Boy did we have a groovy time at this year’s Peace, Love & Rock n’ Roll gala! We are so grateful for the overwhelming support of our parents, board members and donors that have made it possible for us to begin constructing our very own outdoor classroom and classroom upgrades. The outdoor classroom will provide our students with endless opportunities for experiential learning, cross curricular activities and much more!

We are pleased to announce that Cumberland has completed our 8 year strategic plan that will take us into the year 2026! A survey was developed and disseminated to both parents, faculty members and stakeholders. The input received allowed the strategic planning committee to think, dream, explore and plan what our amazing school will become.

Cumberland’s overnight adventure trips are around the corner and you can feel the excitement on campus. These trips are so meaningful because they allow students to exercise their independence and step out of their comfort zone. Many are hesitant and anxious when they are dropped off at school, but all return with huge grins of satisfaction.

It’s not too early to SAVE THE DATE and mark your calendars for our End of Year Celebration & Graduation on May 16th! On the 16th promptly at 11 a.m., Cumberland will honor our seven amazing graduates and also recognize the accomplishments and growth of each and every student. This is a whole school event with all students participating and receiving their spotlight on the stage. Looking forward to seeing you here!

Debbi Scarborough
As I conclude my second year at Cumberland, I am amazed and honored to be a witness and a part of so much change in such a short span of time. Don Sasso passed the reigns to me in 2017, and it’s been full steam ahead ever since. In a little less than two years, Cumberland has expanded its academic capabilities with the addition of a new science lab, a new “STEAM It!” program, and a stellar drama program. Our Cumberland athletes now have more opportunities to showcase their skills with the addition of soccer, tennis and golf just to name a few. Also, we have transformed the old kitchen into a chef’s dream with restaurant quality appliances that allow our students to develop and apply life skills in an appropriate setting.

But it’s not just the physical changes that have me in awe, it’s the growth and development of our staff. We have had the pleasure of welcoming some new members to the Cumberland family and their fresh perspective and new skills allow us to expand our offerings but the continued development and growth of our veterans allow us to remain true to who we are.

Cumberland reminds me of the popular sitcom “Cheers.” People from all walks of life came to a central location where they felt safe and valued just like the theme songs says “Where Everybody Knows Your Name.” All in all I am so blessed to be a part of the Cumberland team and grateful that Debbi has entrusted me to lead this school with immeasurable potential. Cheers to the close of another memorable school year!
FROM YOUR TEACHERS

PIOENEER, ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Ms. Carmon

As we enter the last stretch of the school year, the Pioneers continue to add new skills and experiences to their academic and life skills tool boxes. We enjoyed the opportunity to make our own pizzas at California Pizza Kitchen so we could practice our social skills and restaurant etiquette as well as enjoy each other's company. In March, teachers traveled to Camp Twin Lakes in Rutledge GA and are truly excited for our overnight trip. They have a working farm where they grow food and raise cattle which provided an eye opening lesson in the farm to table process. They have everything from the farmyard dog to goats and alpaca. The cabins are cozy yet spacious enough for our group, and we will never run out of activities that include swimming, paddle boats, visiting the treehouse observation deck which overlooks one of the lakes. For reading groups, we will meet Stanley Yelnats and his group of friends at Camp Green Lake as we begin reading the novel "Holes" by Louis Sachar. Teachers have decided upon a plethora of activities to enhance our learning such as making shadow boxes to depict the setting and creating our own venomous reptiles.

NAVIGATOR, MIDDLE SCHOOL
Mrs. Mensing

It’s amazing to think we only have a few weeks of school left in the 18.19 school year! It has been a great year full of fun experiences and learning. Students have made great friends and gained independence.

Although the year is nearly over, we have much to do over the upcoming weeks. After spring break, we will complete MAP testing in both mathematics and language arts. Testing will be in the mornings the weeks of April 15th and 22nd. Students will be tested over 4 days during each testing window. Testing results provide teachers and parents information on learning styles and growth.

April testing will bring May overnight trips. The teachers are excited about our trip to the UGA Marine extension on Skidaway Island in Georgia. We will have 2 very busy days exploring the coastal region outside of Savannah. University of Georgia professors and students will teach us all about Georgia marine life. Trawling the Savannah waterways will certainly be a favorite activity for the students. We strongly encourage all students to participate in our overnight trips. The independence and confidence gained during these 3 day trips is immeasurable.

Other important dates as we finish out the year include the school play and graduation. The school play is April 25th immediately after school. Please plan to stay late that day with your child to support our talented actors. May 16th, our last day of school, is a special day for our entire student body. All students will participate in a meaningful ceremony, ending with our seven seniors graduating. Please plan to attend the event.
EXPLORER, HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Downs

As we move from winter into spring, our math students are learning new perspectives on commonly known ideas. As an example, the students in Algebra 1 have been immersed in some creative dimensional analysis. What is that you say? We divided into groups of 3 and measured areas of the school... and instead of yardsticks or meter sticks we used 9th graders! The kids enjoyed attempting to be as accurate as possible with these surprisingly cooperative tools. It’s always so great to get them out of their seats and setting math in motion.

