

Aidan Jordan, Editor-in-Chief

The reward of trying something new

EDITORIAL

Hello everyone, or maybe I should say goodbye because this is my last editorial for the year. Although this is a goodbye, I am proud to say that we have reached our goal of having more issues out than last year. When I first started taking journalism during my junior year, I didn't know I would have this much fun. I still remember Mr. Stephan asking me to join the Thorntonian Staff at the end of my sophomore year, and with no experience in journalism whatsoever, I just took a chance. And I am glad I did. Thanks to this class, I went to a lot more events during this school year that I probably would not have gone to on my own. I had a great time being on the Thorntonian Staff, and I encourage anyone interested in journalism to join the staff. It's super fun and probably the most rewarding class you'll have. Even if journalism is not your thing, I encourage you to take a chance on anything that interests you. Whether it be trying a sport you've never played before or joining a club, tasting new foods that you did not think you would like, or even talking to new people, just take that step out of your comfort zone and enjoy what life has to offer. The only regret you will probably have is not taking a chance to try something new. I believe this year for the Thorntonian has been a huge success, including the Thornfonian, the biggest April Fool's prank I ever had the chance to be a part of. In addition, I want to thank you all for the support. Reading the feedback in the Letters to the Editor made it all worthwhile. To my fellow Thorntonian Staff members, I had a blast working with you all. Ximena Gutierrez, it has been a pleasure working with you. As for the next Editors-in-Chief, Anahi Martinez and Liz Solorio, I cannot wait to see all the amazing stories and news you will share after I graduate. I know they are going to be great.



KaMariyah McClinton plays defense against Mr. Humphrey. Photo courtesy of Chronoscope Staff.

Story by Anahi Martinez & Florah Dismuke, Staff Reporters

T.F. North's faculty crushes students (again) in annual Monogram game

On Friday, May 2nd, TFN's Monogram Club held its annual game against the faculty. It was sponsored by Mr. Schuldes and Mr. Pignatello. Unlike previous years, a volleyball game was held first followed by the basketball game. This was the first time TFN had ever held a volleyball game for the annual Monogram Club event. The student volleyball team consisted of Liliana Krueger, Liliana Alfaro, Alejandra Nevaro-Vazquez, Sammie King, Alana Dotson, Isabella Rosales, Anaiya Malone, Alexandra Saenz, and Luis Prieto. They played against the teacher's team consisting of Mr. Moore, Ms. Pittman, Ms. Schuldes, and Ms. Rising. TFN alumni Jose Gonzalez and Samiya Smith also participated in the volleyball game, playing alongside the teachers. The volleyball game ended with the faculty winning by a landslide with a score of 15-7. "I had a great time. Being a former student, it's cool to be on that side of the court now with the staff, playing against the students...The students played hard [but] we just played harder," said Moore. The basketball game started soon after this with a starting lineup consisting of Dequan Barker (who scored 3 points in the 1st quarter), Natalie McGhee, Kamariyah McClinton

(who scored 3 points in the 3rd quarter), Carlos Roa, and Jayden King. Other players on the student team included Osvaldo Roa, Gamaria Branch (who scored 2 points in the 1st quarter), Trevon Conner, Jaylen Jones, Geremiah Williams, Allen Boyce, and Samiya King. They played against the faculty team with a front line consisting of Mr. Watt, Mr. Humphrey, and Mr. Altenburg and a backcourt of Mr. Deere and Mr. Twietmeyer. Mr. Evancho, Mr. Longo, Mr. Perez, Mr. Moore, Mr. Spakowski, Ms. Murawski, and Mr. Schuldes also played. The first quarter was close. The teacher had a 12-10 lead. The second quarter was when the teachers left the students in their dust. The students did not score, and the teachers led 18-10. The teachers again dominated for the rest of the game and led 24-19 after the third quarter. "As for winning, it feels like the other 20 years that I played in that game and won. It was light work as it always is," said Altenburg, who scored 9 points to lead the faculty team. The students gave everything they had, pushing the teachers to the best of their abilities, but their attempts to comeback in the fourth quarter were ineffective. The teachers crushed the students by a final score of 32-25.

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Graduation Dos & Don'ts

Story by Gaby Barraza, Staff Reporter

On May 20th, the Class of 2025 will graduate, and here are the things you should know according to Ms. Passarelli, Assistant Principal for PPS. During graduation practice, make sure you pay attention to which side of the stage you're on so you can tell your parents which side to sit on to get the best view of you. The graduation doors get locked at 5:50 pm. Traffic around the school gets really bad, and they should be here early so they can get a good seat. All seniors should arrive early (not on time). They do lock the doors, and there is a possibility you will not be able to walk across the stage if you are late. So it's crucial to be on time. If you arrive early and you're one of those students who gets nervous, remember this: being early gives you time to decompress, and you can also use the extra time to take pictures with your friends. Also, make sure you're dressed properly for a special occasion. Wear dress shirts or nice dresses, and wear good, stable shoes because the floor could be slippery. During the graduation ceremony, you should not have your phone out. You should be present and in the moment since this is the end of your high school career. Lastly, enjoy the special day and have fun.

Restaurants open late after graduation:

Chilis Grill & Bar (Cal City)

11:00 AM - 10:00 PM

Denny's (Calumet City)

6:00 AM-12:00 AM

Buffalo Wild Wings (Cal City)

11:00 AM-12:00 AM

Beggars Pizza (Lansing)

11:00 AM-10:00 PM

IHOP (Lansing)

6:00 AM- 12:00 AM

PPS Office hosts annual Senior Signing

Story by Luis Pelayo & Marisol Nicasio, Staff Reporters

On Wednesday, April 30th, TFN hosted the annual Senior Signing Day held in the A.C Jaacks Auditorium. It was organized by Ms. Wiggins, Ms. Passarelli, and Ms. Dowd. As May 1st is the Nationanwide Decision Day, the senior Meteors were highlighted during signing day, by announcing to all their loved ones and peers where they will be attending college and what they plan on studying, while also being gifted a bookbag with items such as notebooks, laundry detergent, snacks, and many more items to be prepared for college. Many of the staff members and faculty attended this special day to show support as they have seen firsthand how these students have grown from freshmen to young adults. “I love that it gives our students a place to be recognized and that they get to share what their post-secondary plans are. I thought it was great. Lots of hard work goes into it. Huge kudos to Ms. Dowd and Ms. Passarelli for handling a bulk of the planning. Donations from staff members, the community, and local businesses help make the backpacks. I like that it brings the whole community in to make it happen,” said Principal Rusinski. As the college commitment process is a very difficult and time-consuming decision, faculty like Ms. Dowd were there to give support every step of the way. “Signing Day was a success as we were excited to see our seniors and celebrate the fact that they are beginning a new chapter, and all the accomplishments they have done. We are very excited that the administration came together to support, as well as the community, so we can gift them the bookbags. We are really proud of the seniors as they embark on their endeavors,” added Dowd. Senior Arelia Diaz Manuel who is going down the cosmetology career path, announced she will be continuing her passion as a hairdresser at JCPenney. “I started doing my hair at a young age, and during quarantine I started doing nails. Cosmetology was a passion I always knew I wanted, so I am excited to continue it after graduating,” said Diaz Manuel. As each Meteor was able to celebrate their achievements, senior Francine Scott announced she will be attending the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign on a full ride to study Animal Sciences. “It was really cool to see everyone I grew up with be so excited to share where they were going for college. But it was also bittersweet knowing that these are one of the last moments we will all be together as a class. I am really excited to graduate and go away, but I will definitely miss all my friends and teachers,” added Scott. To the seniors, Rucinski also offered this advice: “Follow your passions, but make sure you are working to get where you want to go as things will not fall into place. You have to work for it.”

