

Ruby Garcia, Editor-in-Chief
Hasta La Vista!
Editorial



Well here we are again, but this time we're ready to graduate. Class of 2024, we only have 7 days left, and then we become graduates. Isn't that exciting? It's been a long journey being the Editor-in-Chief for the Thorntonian and the Art Director for the Chronoscope. It was a pleasure to be part of these clubs. I can't explain how grateful I am toward Mr. Stephan for giving me the opportunity to join both clubs and for believing in me. It was an amazing experience, and if I had the chance to do it again I would most definitely become the Editor-in-Chief for this newspaper as many times as I could. I want to thank everyone who participated in this journey and followed along with our issues. Thank you to all the readers, teachers, and faculty members but most importantly my peers. We had an amazing time together writing our stories and coming up with amazing story ideas. It was a pleasure working with all of you. I know you're all reading this and I want to say thank you for having the patience with me and believing in me, too. You guys were the best, and I wouldn't ever change a thing. I can't wait to read your issues next year:) I'll most definitely miss y'all. I'll never forget day 1 in this class and all the hard work we put in together has officially come to an end for me. It has taught me a lot of lessons for the future, but most importantly it taught me to try new things in life. Thank you... it's time to start a new chapter.



The T.F. North Junior Board presents Prom 2024. Photo credit: Junior Board's Instagram account.

Story by Rogelio Romero

Meet the 2024 Junior Board Prom Committee

Lights, cameras, and action. On May 18, T.F. North's prom will be held at Georgios Banquets located in Orland Park. Though this article is not about prom itself, it's important to highlight the people who make this night worth remembering. For those who don't know, the club responsible for making prom happen is Junior Board, sponsored by Ms. Weber for almost 20 years. "My first prom when I was running Junior Board was in 2005," said Weber. Not only that she even was the Vice President of the Junior Board when she was a student here at T.F. North. So it's safe to say Weber is an expert at planning proms. But why the theme of Hollywood? Weber explained that there was a long list to choose from, but in the end, Hollywood caught the eyes of the students. "The student wanted to do Hollywood because we thought it would be fun to make it a glamorous event," said Weber. Of course, she couldn't take all the credit for planning prom. The students in the 4 committees are working hard to bring this glamorous night into a reality. Jennifer Serrano is the team leader for the decoration committee. Her team helps with decorations and the photo booth. "We take care of the certain pieces and backdrops for photos," said Serrano. Serrano feels that everything is going according to plan and has had no hiccups. "I would describe the process [as]

pretty smooth. I've been organized with this whole process," said Serrano. Josiah Jackson is the team leader for tickets and party favors. "We plan on giving our guests takeaway gifts that they will cherish," said Jackson. Overall Jackson feels that working on this committee isn't the biggest challenge he faced. "Our committee is pretty simple, I would rate it 2 out 10." Jameraon Mann is the team leader for the music committee. They look at all the songs that students submit and check to see if they are school-appropriate. According to Mann, the actual work itself is not much and light. Mann and his team are just waiting for more responses. "The process is going well. [We're] just waiting for more people to vote, and I would say the work is pretty automated and easy," said Mann. Lastly, Favor Babatunde is the team leader for the coronations committee. They create and finalize the prom courts, and will be counting the votes to determine who the prom king and queen are. Babatunde doesn't think it is too challenging but that they have to be quite mindful. "It's not that difficult, however, you do want to make sure you don't make mistakes," said Babatunde. Give these students a round of applause for putting in the work that many don't see or appreciate. When May 18th rolls around, make sure to make it a night to remember.



Photo credit: Yulissa Villareal, Chronoscope Staff

Senior Week Aidan Jordan

Learn about the Board helping students make memories.

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Senior Survey Diamond Adams

What is advice you would give to yourself Freshman year?

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Prom Dress Ideas Cormora Williams

Looking for a last-minute prom dress on a budget?

