

Falcon Post

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JORDAN COMES AWAY WITH WIN IN SEASON OPENER



Jaleel Griffin running past the Leesville Road sideline (photo by Noah Dillon, @noahdillonphotography)

BY KATIE TAYLOR
STAFF EDITOR

The evening of August 22nd was perfect for the Jordan Football season opener. Leesville Road High School, ranked 34th in North Carolina, came out hungry to take down the young 33rd ranked Jordan team, making this a fun game to watch.

Leesville Road, a high school located in Raleigh, was ranked second in the 4A CAP conference during the 2024-2025 season, while Jordan was first in the 4A DC 6 conference. This season,

Jordan has joined the Quad City Seven 8A conference, alongside teams including Green Hope, Panther Creek, and Apex Friendship.

With both Jordan and Leesville Road having such strong reputations, this game promised to bring the energy, not only on the field but in the stands as well. The theme of the game in the Jordan student section was tropical, students showing up to the game decked out in fun floral, and tropical prints, and accessories, filling the bleachers to show their support for the Jordan

Football team.

The game started off with Jordan on their heels after Leesville Road scored two early touchdowns. Luckily, Jordan was able to bounce back in the second quarter with a touchdown from DeAndre Evans (senior) and a field goal by Asher Holland (senior), bringing the game to a four point difference to end the half.

In the third quarter, Leesville Road scored one field goal which helped them keep their lead, despite Jordan's touchdown. A missed two-point conversion

opportunity kept Jordan from taking the lead, down 17-16 at the end of the third. Leesville Road only earned one field goal in the fourth quarter compared to Jordan's two, ending the game with a Jordan win and a score of 22-20.

Make sure to come out to the next Jordan Football game on August 29 at Durham County Stadium. Jordan will be playing Southern, one of the better teams in DPS, so the game is promising to be competitive.

SCHOOL NEWS

New Assistant Principal Ready to be a Falcon

BY CLAUDIA BERZOFSKY
PUBLISHER

The newest addition to the Jordan family is Mrs. Shante Nelson, the new assistant principal. She says that she “couldn’t be more excited to be at Jordan High School this year” and thinks that the best students in the world are right here at Jordan.

Mrs. Nelson is the assistant principal for freshmen with last names A-L. She is in charge of the English, Healthful Living, and Media departments. Her other responsibilities include activities, field trips, fundraising, transportation, and daily announcements.

Mrs. Nelson has over ten years of experience in education, with a background as an English Language Arts teacher, Special Education teacher, and basketball coach. Previously, she coached the

girls basketball team at Githens Middle School, leading them to the DPS middle school championship in early 2024. Prior to working in Durham Public Schools, she has served in the Onslow County Schools, Houston Independent School District, and Wake County Public Schools. At Jordan, she cannot wait to get to know the community and support students in their goals, no matter if it is in the classroom, on the stage, in clubs, or on the field.

Throughout her career as a classroom teacher, Mrs. Nelson has helped students exceed growth expectations. As a result, she was named Teacher of the Year at Githens Middle School for the 2023-2024 school year. She has held multiple school leadership roles, including School Improvement Team Chair

(Githens), Testing Coordinator (JD Clement), and mentor teacher (Burbank), where she has supported teacher development in addition to student development.

Outside of the classroom, Mrs. Nelson is a devoted community advocate. She is the founder and CEO of Blume Academy, a nonprofit that focuses on strengthening reading outcomes for youth. Additionally, she previously started and operated Whole Child Care Center, a childhood education program known for educational greatness and strong family partnerships.

Mrs. Nelson loves watching students step into their strengths and says that she is “here to celebrate your successes and push you to try new things.” She hopes that “this year feels full of



Photo of Mrs. Shante Nelson

growth, school pride, and moments you’ll remember long after graduation.” Mrs. Nelson is full of excitement for a great year, building connections with students, and supporting students in every way possible.

FALCON POST

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SCHOOL NEWS

Infinite Campus Arrives in North Carolina

BY CHLOE BOYER
STAFF EDITOR

North Carolina's Board of Education voted to award Infinite Campus the contract for the state's Student Information System (SIS) on November 2, 2023, with all districts in NC completing the transition in time for the 2025-2026 school year. Now that Infinite Campus has superseded PowerSchool, students should be able to expect a more streamlined, and hopefully secure, SIS portal to use at Jordan.