Photos courtesy of Meteor Productions



Ximena Gutierrez, Asst. Editor-in-Chief

First-generation Mexican Americans make history
OPINION

When I think about graduation, I don't just think about caps, gowns, and diplomas. I think about all the hard work my parents went through for me to get here. For many of us who are first-generation Mexican Americans, this moment means more than just finishing high school. It's the result of many nights studying, translating for our parents, and carrying the weight of expectations that are both said and unsaid. Growing up, I saw my parents work tirelessly in jobs that did not offer comfort, but offered hope--a hope that one day their children wouldn't be in the same position as them. My parents used to say, "Echale ganas mija," which basically means "Give it your all," and that is exactly what I did. Even when we were struggling to understand the system, trying to understand FAFSA, and applying for college, we did not stop. It wasn't always easy. I remember having moments at school where I felt like I didn't belong. I didn't participate in class and raise my hand, not because I didn't know the answers, but because I was afraid of how I'd sound. I know I'm not the only one who has felt that way. Many of us have grown up with two worlds. One at home, speaking our language all day, full of culture. The second at school, where we had to learn to speak up and find our place. This graduation is not just a celebration for us, it's for our ancestors, parents, and our siblings. We are the first, but we will definitely not be the last. With every step we take forward, we are opening doors for those who come after us. To my fellow graduates who share this journey, this is your moment. Be proud of everything you've overcome. Be proud of your roots, your family, your culture. Don't ever feel like you have to hide who you are in order to feel accepted. We carry generations of strength, and we have stories that matter. So on graduation day, let's walk across the stage with our heads held high. Let's carry our families' dreams in our hearts and remember that we are not just graduating. We are making history!



Anahi Martinez, Staff Reporter

When all your senior friends have to say goodbye
OPINION

Graduation day for the Class of 2025 is a day I've been dreading since quarantine. Quarantine was when I met my closest friends, who are now seniors at TFN. Even back then, the idea of them graduating made me sad, despite knowing I still had years left with them. Now I'm watching and participating in events I have waited my whole life for, while anticipating my friend's final day here. And still, while writing this, I'm having a hard time accepting that soon our hangouts will become reunions. I cannot express how proud I am of them and their accomplishments, and I am forever grateful to have been able to know them, though I cannot fathom the thought of them leaving and moving on without me. Now that graduation season is here, I've seen many people express the same kind of mournful feeling, especially on TikTok, with trends like, "Seniors should not befriend juniors because my heart is going to shatter into a

million pieces when they walk that stage" or "the hardest part of being a junior is knowing you have a senior you have to say goodbye to", and I couldn't agree more. I always loved the last day of school because I knew we'd all see each other again, same place, same time, same people, but soon it'll be their last day, and this time they won't be coming back. I'm going to miss walking each other to class, saying hi to each other in the hallways, the laughter we shared, the awkward moments, and even the quiet ones. Thank you to Silver, Jasmin, Michelle, Gaby, Daisy, Yaretzi, Yesi, Jenny, and Ashley for sitting with me even on the bad days and for reminding me of who and what I'm worth. I have no idea where or what I'll be 20 years from today, but one thing I do know is that I'll be breathing, and that's all thanks to you. I hope I cross your path years from now and see you happy and thriving in life and smile to myself, knowing you made it.

Thorntonian Staff

Final thoughts from our soon-to-be graduates
OPINION

Ivy Finly: If you want a fun, new challenge, you should join the newspaper. I never planned to join until there was a gap in my schedule, so I just took the class with my best friend. But the Thorntonian challenged me as a writer, a student, and a creative problem solver. It was worth all the deadlines, bugging teachers for information, and awkward interviews with students. It was an unexpected addition to my workload for senior year, but I'm glad I went for it.

Luis Pelayo: I've had fun in newspaper. I've enjoyed having an outlet to write into the void. Thank you for wanting me to join, Mr. Stephan. Good luck to next year's staff. You'll do fine.

Liliana Krueger: I loved being a part of the newspaper; it led me to discover things not only about myself but about my peers. I've grown as a writer and as a person, by stepping out of my comfort zone through writing, meeting, and talking to new people. The best memories I've had were in this class, surrounded by incredibly talented peers and teacher. Good luck next year, you all will be fine and do amazing. I just know it!

Marisol Nicasio: Being in newspaper was definitely a challenging, but fun, experience. I will definitely miss this class, and am grateful for all the experiences I've had. I have found new passions and was presented with new relationships.

Aidan Jordan: I'm really going to miss this class when I graduate. I feel like being on the Thorntonian Staff enhanced my high school experience. I had a great time.

Jasmine Pastrana: I enjoyed every moment. There was never a time I felt I didn't belong. It made me feel more open about myself and my writing style without being judged. I was never bored in that class, and I was always well fed. I loved when Mr. Stephan would bring snacks while we were working on the issues. I'm going to miss everything about this class, even the times I stressed out Mr. Stephan by not being at school.

Emily Sanchez: I have zero regrets about joining the Thorntonian family. I feel like I have gained more self-confidence within myself and my art throughout every issue. I also gained a lot of friends whom I formed close bonds with. If you think the class is boring--it's not! It's really fun, and it's even better we have an awesome teacher who is our best friend. I am going to miss being a part of the Thorntonian family, but best believe I'll keep reading new issues when they come out.

Rogelio Romero: Being a part of the Thorntonian has been the funniest challenge I've put myself through. The people, the stress, the editing, I love it all. This class showed me that work can be fun; coming here every day was the best part of my day. I'm going to miss the friends I made here. I'm going to miss the creativity of it all. I'm so lucky to have done this with these people because they are just simply the best.

Ximena Gutierrez: Being a part of the Thorntonian Staff gave me the incredible opportunity to use my voice. Junior Roxanna Araujo once told me my writing gave her confidence in her Spanish class. That made me realize that I had the power to make a difference in the future. I would've never realized that if it wasn't for Araujo and the newspaper.

What TFN Staff Member(s) inspired you the most?

Curated by Marisol Nicasio & Lizbeth Solorio, Staff Reporters

“The staff members who inspired me the most were Mr. Stephan and Ms. Csoke. Mr. Stephan was always telling me how great a student I am and how I have so much potential to do bigger things in life. He was always pushing me out of my comfort zone, and I appreciate it so much as I got to express myself a lot during my last two years of high school through the newspaper. Ms. Csoke was always there for me when I needed to talk. She was the highlight of my school days. I always looked forward to seeing her and being in her class. She was always there to make me feel heard, even after school, on Remind, I felt like I could tell her anything and she'd give amazing advice,” said Ximena Gutierrez.

“Mr. Smith, because he was easy to talk to and he encouraged me to go harder,” said Nikayla Randle.

“Ms Briggs, the childcare teacher, because she is honest,” said Essence Boatner.