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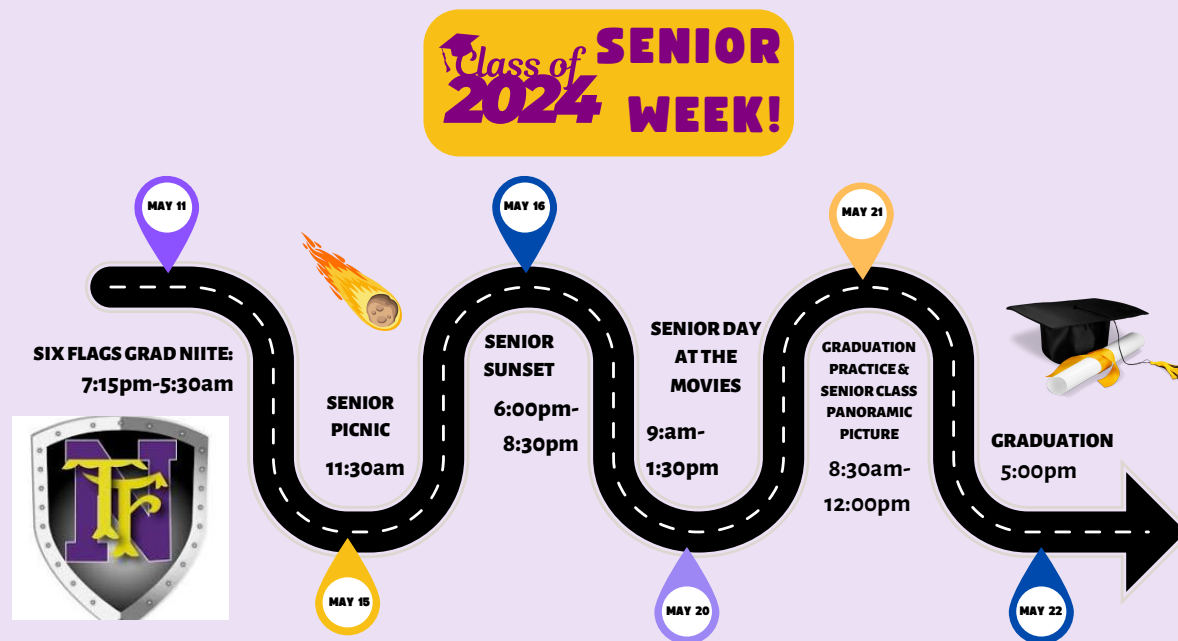
Story by Aidan Jordan

Senior Board spotlight & Senior Week preview

Senior Board is a group of seniors who get to create activities that can make their senior year the best that it could possibly be. It acts as the voice for the Class of 2024. Senior Board is in charge of the annual Powder Puff game and Senior Week activities. Senior Board is run by officers Andrea Martinez,

Kaitlyn Williams Jackson, Celeste Escobar, and Jimena Jimenez. “Senior Board was a really fun experience. It’s definitely a little more work and responsibility than the other boards, but planning out all the trips and talking to my team was really fun,” said Martinez, the Senior Board president. The

sponsor was Mr. Furmanak. “The reason I like sponsoring the Senior Board is because I like creating memories for the seniors that may last a lifetime,” said Furmanak, “I wish the Class of 2024 the best of luck in the future.” Any interested juniors can speak with Furmanak about joining for next year.



Story by Jaela Westbrook

The worst parts about being a senior

We all know some of the best things about being a senior, but what are some of the worst things? I asked a few of my peers if they could take a survey about the worst things about being a senior. Many seniors responded with some of the same things. “All of the work and all of the money you have to spend on prom,” said Amiel Thompson. The prom tickets were \$95 and \$120 if you purchased them late. You also have to buy a dress or suit, heels or some kind of shoes, a car and many other things. Prom is the most expensive part of senior year. Another student, Janel Farrow also said, “The worst thing about being a senior is spending money for activities.” Grad night tickets were \$80 per person, the picnic, sunset and movie were also \$5 per person. There are many other things that make senior year the worst. Leaving your friends that are underclassmen and leaving your

favorite teachers could also be some of the worst things. You could always come back and visit them, but it won’t be the same as being in school with them throughout the day, every week. Tessica Foster said, “The worst thing about being a senior is having everyone depend on you while you’re stressed.” Your family members and teachers can put a lot of pressure on you to get your work done and submitted on time. Senioritis can play a big role in that. Senioritis makes seniors not want to do work, go to class, or be at school on time. Later Reaunna Robinson said, “School fees are very expensive.” School fees can be a lot of money and can be high or low prices. You have to pay all of them in order to get your diploma after walking the stage. Many seniors have over \$1,000 worth of school fees. Senior year has its pros and cons, but it isn’t as fun and exciting as it seems.