Infinite Campus was founded in 1993 by Charlie Kratsch, and now claims to serve over 10 million students in 3,000 districts across 46

U.S. states, with NC being the latest to adopt its systems in public schools. NC's Department of Public Instruction decided to make the switch in a push for efficiency and modernization, moving away from the aging PowerSchool system, first implemented in 2012. PowerSchool's massive data breach, which reportedly affected 62 million student accounts in December of 2024, furthered the need to move to a better system, even after the decision had been made by the Board of Education. A giant in the education technology field, PowerSchool claims to serve 60 million students in

18,000 districts across 90 countries, though Infinite Campus' surge in adoption nationwide is definitely a threat to companies like PowerSchool and their reach.

Also to note is that unlike PowerSchool, Infinite Campus is not one singular platform, but a base that districts and states are fine-tuning. North Carolina's version, the NC Student Information System ("powered by Infinite Campus") is more likely to be equipped for exactly what NC students need than PowerSchool, one platform used by everybody.

It is yet to be seen how other Jordan students feel

about Infinite Campus, but from my first impressions, it seems to do most everything PowerSchool did (albeit with a sharp green accent, in contrast to PowerSchool's dull blue), accessed through NCEdCloud exactly as its predecessor was. Infinite Campus will also be more integrated with the Canvas platform for assignments and tests, perhaps making for a more efficient experience. Change can be hard (especially if you've been using PowerSchool for years), but adjusting to Infinite Campus probably won't be a Herculean labor.

Jordan to Prepare DPS Book Drive & Sale

A team of Jordan students has been preparing the past few months to launch the Durham Public Schools Book Drive & Sale in support of literacy in Durham Public Schools and beyond. Books will be collected from all around Durham, from schools

to businesses to community organizations, leading up to a large book sale in the spring to raise money for DPS media centers. If you would like to get involved follow the Book Drive team on Instagram at @dps.bookdrive and sign up for a book sorting date.



AP Exams Could Cost Families \$99 Each

North Carolina began paying for every students' AP exam fees in 2014. This program, with a budget of over \$18 million, supported a record-setting 84,000 North

Carolina public school AP students in 2024, according to the NC Dept. of Public Instruction. The budget cuts will remove \$14 million, while leaving \$4.7 million for

economically disadvantaged students. Currently, AP teachers receive \$50 bonus for each exam passed by their students, which may also be in jeopardy. Assistant

Principal Ms. Ruby says students should plan to take the exams until the budget plan is confirmed. Students will be able to opt out of exams if there is a cost.

CLUBS

New ‘Free Flow’ Club Strives to Battle Period Poverty

BY AMELIA McKINNEY
SOPHOMORE WRITER

Period poverty is a serious problem for girls all over the country. Period poverty is the inability to access menstrual supplies due to financial, or other

barriers. One in every five female students misses class due to lack of access to menstrual products. This may take several days of school away from them each month, resulting in lower grades and less confidence in school. No girl should have

to face this. That is why Jordan will be hosting a new club this year, in partnership with the Diaper Bank of Durham, to support the women of Jordan High School: Free Flow. The Diaper Bank provides menstrual and

hygiene supplies to girls around the Triangle. Now with the Free Flow club, they can transport those essential materials directly to our school bathrooms. Each girls bathroom and locker room will contain an easily accessible container of



Co-founders Katie Taylor (left) and Amelia McKinney (right) packing menstrual products at The Diaper Bank

individual pads, tampons, and liners, as well as pre-stocked kits that can last a student up to a week. The Diaper Bank will also provide teachers with items to keep in their classrooms. The club’s focus is making sure that no girl is

left without any product she needs. To ensure this, members of the club will regularly check and restock each bathroom and locker room around Jordan. Free Flow has already begun putting plans in motion and communicating with staff to

install the containers. They have also raised almost \$600 by presenting a proposal to the Rotary Club of Durham to jumpstart the program. The club will need all the help it can get to help keep its plan organized and consistent. It is currently

seeking students who are also passionate about this cause to fill leadership roles such as Vice President, Social Media Manager, Secretary, and Treasurer. Access should never be a luxury!