“Mr. Mansour inspired me the most. He had always pushed us to do the best, and he always made math seem easy,” said Stephanie Montiel.

“Mrs. Chavez inspired me the most. She's my grief counselor, and even after she lost a parent herself, she still came back to run group and talk about how she was feeling, which I think helped us connect with her more. She inspired me to always keep going even after you have bad experiences yourself,” Dawn Nettles-Bey.

“Mr. Martin, because he was always there for me when I needed to talk to someone,” said Luis Garcia.

“Mrs. Matlock inspired me the most because I never believed I had such amazing talent. Her pushing me and getting me to be more comfortable and artistic made me the person I am today. I love her so much, and I'm so grateful for her,” said Kyara Trejino.

“Mr. Pignatellio, because he always pushed me to never give up,” said Mustapha Dawodu.

“Ms. Isberg, because she helped me get out of my shell and inspired me to get through anxiety,” said Arrianna Curry.

“Mr. Mansour inspired me to challenge myself more in math, and Mr. Hamilton inspired me to do better in life,” said Fabian Rodriguez.

“Mr. Stephan, because he was a very understanding and inclusive teacher,” said Silverio Mendoza.

“Mr. Spakowski, the Choir teacher, and my coaches, Mr. Viau and Mr. Rogers,” said Oluwatamilore Ogundeyi.

“Mr. Raymond Smith. The reason why is because he was always cool and kept it real,” said Dereck Williams.

“Ms. Navarrette inspired me the most as she lives the life she wanted to live and went against social constructs and norms that most Hispanic women don't go against. She only ever did things she loved, and she wouldn't let anyone change her passions,” said Liliana Krueger.

“Mrs. Brassch was a really big influence on me because she's been my emotional support through some hard times, and I feel like I just really trust her. Mr. Perez also has inspired my career and what I want to do with my life,” said Daisy Rodriguez.

“The staff member who inspired me the most is Mr. Fortier because he had always pushed me to do better than what I thought I could, and he was always a supportive teacher for every single one of his students,” said Merlina Zavala.

“Mrs. Isberg, because she made me realize I had to really try harder and do better,” said Zairayt Garcia.

“Mrs. Galvan, Mr. Lagunas, and Ms. Emerson. They are my favorite staff members because they are very cool. They all inspired me to do better in school. After I took their classes, I started seeing an improvement in my grades,” said Jose Ruiz.

“Mr. Stephan, because he always gave me opportunities to embrace who I am as a person and artist. He entrusted me as the first Art Director of the Thorntonian, and I am glad he never once underestimated me and gave me short art projects (sometimes at late notice). It felt good to have someone shine more light on a hobby, to turn it into something bigger. Forever my favorite teacher,” said Emily Sanchez.

“Mr. Smith and Ms. Emerson, because they were very welcoming and always kept it very honest with me,” said Tamajae Daniels.

“Ms. Emerson, Mr. Longo, Ms Hadler, Ms. Stephanie, Mr. Evancho, Dean DJ, Ms. Hunt, and Ms Cunningham,” said Bria Cosby.

“Ms. Isberg, she always listened to me when something was wrong and always gave the best advice to continue trying in school and life,” said Kassandra Saavedra.

“The staff member would have to be Mrs. Emerson because of how she made her class enjoyable and the talks and advice she would give us along with her energy always being very happy,” said Brianna Astorga Maya.

“Mr. Stephan has inspired me so much over the years. Being his student for the majority of my high school career, I have been able to create a special bond with him and learned so much from him. He has pushed me to work out of my comfort zone, and he has been able to let me experience so many things I would have never seen myself doing, such as going to and participating in school events. I really enjoy the conversations we have about music, and he has made an impact and inspired me,” said Marisol Nicasio.

“Ms. Donovan, Mr. Bankston, Mr. Moore, Mr. Bullie, and Ms. Stephanie motivated me the most through my high school years and were always considerate of how I felt, and also very understanding,” said Lakeyla Berry.

“I would say Mr. McDaniel because he helped me a lot with my problems and was always there for me when I needed someone to talk to. Mr. McDaniel helped me open up more and got me to take different classes,” said Destiny Leyva.

“Mr. Posley had always looked out for me and encouraged me to be the best version of myself. He believed in me when I didn't, he felt like the father I never had,” said Angel Ogedegbe.

“Mrs. Koppitz and Mrs. Ortiz, because no matter what they went through, they bounced back from it each time, and it inspired me to try my best no matter what,” said Aaliyah Miller.

“Mr. Anaclerio, Mr. Flood, Mr. Shuldes, Mr. Fortier, Ms Murawski, and Dean Posley, because I learned some new things in these classes that have shaped me in some way that I will need after I am done with high school. For Dean Posley, I have heard some of his motivations on Mondays, which did give me something to think about going forth throughout the school year,” said Azariah Damole.

“The TFN staff members who have inspired me most are Ms. Isberg, Mr. Longo, Mr. Stephan, and Ms. Emerson. They have all inspired me to push myself whenever I'm doubting my ability to accomplish something,” said Yesenia Reyes.

“Ms. Stadt, Ms. Hood, and Mr. Rogers. They are all very nice teachers, and Ms. Hood is the one that really was nice to me when I needed it. However their energy was what really got me through all these years. They're good teachers,” said Gissell Quintero.

“Ms. Isberg! She has inspired me to be better than the best that I thought I could be,” said Savannah McMullen.

What TFN Staff Member(s) inspired you the most?

Curated by Marisol Nicasio & Lizbeth Solorio, Staff Reporters

“Mr. Stephan inspired me the most because he was a very funny teacher, and would always encourage me to reach my full potential,” said Rosa Rodriguez-Sanchez.

“Ms. S. and Mr. Cuevas. Both showed me the bigger picture of things and it is something I carry with me everywhere,” said Jeremiah Pereyda.

“Mr. Posely, Mr. Martin, Mr. Speski, Mr. Cervantes, Ms. Ortiz, Ms. Margraff, Ms. T, Ms. Hunt, and Ms. Stephanie,” said Anthony Thomas.

“Mr. Deland Deere gave me the best advice,” said Devin Owens.

“Coach Pignatiello, he always believed in me,” said Mikel McGowan.

“Ms. Emerson inspired me the most because her class was never stressful for me. She was always nice to us and even on bad days she never yelled at us,” said Dean Juarez.

“Mrs. Isberg, Mrs. Schuldes, Mr Schuldes, Mr Mansour, and Mr. Altenburg. They were always willing to help and give some sort of advice,” said Gabriela Arce.

“Mr. Bankston inspired me the most. He told me that there is nothing I cannot do along with giving me a lot of advice on how life is going to be like,” said Shariya Sanders.

“Mrs. Matlock, I feel like her childhood was similar to mine, and we both have a septum piercing. She's very creative and makes everyone feel like family,” said Layla Hall.

“Really, any of my coaches, each one of them has looked out for me and helped me tremendously throughout my high school career. I will love and cherish them forever,” said Alana Dotson.

“Teachers I had March of my sophomore year (Mr. Stephan, Mrs. Isberg, Ms. Navarrete, Mr. Fortier, Mrs. McDaniel, and Mrs. Stadt). I had had a death in the family and having them let me know I can take my time getting back into things was nice,” said Luis Pelayo.

