

The Falcon Post

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Jordan High School's student-run news source

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Jordan Teacher Charged with Ten Counts of Sexual Exploitation of Minors

By Ruby Gentithes, senior

Trigger Warning: This story discusses sexual abuse involving minors. Readers are advised to proceed with caution.

Jordan science teacher, Miguel Tirado, was arrested on Wednesday, March 19, with ten counts of felony second-degree sexual exploitation of a minor. He was arrested off campus and placed on investigatory leave starting Thursday. The Durham Police Department arrested him with the help of the FBI's Raleigh-based Violent Crimes Against Children Task Force.

Tirado's bail, originally set at \$500k as requested by prosecution, was raised to \$1 million by a judge in court on Thursday. The judge made the decision to double the bail after confirming that Tirado was a high school teacher. The judge also made it clear that Tirado cannot come into contact with any minors. Tirado joined the court on Zoom from the Durham County Jail. He is due again in court on April 14, 2025.

As for the effect on the Jordan community, Principal Taylor released in a statement, "To ensure that teaching and learning continue without disruption, we are working quickly to find and appoint a substitute teacher." A substitute teacher was present in Tirado's class on Thursday.

An available resource for students who feel triggered by this recent event are the counselors in student services. Ms. Ramos, student services lead counselor, emphasized that the counselors are always there to support students. "We want to make sure they're coming to us and getting support and talking to us if they need anything or if they happen to have big emotional feelings." She acknowledged that Tirado's arrest can be traumatic for students who have encountered similar situations before.

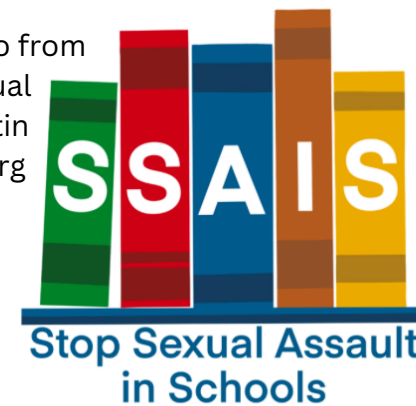
While the situation has been a scary reminder of the uncertainty and potential dangers that can surround us in our daily lives, Jordan stakeholders have highlighted their gratitude for the swift response of the school and law enforcement. Mr. Finger, science teacher, shared that Jordan's administration "does a great job keeping our students safe and working with staff." He added that "one terrible, one-off situation should not define school safety."

This is a developing story, and Falcon Post will continue to report as more details arise.

Club Spotlight: SASH & April Events

By Chloe Boyer, freshman

Photo from
stopsexual
assaultin
schools.org



Students Against Sexual Harassment, or SASH, is gearing up for Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April. The club has many outreach events planned to build community, educate students, and make Jordan a safe space for everyone — here's a preview of events you should look out for!

Chalk the Walk

SASH is Chalking the Walk outside on April 7th! Come join them at 8:30 in Room 411 to help spread positivity and awareness about sexual issues. They will be drawing and writing on the walkways outside, and everyone is invited to participate, regardless of artistic ability.

Movie Night

On April 16th in Room 411 after school, SASH will be hosting a movie night. All are welcome to attend and watch the film *Moxie*, a comedy-drama about fighting back against sexual harassment and assault. The film runs under two hours, so it will be done around 6:30.

Denim Day

National Denim Day is April 30th, and Jordan students are invited to participate by wearing denim to show support for survivors of sexual violence. Denim Day is organized by Peace Over Violence, a Los Angeles-based center working against all kinds of abuse. SASH will be hosting a booth in the main lobby on Denim Day with resources and snacks. Tell your friends to wear denim and stop by!

Remember, everyone is welcome at these events, so bring a friend and help SASH spread education and awareness about sexual harassment and assault in the world and at school.

Jordan's Proposed Bathroom Duty Plan

By Gabriel Campos, sophomore

The bathroom is an integral part of many spaces, including schools, but what happens when this vital space is abused? Jordan High School's administration has created plans for a new bathroom plan that hopes to address many of the issues students and staff have reported regarding our facilities.