2023-2024

Thorntonian Staff

Staff Reporters:

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

Editorial Board:

- Mia Romo
- Rogelio Romero
- Aidan Jordan

Editor-in-Chief:

Ruby Garcia

Faculty Advisor:

Mr. Joseph Stephan

Established in 1925, 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 D. 215 unless otherwise noted.



Story by the Thorntonian Staff

T.F. North Newspaper Express Gratitude toward their graduating seniors

I chose to write about Miranda Cuanetl because she is a very bright person. At the beginning of the year, we got to work on the first issue together. She was very quiet but we had fun writing about each other. I also got to work with her in Issue 6, she contributed many good ideas to the story and the outcome was amazing! We also enjoyed making content together for our Instagram page. If you see her in class, you'd notice that she is a very quiet person, but she really lets her voice shine through the stories she writes. Overall, I really enjoyed working with her when I got the chance. I will definitely miss her next year.
Ximena Gutierrez, junior

Taliah Robinson is very hard-working, responsible, and overall a really nice person to hang around. Working with her this past school year has been great. She was a team player and helped out in class with story ideas for issues. Also, she helped around whenever she was done with her stories. The stories that she did were amazing, and I want to congratulate her on how talented she is. I wish her well in her next step in life. I'm sure what she decides to do she will do amazing at it. In general, I just want to say thanks for being a great classmate, and good luck with whatever you decide to do in the future.
Aidan Jordan, junior

Mia Romo is a very sweet person. She is always down to help someone if they need it and is a bright light around the school. She's not a scary person to talk to at all. When I first met her and we had our first conversation in class, she was very easy to talk to and created a comfortable atmosphere that it didn't feel forced. Not to mention that she is very hardworking and passionate in everything she does, and I guarantee that her future after high school will continue to shine and impress others. But in the short time that I have known Mia, I really do admire her for how despite how tired she can be, I still see her typing away and opening and clicking tabs to work on something. No matter what she is working on, trust- that girl will have it done. Mia, I know that you're reading this and I apologize for how corny it is - yuck. But I wish you good luck and I'll miss you being around class.
Emily Sanchez, junior

Throughout my time on the Thorntonian Staff one of the people I've connected with was Diamond Adams. Even though we didn't talk much and still don't talk that much now, I've gotten to have really fun and relatable conversations with her. She is very chill and funny. She's very nice and such a cool person to know and hang out with overall, and she's someone you can talk to about anything. I wish her nothing but love and success for her time outside of high school and I pray that she reaches each and every one of her goals in life.
Tianna Bowen, junior

I chose Ruby Garcia because, at the beginning of the year, she was very quiet and was more to herself. She slowly started talking to everyone in the class and became closer to everyone. Then we started working on a weekend guide, and we started growing closer and getting to know each other a little more. She had always made sure everyone was in check with their work. She has always helped everyone out with their work that they didn't understand. Ruby is a person to rely on and a person you can go to. She is really easy to talk to and she is always understanding. I wanted to thank Ruby for everything she did for me and everyone in the newspaper class, and I hope that you enjoyed your high school experience. Love you <3
Jasmine Pastrana, junior

Today we say goodbye and congratulations to Cormora Williams. It is sad to see one of the best Thorntonian reporters leave, but it is exciting to see her move to the next step in her life. Cormora is a hard worker both in school and for the Thorntonian, with her stories down to her playlist she has put in the work. Whatever career path Cormora will choose in the future, she will be amazing at it. Congratulations on making it through 4 years of high school. The Thorntonian staff will miss you Cormora, but stay safe in the real world and enjoy the many years you have in front of you.
Rogelio Romero, junior

