



February 2026 | Volume 27 Issue 6

# TOWLE BRIDGE

Towle Institute Monthly Newsletter



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**Academic Notes**  
**Basketball**  
**New to Towle**  
**Senior Spotlight**  
**Photo Highlights**

## THE STORY IN THE SEASONS

Sophia Miller



In the month of February, light begins to increase each day, a sign of spring being near. Although we still have a month and a half to go, it's nice knowing it's almost winter's turn to pass the ball. Soon we will start to see green shoots gingerly poking above the white blanket of snow, reaching upwards as if asking "is it time to come out yet?". From frosted puddles in the dips of sidewalks and verglas on the streets to thick sheets of ice in the place of lakes, all are starting to slowly wane into the damp, cool feel of springtime. The sunshine has won its grapple with night, and we see the day get lighter with each new morning. Take this time to reflect on how God has overcome the darkness and how He has written His story into the seasons He gave us. Isn't our Creator magnificent?

## ACADEMIC ADVISING NOTES

### 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students:

- ❖ The **ASVAB** test, as part of the **Career Exploration Program** ([www.asvabprogram.com](http://www.asvabprogram.com)), will be administered at Towle on Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> from 9am-12 noon. Students will need access to a laptop or Chromebook. The test is *FREE* of cost. A virtual follow-up meeting, "Interpreting Your Scores", will be held a few weeks later (date TBD). **Please let me know if you are interested in taking this test by February 16th.**

### For Juniors:

- ❖ It is expected that you have at least one set of standardized test scores under your belt in preparation for next fall's college application process. Many Juniors take their first SAT and/or ACT test in the spring.

To register for the SAT, go to <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/>

To register for the ACT, go to <https://www.act.org/>

If you are a **Full-Time Towle** student and you are going to take the **SAT** or the **ACT**, please use the School Code of **080071** so Towle will receive a copy of your score report. These scores, however, are NOT automatically printed onto your transcript. For that, you must give me permission to do so. Contact me for details.

### All High School-aged students:

- ❖ Numerous (not all) colleges have similar summer programs. Check the websites of those colleges that you are interested in attending. It's a great way to "check out" that college!
- ❖ It is not too early to begin looking into summer volunteer opportunities. Don't forget to ask your relatives and friends for ideas as to where to apply.
- ❖ It is the student's responsibility to keep a detailed list of any **academic honors and/or awards** earned in high school. *Please give me a copy of that list at the end of the school year, so that I can include this information onto your transcript.* Keep in mind, you need to note the level of the competition (school, county, state, regional, national, etc.), the exact name of the competition, and the specific award earned (first place, honorable mention, meritorious award, superior ranking, etc.). *For example:* Second Place, Individual Exhibit Category, School-level National History Day Competition.
- ❖ **Extracurricular activities** will play an important role in the college application packet. Please make every effort to accrue meaningful experiences and keep track of them.
- ❖ **Summer Opportunities** – This is the time of year to begin planning! The **University of Delaware's Edge Summer College Program** is just one example. It offers rising high school *juniors* and *seniors* (ages 15 to 17) opportunities to enrich and expand their academic experience, including earning up to 7 fully accredited college credits and living on campus for the 5-week summer session. It is intense but very rewarding! Visit <https://www.udel.edu/apply/undergraduate-admissions/precollege-programs/edge/> for more information and deadline application dates!
- ❖ If you have any questions or concerns that arise, please feel free to email me or stop by the office on Monday.

