to check in on how you are doing, and the students here encourage each other. Coach Rennie Atkinson has really been a big influence on me. He encouraged me early on in high school to try new things that may not be in my comfort zone—whether it be classes that I thought might be challenging or clubs that I was interested in.



## Hayes Bryant

**College Choice:** Reinhardt University  
**Planned Major:** Major in Biology, Minor in Business

Some of my favorite memories from FPD were the bus rides to and from baseball games. The karaoke, food stops, and Coach Thomas pulling into the Varsity made every one of them hard to forget. Coach Moore has had a tremendous impact on my life. He has instilled a love for sports in me and taught me how to relate struggles and successes on the field to the ups and downs that are a part of life off the field. He has also been a great example of what it looks like for someone to center their life on Christ and trust that He is in control. I feel like the academic curriculum has prepared me for the workload that college will present. I have also learned how to balance school, sports, and time with friends and family.



## Kyla Gay

**College Choice: Savannah College of Art and Design**  
**Planned Major: Major in Dramatic Writing**

I think FPD has given me realistic expectations for the college workload. We have to work a lot to retain good grades here, which means you have to learn effective study habits and time managing strategies. From what I've heard, those will be very useful in college! Dr. Andrew Strickland has taught me so much about storytelling through acting, which will be helpful for my career. But he's also taught me how to work hard for the best results and how to work well with others. I also feel that he's made FPD Theatre a place where everyone can feel comfortable being themselves, which has been so helpful as I've grown into the person I am today.



## Mabry Tolbert

**College Choice: Samford University**  
**Planned Major: Major in Nursing, Minor in Psychology**

My faith has grown a tremendous amount while being at FPD. For me personally, FPD is a testament of the Lord's faithfulness. I have spent countless hours talking with teachers about things going on in my life, and I am thankful they walked through those times with me. I never felt alone at FPD. I always knew that there was someone there that loved me. I thank the Lord every day for giving me the opportunity to go to FPD and being under the leadership of my teachers. My all-time favorite memory during my time at FPD was winning the football state championship. This was the best night. I had dreamed of cheering in a college stadium, and to cheer the football team to a state championship victory was a dream come true. Everything about that night was amazing. The crowd, the student section, the cheerleaders, the band, and the football players. I wouldn't have wanted to end my senior cheer season any other way.



## Henry McClure

**College Choice: Washington and Lee University**  
**Planned Major: Major in Classics, Minor in Art History**

I enjoyed the community of FPD most. Students have a special relationship with both the faculty and staff. I've gained the skills to succeed. I have the tool belt to persevere, learn, discuss, and create. My faith has grown because of the amazing men and women of God in this school. Their lights shine and one has no choice but to aspire to do the same. I also learned that God can stand up to any question that we have about Him, and this continues to be essential in my journey of faith. My favorite memory is listening to Coach Ed Middlebrook's many stories instead of doing my homework at the end of class time. Ask him about his prank wars with students, you won't regret it.



# Commencement

FPD's Class of 2024 walked across the stage to receive their diplomas on May 18, 2024 at Ingleside Baptist Church. These 73 graduates joined the ranks of over 3,400 FPD alumni. They are the 50th graduating class of FPD!

Of the class of 2024, 41 of them were honor graduates, and 44 were awarded gold tassels as members of the National Honor Society.

During the graduation ceremony, they heard words that commemorated their time at FPD and words of encouragement as they embarked on this new chapter of their lives.

Salutatorian Henry McClure spoke about how his class was ready and well-prepared for the next chapter of their lives.

"We've grown our roots starting as seedlings that memorized our multiplication tables and state capitals. Now, we've matured, and we have to leave the nursery," McClure said. "God, the gardener, has nurtured us to grow and put in place plans for our future. It's time to be moved and transplanted."

McClure reminded his classmates that God, the potter, "molded the clay of our beings and shaped us into what we are now."

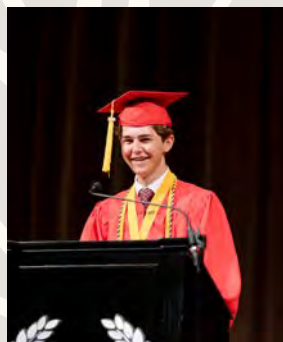
"Through our experiences, our family, friends, and amazing mentors here at FPD, we have been shaped by His hands," McClure said. "This year especially we have taken the time to form into the men and women into



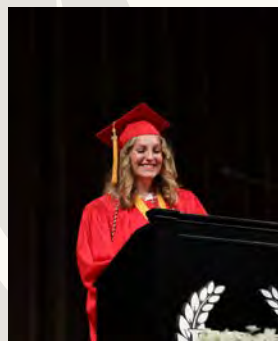
which we will develop. Now, we stand at the threshold with our entire lives ahead of us."

Special music was provided by class of 2024 members Hollis Correa, Kyla Gay, Mary Parker Hall, Sydney Hice, Anna Leigh Lowrimore, and Maisie White. They sang a beautiful rendition of "The Jesus Way."

Valedictorian Claire Gardner began her speech by thanking all who helped the class of 2024 get to this point in their lives.



*Henry McClure, Salutatorian*



*Claire Gardner, Valedictorian*

"We are forever grateful for the love and support all of you have given us," she said. "We are here today because of you all: parents who have loved and encouraged us, and teachers and faculty who have taught us almost everything we know."

She went on to offer advice based on the story in Luke 8 about the woman who had bled for years and touched Jesus in a crowd to be healed.

"Jesus was bumping into people consistently in this crowd, but he noticed this woman touching his robe and healed her. The point of the sermon was that God notices the difference between a bump and a touch," Gardner said. "I believe that people can tell the



# ent 2024



Brig. Gen. John Kubinec (Ret.)

difference too. We either touch the hearts of those around us, or we live our lives simply bumping into the people we meet.”

United States Air Force Brig. Gen. John Kubinec (Ret.) delivered the commencement address.

Kubinec is the President and CEO of 21st Century Partnership, a Georgia non-profit whose mission is to build a stronger Robins Air Force Base and Middle Georgia. He is also the founder of Carbon Road Consulting, LLC, a strategic leadership, manufacturing, MRO, and national defense consulting company. Kubinec retired from the United States Air Force in 2020 after 28 years of service. He is a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy and George Washington University. His wife, Tanya, is a retired Air Force Major General and they have one daughter, Hanna (12). They are members of Harvest Church and proudly call Houston County, Georgia, home.

His speech focused on instilling in the graduates the truth that God has a plan for their lives.

“I noticed in Jeremiah; God says that He knows the plan that He has for us. He doesn’t say that we will know the plan. And often we won’t. That’s where faith and trust comes in,” Kubinec said. “But if that plan involves me living in the best possible abundant life that God has for me, then sign me up.”

Kubinec recounted how God showed His plan for his life, leading him to the Air Force Academy, to meet his wife, and to a deeper relationship with Him. God’s plan included 19 different assignments, four overseas tours, too many deployments to count, and eventually promotion to brigadier general.

“Throughout those years, there were a lot of times when I got in the way of God’s plan for me and was it not for His grace and His mercy, I could have easily derailed the abundant life that God wanted,” he said.

Kubinec talked about the weapons Satan used to try to derail God’s plan: fear and doubt, comparison, and trying to be someone other than who God wanted him to be.

“Here’s the good news. God has already won the victory. Our enemy can’t steal our abundant life,” he said.

Kubinec concluded with, “God has an equally amazing plan for your life class of 2024. It’s a good plan. You have been equipped here at FPD *to change the world for God’s glory*. I can’t wait to see what you all will do.”

**For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.**

*Jeremiah 29:11*

View the entire  
Commencement  
Ceremony



Scan me

# VIKING FAMILY

# Legacies



Harrison Aulds, '20, & Hayden Aulds



Barrett Barkley, '21, & Bennett Barkley



Dawson Black, '18, Madelyn Black, & Kaleb Black, '21



Katherine Bolles Gobel '14, Porter Bolles, '18, Walker Bolles, Laura Winston Bolles '20, & Christopher Bolles '16



Peyton Buckner, '21, & Lucas Buckner



Evan Correa, '18, & Hollis Correa (not pictured Andrew Correa, '21)



Claire Gardner, & Olivia Gardner '20



Kacey Flanders Gresham, '00, & Parker Gresham



Joanna Todd Griffin, '01, & Sam Griffin



Allison Hammack '20, & Mallory Hammack



Kristi Dixon Hendley '89, & Mia Hendley



Eden Hill, '21, & Saylor Hill



Hunter Layton, '15, & Faith Layton



Mike Marshall, '91, & Bella Marshall



Madeline McClure, '19, Henry McClure, & Darin McClure, '84



John Napier, '89, & Jack Napier



David Roddenberry, '91, Eric Roddenberry, '85, Harvey Roddenberry, & Paul Roddenberry, '85



Dalton Self, '21, & Colby Self

# Class of 2024

73  
Graduates

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84%

Eligible for  
the HOPE  
Scholarship

41

Members of the  
National Honor  
Society

29

Honor Grads with  
Distinction

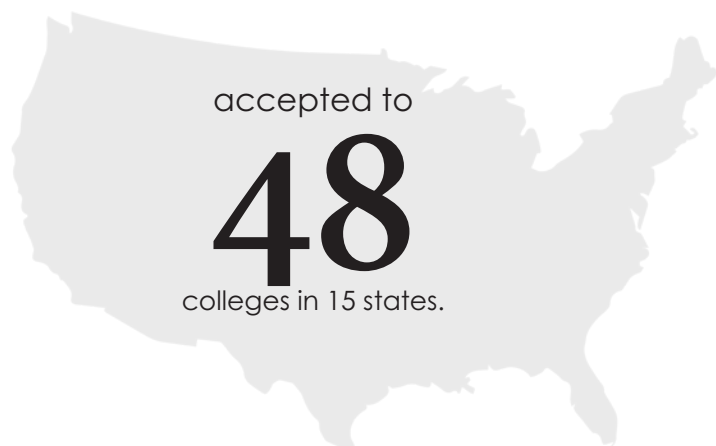
12

Honor Grads

- 6
- Peyton Anderson Scholarship Winners
  - Grads with Community Service Diploma Endorsement