Jaela Westbrook was one of the only students who was on the Thorntonian Staff this year who I had never taught before. I feel really lucky that I got to be her teacher this year. She has such a great personality and an amazing work ethic. She really grew as a reporter over the course of the year. I enjoyed seeing her writing improve, and I always appreciated how she was a dependable team player. The playlists she did with Cormora and Diamond were one of my favorite reoccurring features. While I hope next year's staff continues the concept, it won't be the same without her input.
Mr. Stephan, Faculty Advisor

Ximena Gutierrez


Battle of Classes: 2024 versus 2025

OPINION

In my opinion, every class that graduates is truly unique in its own special way. I think comparing two classes does not really serve a purpose, except maybe for your own personal pride. The class of 2024 has accomplished different things than the class of 2025 since they still have a whole year left. Each class is made up of many diverse people with their own personalities and styles, which makes each class unique and special. It is important to remember that this should not be a competition, but rather a celebration of all the memories we've made while being at this school. We should equally celebrate the achievements of the class of 2024 as well as the achievements of the upcoming graduates. At the end of the day, all of T.F. North's graduates contribute to shaping the prosperous history of our school!




Senior Jaela Westbrook and Junior Ximena Gutierrez pretend to be rivals.



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BY YOUR SIDE.

Survey by Diamond Adams

What is advice you would give to yourself Freshman year?

“Stay More Focus,” said Hannah Jackson.

“If I could go back I would tell myself freshman year that grades do matter at the end of high school,” said Jordyn Howard.

“Don't stress, give yourself breaks,” said Samiya Smith.

“To keep your focus on God,” said Amber Phillips.

“To focus on school and don't slack off,” said Melissa Gallardo.

“Have fun,” said Ian McDonald.

“You don't have to overwork yourself,” said Cormora Williams.

“Have more fun,” said Seth Williams.

“Join clubs early,” said Christopher Ortiz.

“Pay attention in math,” said Janay Dowd.

“Do more activities,” said Kenneth Truitt.

“To pay attention and to have fun,” said Alonzo Valadez.



Art Work
Provided by
Emily
Sanchez

Story by Taliah Robinson

Top twelve things to do this summer before going to college

To the seniors who don't know what to do before starting college this fall, then this story is for you! Here I will be listing 12 things you should do before starting school this fall.

Study: Studying can be a good thing to do before college. Studying in the summer can make you even more prepared for college. Study your major. Study the classes you're going to be taking. Get that head start when it comes to college.

Work: You can work to save up for college because it can be expensive. Plus, colleges like to see that students have job experience while in high school or just before starting college.

Road trip: Taking a road trip can be very soothing. Going out of town or state either by yourself or with others. You can clear your mind by taking a road trip. Going somewhere to just relax and not worry about starting school soon sounds amazing.

Dorm room prep: Start prepping your dorm room this summer. Find out what necessities you may need for your room. You may need things like: a mini refrigerator, shower caddy, shower shoes, laundry basket, bedding items, etc.

Tour campus: I know I'm not really listing a lot of fun activities but this can be really helpful. Go visit that campus if you haven't already! I know you might have seen it online, but trust me when I say that reality is your best friend. Go step foot on that campus and take a look around and ask yourself, "Is this where I want to attend school for the next 2, 4, or plus years?" I'm telling you guys, it doesn't hurt to visit.

Spend lots of time with friends and family: Once you step foot on campus and finally come to the realization, "I'm going to be here for the next few years," you might get homesick and wish you spent more time with them before you left. I know leaving friends can also be very hard. Being away from them for so long can make a person very sad. You're going from seeing these people everyday to seeing them a couple times every year. Go make memories with your family and friends this summer or you might just regret it!