The main complaint about the student restrooms from both students and staff is their frequent misuse as spaces for students to meet, skip class, vape, fight, and record videos without supervision. This also leads to overcrowding, which prevents students who need to use the bathrooms from doing so efficiently. This could lead to them being late arriving or returning to class. Another problem that has been reported, though less frequently, is theft and violent behavior within the school bathrooms by other students. These issues have led to many students avoiding using the bathrooms, and they are often closed during the school day to prevent misuse.

That being said, what is the new proposed plan and how does it address these issues? It would have teachers take on bathroom duty during part of their planning periods one day a week. Bathroom duty would be very similar to the already existing lunch duty, consisting of standing outside their assigned bathroom and checking any students who try to use it for an electronic pass, while turning away and reporting any student caught without one. These monitors would hopefully prevent students from congregating or misusing the bathrooms, while students who want to use the bathroom correctly can do so safely and quickly. These bathroom monitors have also been proposed to act as hall monitors to further discourage skipping. Teachers can currently volunteer to take on hall-monitor duties, but there is no formal system for enforcement. Teachers would also be provided with radios during bathroom duty to better communicate with one another and administration to address issues.

Under the proposed system, students would be required to file an electronic pass to enter the bathroom, even if they have a lanyard or other physical pass. Though this is already the policy for hall passes, there is currently very little enforcement. This rule would further enforce the use of the electronic pass system, which allows administrators to more easily check if students are skipping based on the amount of time since they created the pass.

I talked to an anonymous teacher about the new system, and they expressed a somewhat negative view of the duty plan, stating it has good intentions but will ultimately be ineffective and worsen student-teacher relationships. Another teacher I spoke to expressed annoyance at the situation, stating they did not want to have to take time from their planning period for bathroom duty but believed the plan would be helpful. One student I spoke with said he doesn't use the restrooms because "students be using the bathrooms in ways they shouldn't be using them, like vaping." Another student described the restrooms as "disgusting" and stated Jordan should "stop people wandering the halls" to improve the conditions, as they believe the poor conditions are caused by students skipping in the bathrooms. A third student I talked with described the female restrooms as "stank, rank, and dank" and described unsanitary conditions, such as piled-up menstrual products and a consistent cloud of vape smoke.



Photo by Ruby Gentithes

This supervision schedule is currently only a plan, and official rollout has not yet begun. When the rollout will happen is unclear, though administration hopes to implement it before the start of the next school year.

Computer Science to Become a Graduation Requirement

By Curtis Berzofsky, junior

Students who entered high school this year, and going forward, will now be required to complete a computer science course as a graduation requirement. This is a part of the G.S.115C-12(9d) amendment that was signed into North Carolina law on September 29, 2023.

This will not increase the total number of credits necessary to graduate, but reduce the number of necessary elective credits by one.

All public schools in North Carolina will be required to offer a computer science course by the 2026-2027 school year to abide by this amendment. Principal Taylor believes that Jordan will soon adopt the AP Computer Science A course—which focuses on software design and development using the Java programming language—to pair with the AP Computer Science Principles course that is already offered at Jordan.

Principal Taylor saw this as an effort by North Carolina to have a more competitive course load for college applications in the increasingly STEM-focused world today. She also believed that many schools would have trouble finding qualified teachers to teach this new requirement, which may lead to students struggling in the courses.

Taking an art course will also soon become a graduation requirement. Currently, students must complete two arts, CTE, or world language courses in any combination. Because of this recently passed amendment, students will have to complete at least one arts course to meet the graduation requirements.

Middle schools will also be able to offer computer science and arts courses that will fulfill the course requirements. Counselor Ms. Ramos states, "our district was looking into doing it in the middle schools, but I think it is going to be in the high schools."

Principal Taylor also spoke of North Carolina hoping to turn Math 1 and Math 2 into two-semester courses, which she believes will "slow many students down." Ms. Ramos added to that by saying Foundations of Math 2 will soon not be an option to pair with Math 2, leaving only Foundations of Math 1 and Foundations of Math 3.

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction looks to keep up in the quickly changing world that we live in. At the moment, it still seems uncertain if this will be a worthwhile addition to the course requirements. It is likely Jordan will have to find several new teachers in the next few years to keep up with this new law.

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Half-Page Ad: \$50

Quarter-Page Ad: \$30

Ms. Blackwell's Last Week

By Phoebe Artin, junior

Assistant Principal Ms. Blackwell recently announced that she will not be returning to Jordan after spring break. In an email to teachers, she stated her reason for leaving was her acceptance of a new position that is much closer to home. She expressed that it was a very hard decision to make and she is "filled with so much gratitude for the experiences and opportunities [she's] had" in her seven years at Jordan. We will greatly miss her and her commitment and care for the Jordan community.

