VOLUME 28 | SUMMER 2025

the falconer

Fairhill School News, Information and Events

SINCE 1971

From the Executive Director

The school year began with the assurance that we would complete our construction project. Although construction stretched to the very end of the school year, we are finally able to enjoy normal operations and a beautiful entry into the school. The renovation of the building provides the backdrop for us to fulfill our vision of providing a school community dedicated to educating, engaging, and inspiring students with learning differences; but, it is the joint efforts of the people within this building that make that possible.

School is a collective experience — one that requires the hands, hearts and minds of many people working in harmony. It is inspiring to work with a team of people that bring the vision of Fairhill School to life. This team is made up of educators, parents, support staff, Board members, and of course, students. Every aspect of providing a positive school experience is the result of team effort and I am grateful for this incredible group of people that came together to make the 2024-2025 school year successful.

As always, this newsletter provides an overview of the year. Within these pages you will read of important milestones, accomplishments, and contributions. You will see the important work that is at hand in educating our students. As we are reflecting on these important events, we are actively planning for the year to come. Faculty leaders are revising and revamping curriculum, administrators are developing programs and initiatives to ensure every student is known and supported, and the advancement team is working toward increasing our visibility in the greater community.

One key initiative will include opportunities for school professionals to engage with parents, promoting a strong partnership between home and school. This initiative is slated to include grade level coffees, brown bag lunches, learning opportunities, and guest speakers. Look for information in future communications about Fairhill Parent University, where we will all collaborate and partner to support every student at every stage of development.

Another key initiative is the relaunching of our testing center. By November, we are anticipating the opening of the testing center to offer testing services to our current families and to the greater community. With an on-site testing center, families and faculty will have access to an expert consultant when questions arise about educational diagnostic testing, data interpretations, or testing recommendations. When students need updated testing for a variety of reasons, testing administration will be readily available and results will be provided in a timely manner. This is an exciting addition to our available school services and will benefit the entire school community and beyond.



Executive Director, Carla Stanford, M.Ed.

We are looking forward to the future of Fairhill and our continued partnership with each of you. Wishing all a relaxing and joyful summer!

The Fairhill Fund – "We Love Fairhill" Campaign Launches September 18, 2025: North Texas Giving Day

We love Fairhill School because it offers so much more than an education, it offers a path to success tailored to each student's unique journey. Fairhill empowers students to embrace their potential and celebrate their strengths.

What makes Fairhill special:

- **Individualized Attention: Personalized instruction designed for each student's needs.**
- **Specialized Teaching: Educators trained to support diverse learning styles.**
- **Supportive Environment: A community that fosters confidence, safety, and belonging.**
- **Innovative Resources: Tools and programs that enhance learning.**
- **Whole-Child Focus: A commitment to academic, social, and emotional growth.**

Nancy and David Ganucheau, 2025-2026 Annual Fund Chairs, share their own family experience as proof. "After years of searching for the right school for two of our children, we found Fairhill. From the moment we toured the school, we felt warmth and support. Since then, both of our children, Zachary, and Natalie, have grown in confidence and discovered new talents. Zachary found a passion for literature and theater, while Natalie thrived in athletics and photography, even earning recognition at the state level. We only wish we had discovered Fairhill sooner. It is a hidden gem in DFW, preparing children for college and beyond. You will hear more from us in August/September; however, for now, please mark your calendar and make your gift on September 18, 2025, during North Texas Giving Day."

Together, we can make a difference.
Give now or schedule your donation:
bit.ly/3rSZQRN
northtexasgivingday.org/fairhill-school

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CAPITAL FUND DONATIONS

Transformational Leaders ($1,500,000 - $250,000+)

W. K. Gordon III Estate
Fleeger Family Foundation / Mr. and Mrs. Matt Fleeger
Charles R. Lathem / The Lathem Family Foundation- In Memory of Louise Lathem
The Ginger Murchison Foundation

Leadership Donors ($100,000 - $249,999)

Aum Ventures Foundation / Lonestar Neurology / Dr. Maushmi and Mr. Nilay Sheth
Anonymous / Fidelity Charitable
Mr. and Mrs. John Dziminski / The Rosewood Foundation - Matched Gift
Dr. and Mrs. Henry Edwards / Texas Instruments Foundation - Matched Gift
Hillcrest Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Co-Trustee

Significant Donors ($50,000 - $99,999)

Michael and Loree Westbrooks Giving Fund, a Donor Advised Fund of Renaissance Charitable Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Zorn

Blue and Gold Supporters ($25,000 - $49,999)

Mr. Bill Bell and Ms. Jane Sego
Mr. and Mrs. Lee Burton / Sammons Corporation and SitePro Rentals, Inc. Matched Gifts
Dr. Caroline and Mr. Jason Ford
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Davis
Mr. and Mrs. Chase Graham / Givinga Foundation (Sanofi) and GlaxoSmithKline Foundation Matched Gifts
Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Sokolash
Mrs. Lisa Whisler
William and Sylvia Zale Foundation

Soaring Falcon Supporters (up to $24,999)