This helps reinforce math skills learned in the classroom. Meanwhile the folks in Algebra 2 learned the theoretical basis for parabolas as projectile flight paths (quadratic equations — We know you all knew that!) and cannot wait to test these ideas on the unsuspecting world. Whether moving about the school or moving inside the mind, engagement and enthusiasm have been high!

Explorer Writer’s Workshop students investigated animal and nature symbolism in Frida Kahlo self-portraits, and then made their own symbolic self-portraits inspired by the Mexican painter. Students then wrote descriptive paragraphs about the various animal and other symbols that represent who they are.

Spring has arrived and it’s the perfect time for students to visit Zoo Atlanta!

Cumberland’s Animal Science & Technology and Environmental Science classes recently joined forces for an all-day field trip to the zoo. While there, students observed and learned about a variety of fascinating animal species from all over the world. Areas of emphasis included conservation studies, exploring biodiversity, learning about endangered species, and how environmental changes impact living creatures across the globe. Students compiled information about a wide variety of animal species and shared what they learned with their classmates upon our return from the zoo.

CAREER PREP / CULINARY ARTS

Career Prep:
Students are gainfully employed at the Tommy Nobis Center in Marietta! We spend two mornings a week there, where they learn the importance of job skills. They are in a training program which will last through the rest of the school year. It’s been a very positive experience for the students and now they fully understand the skills needed to be an exemplary employee.

Our service learning project for the 4th quarter is food insecurity/child labor and employment. We are reading Oliver Twist and we are partnering with a local food pantry to fully understand the impact of hunger on student learning and success, particularly in the Atlanta area.

Life Skills:
We are continuing with skills after Cumberland, with a focus on the advantages and disadvantages of a gap year; we will look at summer job opportunities in the 4th quarter to include an introduction to the Tommy Nobis Center for a day tour.

Culinary Arts Navigators:
We have finished 3rd quarter with a trip to Penzey Spices. The students’ final project was to cook dinner for their families. They had a terrific 9 weeks in class and learned some useful skills. I hope that they continue to love cooking as much as they have in class.

Culinary Arts Explorers:
It’s been such a great quarter in high school culinary. We have explored several different types of cuisine the world over. We also considered the role of soul food during Black History Month, culminating in a trip to Ponce City Market and the MLK Center. Students in high school culinary also had the chance to cook for their families. In the 4th quarter, we will consider healthy summer eating options.
FROM YOUR TEACHERS

COUNSELOR’S CORNER
Val Schwan,
Director of Counseling

This spring, our students were busy embracing **courage** as the Cumberland Counseling theme. Sometimes courage is about facing a fear and other times it is about doing the right thing. Counselors and staff at Cumberland witness our students demonstrating courage regularly, whether it involves pushing themselves harder in track or golf, sitting at a different lunch table, or stepping up their role in drama club for the play. Courage can also come in the way of helping others with gestures both big and small. The Navigator students, with Ms. Britani’s help, have launched a spring volunteer project centered around helping animals. Students are collecting dog and cat food, toys, treats, and blankets. Donations of new and gently used items are welcome and will be collected in the lobby for the next few weeks.

During the month of April, and in the spirit of **responsibility**, Cumberland students will have opportunities to learn more about what it means to be proactive; to do their best, know what is expected, and look for ways to be helpful both at home at school. We are so proud of our students that are modeling responsibility by completing their academic work as well as working outside of school in part time jobs or volunteering. In May, we will be exploring the many ways to demonstrate **flexibility** as the school year winds down and our schedules look different.

Please join us in welcoming Ms. Tracey Hawkins to our counseling staff. Tracey worked with us as a counseling intern this year and has developed a strong rapport with our students. We are very excited to have her as part of our team!

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
Mihkel Allpere,
Experiential Learning Coordinator

The science department is in full swing with spring classics! This is the time of year where we culminate all of our classes with the projects of fame, the ones that are asked about reverently at the beginning of each year. It started with the 8th grade Physical Science Roller Coaster Project and is quickly followed by the infamous Squid Dissections. Squid dissections directly follow the unit on Animal Life Processes. The students were able to explore the anatomy of a squid and explore one of the ocean’s great wonders. Students are amazed when they encounter the squid’s beak and see how this allows the squid to be an effective predator.
Rise Up Day is Friday, April 12th. Students moving into the Navigator (middle school) or the Explorer (high school) groups will celebrate their academic milestone during Rise Up Day. Students will receive their official Rise Up T-shirt and spend a day in their new classrooms while getting to know some new teachers and friends. Our goal is to make the transition seamless for students and their families. The whole school will celebrate with students Rising Up!

