



2nd Generation Royals

HEAD OF SCHOOL UPDATE | WINTER 2020



There is something unique about this year's K4 and TK classes. Nearly 20% of this group of three classes are second-generation Royals. There is not another class at TFA that has the presence of this many children of alumni. This is extra special because this means that the parents of some of our youngest Royals valued their own experiences at The First Academy so much that they believed it was important to make the sacrifice to send their children here as well. We are so blessed by this amazing group of alumni, who will leave a legacy at The First Academy not by what they achieved as students here, but by what their children will achieve as Christ-followers and future leaders. Recently, we were able to hear from this group of alumni and their little ones! I hope you enjoy reading through their responses in the following pages just as much as I did.



Steve D. Whitaker, Ph.D.
Head of School





Erin (Headley) Warren, Class of 1999

When TFA opened its doors in 1987, Erin (Headley) Warren was a member of that charter first grade class. She saw much change and growth over the years as she moved through the grade levels before graduating in 1999. Erin now serves at First Baptist Orlando as the Women's Ministry Director. She has been married to her husband, Kris, for fourteen years and all of their three children attend TFA; Kipton is in TK, Bennett is in first grade, and Tate is in fourth grade. When asked why she and Kris chose The First Academy for their kids, Erin said, "There was never a question or doubt in my mind that this is where we'd be. TFA was a key part of my childhood and helped prepare me for success in life: not only academically, but spiritually as well. I graduated with a solid foundation. Some of my closest friends are still the friends I grew up with and attended TFA with. I thrived in college because of that foundation, and I want my kids to have that same opportunity: for academic excellence, for spiritual foundations, for love and support from their teachers and leaders. I love that what we are teaching at home is reinforced in school. I love that my kids are coming home memorizing scripture and learning how God designed our world through the lens of math, science, and literature."

When asked about her favorite memories from her time as a student at TFA, Erin said that there are so many; it was difficult to choose! She remembers when her second grade class defeated

every other grade in Tug-O-War at field day. She loved going to St. Augustine in fourth grade and Washington, D.C. in 8th grade. She loved being part of the school plays, on the yearbook staff, and watching her sisters win the first (and second) Women's Varsity Basketball State Championship. She loved our Senior Year – the whole thing. Erin said that the Class of 1999 was such a special class. She said, "I think we are the only class that had 100% attend our Senior Trip (we are also the reason why all Seniors now go skiing)". Erin remembers that one of their classmates lost her mom during their senior year and together they mourned with her. She can remember singing praise and worship on the beach at their beach retreat, and having fun at the Senior Luncheons.

"I love seeing so many alumni in the halls dropping off their own kids now. I am excited for them to receive the same Biblical foundations I did and the higher standard of academics. I know that these kids will be some of their lifelong friends and I cannot wait to see what God does through them."

The Class of 1999 had a group of praying moms and they prayed them through. Erin mentioned that it truly was a gift to be part of this school, and she has loved watching it grow over the last 30+ years. Erin has said that "TFA isn't just a school; it's a family. We've been here as a

second generation family for five years now, and I love seeing so many alumni in the halls dropping off their own kids now. I am excited for them to receive the same Biblical foundations I did and the higher standard of academics. I know that these kids will be some of their lifelong friends and I cannot wait to see what God does through them."

Bo Morgan, Class of 2000

Bo attended The First Academy for seven years before graduating in 2000. Today, Bo is a Managing Partner of Goehring & Morgan Construction and Total Care of Orlando. He and his wife, Lauren,

have two beautiful daughters who both attend TFA; Caroline is in K4 and Carter is in first grade. When asked why he and his wife chose to send their children to TFA, Bo mentioned that

they toured several schools, but immediately knew that The First Academy was where they wanted their girls to be because of TFA's commitment to Christian principles, on top of a great education.





When asked about his favorite memories from when he walked the halls as a student, Bo mentioned that time spent on both the football and basketball teams was so impactful because of the camaraderie found there, the friendships formed, and the commitment of his coaches. He also fondly remembers mission trips taken abroad with friends and dedicated faculty members. Bo and Lauren are both looking forward to their daughters experiencing the many extracurricular activities offered at TFA as well as the strong friendships.

