



# THE COLT CHRONICLE

A Lee Academy Student Publication

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*Alyssa Vassel, Editor*

*Katelyn Lagnese, Sponsor*



## Letter from the Editor by Alyssa Vassel

The day that I've been waiting twelve years for is about to be here: my high school graduation. In all my years in school, I've earned a spelling bee trophy, two sprained ankles, many kickball wins at recess, a best reader award, officer positions in clubs, two valedictorian honors, the ACT score of my dreams, and enough amazing memories to last a lifetime.

As I stand on the brink of this momentous occasion, I can't help but feel enormous amounts of gratitude for all those who have supported me on this journey. From my family, whose unwavering belief in my abilities pushed me forward, to the teachers and mentors who challenged and inspired me to reach for the stars, I am forever grateful.

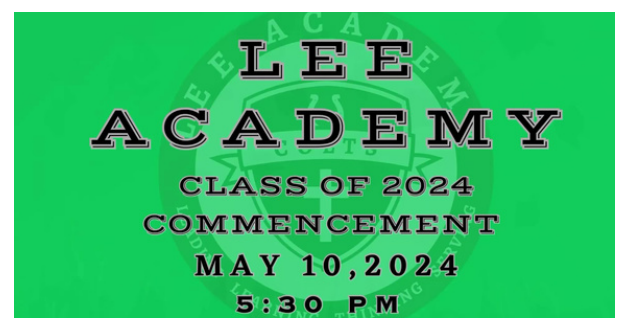
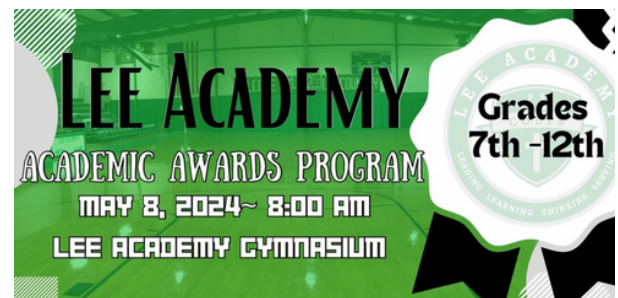
So as I prepare to step onto the stage and accept my diploma, I am overcome with a bittersweet feeling. I am about to bid farewell to the familiar halls and faces that have been my second home for so long. While parting with high school may be scary, I am eager to embark on the next chapter of my journey with the

strength of the lessons I've learned and the memories I've cherished. Though this chapter may be drawing to a close, I am filled with excitement for the adventures that lie ahead, knowing that the life I've created here will continue to light the path forward.

## All Around Lee by Katelyn Brocato

It's officially the last month of school! Here are some of the fun events going on at Lee to wrap up the year:

- HOUSE GAMES WEEK starting on April 29th through May 3rd
- Powder Puff on Wednesday, May 1
- Dance Contest on Thursday, May 2
- Senior Exam Review on Friday, May 3
- Senior Exams on Monday, May 6 - May 7
- Athletic Awards in Gym on Monday, May 6 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
- Vespers Practice for seniors at Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, May 7 @ 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
- Awards Day on Wednesday, May 8 @ 8:00 am - 9:30 am
- Graduation practice for seniors on Wednesday, May 8 @ 9:30 am - 10:30 am
- Leadout practice Civic Auditorium on Wednesday, May 8 @ 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
- Vespers on Thursday, May 9 @ 6:00 at Presbyterian Church (reception to follow)
- Graduation @ 5:30 on Friday, May 10
- Leadout on Friday, May 10 @ 8:30 pm - 9:30 pm at the Civic Auditorium
- Exam Review on Thursday, May 16 - May 17
- Exams on Monday, May 20 - May 22



# Messages for the Class of 2024 by Emmie Smith

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*Congratulations, seniors for finally making it out of the mud! I know y'all will do great things in the future. I hope each one of you enjoys college. We will all miss you so much!*

*- Mary Mason Dunn*

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*To the graduating seniors, y'all will be missed very much, and I can't wait to see what the future holds for each and every one of you! I love y'all so very much!*

*- Isabel Walker*

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*Congratulations seniors! It seems like just yesterday we were walking into Lee Academy experiencing all the newness together, and now, here you are graduating. This class will be missed and I can't wait to see what your future holds.*

*- Mrs. Kristin Orr*

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*Thank you to the senior class. They are one of the best classes to come through Lee. They are always nice and friendly, do things for me when they don't have to, and try to make people's days better.*