“The T. F. North Staff member that inspired me the most was Mr. Stephan. He has been one of my teachers since sophomore year and throughout that time he has encouraged me to be the best version of myself. He is my favorite teacher,” said Aidan Jordan.

“The TFN Staff member that inspired me the most is Mr. Stephan. He is always in a good mood and uplifts his students. He is very helpful, supportive, and is truly one of the best teachers at North,” said Angelita Quiroga.

“I say the TFN Staff members who inspired me the most were Ms. Biegel as she was very helpful in knowing my dreams, Mr. Fortier as he was a great gym coach that brought great attention to life and motivation, and Mr. Moore as he was a chill, but active coach that knew what needed to be done,” said Kaleb Washington.

“Mr. Spakowski, because he's been my confidante since my freshman year and has always been the person I went to when I needed anything, even just a laugh,” said Tiarra Foster.

“The coaches on the track and field team, Ms. Dowd, and Ms. Ramos inspire me the most. I have a great bond with all of them, and they've been impactful on my life,” said Josiah Jackson.

“The staff members who have inspired me the most are Coach McGee and Mrs. Terri. Ms. McGee has been my coach for some time, and she's truly someone I can call family, along with Mrs. Terri. Ms. McGee, not only showed me basketball skills, but also showed me how to be a good person. She strives for her kids, and she is a great mentor. Along with Ms. McGee, Mrs. Terri has greatly impacted my life. I see her as a mother figure, and the first time I interacted with her, she had a loving spirit. From then on, I knew we'd have a great bond. She's been there through everything. Whenever I need her, she's there. I'm truly gonna miss seeing her smile every day and being in her lunch line,” said senior Sammie King.

“Many of the staff members inspired me for many reasons and on different levels. A few of them have to be Mrs. Rising, Mrs. Galvan, Mr. Russo, Mr. Anaclerio, Mr. Rogers, the Schuldeses, and Mr. Furmanek. All these individuals guided me through my high school career and have made me a better person,” said Natalie Gonzalez.

“Mrs. Matlock because she helped me so much and helped me keep going. Mrs. Margraff also helped with work and made sure I had everything I needed for different projects,” said Jiyah Robinson.

“Mr. Mansour and Ms. Isberg are the teachers who have inspired me the most. They have had such an impact on my high school career because they have given me so much advice and have made me into the confident person I am today. They have also been there for me as a friend,” said Jennifer Serrano.

“Mrs. Ramirez or Mrs. Isberg because their classes were hard, so I was inspired to finish with a bang,” said Alicia Dotson.

Do not miss the graduation recap!

Issue 16 drops May 21st



What was your favorite memory from high school?

Curated by Ivy Finley & Rogelio Romero, Staff Reporters

“Meeting different people and joining drama,” said Zairayt Garcia.

“I felt welcomed by everyone once I transferred to T.F. North,” said Mikel McGowan.

“My favorite memory from high school would be all the school events that I attended with my friends. Any sporting event is really fun when you go with a group of friends. It's nice to get out of the house. Another favorite memory is becoming close with some of my teachers because it made my long days go quicker and it brought me a lot of opportunities,” said Natalie Gonzalez.

“The activities, being able to play music,” said Oluwatamilore Ogundeyi.



“Going to Eastern Illinois University for three weeks,” said Angel Ogedegbe.

“My favorite high school memory was joining Best Buddies junior year. It made me happy to help other kids enjoy activities and do crafts,” said Dawn Nettles-Bey.

“My favorite memory from high school was the football games with the band. We were always hyped, and I had so much fun at those games, performing halftime and hanging out with friends,” said Kyara Trejo.

“Hanging out before and after sports events,” said Michael Patton.

“My friend (who we will not name), in the middle of 2nd period English, out of nowhere just lets one rip right there. What makes it funnier is he just sat there with a blank face like he didn't do anything,” said Rogelio Romero.

“Any time I spent with my track team,” said Layla Hall.

“My favorite memory from high school is the entire time it was the bowling season. I had so much fun during the bowling season. When I joined my freshman year, I didn't think I would have enjoyed it as much as I did,” said Aidan Jordan.

“My chemistry class in my sophomore year because I made a lot of new friends in that class,” said Tamajae Daniels.

“My favorite high school memory was the T.F. North versus South football and basketball game. Hanging out with my friends and watching the game against a rival school felt like a high school musical moment, or felt like scenes that I've seen from movies. Hanging out with my friends watching the game, eating concessions, and taking pictures with the Meteor Man was a great dopamine release and a nostalgic memory I could never forget,” said Favor Babatunde.

“All of the friends I made along the way, even the ones I don't talk to anymore,” said Jose Ruiz.

“School events. Pep rallies, homecoming, games, and some spirit weeks,” said Savannah McMullen.



“My favorite memory from high school is all my chats with Ms. McCraw,” said Elizabeth Mecchia.

“The friends and bonds I've had throughout the years in classes and sports,” said Brianna Astorga Maya.

“My favorite memory was spending 4 days and 3 nights in Disney World, so a school field trip,” said Fabian Rodriguez.

“My favorite memory from high school would be getting together with my friends in my junior year and going to get food afterwards,” said Jennifer Serrano.

“My favorite memory was playing sports and winning regional champs during the basketball season,” said Rachael Franklin.

“My favorite memory from high school was working the football game and taking pictures there,” said Rosa Rodriguez Sanchez.

“My favorite memory was probably every time I had lunch with my two best friends, they always made me laugh and gave me something to look forward to,” said Gissell Quintero.

“My favorite Memory from High school was when I was out at a coding fair for AP Computer Science and had great friends that were there for me along the way,” said Kaleb Washington.

“Working Boo Night my junior year with all of my friends. We all had so much fun dressing up, and we all went out to eat together afterwards. We made so many memories that night, and it was just a small but significant moment,” said Marisol Nicasio.

“My favorite memory from high school was staying late at school, finishing the graduation issue for the newspaper. It was such a fun and exciting experience. I enjoyed it a lot,” said Ximena Gutierrez.

“Being the best soccer goalkeeper this high school has ever had,” said Oswaldo Mendoza.

The South vs North basketball game,” said Essence Boatner.



“Playing volleyball with my friends in the gym,” said Dean Juarez.

“My favorite memory from high school is dressing up as Alvin & the Chipmunks for Halloween with my friends, Yesenia and Marisol. We made the costumes ourselves and got so many compliments from fellow students and teachers,” said Angelita Quiroga.

“Leaving,” said Luis Garcia.

“The football games,” said Arrianna Curry.

“Being in lunch, laughing with all my friends,” said Jamiya Powell.

“My favorite memory from high school was the spicy chicken sandwich and my gf,” said Silverio Mendoza.

“Powderpuff game 2025, Sophomore-Senior year pep rally, and homecoming performance from the dance team,” said Lakeyla Berry.

“When I placed 3rd in FC25 for the Esports team,” said Jesus Herrera.

Freshman year, I met my best friend,” said Jeremiah Pereyda.

“Being in the culinary arts room,” said Cameron Bibbs.

“Playing soccer,” said Ifeoluwa Fashoranti.

What was your favorite memory from high school?