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Alford
Mr. Arthur Anderson and Ms. Katherine Baxter
Mr. and Mrs. Brad Badura
Mr. and Mrs. Rod and Elizabeth Baltzer / Renaissance Charitable Foundation / Franklin Charitable Giving Program
Mr. and Mrs. Ken Bartley in Memory of Lindsay Jane Bartley
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Carrell
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Chandler
Mr. and Mrs. Eli Columbus
Ms. Kathy Daley
Mr. and Mrs. John Paul Font
Mr. Max Golman
Mr. and Mrs. Josh Goodell
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hardcastle
Dr. Cathy Hernandez and Mr. Steve Herod
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hsu
Mr. and Mrs. Carter Keith
Mr. and Mrs. Neil Lange
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Lewis
Luther King Capital Management
Lyda Hill Philanthropies
Mr. and Mrs. Kenny McKay
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Murchison
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Norby
Ms. Elizabeth Phifer
Mr. and Mrs. John Rickerby
Mr. and Mrs. Murray Rose
Mr. and Mrs. AJ Rassi / Renaissance Charitable Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Sandgarten
Mr. and Mrs. Terry Schleski
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Schwab
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sokolash
Mr. and Mrs. David Stanford
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Stern
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Trotta
Ms. Jo Tuck
Mr. and Mrs. Don Wendell
Westbrooks Family Charitable Fund, a Donor Advised Fund of Renaissance Charitable Foundation / Mr. and Mrs. James Westbrooks
Drs. Phillip and Mary Whitaker
Mr. and Mrs. Tim Whisler, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Wolf
M.B. & Edna Zale Foundation

Celebrating a Milestone — Building for the Future



SECURING OUR FUTURE
A Fairhill School Campaign

Thanks to your incredible generosity, our *Securing Our Future Campaign* is coming to a close—and with it, the transformation of Fairhill School's campus is now complete. Together, we raised $3,210,519, or 92% of our initial fundraising goal, an extraordinary achievement that is already making a lasting difference for our students and community.

Because of your support, our campus has undergone remarkable changes:

- A new welcome center / front reception area with up-to-date security technology ensures our students and staff are safe and secure.
- Classroom and community space upgrades—including lighting, flooring, paint, and technology—create a welcoming environment for learning and collaboration.
- A state-of-the-art HVAC system enhances air quality and energy efficiency.
- A refreshed exterior and signage elevate our visibility and highlight our commitment to excellence.
- The Diagnostic Assessment Center now sits at the heart of the school and will provide vital resources for our students and the North Texas community, in the coming months.
- A brand-new black box theater offers flexible space for fine arts, student performances, and community gatherings.

We are excited to host a special celebration to honor this achievement, share what is next, and express our deepest gratitude to all who made this possible in the fall. More information will be coming soon.

As we look ahead, our focus shifts to ensuring the long-term sustainability of these improvements through an Endowment Campaign for the Building, Scholarship, and Discretionary Endowment funds.

With increased endowment funding, Fairhill will be able to:

- Preserve our highly qualified full-time staff of educators, psychologists, and specialized professionals.
- Grow our ability to provide financial aid to families in need.
- Maintain our campus and facilities into the future.

We invite you to continue building with us—investing not just in bricks and mortar, but in legacy, stability, and the enduring mission of Fairhill School. Every donation will make a meaningful impact while offering potential tax benefits.

If you would like to make a campaign pledge/donation, visit: **www.fairhill.org/support_fairhill/capital-campaign/**. If you have any questions, please reach out to Deann Badura in our Development Office at dbadura@fairhill.org.

Thank you once again for your incredible support of Fairhill School. Together, we are building a future where every student can reach their full potential.





FAIRHILL SCHOOL
ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

Fairhill hosted a successful golf event on a beautiful afternoon on October 7, 2024, at Twin Creeks Golf Course in Allen, Texas. Over fifty golfers attended the scramble event, which kicked off shortly after lunch. The tournament began with a putting contest for both junior and adult divisions. There were several hole-in-one opportunities, and an exciting new game called "Advance to the Hole" with golf pro Cody Anderson.

Golfers also had the chance to purchase raffle tickets for various items, including Dallas Stars tickets, donated by Steve and Macey Davis, Top Golf, Café Gecko, golf for four provided by Twin Creeks and other gift cards to several local restaurants.

Chairperson, John Newton expressed his gratitude, saying, "This event would not be successful if not for our corporate support along with tournament players and raffle sponsors. We are looking forward to next year's tournament; so, come join the fun either as a player or volunteer on October 27, 2025, chaired by April and Cody Anderson.

For more information go to fairhillgolfclassic.com.









A Night to Remember: Fairhill School's Mardi Gras Gala & Auction Raises Over $100,000



Fairhill School is overjoyed to share the tremendous success of the 2025 Mardi Gras Gala & Auction, presented by the unwavering support of The Fleeger Family Foundation. This unforgettable night was a true celebration of community, generosity, and commitment to our mission of supporting students with learning differences. Thanks to the incredible generosity of sponsors, donors, and attendees, we are proud to announce that we raised over $100,000 to directly benefit Fairhill students.