Arts

A Bat in the Theater!!!

By Sydney Sarver, sophomore

It's often said that a bad dress rehearsal makes for a great show, but this was not the case for the cast of Big Fish on Wednesday night. Not only did the sound system in the theater stop working, which was concerning considering that opening night was just on the horizon, but several technicians and actors also caught sight of a bat flying around one of the wings in the auditorium! No one saw the bat again until around 6:30 the next night, just as audience members were finding their seats for the first night of the show.



Technicians attempted to trap the bat in one of the lecture halls, but the door was broken so they were unable to close it. Due to the potential danger this could cause for audience members, Ms. Ruby made an announcement a little after 6:45 asking everyone to exit the auditorium. Unfortunately, the Thursday show was cancelled.

Luckily, Animal Control arrived at Jordan at 7:19 pm. By 7:26, the bat had been released out of the auditorium. Since opening night was cancelled, a matinee performance was scheduled for Friday, March 21st at 1 pm. Teachers were able to sign up to bring their classes to the show, allowing students to see Big Fish during school hours. Jordan theater promises this performance was bat-free.

Big Fish: Spring Musical Review

By Chloe Boyer, freshman

Disclaimer: I worked on some of the sets for Big Fish, but my first time experiencing any of the performances was when I saw it on stage during the matinee.

Big Fish is a musical about family, storytelling, and how we leave a legacy to those around us. I had the wonderful opportunity to see the Jordan Theatre department perform it, and I'd like to share some of my favorite parts of the experience.

To start, every performance was fantastic. Everyone from the lead roles to the massive ensemble did a fantastic job on stage, the incredible pit orchestra brought even more depth to every moment, and the technicians operating the lights, sound, and set worked hard to bring the world of Big Fish to life. Of special note is Andrew Schreiber, who excelled at the role of Edward Bloom. Andrew was a late addition to the cast, and he did so much work to get the show to where it is now.

Some other performances that stood out to me were Alana Coovadia's adorable Young Will, the mysterious and magical Witch played by Sofia Gee, and of course, Danica Laan's wonderfully emotional Sandra Bloom. I felt strongly invested in the story and world of Big Fish through these performances.

The atmosphere of the show is important due to the variety of settings and characters, and Jordan Theatre was able to nail it. The projections that make up most of the set are vibrant and magical, with the lighting and physical set pieces complementing it well. The costuming also contributes to this, as each member of the large ensemble had an impressive number of costume changes, and every outfit was stunning - some of my favorites were Karl's giant pants and scruffy cloak, The Witch's swamp robes, and Amos Calloway's Ringmaster attire.

Some minor technical issues were present, such as microphones cutting out or being unable to hear the ensemble, but these didn't significantly detract from the experience. All in all, Jordan Theatre created a fantastic production in Big Fish, and it's not too late to see it for yourself!



Photos by Joy Knight

DPAC 2025-2026: A Spectacular New Season

By Amelia McKinney, freshman

Calling all theater kids, music buffs, and people who love a good show! DPAC has released its 2025-2026 season. This season's lineup already has received some praise and excitement from those who know about it. There's a little bit of everything coming onto the stage, with shows containing spectacular dance numbers, heart-wrenching romances, magical sets and effects, adventures back in time, and, of course, vocals that captivate the audience.

The 2025-2026 season starts off in September with the classic Disney romance, *Beauty and the Beast*. Its score has been commended with Oscar wins and Tony nominations (with the same team working on it this season), with songs like "Be Our Guest" and "Beauty and the Beast." Come to see Belle's adventure through the Beast's treacherous castle from September 2nd through the 14th.

From December 2nd through the 7th, *The Outsiders* will make its way to the DPAC stage. This show is based on the novel by S.E. Hinton and the following film by Francis Ford Coppola about the class war between the "Greasers" and the "Socs" in the 50s that explores the concepts of family and friendship. Directed by Tony Award winner Danya Taymor, make sure not to miss it!