Curated by Ivy Finley & Rogelio Romero, Staff Reporters

“Destroying my legs and being unable to walk,” said Omar Tafoya.

“My favorite memory from high school was my freshman year when the senior prank was putting anime stickers everywhere and the whole school started to do it, too,” said Merlina Zavala.

“Doing sports,” said Mustapha Dawodu.



“For sure, laughing while playing Uno with the guys,” said Devin Owens.

“My favorite high school memory would be joining the track team in my freshman year. I met a lot of influential people that year and am still in touch with them to this day,” said Josiah Jackson.



“My favorite memory from high school is making new friends,” said Alexa Castillo.

“My favorite memory was being on the track team throughout the years,” said Nadia Malagon Santoyo.

“My favorite memories were seeing the sunset after games,” said Stephanie Montiel.

“Spending Thanksgiving with my friends from my previous school,” said Jonathan Chavez.

“Any time in chemistry,” said Bria Cosby.

“Sports,” said JaNiya Johnson.

“My favorite memory was pr and winning the conference for track in my sophomore year,” said Enoch Okpubigho.

“Anything in chemistry,” said Nikayla Randle.

“I think junior year was when I had my best friends in every class, and it was probably the happiest year of my life so far,” said Daisy Rodriguez.

“Graduation,” said Gabbrielle McClain.

“Nothing...But I only a few of my teachers: Ms. Spilde and Ms Ortiz. No offense to this school,” said Lesani Petillo.

“I will say the pep rally was my best memory,” said Ta’shyra Boyd.



“My favorite memory was being able to be here for sophomore year with no mask,” said Miyanie Norris.

“Graduation,” said Alicia Dotson.

“The football games,” said Ja’Nya Dandridge.



“My favorite memory from high school was when I was playing basketball in my gym class in my sophomore year,” said Dereck Williams.

“My friend getting a car, then all of us going to get some food,” said Jiyah Robinson.

“I went to Six Flags for the first time last year for a class. The rides were fun and also scary. Also, I’ve never gone to Six Flags until then. But I’m looking forward to that graduation,” said Azariah Damole.

“Slipping on ice and dropping my hot dog in Oak Lawn’s parking lot after a basketball game,” said Alana Dotson.

“Being in the band and making new friends,” said Anthony Thomas

“Every moment spent with my friends,” said Emily Sanchez.

“Summer between senior and junior year, the golf team participated in a golf event (I think it was a charity event) just for practice. I got to drive a golf cart. I am very irresponsible, and golf carts are faster than I thought. I felt it almost tip several times (pedal off the metal is for chumps)(I’m going for my license on 4/18, watch out). Join golf,” said Luis Pelayo.



Having fun in drama with my friends,” said Ivy Finley.

“My favorite memory is participating in the Monogram game with some of my favorite teachers,” said Sammie King.

“Playing football,” said Fabeous Dowd, Jr.



“I’ve made so many memories within these 4 years of high school, some good and some bad. I love looking back and reminiscing about all the fun I’ve had with my friends whenever we hung out. Whether at the movies, the mall, family parties, school events, having classes together, or just going over each other’s houses and spending time with each other. There isn’t just one memory that sticks out to me as I cherish every single one of them,” said Yesenia Reyes.

“Having the chance to go to state for chess and doing soccer,” said Kassandra Saavedra.

“Making new friends and hanging out with them in class,” said Gabriela Arce.

“My favorite memory in high school was when I was at a track meet, and I was running the one mile. I got first place in the meet for the mile,” said Destiny Leyva.

“Every time I thought about leaving,” said Elias Loza.

“Kimburg’s 2nd-period Honors English,” said Jeremy Riordan.

If you had the chance, what is something you would have done differently during high school?

Curated by Lilly Krueger & Jasmine Pastrana, Staff Reporters

“One thing I would do differently would be to focus more on my academics. It would have taken away so much stress. What people don't realize is that if you don't do good in school then you won't be able to do fun things. Also, ask for help! There are so many staff members that are passionate about helping others and if you ask, they will guide you toward the right direction,” said Natalie Gonzalez.

“Something I would've done differently during high school would be to do more sports and activities because I always wanted to get involved in them, but my nerves got the best of me,” said Merlina Zavala.

“I would go back and join more activities. I didn't really get to know everyone in my senior class because I stayed to myself. Joining clubs and sports could have increased my socializing skills,” said Dawn Nettles-Bay.

“Taken more risks,” said Luis Garcia.

“I would have planned out my classes from freshman to senior year a lot better because I would have preferred senior year to be filled with more electives,” said Josiah Jackson.

“Join more activities from my previous years in high school since I played it too safe,” said Azariah Damole.

“There is nothing I would have done differently during high school. I feel like every decision I made has led me to who I am now and the amazing people that I have met,” said Aidan Jordan.



“Gone to homecoming all four years because I feel like I missed out on fun opportunities,” said Essence Boatner.

“If I had the chance, I would have not fallen off during the second quarter of my senior year and actually did what I should have done,” said Silverio Mendoza.

“Something I would've done differently was picking certain honors class, and got involved in more activities because it would've helped my transcript and scholarships,” said Lekeyla Berry.

“I would have done more clubs because when it came to my experience in high school I was limited,” said Miyanie Norris.

“I would spend more time with friends and tried out for more sports like wrestling and another year of cross country,” said Kassandra Saavedra.



“I would've taken more difficult and rigorous classes, such as more AP and honors classes. Looking back, I believe I am totally capable of those classes and wish I did not let my fears hold me back from taking the classes that would've helped me in my future,” said Favor Babatunde.

“Trusting others and being there for people that I knew weren't there for me so basically having a big heart,” said Ta'Shyra Boyd.

“If I did something different, I would not pick AP Lang and would do a summer math class freshman year,” said Kaleb Washington.

“Put more time into schoolwork,” said Mustapha Dawodu.

“I would've hung out with better people and have studied more and focused during my first two years so that I could've done better and gotten ahead,” said Gissell Quintero.

“I would have completed my FAFSA earlier instead of waiting until the last minute,” said Jiyah Robinson.

“I would've tried to be more social coming into high school because I feel like I've missed out on so much time I could've had with the people I've created strong bonds with, and I know it won't be the same after we graduate,” said Tiarra Foster.

“I would have probably joined a sport. Although I was really active in clubs, I just wish I would have done at least one sport during my high school career because I just think it would have been a nice experience to have in the books,” said Jennifer Serrano.

“If I had to do something differently I would talk to different people,” said Nadia Malagon Santoyo.

“If I had the chance, I would most likely be more outgoing and social. Just to get over my fear of speaking in public and the shyness. Also to do my very best in getting STRAIGHT A's in every class,” said Alexa Castillo.

“I would try to be more social and get to know a couple more people to make better memories such as going to school games,” said Gabriella Arce.

“I wouldn't have taken 5 APs for my last year of high school. I've been on my last straw since January,” said Daisy Rodriguez.

“I would not do so many assignments last minute; that is what caused me to burn out,” said Layla Hall.

“Something I would do differently is take more honors classes in the beginning to see if I could handle them, then to wait until junior and senior year,” said Elizabeth Mecchia.

“I would've focused more on my education during my first year, now I regret it,” said Jose Ruiz.