The evening was truly a feast for the senses. Guests were welcomed into a venue transformed into the heart of New Orleans, complete with vibrant hues of purple, green, and gold. Beads, ornate masks, and lively music filled the space, creating an atmosphere of festivity and excitement. Throughout the night, guests mingled, danced, and eagerly participated in both silent and live auctions, bidding on unique and unforgettable experiences donated by our incredible supporters.

The true highlight of the night was the overwhelming support from the Fairhill community. Parents, alumni, staff, and friends came together, not only to celebrate but to champion a cause that means so much. Every dollar raised helps us empower students with learning differences by providing them with the resources and opportunities they need to succeed.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all our sponsors, donors, volunteers, and attendees—thank you for making this gala an extraordinary success. Your support helps Fairhill continue to be a place where every student can shine.

If you would like to get involved, reach out to Deann Badura, dbadura@fairhill.org.





Parent Council Update



As we close out this wonderful school year, Parent Council would like to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who made this year such a success. From the executive board—Vice President Brooke Tucker, Treasurer Andrea Sanders, Secretary Jacque Lake, and Fundraising Chair Macey Davis—to our outstanding committee leads, John Newton for the Golf Classic and Lauren and Ben Fine for the Annual Fund Campaign, Emily Paul, Teacher Appreciation, your dedication has truly made a difference.

Thanks to your efforts, we hosted memorable events—from welcome breakfasts and teacher lunches to record-breaking fundraisers like the Golf Classic and the Mardi Gras Gala and Auction—raising over $110,000 to support our school community.

As a small school, one of our greatest strengths is the way our community consistently steps up to lend a hand when needed. Our volunteers enable our school to grow and thrive, and we are incredibly grateful for each of you. Looking ahead, we are excited to announce that Clay Bonner will serve as Parent Council President for the upcoming 2025-26 school year.

Over the summer, you'll receive information on ways you can volunteer your time and talents to support our Small School / Big Experience. We hope you'll consider getting involved—it's a wonderful way to make a meaningful impact on our students and school community.

We look forward to an incredible year ahead!

Elyse Rose, President 2024-25 School Year

THANK YOU DONORS AND SPONSORS



Donations made through the annual fund, directly enhance the education of Fairhill students. We thank our donors for helping to provide services to students and incremental training to our specialized staff.

2024-2025 ANNUAL FUND

Annual Fund includes donations made through North Texas Giving Day (Communities Foundation), "Giving Tuesday", "Happy New Year" and the "Love Your School" campaigns.

Founders' Society
$3,000 and above

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Conatser
Mr. Bill Bell and Mrs. Jane Sego
Mrs. Stephanie Sick
Mr. and Mrs. Matt Fleeger

Chairman's Circle
$1,000-$2,999

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Corey Elzner
Mr. and Mrs. Russell Ferraro
Dr. and Mrs. Ezekiel Fink
Mr. and Mrs. David Ganucheau
Dr. Cathy Hernandez and Mr. Steve Herod
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Kirkley/Raytheon Technologies Corporation Matched Gift
Mr. and Mrs. Jordan Mauriello
Mr. and Mrs. Josh Rothstein

Falcon Club
$500-$999

Dr. Kerry Carder
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Collins
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Davis
Mr. and Mrs. Ben Fine/ McKesson Matched Gift
Mr. and Mrs. Neil Lange
Mr. Charles Lathem
Mr. Fernando Martinez and Ms. Suley Castillo
Dr. and Mrs. Ashish Monga
Mr. and Mrs. William Peirson, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Blake Stall
Mr. and Mrs. David Stanford
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Wissing

Blue & Gold Sponsor
$300-$499

Mr. and Mrs. Brad Badura
Mr. and Mrs. Eli Columbus
Dr. and Mrs. Henry Edwards
Mr. and Mrs. Rob Hilts
Mr. Ron Jones and Mrs. Kelly Langford Jones
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Norby
Mr. and Mrs. Morgan Van Liew
Mr. and Mrs. Tim Whisler, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. Tim Whisler, Jr.

Friend of Fairhill
Up to $299

Mr. and Mrs. Dirk Anderson/Texas Instruments Matched Gift
Mr. Richard Averbach
Ms. Nancy Benold
Mr. and Mrs. Jordan Benold
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bigham
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Billingsley
Mr. and Mrs. Clay Bonner
Mr. and Mrs. Jon Buchanan
Mr. and Mrs. Lee Burton
Ms. Dinah Chesson
Mr. and Mrs. Jeremy Cheung
Ms. Kathy Daley
Mr. and Mrs. Kirk Dallas
Mr. and Mrs. Tim Davila
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Day
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas DeAndrea
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Dixon
Mr. and Mrs. Brandon Dragisic
Mrs. Andrea Eisenstein Ogorek
Ms. Meredith Embry and Mr. Jason Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Mart Finnell
Mr. Daniel Fisherman
Mr. and Mrs. William Fiveash
Mr. and Mrs. Blake Frieden
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Ms. Tracey Horton
Mr. and Mrs. Doug Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Randy Kramen
Ms. Kasey Leal
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Mr. Mario Lopez and Ms. Enna Avilan
Ms. Jenny Lopez-Rogina
Mr. and Mrs. John Luna
Mr. and Mrs. Brad Luna
Mr. Vivek Maheshwari and Ms. Melanie Williams
Mr. David Mathews
Mr. and Mrs. Greg McCandless
Mr. and Mrs. Shawn McGhee
Dr. Nathaniel Means
Dr. and Mrs. Mark Mlcak
Mr. and Mrs. Jason Nash/ Microsoft Matched Gift
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Paul
Mr. Shinu Punnoose and Mrs. Romy Abraham
Ms. Cynthia Raspberry
Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Robertson
Ms. Mindy Rudisill
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Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Sanders
Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Schreiber
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Schwab
Mr. David Souther
Ms. Britt Stanley
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Stathatos
Mr. and Mrs. John St. Wrba
Mr. and Mrs. John Traweek
Ms. Marilyn Tucker
Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Tucker
Mrs. Kathy Vanciel
Ms. Caroline White
Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Whitfield
Mr. and Mrs. P. Christian Wolf
Mr. Gorkem Uzunlar
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Zorn