Third in the lineup is *Water for Elephants*, an emotional journey of a man and his new life, and love, in the circus. Adapted from Sara Gruen's novel, Tony-nominated director Jessica Stone, working alongside PigPen Theatre Co. for the score, will surely bring an innovative show to the stage! Shows start December 16th through the 21st.

Magic comes to DPAC from December 28th to January 17th with *Harry Potter and The Cursed Child*!

Directed by John Tiffany, and from the world of J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* series, this show is for those who want to be stunned by its theatrical magic and effects. Come see the next generation of Potters, Malfoys, and Weasleys at Hogwarts!

17 time Grammy award-winning singer Alicia Keys brings the new show, *Hell's Kitchen*, to the DPAC stage from February 17th to the 22nd. *Hell's Kitchen* is a story about a 17 year old girl coming into herself in the big world around her and her relationship with her mom and music. Directed by four-time Tony Award nominee Michael Greif, it is sure to wow the crowd!

The most Tony Award-winning show of the year, *Stereophonic*, is about a band about to make it big in the heat of the 70s! This musical, directed by Daniel Aukin, explores the joy of creation, and will make its way to the stage from March 17th to the 22nd.

The next show is based on the classic novel by F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*! With award winning costumes, this show portrays love, wealth, and loss taking place in the Roaring Twenties. This beautiful tale, directed by Marc Bruni, will come to DPAC May 5th through the 10th and is ready for you to experience it just like you were back in time, too!

Last but certainly not least, *The Notebook* comes to DPAC from July 14th to the 19th! Fans of romance will swoon over the tale of two people in love, but living in worlds that are too different. Allie and Noah's romance, told through song and directed by Micheal Greif, shouldn't be missed this DPAC season!

Tickets for all 2025-2026 season shows have not yet been released, but as soon as they are, these casts will be hoping for an eager audience to come and see all their hard work and the stories they have to tell. If tickets are looking too pricey, don't worry. With DPAC for All, students, military, and Durham residents can get up to 20-75% off their tickets! Visit the DPAC website for more information and how to purchase online or in person.



Photo from DPAC NC

Sports

Monthly Update

By Phoebe Artin, junior

Spring sports have begun conference play, with many more conference games in the coming weeks. Check below for scores from the past two weeks of games. Make sure to support fellow falcons by going to home games next week!

Varsity W Soccer:

0-6 L vs. Wakefield
1-6 L @ Millbrook
1-7 L @ Green Level

JV W Soccer:

1-7 L vs. Wakefield
0-3 L @ Millbrook
1-1 T @ Green Level

M Track and Field: Patriots Invitational Top 10 Finishes by Adrian Smith, Zahid Pinkard, Karsten Heim, Asher Holland, 4x400 relay, distance medley relay, Tyshaun Couch, Kamari Blue, Evan Harewood and Mason James

W Track and Field: Patriots Invitational Top 10 Finishes by Olivia Yancey, Kaitlyn Kinch, Cristina Scott-Ramos, Sanjia Allen, 4x200 relay, 800 sprint medley relay, distance medley relay, Valerie Batta, and Nia Anderson

M Lacrosse:

12-7 W vs. Pinecrest
1-14 L @ Broughton
12-13 L vs. Cary Academy

W Lacrosse:

3-10 L vs. Sanderson
5-6 L vs. Northwood
0-18 L vs. Chapel Hill**
11-6 W vs. Riverside**

Varsity Baseball:

4-14 L vs. Leesville Road
7-3 W vs. Athens Drive
2-6 L @ Orange
0-2 L vs. Wake County Homeschool

JV Baseball:

9-4 W vs. Leesville Road
11-0 W @ Athens Drive
8-6 W @ Orange
5-2 W vs. Wake County Homeschool
5-4 W vs. Clayton

Softball:

8-3 W vs. Leesville Road
13-3 W vs. Athens Drive
8-11 L @ North Raleigh Christian Academy

M Tennis:

9-0 W @ Carrboro
4-5 L vs. Chapel Hill**
9-0 W @ Seaforth
8-1 W @ Riverside**

M Volleyball:

3-0 W @ NCSSM-Durham
3-2 W vs. Millbrook
3-0 W vs. East Chapel Hill**
1-3 L @ Riverside

M Ultimate Frisbee: 19th place at YULA Invite (8-13 L vs. Strath Haven / 8-13 L vs. Lexington / 13-3 W vs. WACC / 12-8 W vs. Alexandria / 9-10 L vs. Montgomery Blair / 9-7 W vs. Montclair)