“Participate in sports like basketball, baseball, or bowling. The reason is because I am really good at it, but my confidence was not there at the time,” said Dereck Williams.

“I would have had more fun during my freshman and sophomore years because junior and senior years get tough,” said Aaliyah Miller.

“Locked in more freshman year,” said Oswaldo Mendoza.

“I wouldn't have given so much energy to people that weren't good for me,” said Ivy Finley.

“Done my work on time because it's a problem I have with my school work,” said Jesus Herrera.

“I would've joined more clubs and activities. It's something I regret not doing in high school, but I'll definitely take advantage of that in college,” said Kyara Trejo.

If you had the chance, what is something you would have done differently during high school?

Curated by Lilly Krueger & Jasmine Pastrana, Staff Reporters

“I would have focused more on my grades and joined more clubs, only because I would’ve wished to make more friends and get to know my peers better,” said Zairayt Garcia.

“Definitely would have did a sport,” said Ja’Niya Dandridge.

“I would try to take more honor classes,” said Mikel McGowan.

“I should’ve locked in on my assignments sophomore year. My WORST year ever, impacted my GPA like crazy,” said Dean Juarez.

“One thing I would have done differently during high school is to apply myself more and get out of my comfort zone,” said Yesenia Reyes.

“I would’ve skipped more,” said Jeremy Riordan.

“Skip less days,” said Ifeoluwa Fashoranti.

“Study more because I don't have a good study habit,” said Elijah Mitchell.

“Better grades on the lowkey,” said Elias Loza.

“I would have paid more attention to doing my homework and assignments on time,” said Angel Ogedegbe.

“I would have participated more in school activities beginning in freshman year,” said Emily Sanchez.

“Locked in sooner,” said Alana Dotson.

“Trying not to get into fights and standing up for myself more because things would always go bad for me when I didn't do these things,” said Anthony Thomas.

“I would go back and join more activities. I didn’t really get to know everyone in my senior class because I stayed to myself. Joining clubs and sports could have increased my socializing skills,” said Dawn Nettles-Bey.

“I would have been less of a procrastinator,” said Arrianna Curry.

“I would have joined a lot of sports and clubs and care about my grades a lot more than now that I am a senior,” said Destiny Leyva.

“Make more money,” said Fabeous Dowd Jr.

“Meet my best friend, why? because she moved and the only we actually talk is on the phone,” said Jeremiah Pereyda.

“It will all be the same,” said Cameron Bibbs.

“I would join more clubs and get to know more people,” said Samiya King.

“Put more time into schoolwork,” said Mustapha Dawodu.



“Play football,” said Michael Patton.

“Being in lunch laughing with all my friends,” said Jamyia Powell.

“I would open myself up more and join different sports and clubs,” said Tamajae Daniels.

“I would have tried a sport. I felt like I kinda missed out not doing any,” said Rogelio Romero.

“Online school because it’s too much going in person,” said Gabrielle McClain.

“Manage my time more wisely,” said Oluwatamilore Ogundeyi.

“Nothing,” said JaNiya Johnson.

“I wouldn't have transferred to T.F. North. I would've stayed in my previous high school,” said Johnathan Chavez.

“Kept to myself and make better friends. Not everyone is on the same mentality as you, and it’ll ruin the mentality you want for yourself in the future,” said Savannah McMullen.

“Procrastinate less. Assignments that weren’t difficult I’d procrastinate on. I wish I had the mindset of just getting everything done and then having the time to myself afterwards instead of stressing about it in longer time periods for not doing it as soon as I could,” said Liliana Krueger.

“Got involved freshman year,” said Bria Cosby.

“I wish I would’ve made more friends freshman year instead of this year because it’s awkward now,” said Nikayla Randle.

“Something that I would have done differently during high school would be to actually pay attention in classes and not do the work last minute and procrastinate,” said Brianna Astorga Maya.

“I’d participate in more activities to build more relationships and connections with people,” said Devin Owens.

“To stop procrastinating, it really affected me a lot,” said Alicia Dotson.

“I wish I would’ve joined other clubs and tried out for the volleyball team. I feel like I could have been more involved,” said Shariya Sanders.

“I would have enjoyed it more and have worried less about drama because high school is short and drama is pointless. This will be nothing but a memory in the future,” said Rosa Rodriguez-Sanchez.

“I would have studied harder with my schoolwork and made more friends because it is good to expand your horizons,” said Racheal Franklin.

“I would have joined more sports and activities because there were many that interested me, but I just never did them for some reason,” said Stephanie Montiel.

“I would've taken drivers’ ed, more classes aligned with my interest, and tried a little more in my grades,” said Fabian Rodriguez.

“Get to know my teachers more,” said Enoch Okpubigho.

“Not taken AP sciences. Every hour spent doing their work made me wanna cry more and more. I didn't find them hard, it's just that chemistry had so much work that was repeated. So it was very tedious and physics just has very long problems that make me wanna cry cause I messed up on step 2 and I’m on step 12,” said Luis Pelayo.



“Mi Alma”

By Emily Sanchez, Thorntonian Art Director

Historia de
Aidan Jordan, Editor
Traducida por Lilly Krueger, Reportera
La recompensa de intentar algo nuevo
Editorial