*- Jackson Lively*

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*Dear Seniors,*

*Some parting words of wisdom before you leave. I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching you, but more importantly, I have truly loved watching each of you grow as a person. Each one of you is so very special and so loved by your Lee Family. Go out and find your place in this big world. Thanks for so many good times and happy memories. Come back and see us.*

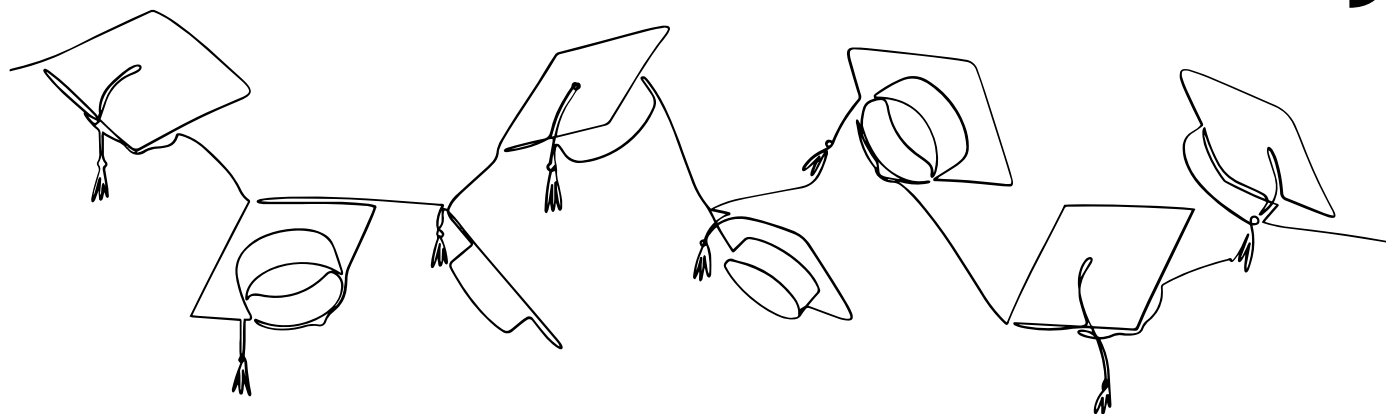
*From my famous wall collection and other pearls of wisdom:*

*Be your authentic self. Go boldly. Know what you stand for. Expect the best from yourself and others. Don't forget to take care of your spirituality and your soul. Love big!!! Give back. Be kind. Practice gratefulness, and find your silver lining in situations. There's a blessing in there whether you can see it now or not. Practice forgiveness. Do your best. Don't be scared or embarrassed to ask for help or for what you need. Always finish. Don't be a quitter. Persevere. Take control of your finances from day 1 so your money doesn't dictate your life and happiness. Put a hundred dollars in cash in your car for emergencies. Have an emergency fund. Look up. Not down. You can't find God, and it limits your world. Be the friend you would like to have. Start your day with a prayer. End your day with a prayer. Remember to say I love you to those you love. Do things - thoughtful little things or go all out with an occasional grand gesture to show you care. Actions speak louder than words. Be punctual. Be respectful to yourself and others. Do the right thing even when no one's looking. Be honest. That applies to yourself and with others. Work hard. Play hard. Joyfully worship God with your whole being. Choose happiness. We always have a choice. Sometimes it's just hard to see it, but it's there.*

*May God bless you and keep you every day! You got this!*

*- Mrs. Evans*

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## Colt and Filly Sports by Tatum Young

Baseball season has come to an end. The Colts played their last game of the season on April 2nd against Indianola Academy. Congratulations to the baseball team and seniors Tanner Fava and Warner Lively!

The golf team participated in the North State Golf Tournament on April 15th. Noah Linley qualified as an individual for the State Tournament at Mossy Oak. Congratulations to seniors Will Moser and Noah Linley and the other players on a great season!

The junior high track teams had their District Tournament on April 12th, which concluded their season. The junior high boys placed first in the tournament. Congratulations to both track teams for their hard work in the District Tournament and North State!

The tennis team has had a great season. Congratulations to Anderson Flowers for qualifying for North State and Ayden Lutts for qualifying for State!



## Mental Health by Aila Newton

Exams are approaching quickly as we head into May, and many students may feel as if they have no motivation left. But with less than a month until school is out, it's important to push yourself to finish strong. Let's go over a few tips and tricks to revive your motivation. Mornings determine how your day is going to go. To get a good start to the morning, go for a walk and eat a healthy breakfast. Additionally, you can't have a good morning without a good night's sleep. Music can also impact your mood, so listen to something upbeat, and dance your heart away. While you should push yourself to finish the year on a good note, make sure you don't overwork yourself. If you feel like the stress is too much, then take a break and return to work when you're ready. You are in control of how you feel and act, so don't let other things stop you from being the best version of yourself!