- 4
- Georgia Scholars

- 2
- Grads received Honorable Mention for Golden Eagle Awards
  - Dooley Award Scholarship Top 10 nominees



12,000

hours of Community Service in  
four years of high school



5

athletes planning to play  
sports in college

100

different agencies and churches  
locally and across the world

50<sup>th</sup>

# Graduating Class of FPD

attending

24

different colleges across the nation

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



COVENANT COLLEGE



East Georgia STATE COLLEGE

MERCER UNIVERSITY



Ole Miss



PennState



THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA



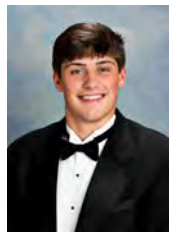
# Class of 2024 Honor Graduates



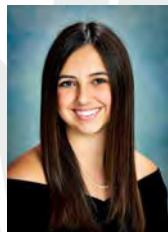
Maddie Anthony



Bennett Barkley



Ben Barton\*



Madelyn Black\*



Lucy Bonfim\*



Hayes Bryant



Clayton Burnett\*



Hollis Correa\*



Hudson French\*



Claire Gardner\*



Kyla Gay\*



Jack Ginaldi



Jake Greene\*



Sam Griffin\*



Mary Parker Hall\*



Wills Handberry\*



Avery Harper\*



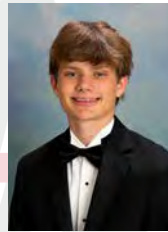
Kendi Hatton



Mia Hendley\*



Sydney Hice\*



Catch Kitchell\*



Faith Layton\*



Garland Lind\*



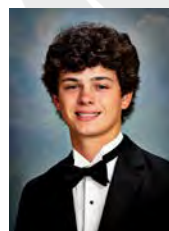
Anna Leigh Lowrimore



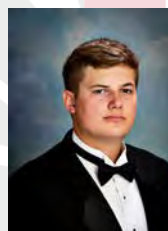
Bella Marshall\*



Henry McClure\*



Lane Montford



Harvey Roddenberry\*



Cooper Rohrbeck\*



Gannon Sappe\*



Nyah Jae Sardoma\*



Colby Self



Cooper Spires



Cody Strandmark\*



Jeremiah Taylor\*



Patrick Thompson\*



Lindsey Tucker\*



Faith Wasden



Maisie White



Sophie Wilford



Martin Yao\*

An FPD Honor Graduate has a 90 or more average in FPD core classes in high school.

An Honor Graduate on the Accelerated Academic Track will graduate Honors with Distinction.

*\*With Distinction*

# SENIOR RECOGNITION

## ACADEMIC

Valedictorian - Claire Gardner

Salutatorian - Henry McClure

Class President - Bella Marshall

Senior Superlatives - Mia Hendley, Henry McClure, Claire Gardner, Catch Kitchell, Mary Parker Hall, and Hollis Correa

Star Student & Teacher - Hollis Correa and Dr. Andrew Strickland

Georgia Scholars - Ben Barton, Hollis Correa, Faith Layton, and Faith Wasden

Golden Eagle Award Nominees -

Art: Henry McClure

Athletics: Faith Wasden

Citizenship: Bella Marshall

Drama: Hollis Correa

English Literature: Claire Gardner

Journalism: Nyah Sardoma

Math: Faith Layton

Music: Sydney Hice

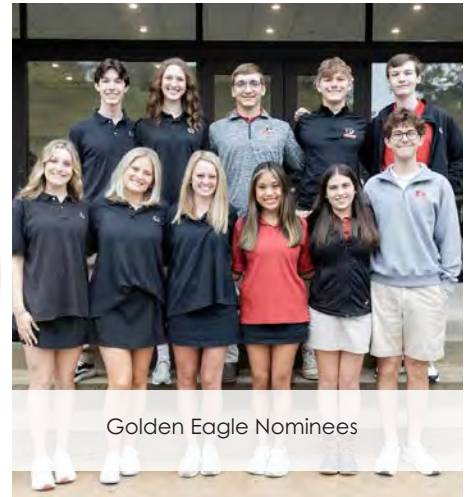
Science: Patrick Thompson

Social Science: Hudson French

Technology: Cooper Rohrbeck



Star Student and Teacher: Hollis Correa and Dr. Andrew Strickland



Golden Eagle Nominees

## SERVICE

Senior Community Service Award - Madelyn Black

Best Citizen Award - Harvey Roddenberry and Bella Marshall

## FINE ARTS

Director's Award, Theatre - Hollis Correa

## ATHLETICS

Outstanding Male Athlete - Ben Barton

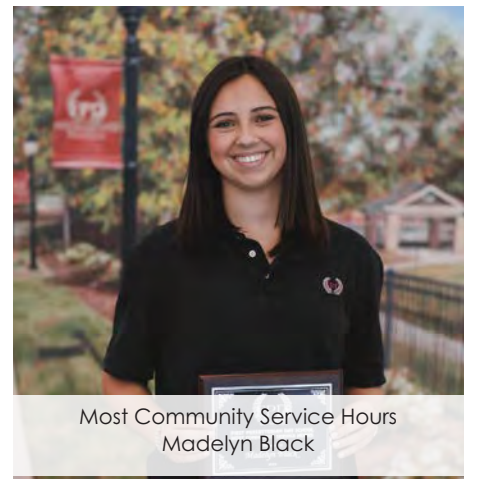
Outstanding Female Athlete - Faith Wasden

Vince Dooley Award Top Ten Nominees - Ben Barton and Faith Wasden

Macon Sports Hall of Fame Scholar Athletes - Ben Barton and Faith Wasden



Best Citizen Awards:  
Harvey Roddenberry and Bella Marshall



Most Community Service Hours  
Madelyn Black

# Reshaping the College Conversation

by Matt Kitchell, High School Principal

Our youngest daughter was diagnosed with scoliosis last year. We consulted a children's orthopedic surgeon who was adamant that the only solution to avoid surgery was a full-time brace for the next 3-4 years. We got a second opinion from a spine surgeon. The spine surgeon told us that the orthopedic surgeon was right; if we wanted the best chance of avoiding surgery we should go into a permanent brace. BUT, he added...

*Avoiding surgery is not the only factor worth considering. You've got to consider the disruption to her everyday activities. Things like sports, swimming, friends, playing dress up, and other things little girls do. Not to mention the amount of stress it's going to cause you trying to keep her in the brace, or the difficulty of navigating the awkward and insecure middle school years while wearing a back brace.*

The second doctor reiterated what the first doctor said, but he added some additional and needed perspective to a difficult decision. Instead of asking, "What is the best way to avoid surgery?" we were now asking, "What is best decision for our child and our family?"

When I meet with families about curriculum choices, the conversation often hovers around the topic of college acceptance. During those conversations three key areas emerge: academic success, extra-curricular resume, and personal anecdotes. Let's briefly take a look at those three discussions, and then let's consider a different question all together.

## **GPA, Course Rigor, and SAT/ACT Scores**

The fact that colleges push out these numbers indicates that they matter, and acceptance into a college of choice will largely depend on a combination of these three academic measures. If you can control these numbers, you will increase your chances of acceptance.

**GPA-** The easiest of the three to influence. Studying hard and doing your work well will in most cases earn one a good grade and equate to a good GPA.

**Course Rigor-** This complicates the GPA for some students. The hope is to take honors and AP classes and do well in them. Parents and students often stress looking for the right equation by attempting to take the maximum number of AP and honors classes in which they have the best chance of getting A's. This is where conversations with current



Mr. Kitchell with 2024 graduates Evan Cheek and Henry McClure.

teachers, one's principal, and college counselor are key. They will help, to the best of their ability, guide students into a schedule that fits their gifts, challenges their curiosity, and prepares them for college.

**SAT/ACT Scores-** Standardized scores are good indicators of ability to do college work and are used by many selective colleges and universities. The best test prep happens in the context of the classroom, and a more challenging course load will prepare you better for the SAT and ACT. Test prep data does suggest that 20 hours of targeted SAT test prep, which includes practice tests, can improve one's scores by 100 points or more. We are awaiting to see how test prep influences the "new" shorter, digital, and adaptive SAT which launched spring of 2024.

## **The Resume**

Colleges like to see well-rounded high-school students engaged in their community. Interestingly, they often refer to it as "balance." Admission representatives say they want to see students interested and invested in ways that go beyond the classroom, and as one representative put it recently, they want "strands" that link the activities in which they invest their time.

In other words, they want to see students dive deep, not wide. Instead of gobbling up every opportunity available, let's see students committed and passionate about those activities in which they are involved.