Nikki (Pounds) Kearn, Class of 2001

Nikki attended The First Academy from fifth grade through graduation. Today, she lives in Windermere with her husband of fifteen years, Jon. They have two kids who attend TFA, Taylor in first grade and Colton in TK. Nikki works as a territory manager for Patterson Dental and has for the last twelve years. When asked why she chose TFA, Nikki said, "It was such an easy decision for us. We wanted our kids to experience growing and learning in a Christian environment that focuses on helping to mold well-rounded individuals. At TFA, I was challenged academically while participating in a wide variety of extra curricular activities that encouraged me to grow spiritually. As parents we desired the same experience for our kids." "While attending TFA, Nikki loved being a member of the school's first-ever State Championship team, the Girls Basketball Team! To this day anytime I hear Shania Twain (we would listen to her

music when we traveled to games) it takes me back to those years of fun, hard work, and reaping the ultimate athletic benefit! She said,

“We wanted our kids to experience growing and learning in a Christian environment that focuses on helping to mold well-rounded individuals.”

She also has amazing memories of her trips to Europe during minimester. She was able to travel to Italy, England, Scotland, Wales, and France with a group of students and their history teacher, Susan Kelley, guiding them through the cities they had learned about in her classes. Nikki was able to see the places she had read about in her textbooks and have a better appreciation for the world God created. Susan Kelley's passion for history and willingness to take her high school kids on trips lead Nikki to major in History at UF. Nikki said, "I am forever grateful to her for those experiences because they helped prepare me for my years in college." Nikki and Jon are most looking forward to their kids making lifelong friends at TFA. Some of Nikki's best friends to this day are ones she made while at TFA. Nikki said, "We have a bond that keeps us together. We built that bond because of our time at The First Academy."





If you have been out to the football field at the Payne Stewart Athletic Complex, you may be familiar with the Crofoot name. In 2008, TFA's football field was named the Kroy Crofoot Field after Chas and Clayton's father. Five Crofoot boys actually walked the halls of TFA, and during that time Kroy was their football coach. The field was named in his honor after he coached at TFA for 20 plus years, spent countless hours on the field with the boys, and tirelessly worked to build and establish the Football Program at The First Academy as we know it today.

Chas Crofoot, Class of 2001

Chas attended The First Academy for fourteen years and today he works for Palm Casual, the Crofoot family business. Chas and his wife Kelsey have four boys, three who now attend TFA; Davis in K4, Tanner in TK, and Coleson in second grade. Chas and Kelsey chose TFA for their kids to give them the same advantages in life that TFA was able to give Chas. Chas is grateful that TFA was able to build upon the Spiritual Foundation formed at home and instill in him the leadership skills that he uses daily. When asked about his favorite memory from his days at TFA, Chas replied that it was definitely the chance to play sports with his brother, with their father as their coach. Chas and Kelsey look forward to many years of a faith-based, family friendly environment for their children to grow and flourish in at TFA. The look forward to watching as their children develop leadership skills that will last them a lifetime.



Clayton Crofoot, Class of 2005

Clayton attended TFA from the time he was in kindergarten all the way through his senior year in 2005. Clayton now works with a sales distributorship called Reel Surgical based out of Orlando and sells orthopedic products. On the weekends, he enjoys working at the family business, Palm Casual Patio Furniture.

Clayton and his wife Kaley have one child

who attends The First Academy; Lucy Kate in K4. Their son Carter is almost two years old and they are excited to introduce him to TFA when the time comes. Clayton and Kaley chose TFA for Lucy Kate because of the family-friendly atmosphere. Knowing that she is in a school that pushes the same agenda that they do at home is what they love. Clayton mentioned that "We are very fortunate to have the ability to see her spending her days at TFA, walking the same sidewalks that I did growing up." After spending thirteen years at TFA, Clayton has a lot of great memories. Some of his

favorites include high school athletics. Being the middle child of five brothers at TFA, it was also always a highlight knowing that his family was close. Clayton said, "Honestly, being in a relaxing environment where I felt at home was the best thing about being at TFA through the years." Clayton is most looking forward to his children making long-lasting friends at The First Academy, just like he did. He said, "Having the opportunity to go to school with a lot of the same kids from grade school to graduation - that sort of thing is very uncommon."

"Honestly, being in a relaxing environment where I felt at home was the best thing about being at TFA through the years."





