



The Falcon Post

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Jordan High School's student-run news source

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A Note from the Editors

Dear reader,

We hope everyone is settling in well as the first month of 2025 comes to a close and the start of the second semester kicks off! Although January has been filled with exams and snowy weather, Falcon Post is still ready to deliver you news and updates this month!

And we have a very exciting announcement – our website, where you can access all of our articles online, is now available at falconpostjhs.com!! We sincerely hope you'll check it out and admire our shorter URL.

All the best,
Ainsley, Curtis, Phoebe, and Ruby



Enjoy our website's new URL using this QR code!

School News

Say Goodbye to PowerSchool by Curtis Berzofsky, junior

Next school year, all Durham Public Schools will begin using Infinite Campus instead of PowerSchool. This is the result of an NC State Board of Education vote on November 2, 2023, which awarded a new contract to Infinite Campus to power the North Carolina Student Information System. All school districts and charter schools in North Carolina will complete the transition to Infinite Campus in July 2025.



Photo from North Penn School District

This decision was made to “bring both efficiency and a new set of modern and powerful tools to the building, classroom, and home to help accelerate personalized learning,” according to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI). The system will be used for student grades, reviewing attendance, viewing assignments or upcoming exams, notifications for school and district announcements, and more.

Major features such as centralized data to tailor instruction for individual student needs, a Progress Monitor to track student progress across standards and identify areas for growth, and integration with Canvas are highlights of the Infinite Campus system.

PowerSchool—the current Student Information System—was implemented in 2012 and first used in 2013. Just days ago, PowerSchool was breached by a hacker, exposing 312,000 North Carolina teachers' Social Security numbers and 910 students' Social Security numbers. NCDPI says all schools in North Carolina that use PowerSchool have been at least somewhat affected.

Infinite Campus has also earned itself the name “Infinite Clicks” among many users due to the user interface being considered clunky and the extensive amount of clicks needed to get through the pages on the system. The layout of Infinite Campus has been considered confusing and nonintuitive. Teachers and parents have found the large amount of clicks needed to be an annoyance when navigating the system.

Sources:

- 1) “Student Information System Modernization,” NCDPI
- 2) “North Carolina, Welcome to Infinite Campus,” Infinite Campus
- 3) “PowerSchool hack exposes 312,000 NC teachers' Social Security numbers,” WRAL

Brown Girl Book Club's First Semester Book: *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi by Emilia Magwene Muñiz, freshman

Rating: 3.7/5 ★★★★★

This semester, Brown Girl Book Club read and discussed *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi. Yaa Gyasi is a Ghanaian American writer who graduated from Stanford University. *Homegoing* was her first book, inspired by a trip to Ghana in 2009 and her second novel, *Transcendent Kingdom*, also features the Ghanaian experience.

Homegoing tells the story of Effia and Esi, two half-sisters born in 18th-century Ghana. Effia is married off to a British enslaver, while Esi is sold into slavery and shipped to America. The novel follows their descendants over 300 years.

At its heart, *Homegoing* explores the theme of family.

Throughout Gyasi's writing, she continuously shows the passing down of familial traditions and generational trauma, the lingering effects of past actions. For example, Effia's descendants experience struggles with identity, power, and more. Through the various viewpoints of the connected characters Gyasi weaves, the audience receives a full scope of how significant those kinship ties are both in the context of this book and our own reality.



Photo from Instagram @jhsbrowngirlbookclub

Homegoing is an inspiring narrative that dives deep into the history and legacy of slavery, showing the resilience and strength of the characters across generations. The interconnected stories of the two half-sisters and their descendants highlight the enduring impact of history on personal identity and family.

Homegoing is historical fiction that covers a variety of topics and subjects, which allows for a wide range of potentially interested readers from subjects like historical fiction, post-colonialism, or the African diaspora. The structure of the novel, with alternating chapters spanning seven generations and multiple perspectives, is interesting and compelling. However, the fragmented format can also make it challenging to keep track of familial relations and some chapters may feel brief or incomplete, leaving the reader to piece together the larger story.

Join Brown Girl Book Club on Friday mornings in room 404. Find out more @jhsbrowngirlbookclub.