## **The Anecdotes**

This category sounds like a sitcom, and to be honest, it's not far off. Things are different than they were in 1997,



2007, or 2017! In fact, they are different than they were in 2022. The landscape is changing quickly, and not just in the state of Georgia. In the last 5 years, the number of “early action” applicants has increased by 60%—which has left colleges making hard choices to accept students that have no intention of attending. This keeps the percentage of deferred students waiting for regular decision in March, which in 1997 was normal. Today, in our planned and calendar-driven lives, March of senior year feels late. It’s not, but students and parents feel that way. Southern schools got a bump in applications during the COVID years, and that will likely continue as politics drive a new wave of applicants from the Northeast and West Coast. In addition, large schools in surrounding states are reserving more spots for in-state students. UT- Knoxville, Auburn, USC, and Clemson all have acceptance rates that are now under 45%. Ten years ago, these same schools accepted nearly 70% of all applicants.

We also hear stories from friends and families who are going through the college acceptance season right now, and/or we may even have older children that have gone through it recently. Often our inclination is to attribute their acceptances or denials to things that may or may not have actually been the difference makers. These viewpoints can weigh our opinions too heavily and often create unneeded anxiety. In some cases, rumors and untruths are also shared as facts. For example, have you heard the one about “my friend’s, aunt’s niece who had a 4.0 GPA and 1500 SAT, but was denied at UGA?” We are all susceptible to narratives that validate our feelings and confirm our worst nightmares. They can make for great talking points and stories, but no one anecdote should be weighed too heavily. College acceptance and college readiness are two different things!

I started this article with a story about my daughter, and how as a family we needed a better question to tackle the complicated decisions on her scoliosis treatment. In the same way, I think we need a better question to tackle the complicated world of college acceptance. Instead of, “How do I get accepted to my college of choice,” let’s instead ask, “What can my child do now to be most prepared for college studies and beyond?” This re-shaping of the question can release us, and our kids, of the more extreme pressures of college acceptance, while prioritizing learning and encouraging kids to pursue their passions.

Without a reshaping of the question, students and families will continue to feel the pressure of being great at everything, and they will add to their lives stress and anxiety under which many crumble—perfect scores and perfect resumes. And if they don’t get in, what was it all for?

The writer of Ecclesiastes offers the same question when he asks, “What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?” The answer he determines is a little

unnerving...man gains NOTHING! Not because life is meaningless or work is meaningless, but because the object of one’s desires is what truly matters. Work is never meaningless if it’s for a purpose.

The warning for us all, from elementary to high school, is to not let the pressure of the moment get the best of us. If it does, students may feel the pressure to cheat to keep up, parents may feel the urge to pressure teachers for grades, and teachers may feel pressure to grade based on effort. None of that benefits the learner or coincides with the mission of our school, which is *to educate and equip students to change the world for God’s glory*. If the purpose of our work is God’s glory there is no failure, and the work was always worth it.

As we graduate our 50th class of FPD graduates, may God continue to give us the grace to focus on what matters most. For our teachers, the Graduate Profile is what undergirds our curriculum choices. Soli Deo Gloria!

## *A Lifelong Learner*

academically prepared with knowledge, skills, and habits of mind to succeed in university studies, preparation for career, and as an independent lifelong learner.

## *Challenged by the Gospel*

grounded in the Gospel and its implications, with the tools to grow spiritually and understand and apply a Biblical worldview and ethic.

## *Equipped for Wellness*

equipped with knowledge, skills, and habits of mind to live a healthy and responsible lifestyle.

## *Self-Aware and Growing*

confidently developing academic, artistic, and/or athletic gifts and interests and using them in fulfilling and impactful ways while appreciating the gifts and interests of others.

## *Engaged and Persuasive*

able to winsomely participate in the public marketplace of ideas as a listener and communicator – understanding, critiquing, and challenging worldviews and their implications – working effectively with others of diverse viewpoints and backgrounds while maintaining integrity of beliefs.

## *Sensitive to Others*

cognizant of the needs of others and the community and challenged to participate in meeting those needs.

# Reflections from the Head of School:

## Where We've Been and Where We Are Going

Dr. John Patterson is entering his fifth year at First Presbyterian Day School as Head of School. Since he arrived in 2020, the school has changed in many ways, has faced and overcome many challenges, and is poised, ready, and looking toward a bright future.

When asked what makes FPD so special, Patterson admitted the list could go on for days. However, he identified four specific features that stand out to him.

**1. FAITH comes first.** Everything we do at FPD is focused on our mission statement and our Biblical Worldview. We have the truth of God's word in our school. When students leave, they have the filter of faith by which they view their world. Most importantly, every TEAM FPD member cares about the sanctification process of our students.

**2. The love the faculty and staff have for the students.** Our faculty and staff believe our mission statement *to educate and equip students to change the world for God's glory*. They are more than expositors of knowledge. They are Christian mentors who desire to equip students to know Christ in a deeper way. One way that we do this is through our "Viking Circles" that meet throughout the year.

**3. The FPD Program is focused on whole-person development.** As we created our 5-year strategic plan, we used Luke 2:52 as our foundation. In this verse, Luke speaks to how Jesus grew in wisdom, stature, and favor with God. We offer so many opportunities at FPD that allow them to develop as a whole person and find their God-given talents.

**4. The academic program and offerings are diverse and rigorous:** FPD offers a diverse academic program that meets the needs of every student. From 3K through 12th grade, students are challenged academically through a Christ-centered curriculum. Ultimately, we want our students to achieve their first choice of college and be prepared for that opportunity.

**5. We offer an incredible food service program.** This may come as an odd recognition, but we put a great focus

on the lunch experience for our students, faculty, and staff. One of FPD's values is "excellence." We educate our students on healthy food options and ask them to try new foods.

One of the most noticeable successes of the last few years is the transformation of our campus. From the new entrance and exit-ways, to building remodels, to upgraded playgrounds, the softball batting cages, the gym floor renovation, and much more, the FPD campus is unique to Middle Georgia.

"I often hear 'FPD looks like a small liberal arts college!' Being a college preparatory school, this is music to my ears," Patterson said. "I had an FPD grandparent who even told me that he feels like he 'leaves Macon' when he turns right onto Calvin Drive."

This summer, more upgrades will be made on campus with the renovation of the Louise H. Jones Media Center. The library serves as the hub of campus, and thanks to the generosity of several donors, this space will be transformed. If you have not been to campus in a while, we encourage you to experience our "new look."

FPD's international student program is flourishing, fostering diversity and enriching the community. Patterson strongly supports the international program and recently announced a new partnership with a school in South Korea to help create a pipeline for future students to FPD.

"In the 2023-24 school year, we had 23 international students from many different countries, but primarily from South Korea and China," he said. "They are beloved in our school and support our effort to have a diverse environment."

Patterson continued, "We also launched FPD Global with a K-4th grade school in South Korea. FPD Global School is a Christian Korean School that has accepted FPD's mission, values, profile of a graduate, policies, hiring procedures, etc. Like in Middle Georgia, a school like FPD is very valuable to Christian families in Korea."

The exemplary staff remains pivotal for FPD's success. Patterson considers his biggest accomplishment retaining many longtime staff members and teachers, as well as bringing in several Christian leaders to key roles.

"FPD is excellent because our people are excellent. We have retained a high percentage of veteran teachers and administrators since I came four years ago," Patterson said.

He added, "Through COVID and the challenges of the Macon market, we have the very best Christian men and women to teach and mentor our students."

On the flip side, the biggest challenges he says he's faced stem from cultural and political issues.

"With the declining birth rate, many choices for schools in our area, and the financial instability of many living in Macon, building enrollment is a real challenge. However, unlike other independent schools in the Macon market, we have maintained our enrollment," he said. "The reason for this is the faithfulness of Viking Nation and our commitment to our mission statement."

In an effort to ease some of the challenges of growing enrollment, Patterson and other independent school colleagues pushed the state legislature to provide universal school choice legislation this year. SB233 is a new law that provides up to a \$6,500 education savings account to students leaving public schools that rank in Georgia's bottom 25% for academic achievement.

"While I, and many other of my head of school colleagues, worked hard to push a universal school choice bill, Georgia passed SB233, which does not support our current families or offer any significant support to families who desire an FPD type education," he said.

"Our prayer now is that SB233 is a stepping stone to something legitimate for the independent school movement."

As he looks to the future, Dr. Patterson says the five-year strategic plan launched last year will serve as FPD's north star. One component of that is nurturing awe and wonder in learning. The goal is to help students connect their studies with their faith and real-world issues.

"We are also putting a greater emphasis on teaching our students about personal finance this year. While this has been part of our economics curriculum, we will be



*Dr. Patterson and his wife, Cindy*

instructing our students on personal finance for an entire quarter this year," Dr. Patterson said. "When we talk about personal finance, we talk about things like who owns the money, how much money is enough or the journey for contentment, the power of tithing, and budgeting."

The foundation of an FPD education is always based on biblical principles. It's that foundation and the mission *of educating and equipping students to change the world for God's glory*, that makes FPD the choice for so many families.

"I recently had a parent who said, 'the crazier the world gets, the more relevant FPD becomes to all families.'"

According to Dr. Patterson, "The Christian school movement is the greatest power that exists in our world, and FPD offers the very best Christian college preparatory education in Middle Georgia."

"FPD's mission statement stands strong, and we trust God for all things. I believe the best is yet to come for FPD, and I am excited for the future," he added.



# STATE CHAMPION

## Football

The Vikings, under first-year Head Coach Brett Collier, made history in the 2023 FPD Varsity Football season by winning the GIAA AAAA State Championship game on December 1. This victory marked their first football state championship since 1985, with their previous titles being in 1980 and 1985.