# Towle Lions



**GAME • TUESDAY 2/3/26**  
DELAWARE SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF  
4PM GIRLS – 5:30PM BOYS

**GAME • THURSDAY 2/5/26**  
FAIRWINDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL  
4PM BOYS – 5:30PM GIRLS

**PRACTICE • FRIDAY 2/6/26**  
CORNERSTONE  
3:30PM-5PM GIRLS & BOYS

**GAME • TUESDAY 2/10/26**  
BETHANY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL  
4PM MS GIRLS – 5PM MS BOYS

**PRACTICE • TUESDAY 2/11/26**  
CORNERSTONE  
3:30PM-5:30PM GIRLS & BOYS

**GAME • TUESDAY 2/17/26**  
WEST CHESTER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL  
4PM GIRLS – 5:30PM BOYS

**PRACTICE • TUESDAY 2/18/26**  
CORNERSTONE  
3:30PM-5:30PM GIRLS & BOYS

**GAME • FRIDAY 2/20/26**  
TRISTATE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY  
3:45PM MS GIRLS – 4:45PM HS GIRLS – 6PM  
HS BOYS

**PARENT/ALUMNI VS. PLAYER GAMES •**  
**TUESDAY 2/24/26**  
OGLETOWN BAPTIST CHURCH  
6PM GIRLS – 7PM BOYS

**TENTATIVE DATE – BASKETBALL BANQUET**

Questions? Contact Sara Chick at  
[sara.chick@towleinstitute.com](mailto:sara.chick@towleinstitute.com)



**BEAR**  
**NEW CASTLE**  
**CHRISTIANA MALL**



# Senior Spotlight

Emily Matthews



## What are your plans after you graduate?

I plan on attending college to pursue a degree in speech therapy.

## What are some of your hobbies or activities?

I love reading, writing, drawing, ballroom/swing/salsa dancing, working with animals, learning new things, and taking time to enjoy creation.

## What is your favorite thing to do in the summer?

First of all, I enjoy the break. I find it really important to take the time to rest and recharge, so sometimes just taking the time to relax is one of my favorite things about summer. As for an activity, I would say I really enjoy the freedom to spend time exploring new places. You never know what amazing things you might find!

## Do you have any finals tips?

I wish that after five years of taking finals I could say I have the perfect advice for studying, but I am still learning helpful habits myself. I can say that I would try to figure out how you learn best - are you auditory? Are you visual? Then find ways to use that to your advantage. Personally, I remember information best when I've written it down by hand so that I better visualize my notes when I'm actually taking the test. And if all else fails and you stay up late studying the night before testing, try not to snore too loudly during finals. ;)

## Could you describe yourself in three words?

Hm...welcoming, hardworking, and creative.

## How many siblings do you have? What are their names?

I have a younger brother. His name is Tim, and we've had fun doing everything from playing racing games online to hang gliding together.

## Who's your biggest role model?

Earthly role models are unfortunately hard to come by, but I have been blessed to know several. I have looked up to my mom from a young age because she has always tried to demonstrate the respect, grace, integrity, and love God asks of us. I was also privileged to meet a lovely older lady at my church who routinely models the genuine love we are meant to show everyone. Her relationship with God and her selflessness are truly amazing! I hope to follow the examples of both of these women as I continue to grow.

## What is your favorite class?

I would probably say my favorites have been all the arts classes I've taken.

I really appreciate getting to be creative.

## What is the best ice cream flavor?

Well, I've never tried an ice cream flavor I didn't like, but to narrow it down, chocolate or cookies and cream are my go-tos.

## What is your best Towle memory?

While I don't have a single memory from Towle that stands out above all the others, I really enjoyed all the lunches I spent with my friends in tenth grade. It was just a really thoughtful, respectful group that included students from sixth through twelfth grade and made sure everyone felt welcome. I truly feel like that was the embodiment of what Towle - and Christianity - is supposed to be.



# INTERVIEWS

By: Kelly McHugh

## Mikaela Kendzierski



Creative, Observant,  
Nature Lover

Mikaela was home-schooled before coming to Towle, and before that, she went to Greenwood Elementary School

in Kennett Square. Her favorite subject is drama. Did you see her in the play last month? She has one dog and one little sister. Mikaela's favorite foods are taco salad and grilled cheese!

## Mercy Santucci

Joyful, fun, and kind

Mercy used to go to Fairwinds Christian school. Her favorite subject is math. Mercy has five siblings, four of which are brothers and one sister. Her favorite food is any kind of salad and her favorite restaurant is Big Fish Grill on the Wilmington Riverfront.