Graduates are beginning to think about...well, graduation! Join us for a very special graduation and end of year celebration on May 16th at 11am. This year, nationally syndicated radio and television host, Clark Howard, will be the special speaker and will no doubt offer some great insight for our students making their way into the world. Oh the places they’ll go- cheaply, thanks to some sound money management advice and life advice from Clark Howard! Mark your calendars!

Summer is the perfect time to launch a new program for Cumberland students. Thanks to the Tommy Nobis Center, many Cumberland students will be trained and begin working this summer through the facility. This unique program is new to Cumberland and will be a strong resume builder for Cumberland students.

ACT summer camp sounds like a great way to get a jump on college! New this year, Cumberland will offer an ACT camp for students to work with an ACT specialist and take the test at the end of the camp. What a great way to begin the school year with an ACT test already completed!

Our featured alumnus for this edition is Norman J. Norman was in our graduating class of 2018 and co- valedictorian. Currently, he is a freshman in the MoSAIC program at the University of Tennessee Chattanooga and plans to major in mathematics. Norman is on the dean’s list and lives on campus in a comfortable four bedroom apartment, not your typical dorm room, with 3 roommates. Norman plans to work this summer and complete an online class. Way to go Norman!

What a blast we had this year! In addition to a fun event, over $100,000 was raised at the gala this year! Thanks to the hard work of the super fun gala committee, we will be able to make some significant improvements to Cumberland. We will be sprucing up the classrooms and bathrooms during the summer months, adding some lockers to our high school and designing our outdoor classroom. Put next year’s gala on your calendar to see all these wonderful improvements.

Thank you to the gala committee for your vision and determination to build an even better Cumberland: Deborah Arant, Wendy Babchin, Allison Carico, Aura Cavanaugh, Laura Ciucci, Jean Jackson, Sally Jetmunsden, Peg Hamrick, Doris Mittelstedt, Vicky Hagan, Melissa Haraszti, Michelle Kelly, Kim Collins, Ami Levy, Glenda Pollack, Michelle Weiss, Shari Wright.
Mark Your Calendars Today!

Graduation

Cumberland Academy of Georgia will celebrate the graduation of the Class of 2019

Thursday, May 16, 2019
11:00 a.m.
Cumberland Academy of Georgia
650-A Mt. Vernon Hwy. NE
Atlanta, GA 30328
Sports & School Clubs

Go Cyclones!

Our Cyclone track athletes were so impressive at Mill Springs during the championship track meet! The Cyclone runners, throwers and jumpers competed against several teams with amazing results. It was an awesome day and experience for our students. On May 8th at 3:30 p.m., Coach C will invite all Cumberland athletes to the annual end of the year sports banquet so we can celebrate all of their accomplishments. Also, this spring Coach C will be conducting a spring basketball clinic that will focus on teaching participants how to react in game-like situation, how to play both offensively and defensively, and building strength and endurance for the game.

The Spirit Club and Ms. Britani have done it again! Another successful movie night! This time, students had the opportunity to view “Ralph Breaks the Internet” the sequel to the hit film “Wreck It Ralph”. Students had a blast as they ate pizza and participated in fun filled activities. The Spirit Club also treated the entire school to Kona Ice before spring break.

We can’t wait to see you all at graduation, but the excitement doesn’t stop there! This summer we are offering a variety of unique and fun camps. Campers can join Mr. Jason for Adventure Camp and hike at Stone Mountain or visit Zoo Atlanta, or they can join Ms. Telford and learn about improv and building stage presence at Drama Camp. Contact us today to learn more!

Thank you to all of the families, friends, stakeholders and donors of Cumberland! We are continuously supported through donations, volunteering, Cyclone parent luncheons/events and so much more! Your generosity is invaluable and you allow us to continue our mission to provide an “exceptional” experience for our “exceptional” students!

Barks From

• Cheryl Barlow, Devyn Carter and the members of the Yearbook and Photography Club have done a fantastic job capturing memories from the 2018-2019 school year. Their time and devotion to such a quality publication is much appreciated.

Thank you to all of the families, friends, stakeholders and donors of Cumberland!
# Cumberland Academy of Georgia

## APRIL 2019

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## MAY 2019

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Cumberland Academy of Georgia specializes in the needs of children with high functioning Autism, Asperger’s, ADD, ADHD and other learning differences. The mission of the academy is to provide a safe, supportive, educational environment in partnership with faculty, staff, students and parents. The Cumberland family embraces the uniqueness of every child by challenging and inspiring them to reach their full potential. Our academic and social curriculum encourages the development of life skills essential in becoming self-sufficient adults.

Please support Cumberland by collecting BoxTops and using your free Publix and Kroger cards. Also, remember to name Cumberland as the charity for your Amazon Smiles account.

Annual Giving