"This was a special season in so many ways. Seeing the FPD community rally around this team all the way to the last play created memories we will keep with us for a long time," Collier said. "I know this season meant a lot not only for our current coaches, players, and families, but also to the Viking faithful and all former players and families who still follow and support our teams."

With an overall record of 9-3-1, the Vikings started the season with a tough loss against a good team from Mississippi, Parklane Academy. They went on to beat Brookstone School, Pinewood Christian, Mount Pisgah, Mount de Sales, Tattnell Square Academy, and Stratford Academy in the regular season.

The team was led by senior captains Ben Barton, Patrick Thompson, Sam Griffin, Gunnar Fuller, Hayden Aulds, and Gavin Spillers.

Senior quarterback and Syracuse commit Jakhari Williams threw for 2,117 yards and rushed for 674. Williams threw for 23 touchdowns and rushed for 15, while only throwing one interception. Running back

Hayden Aulds led the team with 1,221 yards rushing.

"It would be hard to overstate how much of an impact having a senior heavy and senior led team has on your team," Collier said. "Our seniors this year, many of whom grew up playing in our Viking Football League, were totally bought in to the team and the program. They had a 'whatever it takes' mindset. They led well, played with pride, and set another standard for future Vikings."



Parker Gresham shows off the Championship ring.

standard for future Vikings."

In the playoffs, FPD earned a first-round bye, and then beat Strong Rock Christian in the second round. The Vikings beat Tattnell at home in the semi-finals. In the State Championship game, Brookstone scored first, then FPD scored 31 unanswered points and won the game 44-24.

"As we turn the page to next season, I'm looking forward to coaching the 2024 team. We have a solid group of seniors and some players with good experience coming back," Collier said. "We will continue to coach and play hard. We'll hold our players to a high standard of effort and discipline. We have a saying in our program—the boys in red will play as hard as they can—I'm looking forward to watching this group do that."

**Come cheer on the Vikings! Check out the 2024 Football Schedule!**



Scan Here

## Clay Shooting Team

Congratulations to our 2023 Clay Target Shooting Team on winning the GIAA Class AAA State Championship.

Here are some other individual awards that our shooters received:

Marley Montford:  
- HOA Female  
- 1st Place Skeet  
- 1st Place Sporting  
- All-State

Lane Montford:  
- Runner-up HOA Male  
- 2nd Place Sporting  
- 2nd Place Skeet  
- 2nd Place Trap  
- All-State

Stokes Ward:  
- 4th Place Overall Male  
- 5th Place Skeet  
- All-State

Jackson Justice  
- 2nd Place Skeet



# ONSHIP SEASONS

## Girls Tennis

Congratulations to our Varsity Girls Tennis team on their State Championship season. The team had an 18-0 record for the season, and were crowned Region Champions, with seven girls being named All Region. The team was also Middle GA Invite Champs. They won the State Championship with a 3-2 win over Rivers Academy.

The doubles team of senior Kiya Israel and junior Averi Jones also won the State Individual Championship.



Kiya Israel and Averi Jones won the Tennis Doubles State Championship.

## VIKINGS MOVE ON TO PLAY AT THE COLLIGIATE LEVEL



Faith Wasden  
Basketball  
Covenant College



Gavin Spillers  
Football  
Mars Hill University



Kaylee Macdonald  
Softball  
Gordon State College



Jakari Williams  
Football  
Syracuse University



Hayes Bryant  
Baseball  
Reinhardt University



# ALL-REGION



## Football

All-Region:  
 Ben Barton  
 Patrick Thompson  
 Hayden Aulds  
 Gavin Spillers  
 Colby Self  
 Brady Lincoln  
 Jakhari Williams  
 Breck Griffin  
 Carter Hays  
 Major Simmons

Jakari Williams:  
 All-State, All-Star,  
 State & Region  
 Player of the Year  
 All-State Track



Ben Barton: All-State



Hayden Aulds:  
All-State



Stokes Ward:  
All-State

## Softball

All-Region:  
 Kaylee MacDonald  
 Alanna Ray  
 Addison Arnold  
 Gracyn Fuller



Gracyn Fuller:  
All-State



Gavin Spillers:  
All-State & All-Star

## Volleyball

All-Region:  
 Garland Lind  
 Maddie Anthony  
 Mackenzie King  
 Faith Wasden



Kaylee Macdonald:  
All-Star



Carter Hays:  
All-State &  
All-Star

## Cross Country

All-Region:  
 Luke Judah  
 Emory Thompson  
 Daniel Moughon  
 Megan Casey  
 Suzy Li  
 Lucy Bonfim



Lane Montford:  
All-State

## Girls Basketball

All-Region:  
 Bowen Matthews  
 Elly Wasden  
 Faith Wasden  
 Elcee Leslein



Bowen Matthews:  
All-State



Faith Wasden  
All-State, All-Star, &  
Region Player of the  
Year



Elly Wasden:  
All-State

## Boys Basketball

All-Region:  
 Chris Davis



Gunner Fuller:  
All-State

## Boys Golf

All-Region:  
 Jack Parel  
 Sam Clarke  
 Lawson Address



Marley Montford:  
All-State



Kip Cawley:  
All-State

## Track

All-Region:  
 Ben Barton  
 Colby Self  
 Marley Battle  
 Faith Wasden  
 Daniel Moughon  
 Liam White  
 Greyson Dumpe  
 Ty Hendley  
 Jakhari Williams  
 Samuel Hunt



Samuel Hunt:  
All-State

# & ALL-STATE ATHLETES



Jake Greene:  
All-State & All-Star

## Girls Tennis



Kiya Israel:  
All-State

All-Region:  
Katelynn Jackson  
Kendall Rawlings  
Eve Scott  
Averi Jones  
Kiya Israel  
Sutherland Tanner  
Elizabeth McGregor



Averi Jones:  
All-State

## Boys Tennis

All-Region:  
Chris Hanks  
Phil Doerflinger  
Evan Cheek  
Logan Johnson  
Simon Shepley  
Vova Zhuravlov  
Justin Brundage  
Ethan Lashley

## Boys Soccer

All-Region:  
Carter Hays  
Jake Greene  
Benjamin McElreath  
Dom Economopoulos



Dom Economopoulos:  
All-State



Carter Hays:  
All-Star



Bella Fritz:  
All-State

## Girls Soccer

All-Region:  
Lucy Bonfim  
Elcee Leslein  
Emma Lizotte  
Bella Fritz  
Bowen Matthews  
Katelynn Jackson



Lucy Bonfim:  
All-State & All-Star

## Baseball

All-Region:  
Keon Johnson  
Gavin Spillers  
Conner Strandmark  
Cody Strandmark  
Hayes Bryant  
Brady McHugh  
Tinsley Lewis



Keon Johnson:  
All-State



Katelynn Jackson:  
All-State



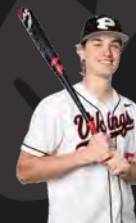
Nyah Sardoma:  
All-Star



Garland Lind:  
All-Star



Bowen Matthews:  
All-State & Region  
Player of the Year



Conner Strandmark:  
All-State



Holden Hines:  
All-State

Brett Collier GIAA  
Region/State  
Coach of the Year  
FOOTBALL



Clint Ward  
GIAA Region/State  
Coach of the Year  
CLAY SHOOTING



Derek Lashley  
GIAA Region/State  
Coach of the Year  
GIRLS TENNIS



Mabry Tolbert:  
All-Star

# FPD Theatre Performances to Remember

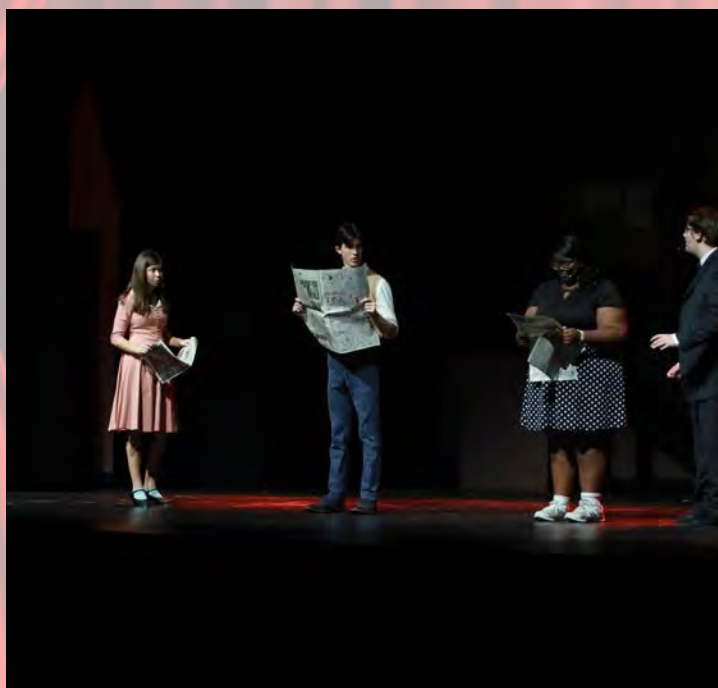
FPD Theatre presented an incredible season of four mainstage shows this past year.

The 4th and 5th grade performers opened the season with “Alice @ Wonderland,” a retelling of the classic story where Wonderland is just as we remember it, but Alice is now very modern, complete with a cell phone addiction.

Next up was our high school competition one-act play, “Dirt.” This powerful look at a family’s struggle during the 1930s Dust Bowl moved audiences and judges alike, winning ACSI and GISA Region Championships as well as 15 other awards.

The talented middle school actors were the next to take the stage with “Madhouse!,” a madcap comedy/mystery where a family desperately searches for their hidden inheritance.