**Becki (Byrd) Schick,
Class of 2002**

After graduating from TFA in 2002 and Rollins College in 2007, Becki moved on to work at WKMG, Cox Media Group, and the Golf Channel. She now serves as the Manager of Marketing and Special Projects at the Golf Channel. Becki stays busy these days with her four children and her husband Paul's roofing business. Two of Becki and Paul's children currently attend The First Academy; Frederick is in TK and Hannah is in first grade. The reason they chose TFA for their children because they love the mission statement and are raising their kids with that in mind. Most of Becki's favorite TFA memories revolve around her time playing sports and working on Raw Footage. Becki and Paul are excited for their kids to grow up with friends and family at the same school for the next 13 years (God willing)!

William Headley, Class of 2003

William Headley attended The First Academy from kindergarten through twelfth grade before graduating in 2003. He and his wife, Anna, have been married for ten years and have two children; Cooper who is in TK at The First Academy and Elizabeth who is two years old (a future Royall!). Today, William works for Diamond Resorts as a Revenue Manager. When asked why he and Anna chose TFA for their own children, William said " Our kids will spend as much (or more) time at school than anywhere else. We wanted an environment and teachers that reinforce the Christian values that we teach at home." Some of William's favorite memories from when he walked the halls at TFA come from his time involved with athletics - he loved playing football, weight lifting, and being involved with track & field. William and Anna look forward to Cooper learning from teachers who are Christ-followers and to watching his faith grow from an early age.





Taylor (Warden) Bousfield, Class of 2004

Taylor attended TFA for 8 years before graduating in 2004. She earned her Ph.D. in exceptional education in 2017. After a few years in higher-ed, Taylor is now teaching at Dr. Phillips High School and is an adjunct professor at UCF. She has been married for almost six years to her husband, Josh, and has 2 boys who attend The First Academy; Luke is in TK and Beau is enrolled at the Preschool. Taylor and Josh chose TFA because they knew that the faculty and staff would love their kids as their own and instill a good Christian foundation.

Taylor has so many great memories from her time at TFA,. Some of her top ones are cheering at the football games, being a part of the track team, and probably her entire senior year! She said that "TFA really knew how to make it special! The trip to Breckenridge was amazing!" Taylor is most excited about her children experiencing the love of Christ, the amazing teachers, and meeting lifelong friends at The First Academy.

Catharine Freeman, Current TFA Faculty Member & Former Student

Catharine and her husband, Chase, both attended The First Academy; Catharine from 1994 through 1999 and Chase from 1995 through 1998. Catharine and Chase live in Orlando; in the College Park area. Chase is a manufacturer's representative for a variety of manufactures in the plumbing field. Catharine is teaching Kindergarten at The First Academy. They have two children, Walker & Ellie. Ellie is in K4 and Walker is in first grade. The Freemans have always believed and supported TFA and their mission statement. They had such a great experience as students, and then Catharine as a teacher; that they knew we wanted their children to have the same.

Some of Catharine's favorite memories from her time at TFA as a student include realizing that volleyball would become a passion of hers. She remembers learning to play volleyball with Coach Quinn. She remembers her dad and Payne Stewart calling lines during their games and acting like they were total professionals; getting really dramatic with their calls and hand motions. They had the whole gym laughing and cheering for them. Chase recalls the camaraderie of the school as a whole, from chapels to pep-rallies, and having the opportunity to play up with High School students on the golf team while he was in Middle School. Chase and Catharine look forward to watching their kids growing in their faith and education as well as the variety of sports offered at The First Academy. They can't wait to see where God takes their children!



We love our Second Generation Royals! If you are one of our Second Generation Royals, we want to hear your story! Contact us at tfacommunications@thefirstacademy.org

**STRONGER
TOGETHER**

The First Academy is truly becoming a generational school. It is our joy to see our alumni make the choice to send their own children to TFA. There is so much to be said for a shared foundation, shared experiences, and a common viewpoint for what lies ahead. We look forward to watching as more alumni pass the baton to their children and allow them to run the race at The First Academy, to walk the same halls as they did, to be members of the TFA family.



2019-2020 SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Clark Keator, Chairman

Mr. Jeff Alexander, Vice Chairman

Mrs. Ada Pendas, Treasurer

Mr. Brian Blair

Mr. David Dizney

Mrs. Michele Fitch

Mrs. Laura Eitel

Pastor Derrick McRae

Mrs. Nikki Kearn

Dr. Hank Miller

Mr. Jason Weiss

Archbishop Allen Wiggins

Dr. Steve Whitaker, Head of School (ex-officio)

Mr. Verne Bragg (Emeritus)



2667 Bruton Blvd. Orlando, FL 32805

www.thefirstacademy.org