Find out who's also attending your school: If you have the time on your hands and you're worried about no one not attending the same school, then keep reading. If you're on social media, you can check TikTok and Instagram and find people who are attending the same school as you. Or if you want to do it the old fashioned way and actually go to an orientation and meet people in person. To be honest, meeting people in person is actually better. In person, you can feel their vibes which you can't do through the phone. You can meet the person you'll be sharing a dorm room with for a year, plus many more people. Making friends before actually attending could actually be helpful. Especially if you're not really sure if you'll be able to make friends during the school year. So run to Instagram so you can be added to the group chats or attend those orientations to find some friends!

Apply for scholarships: Applying for scholarships is not required but would help you out so much. Especially if you plan on going out of state. If you're not getting a full ride or grants then college will be expensive! Take the time out of your fun summer and apply for scholarships.

Going on adventures: When I say "adventure," I'm talking about skydiving, bungee jumping, rock climbing, etc. These things can be so fun whether you're doing it yourself or with others. There's a first time for everything. Just because you're starting college this fall doesn't mean you should just spend the entire summer studying. Go out and have some fun!

Take summer classes: If you know you didn't do so well in high school and want some more knowledge, check this out. You can catch up on missing credits by taking summer classes. These classes aren't only for people who didn't do so well in high school, it's for anyone. You could've been class valedictorian and still attend summer classes. These summer courses will give you a head start on college life and on your degree.

Internship: Getting an internship before college will make you look like a great student in college. You'll be getting the experience that universities appreciate. Being able to say you've been an intern would make recruiters look at you differently. They'll see that you're a hard worker. Whatever your future career is, you can see what it's like working around it before you commit to it.

Job shadow: This might change your entire views on things. With job shadowing, you'll be offered a sense of the field you're interested in or not. You may be going to school for nursing but shadowing that field and the law field. You honestly may think that the law field may be a better career for you and start aiming for that. But even if you're 100% sure you're only interested in one certain field then you can learn some knowledge and have some experience about it.



TF North's Thorntonian Newspaper lives on, thanks to new advisor and passionate students

"We know that it's 1925 when the Thorntonian started, and I just didn't want to see something [of TF North's history] go away."

The Lansing Journal / Nov 29, 2023

ICYMI

Mr. Stephan, Faculty Advisor

One year ago I had the crazy idea to take on a new challenge and guide both of our school's publications. I can honestly say becoming the Faculty Advisor of the Thorntonian has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my 24-year career. In November the good people of the Lansing Journal published a wonderful story on our staff. If you did not have a chance to read the article, please use the link below:

<https://thelansingjournal.com/2023/11/28/tf-norths-thorntonian-newspaper-lives-on-thanks-to-new-advisor-and-passionate-students/>

I also want to thank Ms. Follenweider for covering my class while I have been out on medical leave.

Story by Cormora Williams

Last Minute Prom dress on a budget

Attention senior girls, prom is almost here. Do you have your dress yet? If not, here are some last minute prom dress ideas you can check out! All these pictures are from the website www.windsorstore.com.



Taisia Formal Sequin Scroll Dress
\$109.90



Charlene Formal Faux Pearl Mesh Mermaid Dress
\$79.90



Noemi Formal Sequin A-Line Dress, Pink
\$109.90



Noemi Formal Sequin A-Line Dress, Black
\$109.90



Noemi Formal Sequin A-Line Dress
\$109.90



Analia Halter Slit Mermaid Sequin Formal Dress, Blue
\$119.90



Marissa Formal Satin Cowl Neck Dress, Green
\$89.90



Sam Formal Satin Open Back Dress, Red
\$89.90



Cynthia Lace Up Mermaid Sequin Formal Dress, Orange
\$109.90

Principal Rucinski's Final Message to the Class of 2024

Class of 2024,

Congratulations, you are joining 98 years of Thornton Fractional graduates! This is a time for you, your family, and friends to celebrate! You have completed 13 years of school, in which your families, teachers, counselors, and staff members have guided and prepared you for this moment. You now have the opportunity to use everything that you have learned to create your own path in life. Whether you are going on to college, the military, a trade school, or into the workforce, you have the power and freedom to make your own decisions and carve your own future.