The grand finale of the theatre season was our musical, “Curtains: School Edition,” featuring performers from 6th-12th grades. “Curtains,” which tells the story of a theatre-loving Boston detective trying to solve a murder that occurred during the performance of a Broadway-bound musical, wowed audiences with incredible singing, high-energy dance numbers, and one of the funniest scripts ever performed at FPD.



## “Dirt”

One-Act Play Awards

### ACSI One-Act Play Competition

Best Play

Best Ensemble

Best Use of Technology

Best Production Design

Best Actress: Kyla Gay

Best Actor: Hollis Correa

Best Supporting Actor:

Caedmon Strickland

All-Star Cast: Abby Tillery

All-Star Cast: Ella Washburn

All-Star Tech: Max Murnan

### GISA Region 6AAA One-Act Competition

Region Champion

Outstanding Performer:

Kyla Gay

Outstanding Performer:

Hollis Correa

### GISA State AAA One-Act Championship

Outstanding Performer (All-  
State): Hollis Correa

Honorable Mention

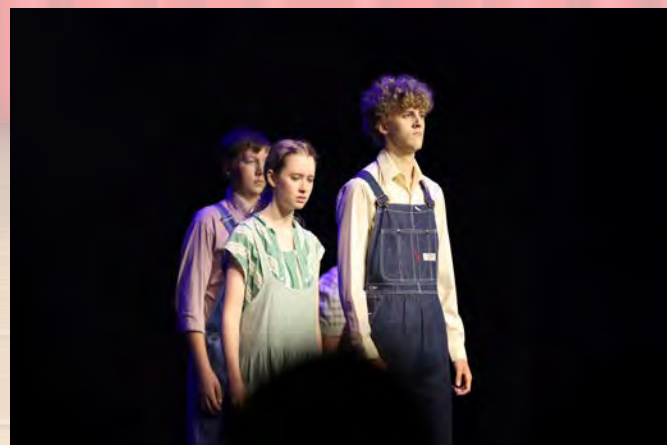
Outstanding Performer:

Kyla Gay

Honorable Mention

Outstanding Performer:

Abby Tillery





# FPD Theatre Awards 2024

## **OUTSTANDING DEBUT PERFORMANCE – ACTOR**

Max Murnan, Curtains

## **OUTSTANDING DEBUT PERFORMANCE – ACTRESS**

Molly Kate Goggans, Madhouse!

## **EXCELLENCE IN STAGE MOVEMENT**

Abby Tillery, Bennett Barkley (Dance), Curtains

## **OUTSTANDING VOCAL PERFORMANCE**

Sydney Hice, Curtains

## **EXCELLENCE IN AN ENSEMBLE ROLE – ACTOR**

Bennett Barkley, Dirt

## **EXCELLENCE IN AN ENSEMBLE ROLE – ACTRESS**

Faith Layton, Curtains

## **OUTSTANDING MIDDLE SCHOOL PERFORMANCE – ACTRESS**

Madison Prince, Madhouse!

## **OUTSTANDING MIDDLE SCHOOL PERFORMANCE – ACTOR**

Reese Garvin, Madhouse!

## **EXCELLENCE IN A GROUP PERFORMANCE**

The Loftin Kids (Ella Washburn, Caedmon Strickland, Wynne Pearson, Hudson Crosby, Samantha Gray), Dirt

## **BREAKOUT PERFORMANCE – ACTOR**

Heath Lautzenheiser, Dirt & Curtains

## **BREAKOUT PERFORMANCE – ACTRESS**

Mei-Ling MiQwe, Curtains

## **EXCELLENCE IN A LEAD ROLE – ACTOR**

Declan Myers, Curtains

## **EXCELLENCE IN A LEAD ROLE – ACTRESS**

Sydney Hice, Curtains

## **EXCELLENCE IN A FEATURED ROLE – ACTOR**

Caedmon Strickland, Dirt & Curtains

## **EXCELLENCE IN A FEATURED ROLE – ACTRESS**

Abby Tillery, Dirt and Curtains

## **OUTSTANDING COMIC ACTOR**

Heath Lautzenheiser, Curtains

## **OUTSTANDING COMIC ACTRESS**

Ella Washburn, Dirt & Curtains

## **OUTSTANDING DRAMATIC ACTOR**

Hollis Correa, Dirt

## **OUTSTANDING DRAMATIC ACTRESS**

Kyla Gay, Dirt

## **THE APPRENTICE AWARD (Outstanding Involvement by a 6th Grader)**

Austin West

## **THE VOLUNTEER AWARD**

Victoria Harrelson

## **THE SERLIO AWARD**

(Outstanding Achievement in Technical Theatre)

Tripp Gradwell

## **THE DIRECTOR'S AWARD**

(Outstanding FPD Theatre Career of a Senior)

Hollis Correa



# Band Updates

Congrats to FPD's Marching Band! They placed 2nd in the Class A competition at the Hurricane Classic in Monroe, GA. Tripp Gradwell received a Superior Rating as Drum Major, the Color Guard received a Superior Rating, Percussion received an Excellent, and the Band received an overall Excellent Rating.



## Congratulations to the FPD Band members selected for the GMEA District XI Honor Band!



High School – Max Murnan, Ben Waits, Oliver Hunt, and Causey Crosby



Middle School– Abigail Guidry, Wyatt Doubleday, and Sophia Baker

Oliver Hunt and Sophia Baker were also selected for South Region Band.

Giorgia Ginaldi and Calder Garvin were Rookies of the Year for the fifth-grade concert band.

# Literary Team

## Dominates at Region Competition

FPD's Literary Competition Team had an impressive showing at the regional competition in March. The students won the GISA Region 6AAA championship, bringing home awards in all of the competition categories!

FPD was the only school to successfully compete in all 14 categories, winning seven and taking 2nd in five categories.

### **Argumentative Essay**

Faith Layton, 1st Place

### **Rhetorical Analysis Essay**

Cason Katzer, 1st Place

### **Personal Essay**

Claire Gardner, 2nd Place

### **Spelling**

Clayton Burnett, 4th Place

### **U.S. Domestic Extemporeous Speaking**

Henry McClure, 1st Place

### **Impromptu Speaking**

Mei-Ling MiQwe, 2nd Place

### **Dramatic Oral Interpretation**

Bennett Barkley, 2nd Place

### **Humorous Oral Interpretation**

Ella Washburn, 2nd Place

### **Duo Oral Interpretation**

Samantha Gray and Mei-Ling MiQwe, 2nd Place

### **Vocal Solo**

Treble: Sydney Hice, 1st Place

### **Vocal Solo**

Lower: Hollis Correa, 1st Place

### **Vocal Trio**

Kyla Gay, Anna Leigh Lowrimore, Abby Tillery, 1st Place

### **Vocal Quartet**

Hollis Correa, Sydney Hice, Declan Myers, Ella Washburn, 1st Place

### **Piano**

Linda Jin, 3rd Place



Sydney Hice



Ella Washburn

The team took home 4th in State Competition with the following individual awards:

Humorous Oral Interpretation – 2nd Place (tie) - Ella Washburn

Extemporeous Speaking – 3rd Place – Henry McClure

Vocal Solo – Treble – 2nd Place – Sydney Hice

Vocal Solo – Lower – 3rd Place – Hollis Correa

Vocal Trio – 3rd Place – Kyla Gay, Anna Leigh Lowrimore, Abby Tillery

Vocal Quartet – 2nd Place – Sydney Hice, Ella Washburn, Declan Myers, Hollis Correa



# Celebrating Faithful Service

## Faculty and Staff Reunion Luncheon



Esther Meeks and Kathy Griffis



Gayle Putnal and Dale Taylor

FPD was honored to welcome back more than 25 of our former teachers and staff to our annual Faculty and Staff Reunion Luncheon on April 23, 2024.

It was a great day of fellowship, sharing memories, and seeing the beautiful campus. Guests heard from alumni, Board Member, and current FPD parent Phillips Jones, '00, about how his FPD experience set him up for success in life. He also emphasized the legacy our former teachers and staff have left and how our current faculty continue that legacy of *educating and equipping students to change the world for God's glory*. Several former faculty shared special memories and also honored those faculty who have passed away in the last year.

FPD is so grateful to these dedicated educators and staff for making our school what it is today, and we celebrate their lasting legacy. We look forward to next year's luncheon!

**We want to keep in touch with all of our former faculty and staff – please update your contact information with us to ensure you're notified of future events!**

Email Lauren Jones:  
[lauren.jones@fpdmacon.org](mailto:lauren.jones@fpdmacon.org) to update your contact information.

# Dedicated Service

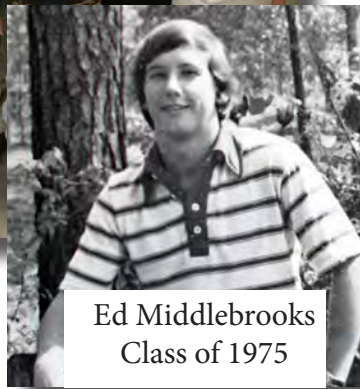
## FPD's Longest-Tentured Employees

FPD is a special place for both students and employees alike. The school has been blessed with many outstanding employees since its founding in 1970.

We celebrate Ed Middlebrooks, Lee Dawson, and Greg Moore, who are the longest-serving current staff members. All three are also FPD alumni.