Restricted Gifts

Journalism Department
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Sickler / The Sickler Award for Journalism

Golf Tournament Donors

Platinum Sponsor
The Young Family
The Newton Family

Gold Sponsors
WDW Financial; Techscape Landscape; Macey and Steve Davis (for Fulton); Max Golman (Class of 1993)

Silver Sponsors
Kirkley Realty Group; Groove Tango; Andrea and JD Sanders
Top Golf; Canteen; Benold Financial Planning; Arcis Golf / Twin Creeks Golf Club

Meal Sponsor
Lonestar Neurology

Water Sponsor
The Scheiber Family

Advance the Tee with Cody Anderson sponsored by April and Cody Anderson

Tee Box Sponsors
NDBT; Blue Science Pools; Haiman Hogue; The Wissing Family; Café Gecko; The Dziminski Family

Family Hole Sponsors
The Ganucheau Family; The Tucker Family

Special thanks to all the players and volunteers: Elizabeth Phifer, Clay Bonner, Rebecca Harsila, Jacque Lake, and Nick Lange.

2025 Gala Sponsors

Presenting Sponsor
The Fleeger Family Foundation – Candee and Matt Fleeger

Crown Jewel Sponsors
Anonymous

Cheryl and Jerry Conatser / Jennifer and Max Hendrix

Jay Young (Lone Star Diamond Academy)

Nancy and David Ganucheau (Barrow Hanley)

Regal Sponsors:

Jessica and Jordan Benold (Benold Financial Planning)

Macey and Steve Davis

Katie and John Dziminski

Kannan and Pavithra Soundarapandia

Live Auction Highlights:
Our live auction was a showstopper, featuring a collection of unique and luxurious experiences generously donated by some of our most devoted partners:

Southwest Airlines (Cole McGuire, Melissa DeJesus, Brian Prelesnik)

Marriott Hotels (Nadine and Kevin Schwab)

Gunter Goldendoodles (Andra and Ralph Williams / Natalie and Josh Reichert)

Suzan Kedron & Macey and Steve Davis

Robin and Craig Unterberg

Chef Jeffrey Kollinger (Spice of Life Catering)

Samantha Lekkas (Gem Voyage Shop)

Community Partner Programs

Let Your Purchases Support Fairhill!

Register for one or more of the following programs!

Tom Thumb/Albertson's Good Neighbor Program
Kroger's Community Rewards
Shopraise.com/for/fairhill

Fairhill Senior Ellie James Named ILPC Yearbook Editor of the Year



Fairhill School proudly announces that senior Ellie James has been named Yearbook Editor of the Year by the Interscholastic League Press Conference (ILPC). Selected from over 200 applicants across all UIL divisions (1A–6A), Ellie, Editor-in-Chief of the Fairhill Yearbook, was recognized for her outstanding leadership, creativity, and journalistic excellence.

In addition to this prestigious honor, Ellie was also named the 2025 recipient of the Sickler Award for Journalism named in memory of Stuart Sickler, Class of 2013.

Known for her passion and dedication, Ellie has helped transform Fairhill's yearbook program. She also served as Vice President of Student Council, co-founded the Student Social Services Volunteer Club, and is a member of all seven honor societies offered at Fairhill.

Fairhill celebrates Ellie's achievements and the legacy she leaves as a storyteller, leader, and changemaker.

FAIRHILL SCHOOL

MISSION STATEMENT

Fairhill School is a community of dedicated, caring, and experienced educators that empowers students who have learning differences. The student-centered curriculum focuses on differentiation, multi-sensory experiences, executive function development, and intervention for individualized learning needs. Fairhill fosters students' unique potential while guiding them on their journey toward becoming confident 21st century citizens.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Dziminski, Chairman