Sports

2025 College Gymnastics

by Eloise Schultz, freshman

As we are reaching the middle of the winter season, 2025 NCAA gymnastics has begun. Many teams have risen and fallen throughout the season, even at the beginning. Oklahoma has already reclaimed its dominance in the sport, while LSU is proving that they belong at the top of this league even after losing their best gymnast, Haleigh Bryant. LSU, the reigning champs, are not disappointing anyone. They took an easy win in their season opener over Iowa State on January 3rd. Even with LSU's amazing start to the season, Oklahoma is still set to be the reigning champions for the eighth year. Oklahoma is following its best-ever regular season in NCAA women's gymnastic history by stats, and they are off to a hot start this season. Don't worry though because you are going to see Oklahoma up against LSU and UCLA – we will soon find out who will come on top!



Oklahoma's Women's Gymnastics Team, photo from soonersports.com

Falcon Score Report

Varsity M Basketball:

75-48 W @ East Chapel Hill
57-51 W @ Riverside
74-69 W vs Ravenscroft
69-56 W vs Hillside

Varsity W Basketball:

55-22 W @ East Chapel Hill
58-18 W @ Riverside
68-35 W @ Durham Academy
54-26 W vs Hillside

JV M Basketball:

57-51 W vs East Chapel Hill
59-39 W @ Riverside
70-50 W vs Eastern Guilford
57-49 W vs Hillside

JV W Basketball:

49-27 L vs Cardinal Gibbons
37-23 L vs Durham Academy

Indoor Track and Field:

Walter Bass Invitational Top 10 finishes by Kaitlyn Kinch, Nia Anderson, Zinnia Greiner, Sanjia Allen, Cristina Scott-Ramos, and girls 4x200 meter relay team, along with many other top 50 finishers

M Swimming and Diving:

85.9 - 68.9 L vs Durham Academy and 68.9 - 62.3 W vs Riverside with top scorers Bryce Keaton and Ben DeSimone

76.8 - 64.1 - 27 W vs Riverside and Hillside with top scorers Ryan Sutherland and Jack Humbert

52 - 16 - 14 Diving L vs. East Chapel Hill and Chapel Hill with top scorer Philip Helton

Competed at Mid-Carolina 1A/2A Conference Championships after DAC VI cancellation

W Swimming and Diving:

68 - 66.2 - 46.5 W vs Riverside and Hillside with top scorers Sophie Thornburg and Mackenzie Collins
81.1 - 64.7 - 61.6 L vs Riverside and Durham Academy with top scorers Sophie Thornburg and Mackenzie Collins

Competed at Mid-Carolina 1A/2A Conference Championships after DAC VI cancellation

Diving L vs DAC VI conference with top scorer Izzy Kuehner

Wrestling:

55-24 W vs. Northern

Top 2 Finish at Buccaneer Cup with 1st place finishes from Fares Alkurdasi, Yasser Samara, Ser Moo, and Jacob Maynor

Next Week's Matchups:

1/30 - 1/31 NCHSAA 4A Central Regionals for Swimming and Diving

1/30 Indoor Track and Field DAC VI Conference Meet

1/31 Varsity Basketball @ Chapel Hill

1/31 JV Basketball vs Chapel Hill

2/1 Indoor Track and Field East Chapel Hill Polar Bear

2/1 Wrestling 1st and 2nd Round State Duals



Photo by @noahdillonphotography

World/US News

Jimmy Carter Passes Away, Aged 100

by Chloe Boyer, freshman



Photo from Wikipedia

Flags around the country are being flown at half-staff in honor of Jimmy Carter, the 39th President of the United States, who passed away on December 29th. An outpouring of support for the late President and his work towards justice and peace followed the news of his passing, and his contributions to our country and the world will not be forgotten.

Carter was born in Plains, Georgia on October 1, 1924, attending Georgia Southwestern College and later the Georgia Institute of Technology. After graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, he married Rosalynn Smith and served in the Navy for seven years. He resigned when his father died in 1953 so that he could return to his family's peanut farm in Georgia.

He was elected to the Georgia Senate in 1962 and 1964, unsuccessfully ran for governor in 1966, and won on his second attempt in 1970. As Georgia's governor, he declared that "the time for racial discrimination is over," opening up government offices to people of color and women. His term as governor drew national attention because of this, and nearing its close in 1974, Carter announced his campaign for Democratic Presidential nominee.

Carter's diligent campaign for President eventually garnered broad support, as he was seen as a man of principle who could restore America's faith in the government following the Watergate scandal. Carter's choice for running mate was Minnesota Senator Walter F.

Mondale, and the two defeated Gerald R. Ford and Bob Dole for the Presidency in 1976.