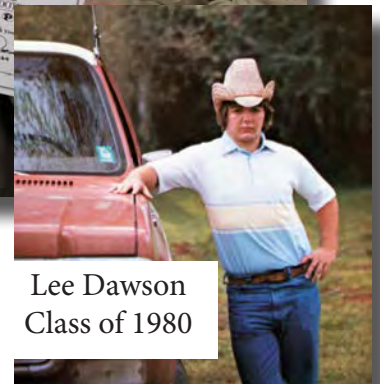
Ed Middlebrooks  
44 years



Ed Middlebrooks  
Class of 1975



Lee Dawson  
39 years



Lee Dawson  
Class of 1980



Greg Moore  
35 years



Greg Moore  
Class of 1984

## Fun Fact



For the 2023-2024 school year, All FPD faculty and staff had a combined total years of service of around 900 years!

# ALUMNI NOTES

## 1987

**Melissa Constable, '87**, celebrated the graduation of her daughter, Cassie Marie Constable, from Waccamaw High School in Pawleys Island, South Carolina, on May 30, 2024. Cassie plans to attend Horry Georgetown Technical College (HGTC) and pursue a degree in nursing and then transfer to Coastal Carolina University (CCU) to finish out the program!



## 1991

**Kelley Richardson Hester, '91**, was named the LPGA Coach of the Year in 2023. Kelley is a devoted coach dedicated to developing the whole person. She was also 2023 ACC Coach of the Year and lead the Clemson Women's Golf Team to their first ACC Championship win!



## 1997

Many congratulations to **Ken Smith, '97**, on his appointment by Governor Brian Kemp as Macon Judicial Circuit's next Superior Court Judge. What a well-deserved honor! We are so very proud to call you a Viking, Ken!



## 1990

**Kim Weaver Hope, '90**, teaches high school math at Westminster Catawba Christian School in Rock Hill, South Carolina. In August of 2023, her school held a two day retreat at Lake Lure, North Carolina. **Beck Muse, '16**, and **Lauren Lowery Muse, '16**, helped coordinate the retreat and **JT Hoover, '10**, was the guest speaker. These alumni enjoyed a mini reunion - what a small world that four people, from three different FPD graduating classes, would be involved in the same retreat at a camp in a small town in North Carolina!

## 1992

**Tonya Self Allen, '92**, and her husband Dusty recently opened a Board & Brush Creative Studio in Macon, located on Zebulon Road. They offer inspiring DIY workshops for people who love to create and connect with friends. Their workshops are instructor led and they provide all the supplies needed to create a unique piece of wood decor. They hand you the tools and direction, and you create the friendships and craft. To learn more about the studio or to register for a workshop, please visit their website at <https://boardandbrush.com/macon/>. They can also be found on Facebook.

## 2004

Members of the 2004 State Championship Basketball Team were honored at a home basketball game to mark 20 years since their state championship win. Pictured left to right are: **Colby Maddox, '05**, Mike Kaplan, father of the late Merrie Kaplan (team manager), **Eric Beville, '04**, **Chris Jones, '06**, **Jake Griffin, '05**, **Brian McCommon, '04**, **Tyler Gottlieb, '04**, **Michael Bridges, '06**, and Coach Greg Moore. It was great to have these Vikings back on campus!



## 2005

**Kristi Peake Davis**, '05, daughter, Finley Jane, '35, poses with the tree planted on campus in memory of Finley's great-grandmother, Mrs. Jane Atkinson Middlebrooks!



## 2015



**Barret Ham**, '15, joined the New York Philharmonic as clarinet / bass clarinet in the 2023-24 season. He previously served as acting second clarinet/bass clarinet for the San Francisco Ballet Orchestra for three seasons and has performed as a guest musician with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and The Cleveland Orchestra, as well as the Boston, Dallas, and Utah symphony orchestras. Recent summer festival appearances include Yellow Barn, the Lucerne Festival Academy, and Spoleto Festival USA. An avid chamber musician, Ham has performed for Tertulia San Francisco and as a guest with the Borromeo

String Quartet. He has worked directly with composers such as Shulamit Ran, Jörg Widmann, Brett Dean, and Enno Poppe, and is a proponent of the works of living composers. Barret received his bachelor's degree from the New England Conservatory and his master's degree from the University of Southern California.

## 2017

Lily Elaine Wallace was born February 10 at 7:10 am, weighing 7 pounds 9 ounces. Proud parents are **Susanna**, '17, and Daniel Wallace of Amelia Island, Florida. Grandparents are Sarah and **Dennis**, '97, Adams and Great-Grandparents are **Carol**, '77, and Jay Adams.



## 2018

**Benjamin Hall**, '18, graduated from Kennesaw State University magna cum laude with an engineering degree! He began his masters program at Georgia Tech in the fall of 2023.

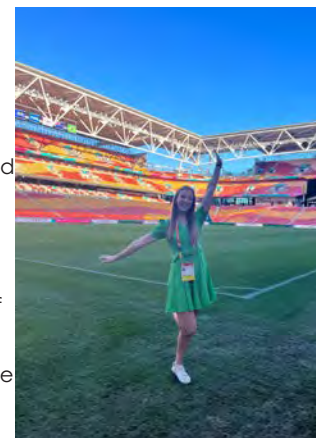
Congratulations to **Titus Moore**, '18, on winning the regional round of the Global Student Entrepreneur Awards. Be sure to check out Titus's new business, Moore's All-Natural Granola Bars.



**Noah Takac**, '18, recently graduated from Georgetown University with a Master of Science in Finance, and has begun a career in Investment Banking. He is currently working for Houlihan Lokey's Energy Group in Houston, TX - where he advises Oil & Gas companies on M&A transactions.

## 2019

**Molly Lee**, '19, had the opportunity to cover the Women's World Cup Soccer Tournament in Australia in the summer of 2023. She did this through the Sports Media Department

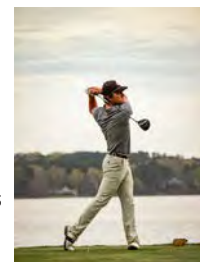


of UGA. Molly spent three weeks in Brisbane, Australia, covering primarily the Brazilian national team. Molly attended practices, press conferences and games, then wrote articles for the Associated Press. Five of her articles were published in national news outlets including USA Today, the Washington Post and Times Union.

**Chase Garrison**, '19, married Mia Stevenson (daughter of FPD alumna Heather Stevenson, '91) May 31, 2024, in St. Simons, Georgia. Congratulations to both Chase and Mia!



**Jay Spivey**, '19, finished his golf career at Mercer University this year and will pursue his lifelong dream of playing professional golf. Jay has a newsletter where you can follow along on his journey: [jays-newsletter-592c87.beehiiv.com/](https://jays-newsletter-592c87.beehiiv.com/) subscribe



# 2019 continued

**Abigail Dean Floyd, '19**, will join FPD's faculty for the 2024-25 school year as an upper school mathematics teacher. She will also serve as Assistant Color Guard Coach and Math Team Coach.



**Gray Simmons, '19**, former Robotics Team Captain, was part of Georgia Tech's first place winning team at the Vertical Flight Society's Annual Student Design Competition.



# 2020

**Caroline Neisler, '20**, will join FPD's faculty for the 2024-25 school year as a 2nd grade teacher. Caroline received her Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood and Elementary Education from the University of Alabama, and she is currently pursuing her Master of Arts in Early Childhood and Elementary Education from the University of Alabama.



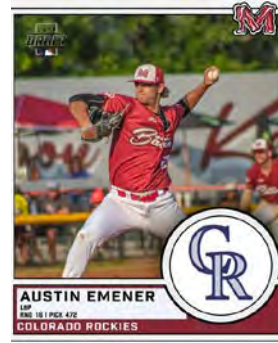
**Tate Skipper, '20**, and **Andrew Cohen, '20**, and their Georgia Southern Clay Target Team won the 2024 ACUI/SCTP Collegiate Clay Target Championship!



**Austin Murray, '20**, won the second trombone audition at the Tuscaloosa Symphony! Austin also is a finalist for the 2024 American Trombone Workshop National Solo Competition in Washington, DC. Austin is involved in a trombone quartet called the Legacy Quartet at Columbus State University. Their group has been named Finalist in the International Trombone Festival quartet competition and winner of the American Trombone Workshop quartet competition! They traveled to Arlington, VA for ATW in the spring, and Forth Worth, TX this summer for ITF. Additionally, he's been chosen as a finalist for the American Trombone Workshop's Division 2 solo competition. He traveled to Arlington, VA this past spring to compete against the other finalists. Austin was also named second alternate for the International Trombone Association's Marstellar Tenor Trombone competition. He will begin his Master's degree at Juilliard in the fall.



Congratulations to alumnus **Austin Emener, '20**, on his selection to the Colorado Rockies in the 2023 MLB Draft. Proud of you, Austin!

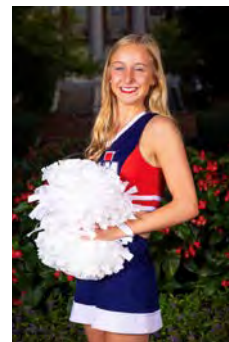


# 2023

Congratulations to alumna **Avery Robinson, '23**, on her performance at the GSGA Georgia Women's Amateur at Horseshoe Bend Country Club! Avery shot +3 over three rounds to finish T-7th, including a -2 second round of 70. Avery just completed her freshman year at Georgia Southern University.



**Maci Lefholz, '23**, is currently attending Samford University and has the pleasure of being a part of their spirit cheer team. Her major is nursing and she has a goal of working in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. While she is home in Macon for the summer, she will be working at Primary Pediatrics to gain experience that will help prepare her for the goal of becoming a nurse. Additionally, she is scheduled to take a medical mission trip to Santa Barbara, Honduras, with her mother on June 14th where she will help serve and provide care to the people in the community.