Leslie Zale Greco, Vice-Chairman

Cindy Rickerby, Treasurer

Elizabeth Phifer, Secretary

Max Golman

Neil Lange

Jane Sego

Carla Stanford

Lisa Whisler

ADMINISTRATION

Carla Stanford, Executive Director

Tony Moreno, Head of School

Ashli Cheung, Assistant Head of School

Caroline Ford, Ph.D., Director of Diagnostic Assessment Center

ADVANCEMENT

Deann Badura, Director of Development, Public Relations, and Alumni Relations

Susan B. Stern, Director of Admissions and Outreach

16150 Preston Road | Dallas, Texas 75248
Phone 972.233.1026 | Fax 972.233.8205
fairhill.org

A Tribute to Jim Toner: A Lasting Legacy

by Max Golman, Class of 1993 and Fairhill Board Member

They say, "Anyone who is anybody had somebody help them get there." In my case, that somebody was Jim Toner who taught at Fairhill from 1982 until he retired in 1998. When I started seventh grade at Fairhill, my executive functioning skills were, to put it mildly, underdeveloped. I was more focused on clowning around than learning. Homework, when I completed it, often disappeared into the chaos of my tote bag—a jumble of Doritos crumbs, unfiled schoolwork, and outdated assignments. My determination to have fun in class frequently landed me in the principal's office for disruptive behavior.

Jim Toner, however, saw potential where others saw chaos. He believed the best way to predict the future was to create it. Taking a genuine interest in me, he channeled my energy and equipped me with organizational tools I still use today. One of his key lessons was, "Anything worth doing is worth doing right now." He taught me to file completed assignments immediately in the correct tab of a class-specific binder. While I no longer carry a physical binder, my computer and iPad files remain meticulously organized—a direct result of Mr. Toner's guidance.



The saying, "Even a long life ends soon, but a good name endures forever," reminds me of Jim Toner. Though he is no longer with us, his legacy endures through everyone fortunate enough to have known him. He transformed every moment into a teachable one, leaving a lasting impact. To honor his contributions, I am thrilled to announce the unveiling of a street sign at Fairhill's entrance named after Jim Toner. Additionally, we are launching the "Jim Toner Continued Education Scholarship," to be awarded annually to a Fairhill graduating senior. The dedication ceremony on September 20th at 11:30am will bring together Jim's daughters, grandchildren, former students, and faculty to share cherished stories and lessons from his remarkable life.

Jim Toner's influence lives on, inspiring us to create our own futures with purpose and organization, just as he taught me.



If you are interested in attending the ceremony, sharing a story or making a contribution to the Jim Toner Scholarship fund please reach out to Max Golman, maxhgolman@gmail.com.

Behind the Curtain: The Fairhill Black Box Theatre Experiences

Tucked into a quiet corner of campus, Fairhill's Black Box Theatre has already become a cornerstone of creativity and connection. As part of the Securing Our Future campaign, this flexible, state-of-the-art space has become a vibrant home for student expression.

Since opening in fall 2023, the theatre has hosted an array of performances under the leadership of Theatre/Speech teacher Kathy Daley. Highlights include The Fairyland Detective Agency, A Pair of Old Shorts (written by former Theatre/Speech teacher Deni Kington), 14 More Ways to Mess Up Your College Interview, monologue showcases, and Fairhill's first Silent Film Screening. Middle schoolers also took the stage with The King's Creampuffs and shared powerful original works during the beloved Poetry Café.

Other standout performances included Beauty and the Ballot, a suffragette-themed melodrama, and The Energy Bus for Kids, a joyful reader's theater promoting positivity. Spanish students, under the direction of Sra. Lissa Dallas, performed original bilingual plays: Romeo y Julieta – A Prehistoric Tragedy Without Equal and Macbeto – A Monster Mashup which added depth, humor, and cultural richness.



The Black Box has also served as the setting for an inspirational video featuring students performing "For Good" from Wicked, honoring Fairhill teachers. Beyond performances, the space hosts student assemblies, photo sessions, art recognition, honor society inductions, and professional development. Most recently, the theater introduced young performers during Summer @ Fairhill Drama Camp, continuing to inspire creativity and confidence even during the summer months.

The Black Box Theatre stands as one of the most dynamic and beloved spaces on campus—a place where voices are lifted, stories are shared, and the Fairhill spirit shines. Black Box Theatre: A Legacy in the Making!







FAIRHILL SCHOOL ALUMNI UPDATES

Class of 2004

Amanda Carriere is currently living in Garland, Texas.

Class of 2005

Lauren Powell (Stone) earned an A.A. in Interior Design from Brooks College in Long Beach, California in 2007, followed by a B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin in 2012. She spent 12 years in Austin working in the creative industry, where she met her husband, Ben, a documentary filmmaker. Now based in Cleveland, Mississippi, Lauren serves as Executive Director of the Bologna Performing Arts Center at Delta State University. She and her husband, Ben are raising their 7-year-old son, Sonny.

Jessica Szulerowski attended The University of Wollongong and earned BA in English Literature and Media and Cultural Studies. She is living in Kiama, NSW, and would love to visit the states and come back to her Alma Mater, Fairhill.

Class of 2009

Andrew Stribling attended UT Arlington and earned BBA Marketing. He is currently employed by Geico as an Inside Sales Representative.

Sarah Vint earned her bachelor's degree in Accounting from Oklahoma State University and a master's in Accounting from Texas A&M University–Commerce. She now lives in Denver and works as Manager of Consolidations & Reporting at Liberty Global Ltd, where she assists with US GAAP reporting and SEC filings. Over the past year, Sarah traveled for work across Europe—including Zurich, London, Amsterdam, and Belgium, contributed to an IPO project, celebrated her birthday skiing in Whistler, summited her first Fourteener at Quandary Peak, and is planning a trip to Vancouver with her sister, Tina (Class of 2011).