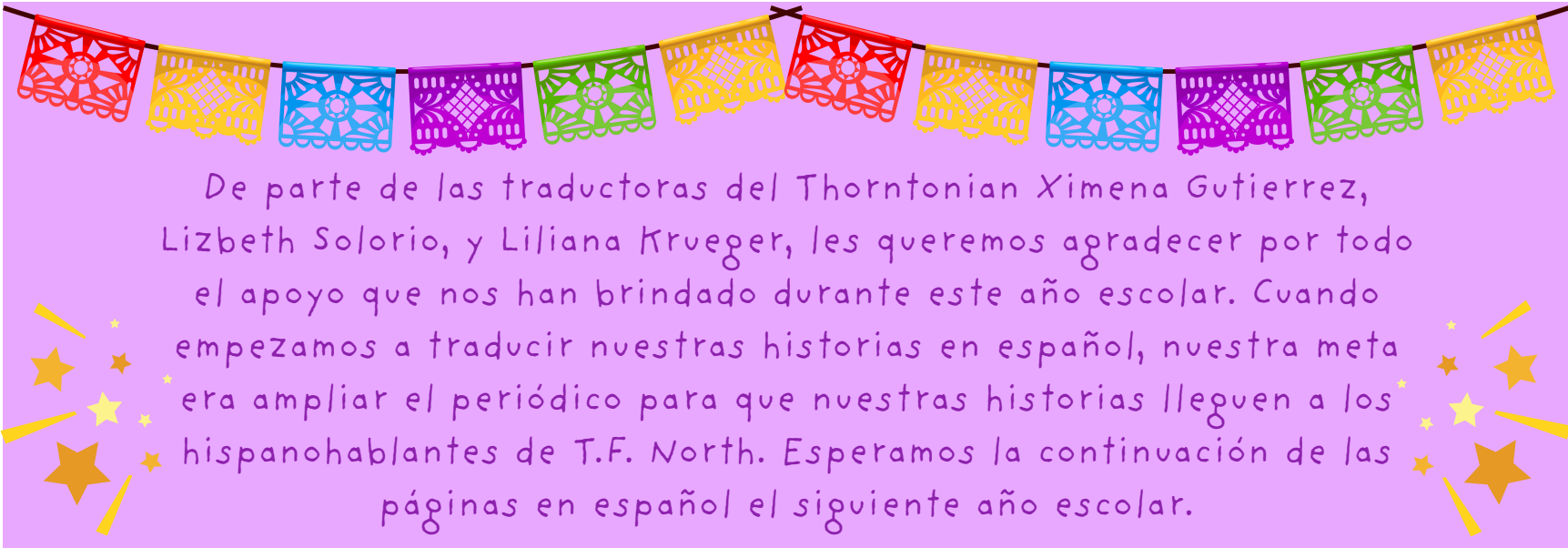
Hola a todos, o tal vez debería despedirme porque este es mi último editorial del año. Aunque este es un adiós, me enorgullece decir que hemos alcanzado nuestro objetivo de tener más publicaciones que el año pasado. Cuando empecé a hacer periodismo durante mi tercer año, no sabía que me divertiría tanto. Todavía recuerdo que el Sr. Stephan me pidió que me uniera al personal de Thorntonian al final de mi segundo año, y sin experiencia alguna en periodismo, simplemente me arriesgué. Me alegro de haberlo hecho. Gracias a esta clase, fui a muchos más eventos durante este año escolar, a los que probablemente no hubiera ido por mi cuenta. Me la pasé muy bien estando en el personal de Thorntonian, y animo a cualquier persona interesada en el periodismo unirse al personal. Es súper divertido y probablemente la clase más gratificante que tendrás. Incluso si el periodismo no es lo tuyo, te animo a que te arriesgues con cualquier cosa que te interese. Ya sea probando un deporte que nunca has jugado antes o uniéndote a un club, probando nuevos alimentos que no creías que te gustarían, o incluso hablando con gente nueva. Simplemente da ese paso fuera de tu zona de confort y disfruta de lo que la vida tiene para ofrecer. El único arrepentimiento que probablemente tendrás es no tener la oportunidad de probar algo nuevo. Creo que este año para el Thorntonian ha sido un gran éxito, incluyendo el Thornfonian, la mejor broma del Día de los Inocentes de la que he tenido la oportunidad de formar parte. Además, quiero agradecerles a todos por el apoyo. Leer los comentarios en las Cartas al Editor hizo que todo valiera la pena. A mis compañeros del personal del Thorntonian, me la pasé genial trabajando con todos ustedes. Ximena Gutiérrez, ha sido un placer trabajar contigo. En cuanto a las próximas editoras en jefe, Anahi Martínez y Liz Solorio, estoy ansioso de ver todas las increíbles historias y noticias que compartirán después de graduarme. Sé que van a ser geniales.

Historia de
Anahi Martinez, Reportera
Cuando todos tus amigos de último año se despiden
Opinión

El día de graduación de la Clase del 2025 es un día que he temido desde la cuarentena. Fue en esa época cuando conocí a mis mejores amigos, quienes ahora están en el último año de TFN. Incluso desde entonces, la idea de que se graduaran me entristecía, a pesar de saber que aún me quedaban años con ellos. Ahora veo y participo en eventos que he esperado toda mi vida, mientras anticipo el último día de mis amigos aquí. Y aún así, mientras escribo esto, me cuesta aceptar que pronto nuestras salidas se convertirán en reuniones. No puedo expresar lo orgullosa que estoy de ellos y sus logros, y estoy eternamente agradecida de haberlos conocido, aunque no puedo imaginar la idea de que se vayan y sigan adelante sin mí. Ahora que llegó la temporada de graduaciones, he visto a muchas personas expresar el mismo tipo de sentimiento de tristeza, especialmente en TikTok, con tendencias como: "Los estudiantes de último año no deberían hacerse amigos de los de penúltimo año porque mi corazón se romperá en un millón de pedazos cuando suban al escenario" o "la parte más difícil de ser estudiante de penúltimo año es saber que tienes un estudiante de último año del que tienes que despedirte", y no podría estar más de acuerdo. Siempre me encantó el último día de clases porque sabía que todos nos volveríamos a ver, en el mismo lugar, la misma hora, las mismas personas, pero pronto será su último día, y esta vez no volverán. Voy a extrañar acompañarnos a clase, saludarnos en los pasillos, las risas que compartimos, los momentos incómodos e incluso los tranquilos. Gracias a Silver, Jasmin, Michelle, Gaby, Daisy, Yaretzi, Yesi, Jenny y Ashley por sentarse conmigo incluso en los días malos y por recordarme quién y cuanto valgo. No tengo ni idea de dónde ni qué seré dentro de 20 años, pero lo que sí sé es que seguiré respirando, y todo gracias a ustedes. Espero cruzarme en sus caminos dentro de unos años, verlos feliz y saliendo adelante en la vida, y sonreír por dentro, sabiendo que lo lograron.