**We want to keep in touch with all of our alumni**

Please update your contact information with us!

Email Lauren Jones at  
[lauren.jones@fpdmacon.org](mailto:lauren.jones@fpdmacon.org).





# HOMECOMING 2023 *Recap*



FPD welcomed back alumni and their families to our Homecoming celebration on Friday, October 20, 2023.

Alumni enjoyed a tailgate dinner and fellowship under the Wilson-Anderson Family Pavilion before the football game versus John Milledge.

We love having our alumni back on campus, especially for Homecoming!



## Homecoming Award Winners



### **FPD Distinguished Alumni Award:**

(Left) Dallis Foshee, '18

### **FPD Service Award:**

(Right) Mary Bennet Dunwody Rose, '90

For more information on FPD's Alumni Awards, including previous winners, visit [fpdmacon.org/alumni/awards](http://fpdmacon.org/alumni/awards).

# Homecoming Reunions 2023



We loved having alumni back in Macon and on campus this weekend for Homecoming 2023!

The classes of 1983, 1988, 1998, 2003, 2008, 2013 and 2018 hosted their reunions Saturday night - so great to see these Vikings back together!



For information on the 2024 Reunions, visit [fpdmacon.org/alumni/homecoming/](http://fpdmacon.org/alumni/homecoming/) or scan here:



# Alumni

## BASEBALL & SOCCER Games

On Saturday, October 21, 2023, as part of FPD's Homecoming festivities, we welcomed back over 40 of our alumni who played soccer and baseball for our Alumni Soccer and Baseball games.

Players enjoyed being back on the field and the pitch for some friendly competition and to see who still "had it!"

Lunch was provided and our alumni were able to fellowship with each other and relive the glory days.

We're already making plans for this year's games on Saturday, September 21, 2024. For more information and to register, visit [fpdmacon.org/alumni/homecoming](http://fpdmacon.org/alumni/homecoming)



# ALUMNI AWARD NOMINATIONS 2024

The following awards are given out every year at the FPD Homecoming football game. Please send an email with your nominations to Lauren Jones at [lauren.jones@fpdmacon.org](mailto:lauren.jones@fpdmacon.org) no later than September 1, 2024.

## *Distinguished Alumni Award*

An alumnus/alumna who has made an outstanding contribution through his/her vocation or who otherwise deserves to be recognized for outstanding achievement in some field or endeavor - an individual who has "changed the world for God's glory."

## *Service Award*

An individual who has shown continued service and support to FPD. They can be an alumni or anyone connected with FPD.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN DAY SCHOOL



*Welcome Back to*



*the Red & Black*

# HOMECOMING 2024

SEPTEMBER 20TH - SEPTEMBER 21ST

# Day School Society

## Reception & Dinner

FPD hosted the annual Day School Society Reception in February. The Day School Society is FPD's giving club for donors who give an annual gift of \$1,000 or more, or who have contributed a lifetime total of over \$100,000.

The reception is a time for fellowship and to share our gratefulness to those who play crucial roles in helping FPD carry out the mission of educating and equipping students to change the world for God's glory.

This year, more than 160 families were invited to our Day School Society reception at Natalia's.

We are so grateful for our Day School Society members and their continued loyal support for FPD. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Day School Society, please contact Kathy Tolbert at [kathy.tolbert@fpdmacon.org](mailto:kathy.tolbert@fpdmacon.org).



# FPD Golf Tournament



1st Place Net: Wesley Brown, Eric Phillips, Brett Mosley, and Dale Mosley

FPD hosted our 24th Annual Golf Tournament on Monday, March 20, 2024, at The Brickyard Golf Club. We welcomed over 30 teams for our tournament on a beautiful spring day. We are so grateful for our presenting sponsors, Smith, Brown & Groover and Sutton Acura. Thank you to everyone who participated and for the volunteers and sponsors that made the event possible.

*Save the date*

Monday, March 24 at The Brickyard



1st Place Gross Winners: Brian McCommon, Matt McCommon, Bert Barnes, and Will White



2022-2024

# Annual Report

First Presbyterian Day School



The FPD Annual Report is provided in the FPD Magazine to inform families about the financial success and responsibility of our school. Information reported here is from the 2022-2024 fiscal years beginning June 1, 2022, and ending May 30, 2024. FPD Annual Report is published by the First Presbyterian Day School Advancement Office. Every effort has been made to publish an accurate report. If you feel information is incorrect, please email **Kathy Tolbert** at [kathy.tolbert@fpdmacon.org](mailto:kathy.tolbert@fpdmacon.org).

Viking Nation,

As we reflect on the 2023-24 school year, I am reminded of our theme, “Rooted,” based on Colossians 2:6-7, “So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, being rooted and built up in him and established in faith, just as you were taught, and overflowing with gratitude.” The apostle Paul makes a statement about the believer’s walk with Christ. When we live in Him, we are obedient, grateful, and faithful. Walking with Christ transforms everything we do, say, think, desire, and ultimately, our decisions.

When the Class of 2024 walked across the stage this May, they represented the 50th graduating class of First Presbyterian Day School. It makes me think of the group of believers who were faithful when they established the vision for First Presbyterian Day School over 50 years ago. From those humble beginnings in 1970, FPD has grown into the amazing school we are blessed with today. The founders’ vision, coupled with the financial support we receive now, enables us to continue to live out our mission of “educating and equipping students to change the world for God’s glory.”

Thank you to each person, organization, corporation, foundation, and church listed on these pages who stands behind our mission and supports it through their financial gifts. Because of the investment of our faithful donors, FPD continues to grow and thrive. I am thankful for our loyal donors who are leaving a lasting legacy by choosing to invest in First Presbyterian Day School.



Go Vikings!

Dr. John Patterson, Head of School  
First Presbyterian Day School

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## 2023 - 2024 Alumni Board

FPD's Alumni Board helps serve the school by organizing alumni events and connecting alumni back to the school.

Jerry Becham, '89	Carol Gordon, '98
Hope Hahn Shields, '87	Jenna Rumford, '98
Ken Smith, '97	Laura McGreggor, '99
Jack Nichols, '97	Mary Elizabeth Neisler, '15
Rebekah Coon, '13	Christen McCommon, '07

# REPORT OF GIVING

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 Mr. and Mrs. Randy Wright  
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 Zaxbys of Middle Ga

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given between June 1, 2022 - May 31, 2024

In Memory of  
Given By

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Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Vaughn  
Mr. Wade Adams

**Sandra Bassett**

Mr. and Mrs. Ken Shields

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Mr. Jim Palmer  
Mrs. Karen M. Smith  
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Mr. and Mrs. Harold Foshee III

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**Harold A. Young**

Mrs. Harriet Comer

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given between June 1, 2022 - May 31, 2024

In Honor of  
Given By

**Jonathan Baker**  
Ms. Laura Wanamaker

**Harper & Hayden Bivins**  
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Bivins

**Clara Rose & Payne Bradley**  
Mrs. Teresa B. Bioust

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**Anna Leigh, Michael & Miller Durham**  
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**Dianne Hattaway**  
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**Derek & Aimee Lashley**  
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sponsorships between June 1, 2023 - May 31, 2024

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Charlie Pelt, State Farm  
Cherokee Brick and Tile  
Chickfila, Zebulon Road  
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Downtown Grill  
Fazoli's  
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Kornegay Engineers Inc.  
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Sutton Acura  
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Walsh Honda  
Will Davis Plumbing Company  
Wilson Bryant Air Conditioning  
Windows and Doors of Macon



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Donors who make gifts totaling \$1,000 or more annually, including matching gifts, are automatically qualified to become members of the Day School Society and are recognized at a special reception each year. Donors who wish to remain anonymous may choose to opt out of membership. Donors who make lifetime gifts totaling \$100,000 or more are considered Life Members of the Day School Society. The list below is Day School Society member between June 1, 2022 - May 31, 2024.

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Mr. and Mrs. Ryan Terrell  
Mr. and Mrs. John Thigpin  
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Mr. and Mrs. Brad Thompson  
Mr. and Mrs. Adam Tolbert  
*Mr. and Mrs. H. Lowry Tribble*  
UniVirtual Solutions, Inc.  
Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Vaughn  
Vein Specialists of the South  
*W.L. Amos Foundation Inc.*  
Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Wagoner  
Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Walthall  
Mr. and Mrs. Clint Ward  
Ward Construction & Development, LLC  
Mr. and Mrs. Ben West  
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Mr. and Mrs. Brad Whitfield  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Wilhelm  
Mr. and Mrs. Calder Willingham  
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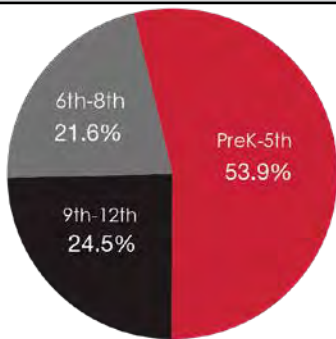
*Italics indicates Lifetime Member of Day School Society.*



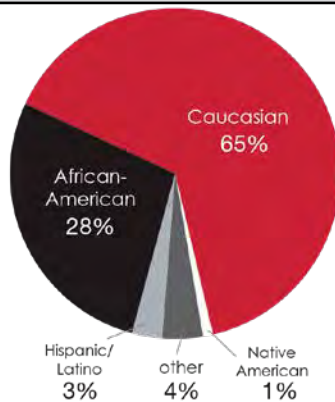
The Georgia GOAL scholarship is a needs-based scholarship program that enhances FPD's tuition assistance program. The state-wide program, established in 2008, allows taxpayers to designate their state income taxes to a particular school and receive dollar for dollar credit on their state income taxes. Those funds are used to help families bridge the gap between the cost of tuition and what they are able to pay. GOAL recipients must meet the same academic standards for school admission as all applicants and must enrich the FPD community in many ways.