Class of 2011

Erica Dallas graduated from Sam Houston State University in 2017 with a B.A. in History and a minor in Sociology. She lives in Frisco with her fiancé, Nicholas Rhoades, and their three-footed bearded dragon, Cerberus Chimera, and they will be married in March 2026. Erica works at the North Texas Food Bank as a Gift Services Specialist and previously served a life-changing volunteer year with Keep Austin Fed. Erica is also "mom" to her three rescued bulldogs and supports the Lone Star Bulldog Club Rescue.

John Paul McLaughlin graduated from the University of North Texas with a B.S. in Criminal Justice and later completed cybersecurity studies at UT Austin. He currently lives in Portland, Oregon, where he works as an IT Manager, focusing on cybersecurity compliance, incident response, and staff training to protect critical infrastructure. John Paul enjoys life in the Pacific Northwest.

Class of 2012

Michael Martinez attended the University of North Texas and now teaches private music lessons through his own business. A lifelong musician, he found his calling in teaching piano and guitar to students of all ages after discovering that success doesn't always follow a traditional path. He has fond memories of his time at Fairhill and believes the experience helped shape who he is today. Michael lives in Texas with his wife, Morgan, and their daughter, Stella.

Class of 2013

Nicole Spradlin (Wilson) earned her cosmetology license from Ogle School and is married to her high school sweetheart, Daniel. They welcomed their daughter, Lily, in 2020, the same year Nicole successfully opened her own business. A former film extra and haunted house actor, she now rents a booth in a high-end salon while balancing work and motherhood.

Class of 2015

Robby Mitz attended the University of North Texas, where he earned a bachelor's degree in Theatre. He recently completed his first independent film, Stairway, which he wrote, directed, produced, and starred in as the lead character, Robert Mutz. The film is now listed on IMDb and has been released on IMDbPro. He has also acted in several other productions including some of the Taylor Sheridan productions, creator of Yellowstone, 1883, Landman, etc.

Ethan Kohnle attended East Texas Baptist University and Texas A&M Bush School of Public Service and earned Bachelor of Political Science and Master of Public Administration with a Certificate of Homeland Security and National Defense.

Class of 2017

Lauren Badura, earned her education(EC-6) degree from UNT and will be teaching 2nd grade at Leadership Prep Academy in Frisco, Texas. She is living in Addison, Texas.

Jessica Rickerby attended Hendrix College and earned a BA in Human Animal Relations. She is now attending Savannah College of Art and Design majoring in Equine Studies with a minor in Photography. She plans to get her master's in photography. Jessica is a proud mother of Maximus, 22 months. She has been on the SCAD Dean's List Fall 2024, Winter 2025, and Spring 2025.

Nick Lange attended the University of Arkansas / Empower Program and moved back to Dallas last year after 7 wonderful years in Northwest Arkansas. A true Razorback fan and is interested in a career in retail skincare and/or the cosmetics industry.

Hannah Westbrooks graduated from the University of North Texas with a Bachelor of Fine Arts and now works full-time as a tattoo artist at Good Company. She married Parker Sams on June 7, 2025. Parker is a social media manager for the Center for Science in Public Interest.

Class of 2018

Hannah Wagner attended Beacon College and earned BA in human services. She is currently working at Bliss Pet Resort as a Kennel Technician.

Sarah Beskok attended the University of North Texas and earned a Bachelor of Science degree. Sarah Is a Registered Behavioral Therapist with Behavioral Innovations - ABA Therapy for Kids with Autism and she loves her job. She works with individuals who are on the spectrum from 3-12 years of age. During her free time, she loves to go on walks, and enjoys photography.

Rina Harrison attended the University of Texas at Dallas and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree. Rina has recently moved to Fort Collins, CO and works as an Audio-Visual Technician at Colorado State University. While in Texas, Rina became extremely knowledgeable in coffee and enjoys roller skating and spending time with girlfriend, Zayne.



Class of 2019

Nathan Hayes attended Baylor University and earned a degree in Corporate Communications. He is employed by the Aaron Family JCC of Dallas, as a Sports Coordinator. He works primarily with the adult basketball leagues as well as assisting in the youth sports department and summer camp.

Class of 2021

Lizzie Hornok graduated from Dallas Baptist University with a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies in Communications and Biblical Studies, May 2025. She currently lives in Frisco, Texas, and looks forward to what's ahead as she builds on her academic foundation.

Class of 2022

Ella Estevez (Roberts) is currently a preschool teacher and works as a server at Pacific Table. Ella Estevez is married to Brian Estevez, married in Nov. 2022.

Allison Kokal is a rising senior at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where she is pursuing a degree in Plant Biotechnology with a minor in Informatics. She is a member of the James Scholar Honors Program and was awarded a Research Scholarship in May to support her capstone project. This summer, Allison is participating in the CROPPS Programmable Plant Systems REU at Cornell University and the Boyce Thompson Institute. Since June 2024, she has also been conducting research in a lab focused on bacterial diseases affecting pumpkins in Illinois.