SPORTS

Fall Sports Summer Training Recap

BY SYDNEY SARVER
MANAGING EDITOR

Many Falcons have been hard at work this summer, showing up to practices and putting in work before school starts. Additionally, some teams have already had several games. Be sure to recognize their hard work by showing your school spirit at home games this school year!

Field Hockey: Our field hockey team has spent a lot of time practicing in the mornings and evenings this summer. They've done basic skills and endurance work to provide a foundation for their season, which kicked off in Wilmington last week.

Football: It's time to kickoff the football season! Many falcons are looking forward to this football season's six home games. The team has held practices all summer and has been training hard for the upcoming season.

Golf: In addition to summer practices on the course, women's golf had their first conference match of the season on August 18th against Apex High School.

Volleyball: The team had several games over the summer, including three in one day on August 16! Be sure to show up and support them at an upcoming home game on August 28th against Apex Friendship.

Cross Country: Jordan's cross country runners held practices in the early hours of the morning at the Al Buehler trail all summer. Now they have moved to practicing on campus and have participated in two meets, with runners on both the boys and girls teams finishing top 25.

Ultimate Frisbee: Frisbee recently held their mini-camp opening weekend, to kickstart their season. Players got a chance to learn the basics of Jordan Ultimate and start practicing again.

Tennis: Our tennis team held lots of practices over the summer, despite lots of rain and heat cancellations. They

have already had their first three matches and are undefeated!

Soccer: Our men's soccer team held many practices this summer. They went on the road for their first match at Riverside High School on August 19th.

Cheer: Cheer has been hard at work this summer, preparing to perform at football games and pep rallies this fall. It will be difficult to miss them and their new routines!

Gymnastics: Our gymnastics team is flipping the page with a fresh team this season. They held their fall tryouts at Acrosport gymnastics center in early August.

Fall Sports Summer Score Report

BY PHOEBE ARTIN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Falcon sports have been going for about a month now, with games starting to happen already! Stay tuned for more updates throughout the fall season as our teams begin to compete within the new 8A "Quad City Seven" conference (Apex, Apex Friendship, Green Hope, Green Level, Jordan, Panther Creek, and Willow Spring).

Varsity Football
22-20 W vs. Leesville Road
JV Football
14-42 L @ Leesville Road

Varsity M Soccer
1-1 T @ Riverside
0-1 L vs. Southeast Raleigh
JV M Soccer
1-2 L @ Riverside
Varsity Field Hockey
8-0 W @ Cape Fear Academy
W Tennis
6-3 W @ Apex
6-3 W vs. Apex Friendship
8-1 W vs. Durham School of the Arts
Varsity W Volleyball
3-2 W vs. Leesville Road
3-2 W @ West Forsyth
0-3 L @ Carrboro
3-2 W @ Southern Alamance
Randolph
3-0 W vs. Southwestern

3-0 W vs. Southern
1-3 L @ Cedar Ridge
JV W Volleyball
2-1 W vs. Leesville Road
2-0 W vs. Southern
2-1 W @ Cedar Ridge
W Cross Country
9th place overall (Jr/Sr) at BaySix Kickoff Classic
10th place overall (Fr/So) at BaySix Kickoff Classic
10th place overall at Early Bird Challenge (Top 25: Lillian Tarr)
M Cross Country
6th place overall (Jr/Sr) at BaySix Kickoff Classic (Top 25: Blake Yamauchi and Wyatt Hanson)

3rd place overall (Fr/So) at Bay Six Kickoff Classic (Top 25: Parker Andre and Doran Cummings)
4th place overall at Early Bird Challenge (Top 25: Blake Yamauchi and Wyatt Hanson)
Upcoming Home Games
8/27 W Tennis
8/28 W Volleyball
9/2 W Volleyball, JV Field Hockey
9/3 Varsity Field Hockey
9/4 Field Hockey, W Tennis, W Volleyball, JV Football

ARTS

Jordan Theatre Prepares for *Water for Elephants*

BY PENELOPE SAARELA
MANAGING EDITOR

Every year, the Jordan Theatre department puts on a musical. This year holds unique significance because Jordan is piloting the musical *Water for Elephants*. Piloting is when a program receives the first rights to a show and helps

to refine the production before it is available for public use. Jordan is the first theater off Broadway to put on *Water for Elephants* and is working with Broadway Licensing and PigPen Theatre Co. to adapt the musical for a high school stage.