As President, Carter tried to informalize the role by way of his dress, speech, and press conferences. Though he had a wide range of goals for reform in many areas, he had difficulty seeing them to reality due to a lack of support from Congress, which eroded much of his popularity. Two scandals, involving a close friend and cabinet member as well as his brother, also diminished the people's trust in him.

Carter's foreign policy, however, was praised for its support of human rights. He made treaties over the Panama Canal to keep relations peaceful and neutral, fostered negotiations between Israel and Egypt to end the war between them, established relations with China, and attempted to form a treaty over weapons with the Soviet Union, though this was withdrawn. Unfortunately, these successes were overshadowed by other issues, such as the Iranian Hostage Crisis, inflation, unemployment, and his proposed solution to the energy crisis, which was hindered by the Three Mile Island meltdown in 1979.

He ran for reelection in 1980, but was defeated for the presidency by Ronald Reagan. After his term, he and his wife returned to Georgia. There, they established the Carter Presidential Center, a library and museum. Carter continued to serve as a diplomat, resolving conflicts in Panama, Nicaragua, Ethiopia, Haiti, and North Korea. He also built homes through Habitat For Humanity, restoring a good public image following a rocky Presidency. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002, and continued work as an author for many more years after that. His passing on December 29, 2024, at the age of 100, makes him the oldest former U.S. president ever, and the legacy he left behind is certainly fitting of that distinction.



All five living presidents were in attendance at Carter's funeral, photo from CBS News

2025 TikTok Ban: What to Expect and Understand About the Ban

by Katie Taylor, freshman

TikTok, a social media platform used by over 170 million Americans, designed for content creators to create, share, and publish videos to their audiences, faced a ban over the weekend of January 19th. American TikTok users were unable to access the app once the ban was put into motion on Saturday evening. However, the ban unexpectedly lasted for only 14 hours.

The TikTok ban has been brought to light in the past few weeks, but it's been a long time coming for this ban to be put into place. Starting back in February of 2019, just 3 years after the app was created, TikTok was faced with its first lawsuit regarding the collection of data from US citizens. Since then, TikTok has faced more lawsuits and has been brought to public attention as a national security risk due to it being run by ByteDance, a Chinese-owned company. Many politicians believe that TikTok could give China the ability to steal and use Americans' data, and could threaten US national security.



Photo from amazon.com

In March of 2024, former President Biden signed a law stating that TikTok's owners, ByteDance, must sell the app to a US-approved buyer within nine months, and if they fail to do so, TikTok would be banned. However, in 2025, current President Trump gave ByteDance a 75-day extension, enabling them to keep TikTok running in the United States.

During his first term as president, Trump backed the ban on TikTok, making the same argument towards protecting national security. Then, while running for office in late 2024, the President began to oppose the ban on TikTok. The most likely reason for Trump ending up wanting to save TikTok would be to gain support, which would be helpful to his campaign for office.

Bill Bishop, a China expert who has been closely following the exchanges between Trump and TikTok, told AP News that, "If the ban ends up being enforced, Trump will say it was on outgoing President Joe Biden's watch... And if it does come back then Trump is a savior."

According to NPR, the day after the ban was enforced, "Donald Trump issued a statement vowing to pause the law and said he would extend a liability shield to tech companies that support TikTok, as the app's future is worked out by his incoming administration." This statement effectively brought TikTok back to all American users.

The ban is unlikely to happen during Trump's 4 year term as President, because of his efforts to keep TikTok accessible to all Americans, although TikTok is currently not available on the App Store, and there are still many efforts being made to "re-ban" TikTok. Only the future will show what will happen to TikTok, but as of now, if you currently have the app on your phone, you are still able to access its content.

Sources:

- 1) "Trump's evolution on TikTok: From backing a ban to being hailed as a savior," AP News
- 2) "The US TikTok ban - a full timeline," Tom's Guide
- 3) "TikTok is back online in the U.S., following Trump's promise to pause the ban," NPR
- 4) "What to know as TikTok resumes service following Trump's statement on delaying the ban," NBC News
- 5) "The Supreme Court upheld the TikTok ban. Here's what happens now," Los Angeles Times

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The 2025 Presidential Inauguration

by Penelope Saarela, sophomore



Photo from CNN

On January 20, 2025, Donald J. Trump, the 45th President of the United States of America, was sworn into office for his second term, the first being from 2017 - 2021. President Trump stated in his inauguration speech that his presidency would mark the start of a "golden age" in the U.S., and would allow America to grow on the global stage.