Class of 2023

Virginia King recently completed her sophomore year at Texas State University, where she is majoring in Communications with a minor in Journalism. She is actively involved on campus and currently serves as President of the Network of enlightened Women (NeW), an organization dedicated to educating, equipping, and empowering women to become principled leaders in a free society.



Fairhill School's Class of 2025 Graduation: Celebrating a Class of Superheroes and Fearless Futures



On Thursday, May 29th, Fairhill School proudly honored the Class of 2025 in a heartfelt graduation ceremony filled with cheers, gratitude, and celebration. Family, friends, and educators gathered to recognize a class defined by resilience, creativity, and the belief that learning differences are superpowers in disguise.

Senior Class Sponsor, Jennifer Allen, opened the ceremony by highlighting the graduates' unique strengths—humor, compassion, perseverance—and reminded them that these qualities will guide them fearlessly into the future. She introduced Salutatorian, Sadie Darnell, praised for her leadership, energy, and the joy she's brought to Fairhill since first grade. Valedictorian, Ellie James followed, honored for her intelligence, empathy, and steady encouragement of others. In her speech, Ellie reflected on shared memories and thanked those who supported the class through every challenge.

Teachers, Ms. Kathy Daley and Mrs. Lissa Dallas, read personal reflections that celebrated each senior's growth and journey. Commencement Speaker, Coach Brandon Cork inspired the graduates with a powerful message: "Be Fearless." Drawing from his own life experience, he challenged the class to embrace uncertainty and pursue their dreams
with courage.

The ceremony concluded with the awarding of diplomas by Mr. John Dziminski and Mrs. Carla Stanford, and a moving performance of Green Day's "Good Riddance (Time of Your Life)" by Dr. Caroline Ford. With tassels turned and hearts full, the graduates walked into the next chapter of their lives—ready to meet the future as the superheroes they are.

Congratulations, Fairhill Class of 2025! Your fearless journey is just beginning.





Class of 2025

Valedictorian: Ellie James
University of Texas/Austin, Texas
Major: Government

Salutatorian: Sadie Darnell
Austin College/Sherman, Texas
Major: Business/ Management

Luke Brown
Collin College
Major: Automotive Technology

Matthew Dixon
Collin College
Major: Associate of Applied Science/Physical Therapist Assistant

Maddie Fass
College of Charleston/ Charleston, South Carolina
Major: Art and English

Grace Hildebrandt
University of North Texas/ Denton, Texas
Major: Film

Asher Mauriello
Austin College/Sherman, Texas
Major: Psychology

Georgia Newton
Collin College
Major: X-Ray Technician

Ruby Oram
Gap Year

Maddie Prelesnik
Valencia Community College/Orlando, Florida
Major: Art

Kai Schraeder
Abilene Christian/Abilene, Texas
Major: Biology

Nicholas Zorn
Collin College
Major: Animation & Game Design

The Class of 2025 was awarded scholarships totaling more than $348,000.







Final Celebrations for Class of 2025

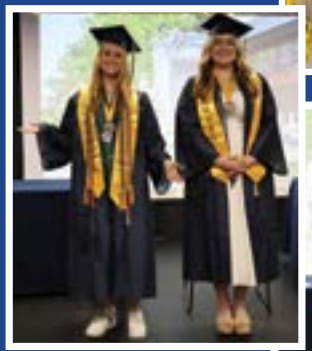
Seniors kicked off their final day on campus in true Falcon style, draping the grounds and classroom hallways in bright yellow construction tape while sporting neon yellow vests that made the entire campus feel like a bustling construction site. How appropriate since the Class of 2025 has spent the last two years of high school with the building "under construction" so it was an easy choice. We celebrated their final days with the opening of the front entrance and with construction complete. The senior class made their final walk through Fairhill to the cheers of students, staff, and parents.

A week later, seniors gathered once more for the Cap and Gown Ceremony—a meaningful milestone recognizing their academic and leadership achievements. Students were honored with cords and stoles representing their involvement in distinguished organizations, including the National Honor Society, International Thespian Society, Spanish Honor Society, National Art Honor Society, Student Council, and for the first time, the newly established Science National Honor Society and Quill and Scroll, a Journalism Honor Society. In addition, Mr. Moreno presented the President's Volunteer Service Award to one deserving student.

Adding a personal and emotional touch to the ceremony, Mrs. Jennifer Allen and Mrs. Lissa Dallas, Senior Class sponsors, read heartfelt letters from their parents—words of pride, love, and encouragement for the road ahead. The event concluded with Head of School, Mr. Tony Moreno announcing the Class of 2025's top academic honors: Valedictorian, Ellie James and Salutatorian, Sadie Darnell.









Student Council Builds Leaders, Inspires Service, and Fosters School Spirit



Student Council (StuCo) fosters leadership, school spirit, and community service by organizing activities and supporting charitable causes throughout the year. Fairhill students—both Middle and High School—participated in a wide range of events on campus and in the community.