W Ultimate Frisbee: 2nd place at YULA Invite (13-2 vs. Washington Liberty / 12-5 vs. Lake Braddock / 13-5 vs. Wissahickon / 8-7 vs. James Madison / 11-5 vs. Alexandria / 9-12 vs. Strath Haven)

Upcoming Home Games:

3/24 W Soccer vs. Chapel Hill**
3/25 Baseball and Softball vs. Chapel Hill**, M Tennis vs. Green Level
3/26 M Tennis vs. Hillside**
3/27 Varsity W Soccer vs. DSA, M Tennis vs. Green Hope, M Volleyball vs. Hillside**, M & W Track and Field vs. East Chapel Hill**
3/28 M Lacrosse vs. Terry Sanford
**Conference

Big Fish Word Search

By Chloe Boyer, freshman

G P N L U Y D C N Z Z T B H U B E G U E	
B E N E A M C Z C U N E Z F T H F F X U	Edward
S V I B K U C U H X Y H D X L V I W J T	Will
T R F S Z P G H P D K F Y W I B T D K Y	Sandra
A K Y I D C L O G V C U V R A H Q J A C	Josephine
R U X R G V A Y R D A V N M J R Y E V K	Karl
T V M M Y T R J J B Z D A M O S D N E S	Amos
O F T H E W I T C H S A N D R A X N C T	Don
V E W R J Y G W I L L J R V T R D Y B R	The Witch
E T I J V S E O A K F E E G C Q F Y N A	Jenny
R V L V B H X N C L C E N O G E V J E N	Zacky
N O N W Z O W L A M B S I R H Q J G W G	Be The Hero
G W Z J N D O N U W N A H E O P D S W E	Stranger
B U C A U L J E P Y B L P H J U U D E R	Start Over
A Z Z D Q R J T E A E A E E A S H T O N	Ashton
G R S Z U A K O D K N B S H Z D G U Z C	Alabama
U N L O J K C L Y C V A O T V H S B T J	Lambs
R E N F Q P C Q Z V J M J E Y O M I N D	
I I G T G F N C J M J A W B N V F H N V	
A L P N L X H Z L R A Y F T S Y N Q R F	

World/US News

Inventions Created by Women

By Penelope Saarela, sophomore

Women have contributed to improving society for many years. In honor of Women's History Month coming to a close, here are a few inventions that you may not know were created by women!

1) Windshield wipers. Before Mary Anderson invented the windshield wiper in 1903, a rainy day could ruin taking any form of transportation. Thanks to her contributions, you can now drive or take public transport on a rainy day with no trouble!

2) The pizza saver. Also called a pizza table, this device prevents containers from collapsing in on the food inside. The pizza saver was invented by Carmela Vitale in 1985.

3) Science fiction. It would be unimaginable to live without this genre in modern literature, but science fiction wasn't an established genre until Mary Shelley's novel Frankenstein was published in 1818.

4) Caller ID. Research by physicist Shirley Ann Jackson was fundamental in helping to bring caller ID to the masses, making it possible to know who was calling you before picking up the call.

5) CRISPR gene editing. This genetic modification process isn't just something you learn about in biology. CRISPR is crucial to biotechnology, allowing the genes of living organisms to be modified. It was invented by two women, Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer Anne Doudna.

6) Ice cream machine. The first ice cream machine was invented by Nancy Johnson in 1843. It was even invented before the freezer!

Classified Staff Appreciation Week

By Emmy Grigoni, senior

"We love you!" read the notes decorating Ms. Odom's monitor in the main office. They serve as a reminder that March 19th to 25th is Jordan's annual Classified Staff Appreciation Week. Across school, students, teachers, and various JHS organizations have shown their support for classified staff employees, who include custodial, cafeteria, bus driver, and main office employees. The National Honor Society's Teacher Support Committee hosted events for students to create cards, posters, and gift baskets for classified staff, and provided a dessert bar with treats brought by students. Other clubs and organizations, such as the Tri-M Music Honor Society, created and distributed gift baskets and cards to staff members as a show of support and gratitude.