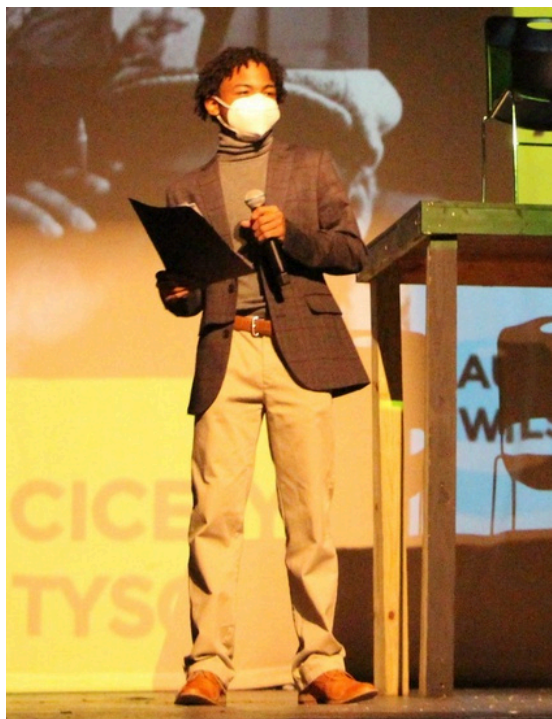
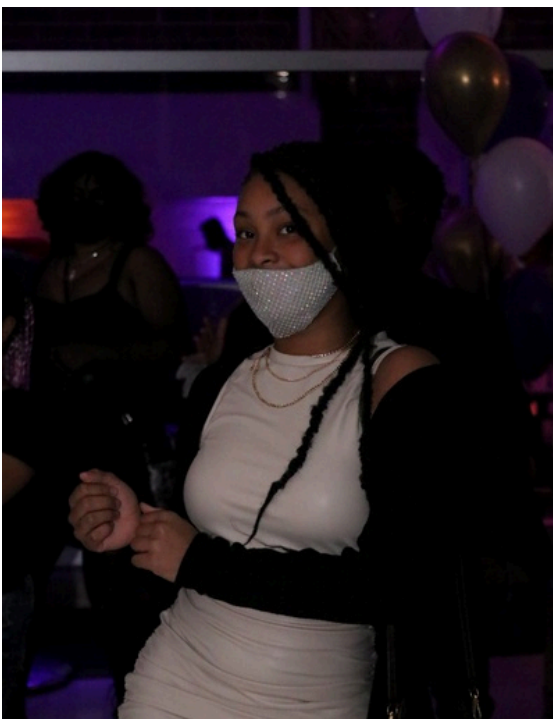
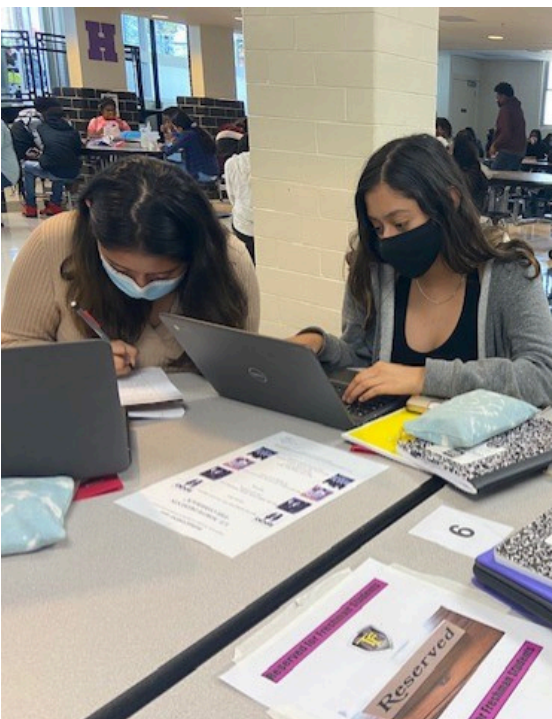
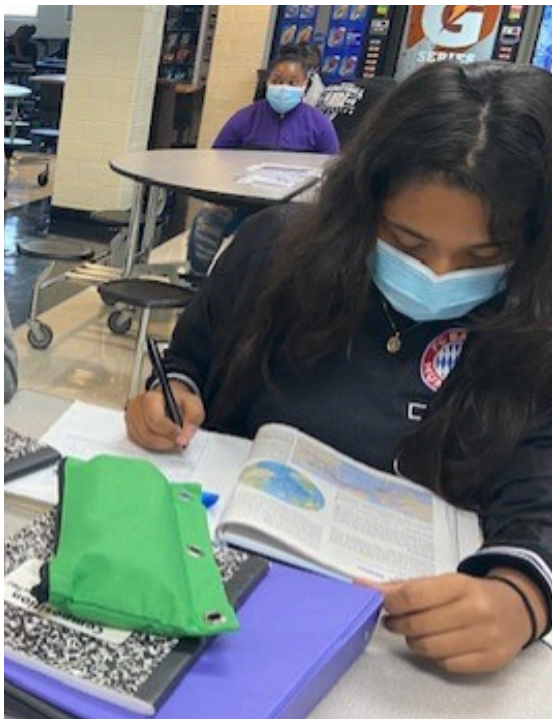
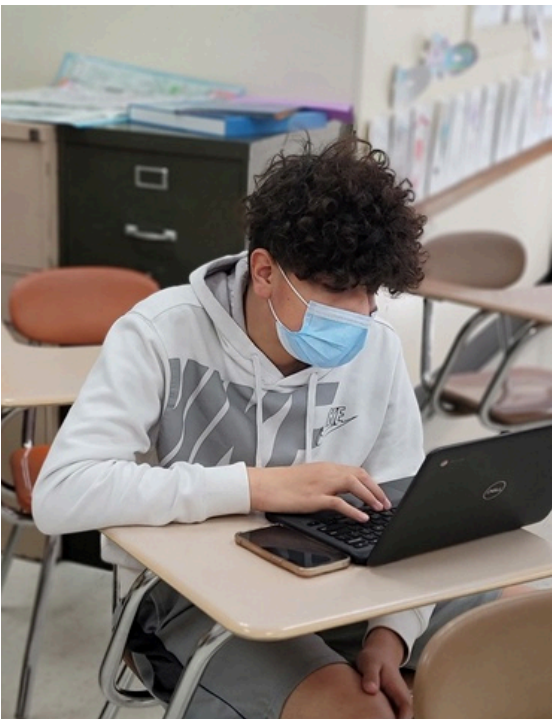
Historia de
Ximena Gutierrez, Editora
Los mexicoamericanos de primera generación hacen historia
Editorial

Cuando pienso en la graduación, no sólo pienso en birretes, togas y diplomas. Pienso en todo el trabajo duro que mis padres hicieron para que yo llegara hasta aquí. Para muchos de nosotros que somos mexicanoamericanos de primera generación, este momento significa más que simplemente terminar la escuela secundaria. Es el resultado de muchas noches estudiando, traduciendo para nuestros padres y cargando con el peso de las expectativas dichas y no dichas. Creciendo, vi a mis padres trabajar incansablemente en empleos que no ofrecían comodidad, pero sí esperanza: la esperanza de que algún día sus hijos no estuvieran en la misma situación que ellos. Mis padres solían decir: «Echale ganas mija», que básicamente significa «Dalo todo», y eso es exactamente lo que hice. Incluso cuando estábamos luchando por entender el sistema, tratando de entender FAFSA, y solicitando la universidad, no nos detuvimos. No siempre fue fácil. Recuerdo haber tenido momentos en la escuela donde sentía que no pertenecía. No participaba en clase ni levantaba la mano, no porque no supiera las respuestas, sino porque tenía miedo de cómo sonaría. Sé que no soy la única que se ha sentido así. Muchos de nosotros hemos crecido con dos mundos. Uno en casa, hablando nuestro idioma todo el día, lleno de cultura. El segundo en la escuela, donde tuvimos que aprender a hablar y a encontrar nuestro lugar. Esta graduación no es sólo una celebración para nosotros, es para nuestros antepasados, padres y hermanos. Somos los primeros, pero sin duda no seremos los últimos. Con cada paso que damos, abrimos puertas a los que vienen detrás. A mis compañeros graduados que comparten este viaje, este es nuestro momento de sentirnos orgullosos de todo lo que hemos superado, sentirnos orgullosos de nuestras raíces, de nuestra familia, de nuestra cultura. No sientan nunca que tienen que ocultar quiénes son para sentirnos aceptados. Llevamos generaciones de fuerza y tenemos historias que importan. Así que el día de la graduación, crucemos el escenario con la cabeza bien alta. Llevemos los sueños de nuestras familias en el corazón y recordemos que no sólo nos graduamos. Estamos haciendo historia.



De parte de las traductoras del Thorntonian Ximena Gutierrez, Lizbeth Solorio, y Liliana Krueger, les queremos agradecer por todo el apoyo que nos han brindado durante este año escolar. Cuando empezamos a traducir nuestras historias en español, nuestra meta era ampliar el periódico para que nuestras historias lleguen a los hispanohablantes de T.F. North. Esperamos la continuación de las páginas en español el siguiente año escolar.

The 2021-2022 school year was a very significant year for the Class of 2025. With most of the year spent wearing face masks because of COVID-19 and 2 weeks on Zoom, the Class of ‘25 was the last to experience the pandemic at T.F. North. Below are some pictures of our current seniors during their freshman year. Can you guess who they are?



All photos are courtesy of the Chronoscope Archive and were curated by Editor-in-Chief Aidan Jordan & Assistant Editor-in-Chief Ximena Gutierrez