High School StuCo led a fun and impactful year filled with spirit days, service projects, and student events. Highlights included the "Dancing through Time" Homecoming Week, the Masquerade Dance, a leadership trip to Chicago, and community drives supporting HALAH (Home At Last Animal Haven), Meals on Wheels, and The Stewpot. The year wrapped up with Teacher Appreciation Week, honoring the dedication of Fairhill's extraordinary faculty, and ended on a sweet note with a high school ice cream social.

Middle School StuCo also showed their spirit and generosity through a variety of activities—from collecting books for Plano Children's Hospital and hosting a festive Mardi Gras parade to raising needed funds for JOYE, a local youth nonprofit.



They joined forces with High School StuCo to celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week, ensuring every teacher felt valued and celebrated.



High School Officers:
President: Sadie Darnell, Vice President: Ellie James, Secretary: Khushi Sheth, Historian: Jack Traweek, Public Relations Officer: Karley Knott, Parliamentarian: Kai Schraeder

Representatives:
9th grade: Carolann Day, Eme Paul; 10th grade: Annie Fisherman, Chloe Souther; 11th grade: Maddie Fix, Karley Knott, Chase Tucker; 12th grade: Luke Brown, Asher Mauriello

Middle School Class Representatives
6th Grade:Evan Frieden and Hudson Kirkley; 7th Grade: Naftoli Geldman; and 8th Grade: Reese Ardoin and Gabriella Punnoose



Fairhill Student Council Receives National Award

For the fifth year in a row, Fairhill's Student Council has been recognized as a 2025 National Council of Excellence by the National Student Council, honoring its outstanding leadership, service, and commitment to improving the school and community through meaningful activities and student engagement.

FAIRHILL
LIFE OF A FALCON



Middle Schoolers

are a force of nature as they build their "Ticket to Ride" roller coasters, exploring concepts like force, motion, gravity, and kinetic energy.

Elementary students

wrap up the first semester with 2nd graders enjoying an exciting day of outdoor fun at Camp Learn-A-Lot, filled with nature hikes, arts and crafts, and team-building games.





High schoolers

tackled the Artemis ROADS III challenge by modeling the water cycle and designing prototype purification systems to support sustainable living on the Moon.

In true Falcon spirit, students kicked off HOCO with songs from the decades, highlighted by one standout performance featuring Michael Jackson's iconic dance moves—all part of our "Dancing through Time" celebration.







The Elementary Fine Arts program inspires creativity and confidence through music, art, and performance, encouraging students to express themselves in meaningful ways.



Art students consistently shine at the TAPPS 1A Art Competition, guided by a Fine Arts Program that builds strong foundations in drawing and design while inspiring creativity through diverse media and techniques.



Middle school students explored zoo taxonomy to learn how scientists classify animals, deepening their understanding of biology, ecosystems, and the diversity of life.



At Fairhill, students knock down pins and rise to the challenge across a wide range of sports—including Bowling, Volleyball, Basketball, Golf, Cross Country, Tennis, and Track & Field. Go Falcons!



Homecoming football games ignite school spirit and unity, bringing students, alumni, and families together in a celebration of Falcon pride, tradition, and community.

Intensive hands-on workshops equip yearbook teams with skills in design, photography, writing, and theme development, while fostering teamwork and setting the stage for a confident launch of the next yearbook.





Recently relaunched, Summer@Fairhill blends academic skill-building in reading, writing, math and study strategies with fun afternoon camps in Sports, Arts, Chess, Drama, STEM, and more.

Fairhill School

16150 Preston Road
Dallas, TX 75248
fairhill.org



FOLLOW US

SAVE THE DATE 2025-2026

AUG

- **14** Falcon's First Flight and Schedule Pick-Up
- **18** First Day of Classes/ Early Release
- **18** Falcon Family: Welcome to the Nest Event
- **28** Curriculum Night/ Parents Only

SEPT

- **1** Holiday
- **18** North TX Giving Day/ Fairhill Fund Kick-Off
- **19** Moms' Visiting Day
- **28** Parent Social

OCT

- **13** Holiday
- **20-25** HOCO Week
- **23** HOCO Varsity VB Game
- **24** HOCO Pep Rally
- **25** HOCO Dance
- **27** Golf Tournament
- **29** Parent Conference Day
- **30** Prospective Family Preview Coffee

NOV

- **15** Tip-Off Night
- **24-28** Thanksgiving Break

DEC

- **19** Early Dismissal for the Winter Holiday
- **22-Jan. 5** Winter Break

JAN

- **6** Return to School
- **19** Holiday
- **29** Prospective Family Preview Coffee

FEB

- **6** Dads' Visiting Day
- **11** Parent Conference Day
- **16** Holiday
- **27** Junior Ring Ceremony

MAR

- **7** Major Fundraising Event
- **16-20** Spring Break
- **26** Prospective Family Preview Coffee

APRIL

- **3-6** Holiday
- **20-24** Green Week
- **24** Parent Picnic/ Early Release

MAY

- **4-8** Teacher Appreciation Week
- **15** Senior Walk
- **22** Cap and Gown
- **25** Holiday
- **27** Last Day of School/ Early Release
- **28** Graduation
- **29** Parent Conference Day

JUNE

- **1-26** Summer Program
- **29-July 3** School Office Closed