During the week of August 4, rehearsal for the production started. *Water for Elephants*

tells the story of Jacob Jankowski, who leaves his life and dream behind after a tragic accident to join a traveling circus. Due to the circus aspect of the show, the cast practiced lifts and stunts in rehearsal. They also worked through some of the music and learned how to adapt it for a high school cast. Tech theatre

began work with a puppet expert to create the intricate, moving circus animal puppets the show requires. A pilot is hard work, so be sure to support your fellow falcons and come see the show November 13-15 and 20-22!



Director, Olivia Bellido, pit director, Carrie Andrews, and some of the cast and crew of Jordan's production with PigPen Theatre Company at the International Thespian Festival earlier this summer (photo from @w4e_partnership_jhs Instagram)

Calling All Filmmakers for the Running Bull Film Festival 2026

Do you have a passion for film and photography that you hope to share with the Durham community? Are you looking for a chance to have your work adjudicated? The Running Bull Film Festival, Durham's

premiere high school film festival, hosted by the Carolina Theater of Durham in April is back for its second year. Working closely with the Jordan Innovation Lab and media production groups at high schools

around Durham, the Running Bull Film Festival looks for films of all genres, especially experimental works that tell stories unique to the Durham community. If you are interested in submitting a film for the

festival or even working behind the scenes, feel free to speak with Ms. Ann Thaden or Mr. Stuart Albright for more information. Submissions close April 1! Good luck and have fun!

ENTERTAINMENT

Questions from Readers

BY EMILIA-MAGWENE MUÑIZ
STAFF EDITOR

Who was Charles E. Jordan?

Charles E. Jordan was a university administrator who worked at Duke University for 47 years. He also served as chairman of the Durham County Board of Education for eight years before accepting a position on the State Board of Education. Charles E. Jordan was also involved with many associations, groups, and organizations throughout Durham and North Carolina regarding education and community. In 1963, our school was named in his honor.

Where can you find the Falcon mascot?

While the short, male junior under the mask remains mysterious, you can find them at Jordan sports games and pep rallies.

What new clubs are there at Jordan this year?

There are so many clubs at Jordan this year. There are clubs such as the Student Government Association (SGA), Black Student Union (BSU), Science Olympiad, Rocketry, Listos (Latine Student Union), and many more. A new club this year is Free Flow, which addresses period poverty. For a more comprehensive list of all clubs, you can visit the Jordan website.

How do you research articles?

Depending on the topic of an article, Falcon Post writers research their articles in a variety of ways! For a school-related article, a writer may interview students, teachers, or administrators to better understand opinions and gather information. For broader topics, writers might use news sources and other online research.

What happens when you are making the print issue?

Once the articles are edited and finalized, our publisher and editors-in-chief format the print using Canva to design the layout of the issue and check for any errors.

Do you have stands around the school? Where are they?

Yes! You can find Falcon Post stands in the front lobby and cafeteria with printed copies of the newspaper each month. Keep your eye out for more stands around the school later in the year!

How do you come up with article ideas?

Each writer’s process to find ideas is different; some writers may be inspired by the seasons, local events, or school events, while others may take an interest in world news, sports, or trending topics.