Photo by Megan Michaels

Appreciation for classified staff members – who are an entirely integral part of the school community – has a significant history at Jordan and in DPS. It's been over a year since cuts were made to classified staff workers' paychecks and intense community pushback followed in response to the decision.

Here's a summary of the events that occurred regarding pay cuts last year:

- In January of 2023, DPS classified staff employees were notified that a long-awaited "unfreezing" (raising) of their paychecks would occur, based on a new budget created by former DPS Superintendent Pascal Mubenga and former CFO Paul LeSieur.
- The budget was passed by the Board of Education and the raises were implemented later that year.
- However, Mubenga and LeSieur miscalculated while creating the new budget. Because of their mismanagement of funds, the district realized they could not actually afford to give employees the raises that had already been administered.
- In January of 2024, classified staff were notified that they had been overpaid, and were expected to a) deal with their paychecks being drastically cut (being paid less money than they were originally receiving before the new budget was passed), and b) pay back money they had incorrectly been given by the district from the raises.

Following this announcement, the Durham community launched into action. Protests, unofficial striking practices by classified employees, and demands by the Durham Association of Educators (DAE) union generated public support and demanded the attention of the district.

Eventually, DPS stopped their clawbacks, or demands that employees pay back money, and reverted back to the original payment plan from before the cuts.

As of today, both Mubenga and LeSieur have resigned from their positions within DPS. While most of the DAE's demands (modified after they realized how poor the fiscal situation of the Board of Education was) were met, their power to advocate for groups like classified staff remains strictly limited. "Nothing has changed," Jordan English teacher and DAE member Mr. Stapleton said last week. The DAE is still fighting for "meet-and-confer policy," a common practice by union organizations that allows them a seat at the decision-making table with district officials as they make decisions about issues like budget and payment plans. Without it, they remain vulnerable to the district's ability to ignore their demands.

Overall, it's been a chaotic and stressful process classified workers have been put through because of the district's mismanagement – a process that has left them with unfulfilled promises and instability. The DAE's need for meet-and-confer policy remains as urgent now as it did a year ago.

From the crowd that protested the pay cuts in front of the school last year to the handwritten cards students made for their bus drivers last week, it is obvious of the appreciation Jordan holds for the classified staff members, who do so much for Jordan as both an institution and a community.

College Board Announces Three New AP Courses

By Curtis Berzofsky, junior

The College Board recently announced three new courses set to launch for all schools in the 2026-2027 school year.

Two of these courses are part of the new AP Career Kickstart program, which has been designed to prepare students for high-demand careers. This program will feature two-course pathways similar to schools' career and technical education programs. The first Career Kickstart (CK) pathway will be the Cybersecurity pathway, which will be made up of CK Cybersecurity 1: Networking Fundamentals and CK Cybersecurity 2: Cybersecurity Fundamentals. It is intended for these courses to be taken consecutively in tenth and eleventh grade and for students to then seek out a local apprenticeship or internship in twelfth grade.

The third new course announced by the College Board, set to launch in the 2026-2027 school year, is AP Business Principles/Personal Finance. The purpose of this course is to "introduce students to the fields of entrepreneurship, marketing, finance, accounting, and management through real-world business application, case studies, and project based learning," as stated by the College Board. This course will likely be able to grant credit for the economics and personal finance graduation requirement.

Back in 2022, it was announced that AP Anatomy and Physiology would launch in the Fall of 2024, but no updates have been made since. The College Board states, "we're exploring additional courses in health sciences, information technology, and more." It is likely that AP Anatomy and Physiology, along with more Career Kickstart pathways, will be announced soon.

The question is, which teachers at Jordan will pick up these courses?

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We are asking for your contribution to the success of our club. We serve as Jordan's student-run news source. We continually publish online news and a monthly print paper for the community to read. We report on a variety of topics, including school, local, national, and world news.

Jordan does not have a journalism class, but Falcon Post works to teach students the basics of journalism and empower them to seek out stories of interest to them.

Our club receives little school funding, and we're asking for your support to help us print issues in color, pay submission fees for statewide contests, and sustain club activities for the following school year.

Please consider supporting a program that is integral to Jordan. Go to tinyurl.com/falconpostjhs to donate. Don't hesitate to reach out with any questions, either about the club or our fundraising efforts. Thank you for your consideration.

All the best,
Ainsley Buzby and Ruby Gentithes
Falcon Post Editors-in-Chief