# Senior Spotlights by Kelly Chow



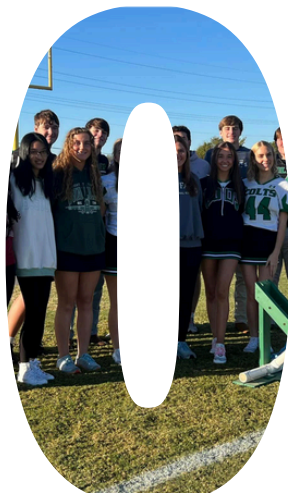
**Tanner Fava**  
 Tanner Fava has attended Lee since the 7th grade. He has scored a 22 on the ACT. He plays baseball, football, and track. Tanner's advice for the underclassmen is to "do your work." When asked about who his favorite teacher is, he said, "Dr. Humber because he is nice

and laid back." Tanner's favorite memory at Lee was his junior football season. He plans to attend Ole Miss and major in business.



**Alyssa Vassel**  
 Alyssa Vassel has attended Lee since the 7th grade. She is the president of Crown Club, the president and founder of the Initiative Club, and the editor of the Colt Chronicle Newspaper. She is a marketing volunteer for Griot Arts and a content intern for the national mental

health nonprofit Letters to Strangers. Alyssa plays softball. She is a Gates Scholarship Semifinalist, a National Merit Finalist, and a QuestBridge National College Match Scholar. Her favorite teacher is Mrs. Noland because she's extremely helpful, challenges her, and fuels her passion for science and medicine. She will attend Vanderbilt University in the fall and major in psychology.



## Movies by Hallie Reece Pitts

Tons of new movies are coming in May that fit everyone's liking! These are coming just in time for the end of the school year and the beginning of summer!

**Tarot** (*May 3rd*) - Friends unwittingly unleash an unspeakable evil trapped within a cursed deck of tarot cards. One by one, they come face to face with fate, racing against death to escape the future foretold in their readings.

**Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes** (*May 8th*) - Many years after the reign of Caesar, a young ape goes on a journey that will lead him to question everything he's been taught about the past and make choices that will define a future for apes and humans alike.

**Mother of the Bride** (*May 9th*) - Stunned by her daughter's bombshell wedding announcement, Lana soon faces another shock: the groom's father is the man who broke her heart years ago.

**If** (*May 17th*) - After discovering she can see everyone's imaginary friends, a girl embarks on a magical adventure to reconnect forgotten IFs with their kids.

**The Strangers Chapter 1** (*May 17th*) - MAfter their car breaks down in an eerie small town, a young couple are forced to spend the night in a remote cabin. Panic ensues as they are terrorized by three masked strangers who strike with no mercy and seemingly no motive.



## POP into 2000's Culture by Morgan Hollowell and Kenzie Cook

### Music

Many of us have our countdowns on for the end of school and for some of us, it's the last time to have this countdown. As a senior myself, this school year has flown by. If you know me, you know I have a graduation playlist and it's the one playlist to make me cry without fail. Here are some of my favorite senior year songs: "You're Gonna Miss This" by Trace Adkins, "I Lived" by OneRepublic, "I'll Always Remember You" by Hannah Montana, "Good Ole Days" by Macklemore and Kesha, and "You're

Gonna Go Far" by Noah Kahan. These are my top picks for songs to play at all your last events during your senior year! Enjoy it while it lasts, and hold on to your friends tight (especially while listening to these songs). Happy graduation!



### Celebrity Gossip

During her headline Coachella set on Friday, April 12, Lana Del Rey welcomed Billie Eilish to the stage. The pair performed Eilish's 2016 track "Ocean Eyes," as well as Del Rey's ballad "Video Games," which featured on her 2012 album *Born To Die*. "That's the voice of our generation, the voice of your generation," Del Rey said. "I'm so grateful she's standing next to me right now, singing my favorite song of hers." Jon Batiste and Jack Antonoff also made appearances during the set.

### Fashion by Lily Gist

"What do I wear to a graduation?"

You can wear anything from floral and little black dresses to sleek blazers, pantsuits, jumpsuits, and rompers to a graduation. If you are the one graduating, picking a white dress under your robes is the classiest look. Your graduation sash and robes will typically be much darker or feature intense colors, and it helps to have a lighter base to contrast and highlight the school colors that you might also be wearing on top. If you are just attending a graduation for a friend or family member, I suggest being fun and matching your outfit to the school's colors.