To those of you who have been at North all four years, you surely remember starting your 1st year of high school on Zoom! You were likely a little nervous and unsure about online classes, showing your face on camera, and not being able to play sports and activities. Since that unprecedented start to your high school career, I've been so impressed with the confidence and maturity you have shown while becoming the young adult you are today. Whether it be in the classroom, athletics, dance, cheer, plays, musicals, speech, or band, I have enjoyed every minute of watching the growth you each have shown throughout these years. Beyond the classroom, athletics, and activities, I will always remember the smiles, jokes, and playfulness that took place in the halls and around the building.

As joyous of an occasion as graduating is, the uncertainty of what comes next can seem daunting, especially in our ever-changing world. While none of us know exactly what is next, I believe strongly that if you follow your dreams and interests, you will accomplish whatever goals you set for yourself. Life is not about doing what others think you should do, instead it is about finding what YOU want to do. It is alright if you don't know what you want yet, but my advice is to stay true to yourself, and always treat people fairly. Throughout your high school career, we have stressed four core values: hardworking, caring, responsible, and respectful. They are more than words, they are a blueprint for life. I assure you, if you live by those four values, the sky's the limit and the world will be yours!

Again, Congratulations Class of 2024! You did it, and I could not be more proud of you. With the first year of your high school career being disrupted by the pandemic, you will always hold a special place in my heart, and I can't wait to hear about all the great things you go on to do!



Photo provided by District 215

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Story by Miranda Cuanetl

Senior spring athlete spotlight

Baseball

Aric Moultrie joined the baseball team his sophomore year. Moultrie has been a 3-sport athlete playing basketball, football, and baseball. He is a true competitor who simply loves sports. “Aric has been great for our baseball program and proved that if you apply yourself you can succeed in anything,” said Coach Fortier.

Alvin Lankin joined the baseball team his Junior year. Since then, he has improved tremendously. Lankin is the type of athlete who could contribute in anything he puts his mind to. “He has relentless effort and I wish every competitor had his mindset. He will succeed in anything he does after high school,” said Coach Fortier.

Fernando Rios has played at almost every position on the field during all his four years on Varsity. Rios has improved the most at pitching for the team.

Andrew Guerrero put in the hard work and was dedicated to the Varsity team.

Christopher Guzman has played baseball during all his four years and has proven that he was able to contribute on the field no matter what position he was placed in. Guzman is on his way to the University of Michigan with a scholarship to study Biological Sciences on a Pre-Med Track.

Pedro Medina has stepped up for the team when needed most for his pitching against the best opponents in the team’s conference.

Koby Thornton is a fierce competitor who used his athleticism from football and powerlifting to excel as a key outfielder for the baseball team the past couple of seasons. He will be studying Biology at Rockford University.

Girls Track

Yulissa Villarreal is the only senior who has been on the track team for all four years. Villarreal has battled through injuries and disappointments, but never gave up or lost hope. She set a good example to follow. “She was the heart and soul of our team,” said Coach Perez.

Samiya Smith always has a positive attitude at practice and is genuinely invested in the well being of her teammates. “I can count on one hand the number of practices she missed in her 3 years with us,” said Coach Perez.

Kaitlyn Williams is the three year track manager. “Her work commitments derailed her senior year with us a bit but she put in enough work in her previous two years to more than make up for it,” said Coach Perez.

Boys Track

Dominic Gradford, who also plays football and is a very successful athlete, has been in track for three years. “It was a pleasure coaching Dom because he is a respectable young man and is one of the captains for the track team,” said Coach Bulie.

Jayden Heard just joined the track team in his final year of high school. He put in tremendous work and learned about shot put and discus. “Best of luck to Dominic with his future endeavors. Will miss you!” said Coach Bulie.

Damari Dogan, in his 3rd year of track and field. “Dogan is a respectable young man as well and the best of luck to your future endeavors,” said Coach Bulie.



Clockwise: K. Williams, Y. Villarreal, S. Smith, J. Heard, P. Median.

Organized by Mia Romo

Class of 2024... Signing Out!