## Mrs. Pugliese



"I'm a boss who can take a bullet and get myself onto my own stretcher?"

### What class(es) do you teach?

At Towle this year I'm teaching Anatomy and Physiology, Consumer Math, Critical Thinking, and Middle School Math 2. I'm a physical therapist by trade, so I also work at the University of Delaware, where I spend my time either teaching classes or doing data collections in our research lab.

**Do you have any tips for students?** My biggest tip is to be an active learner. Ask relevant questions in class and pay attention to what your teacher is saying. Most of the important stuff is going to be talked about in class, so if you use that time wisely, you won't have to study as much later! Also, pay attention to the point of the lesson, instead of just memorizing things.

**Are you married? Do you have any kids or pets?** I'm married to Alex, 27 years! Our son is Anthony, who is a senior at Towle. We have two cats named Schroeder and Sally. We had two cats before them who were named Lucy and Linus (extra credit to anyone who knows which characters we name our cats after!!). We also had two beloved Great Danes (Teddy and Dixie) who crossed the Rainbow Bridge several years ago.

**What is your favorite food and/or restaurant?** I don't have a favorite food or restaurant except that I like food I don't have to make, and I would always choose a restaurant where the chefs make their own pasta.

### If you could have any superpower, what would it be? Why?

I would choose teleportation with the caveat that when I got to a place I would also be appropriately dressed and have everything I needed when I got there. Think about the time you would save not having to gather all your belongings and find your favorite shirt, etc. Plus, it avoids traffic.

**What is your dream vacation? (A place you've never been)** My dream vacation would be in a warm place where I could swim and not worry about sharks or riptides. I'm not at all adventurous, so some place where I could just lie on the beach and read or do my favorite puzzles (diagramless crosswords, which I know is super nerdy) without being interrupted sounds like a perfect day.

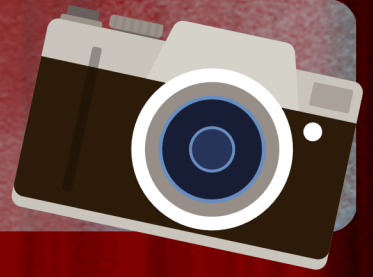
**Describe yourself in three words.** Resilient, Determined, Caring

**What is your favorite holiday and favorite thing to do during it?** Am I allowed to pick two? I love Easter because it's in the spring when everything feels new and we are reminded of God's love and Jesus' sacrifice, but in a really positive and hopeful way. And I love Christmas because that's when we all have time off to spend with one another and we can indulge in some favorite traditions...going to Herr's factory to look at the lights, watching Elf while we decorate the tree, baking cookies together, and nesting in the evening while we read A Christmas Carol. We are very home-y during Christmas time



# SNAPSHOTS

## NEWSIES JR.





DRAWING  
*Through*  
DEUTERONOMY

**FIELD** *Trip*


**ADULTS (14+) \$93**  
**CHILDREN (2-13) \$44**

**SEATS AVAILABLE ON  
A FIRST COME FIRST  
SERVED BASIS**

**RSVP PAYMENT DUE  
BY FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup> @ 11AM**

- ✓ Experience the story of the events that follow the book of Deuteronomy.
- ✓ Premium Seating Reserved. 5% Discount Group rate for adults.
- ✓ Early RSVP to arrange Carpool Groups - [faith.miller@towleinstitute.com](mailto:faith.miller@towleinstitute.com)

 **SIGHT & SOUND THEATRE**  
**Joshua Sight & Sound TRAILER**  
300 Hartman Bridge Road  
Ronks, PA 17572, USA

# FEBRUARY

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Week 20		GAME		GAME Drama	PRACTICE	
Week 21	Valentine's Spirit Day	GAME	PRACTICE Labs	Winter Formal Drama		
Week 22		GAME	PRACTICE	Drama	GAME	
Week 23		GAME		Drama		



**UPCOMING LAB DATES:**  
March 11, April 15, May 20

**LAB SCHEDULE**  
8:30AM - 10:30AM  
Biology • Chemistry •  
Anatomy & Physiology