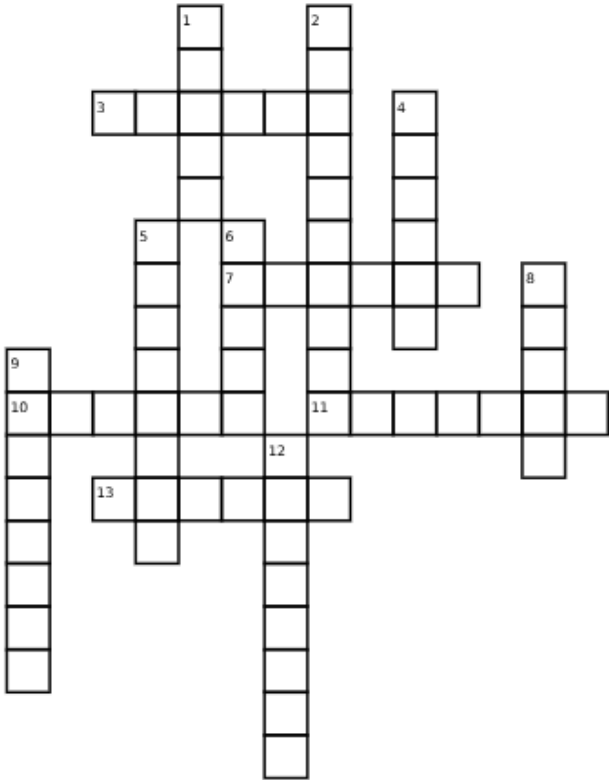
Back to School Crossword

Across:

- 3) what the oldest student at Jordan may be called
- 7) friday night _____
- 10) grouped into three categories: fall, winter, and spring
- 11) a title given to someone who imparts knowledge upon students
- 13) Jordan High School’s mascot

Down:

- 1) you may have A, B, or C this
- 2) one of Jordan’s has just gotten a lot more colorful
- 4) a required class for freshmen
- 5) the holiday that interrupts the second week of school
- 6) something you may do before school
- 8) something you may take in class
- 9) the person you may find in the front lobby before school
- 12) something teachers give out and students despise



FALCON POST

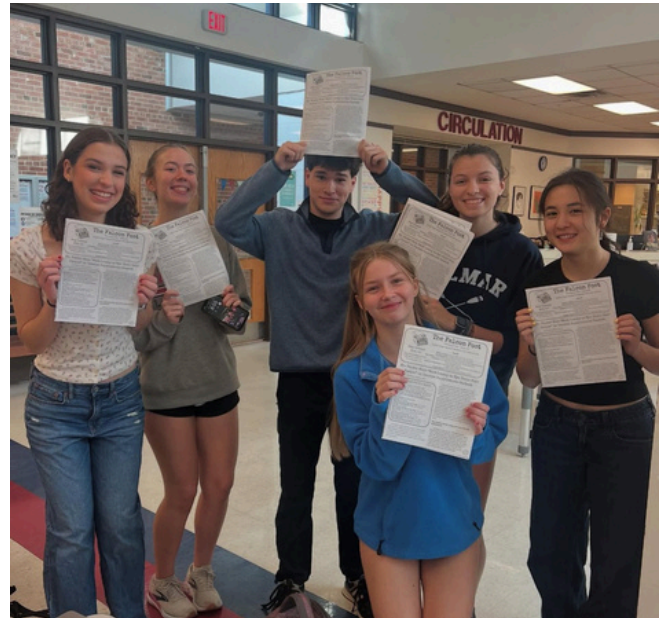
Falcon Post Logo Contest

Hey! You! Are you interested in having your art be the face of your school newspaper? Do you want a little pocket cash? Well, look no further! Submit an original illustration to the Falcon Post Logo Contest! Do not be afraid to be creative and unique! The selected

design will be featured in Falcon Post media and materials. The winning artist will receive a cash prize of \$20 and recognition in the paper. All entries are due September 19. Email entries to falconpostjhs@gmail.com Good luck drawing!



Join Falcon Post 2025-2026



Photos from distribution days during the 2024-2025 school year

We want you in Falcon Post this year! Our first meeting will be on September 3rd in room 401 at 8:30. Anyone who is interested in joining can come to learn more about the club and how to get involved.

This year, we are also hoping to start a column in which Jordan students can ask us any questions they

want answered. Keep an eye out on our Instagram [@falconpostjhs](https://www.instagram.com/falconpostjhs) for places to ask questions and feel free to email falconpostjhs@gmail.com with any questions as well.

Please scan the QR code to the right to visit our website and find past articles and articles that will be posted throughout the year.