Below is a list of those who participated in the academic year 2022-23 for scholarships awarded in the 2023-2024 academic year. For more information on GOAL or how you can contribute, please reach out to the Office of Advancement at [advancement@fpdmacon.org](mailto:advancement@fpdmacon.org).

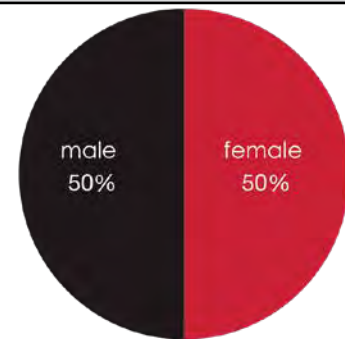
Percentage of Total Award Amount by Grade Level



Percentage of Total Award Amount by Race



Awards by Gender



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 Mrs. Leslie Lee  
 Rev. and Mrs. Justin Leslein

Mr. and Mrs. Harris Leveson  
 Mr. and Mrs. David Lilliston  
 Ms. Allison Lucas  
 Macon Trading Post, Inc.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Ron Marshall  
 Mr. and Mrs. Rad Massey  
 Mr. and Mrs. Kent McCormick  
 Mr. and Mrs. John David Miller  
 Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Minter  
 Mr. and Mrs. Russell Mitchell  
 Mr. and Mrs. Darby Montford  
 Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Moody  
 Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Moore  
 Mr. and Mrs. Larry Moore  
 Mr. Malcolm Moore  
 Dr. and Mrs. Andrew Morgan  
 Move Pro U.S.A, Inc.  
 Dr. and Mrs. David Murnan  
 NBZ Enterprises, LLC  
 Mr. and Mrs. David Oedel  
 Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Parrish  
 Dr. and Mrs. John Patterson  
 Mr. and Mrs. Allen Peake  
 Mr. and Mrs. Sam Pearson  
 Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Ponder  
 Mr. and Mrs. Pat Rabun  
 Renaissance Plastic Surgery  
 Renasant Bank  
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Rivers  
 Mr. and Mrs. Todd Robertson  
 Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Robinson  
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Russell Edwards Veterinary Enterprises, Inc  
 Sage Dining Services  
 Mr. and Mrs. Tom Scott  
 Mr. and Mrs. Danny Smith  
 Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Smith  
 Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Smith  
 Southern Properties of Georgia, Inc.  
 Ms. Lisa Spear  
 Mr. and Mrs. Brian Stone  
 Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Strickland  
 Dr. and Mrs. Andrew Strickland  
 Summit Commercial Services  
 Dr. and Mrs. Paul Syrbeyes  
 Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Takac  
 Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Taunton  
 Mr. and Mrs. John Thigpin  
 Mr. and Mrs. Brad Thompson  
 Mr. and Mrs. Cole Tidwell  
 Mr. and Mrs. Adam Tolbert  
 Trading Post of Macon, Inc.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Sam Trescott  
 Dr. and Mrs. James Upshaw  
 Mr. and Mrs. Ben Vaughn  
 Rev. and Mrs. Bob Veazey  
 Dr. and Mrs. Ash Walker  
 Walthall Oil Company  
 Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Walthall  
 Mr. and Mrs. William White  
 Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Wilhelm  
 Mr. and Mrs. Ashton Windham  
 Women's Specialty Care, PC

# STATEMENT OF GIVING 2023-2024

The FPD Fund supports First Presbyterian Day School and helps us to live out our mission of *educating and equipping students to change the world for God's glory*. The FPD Fund raises unrestricted dollars to support the annual operating budget, which includes instructional materials, program support, equipment and technology, professional development, facility maintenance, and much more. As is the "norm" for most independent schools, tuition does not cover the full cost of educating a student. At FPD, tuition covers 94% of the operating expenses and the remaining 6% must be made up through tax-deductible charitable giving.

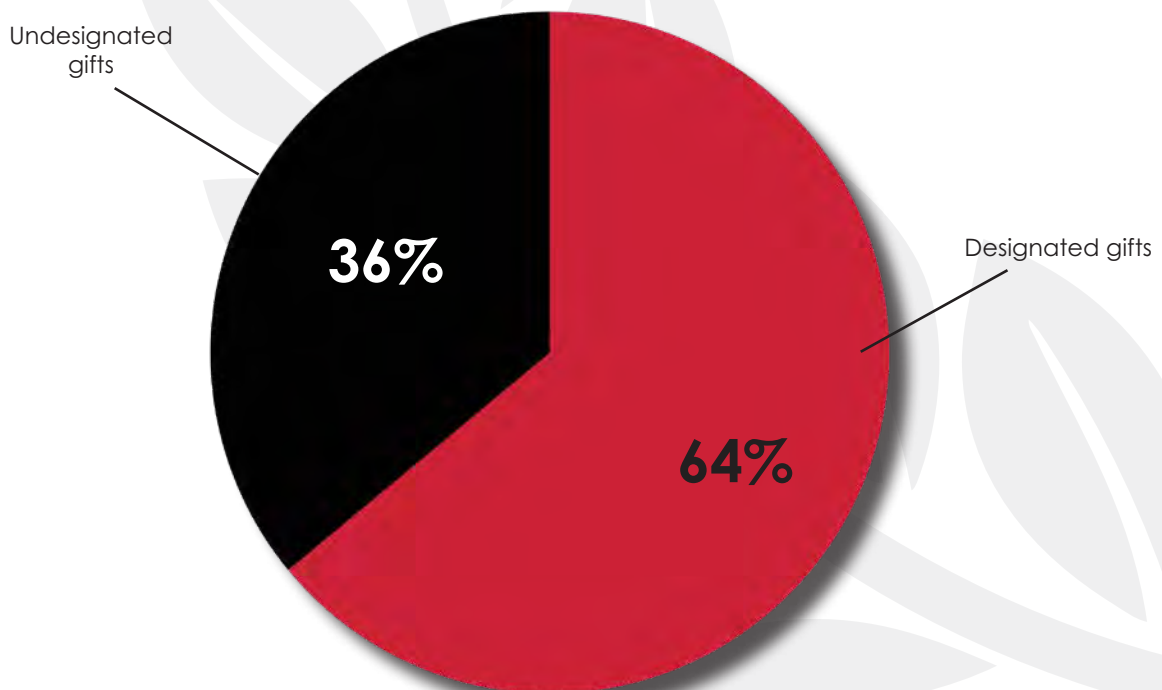
The FPD Fund consists of two types of gifts- designated and undesignated. Designated gifts may be designated for various academic, athletic, fine arts, and facilities categories. Undesignated gifts go toward the school's greatest need. The funds work like a checking account in that any gifts not spent each year roll over to the next year. Undesignated gifts allow the school to best direct funds toward those priorities that align with FPD's Strategic Plan.

The continued growth and strengthening of FPD is made possible by the generosity of parents, alumni, parents of alumni, grandparents, faculty and staff, foundations, and friends of FPD.

To make a gift to the FPD Fund, or for more information on giving to FPD, please reach out to our Advancement Department at [advancement@fpdmacon.org](mailto:advancement@fpdmacon.org).

## Giving Totals

Designated	\$570,426
Undesignated	\$315,091
Total Gifts	<b>\$885,517</b>



# LEAVING A LASTING LEGACY:

## *Allen and Betsy Peake*

Allen '79, and Betsy '80, Peake know firsthand how special an FPD education is. Both graduated from FPD and felt it was important to give their children the opportunity to experience the strong Biblical foundation, intensive academics, supportive environment, and excellence in extracurriculars.

Now, the Peake family is in their third generation of FPD students, as their grandchildren are attending.

"We know that the students at FPD are in a unique environment, one that is academically challenging but taught through a biblical worldview by teachers that love them and share the love of Christ with them," said Allen. "To us, this is what sets FPD apart from other schools, and we are grateful for the opportunity to have experienced that personally with our children and grandchildren."

The family is passionate about supporting FPD's mission and making Christian education possible for other children. That is why they have chosen to leave a planned gift to FPD.

"We want to ensure that many generations have access to an FPD education for years to come," Allen said. "FPD has given our family so much, and that is why we choose to give back in this way."

If you are interested in learning about how your legacy can impact FPD as a planned gift, email our Advancement Team at [advancement@fpdmacon.org](mailto:advancement@fpdmacon.org).



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## Update your contact information

FPD is proud of the relationship we have with our alumni, donors, current and past families, and friends of the school.

We encourage you to keep your contact information up-to-date with us to receive various communications from FPD and our Advancement Team.

Please send updated contact information, including email address, to [advancement@fpdmacon.org](mailto:advancement@fpdmacon.org). Alumni can complete the form at [fpdmacon.org/alumni](https://fpdmacon.org/alumni) to update their information.

**ALUMNI**



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
DAY SCHOOL

5671 Calvin Drive  
Macon, GA 31210  
[www.fpdmacon.org](http://www.fpdmacon.org)



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
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At First Presbyterian Day School,  
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of our Christian education.

Every lesson and every moment is  
deliberate—focused on nurturing  
young minds.

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