Some key points and statements to know from the President's inauguration speech:

- The elimination of mandates for the production of electric vehicles, allowing people to "buy the car of [their] choice."
- A promise to impose tariffs on international imports, to help America's "prosperity." He also stated the amount of revenue from these tariffs would allow for the creation of a new agency, the External Revenue Service, to aid with the money produced.
- Reiteration of his belief that the 2020 election was rigged. President Trump also stated that he believed the Democratic party tried to rig the 2024 election.
- An announcement that he intended to pardon those incarcerated for the January 6th attack on the capitol.
- Criticizing former President Biden's administration and denounced the former president's ability to "protect the American people."
- A desire to continue upon his campaign by facilitating mass deportations and halting immigration over the southern border.
- An intention to plant an American flag on Mars by January 20, 2029, his last day in office. He did not elaborate on the specifics of this endeavor.

Sources:

- 1) "4 takeaways from Trump's second inaugural address," NPR
- 2) "Trump's Proposed Tariff Agency Raises Questions, and Confusion, for Experts," The New York Times

Quarter 3 Dates to Remember

- Feb 10 - WorkKeys Testing
- Feb 14 - Early Release
- Feb 17 - Teacher Workday
- March 10 - Teacher Workday
- March 11 - ACT (required for all juniors)
- March 28 - End of Quarter 3
- Week of March 31 - Spring Break

Arts

Big Fish Coming Soon

Make sure to mark your calendars for Jordan Theatre's upcoming spring musical! Big Fish will be on stage the last two weekends of March. You won't want to miss it!

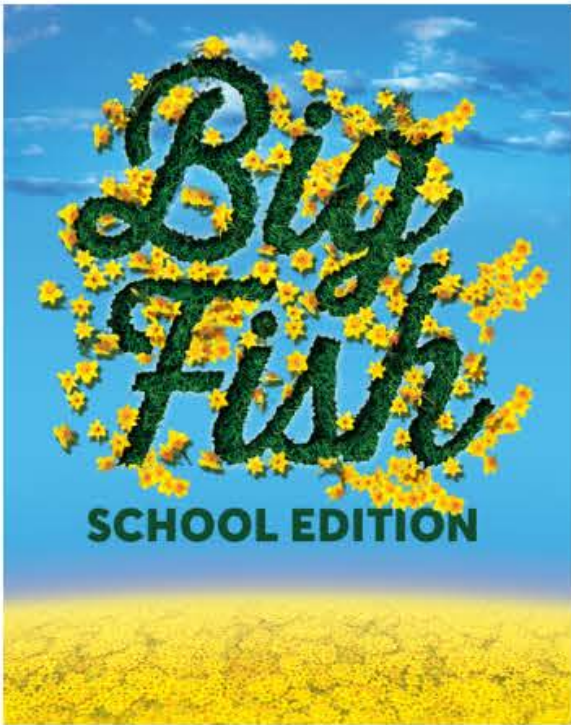


Photo from the Theatrical Rights Worldwide website

Games

Winter Weather Word Search

S E A W U F Y X X W R G S V O
 F N P U R B A K J D I V N V W
 A U O A Q E U M U V X N E T J
 C O C W G N I D D E L S T F T
 N S C I F T Y K L B O H T E H
 B P W O V L J L J L O X I I R
 L Q J F C Y A E D I L M M V S
 S N O W M A N K K Z G Q F L T
 Q T M F K T U X E Z I E E J S
 T O B O G G A N L A B E D Z J
 L T Q O A F R P Z R T X C L E
 T M R W J N Y Z U D E V P I B
 I P U W F R J A X P X U U I C
 R N Y Q F S R E B M E C E D W
 U R T B U Y X L O A P Q M U Y

Blizzard Igloo Sleet
 Cocoa January Snowflake
 December Mittens Snowman
 February Scarf Toboggan
 Ice Sledding Winter

Sudoku

Easy

				7			6
	7						3
					4		
	9	5			3		
1	6			4			
			8		1	4	
9			2		1		7
	3			6	9		
		2		9	8	5	

Moderate

	8			3	6			
	2	4	8					7
			7					
				4				
			2			7		8
9							1	4
	4	6			9			
	5	7	3					6
		9		5				

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Teacher Superlatives



Which teacher has the best classroom? Who makes the most sarcastic remarks to their students? Find out what your classmates think by voting for these teacher superlatives, and many more!

Fill out this quick form by writing in teachers' names with the superlative that you think matches them. Winners will be announced soon after -- with some exclusive teacher interviews!