The Phoenicle
A Literary Magazine

May 29, 2026 THE GRADUATION EDITION VOLUME 2/Issue 3

The Sky Was The LIMIT

Now Shoot For The MOON

Congratulations Class of 2026!



Nerissa Stokes - Editor/Art/Layout/Design
Senior



Mckale Samuels - Editor/Writer/Design
Senior



Kate Murdock - Staff Writer
Senior Class Correspondent



Shalise Kindred - Staff Poet
Senior

Over the course of my Junior and Senior year, I have had the incredible opportunity to be a key part of this literary magazine. I have thrived with the help of my peers, team, and Mr. Steslow. From their endless support and years of dedication, to creating *The Phoenicle* alongside me, are things for which I will be forever grateful.

Through this experience I've gained confidence about my leadership skills as well as working with the most amazing group of talented people. They've taught me how to highlight the talents of others and myself. They have provided me with the space and time to be endlessly creative and ambitious. During these last two years, I have been fortunate enough to have people that value and respect my opinion as a creative person filled with so much passion. A space where my voice was listened to, not just heard.

School Days



Share your campus memories!
Send events and pics to:
dsteslow@bdchs.org







Madyson McDonough - Staff Poet
Senior

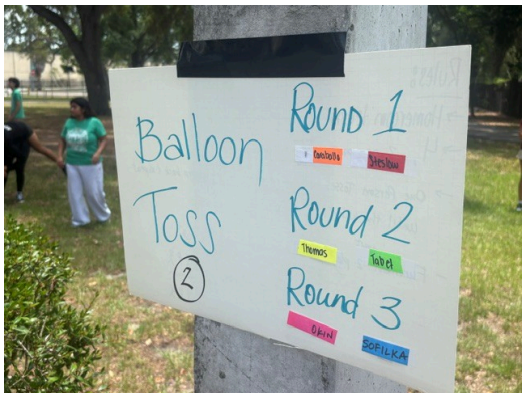
As my Senior year is coming to an end and my time with such amazing people is dwindling, I am hoping that the legacy we have started here at Brooks will continue long after my team and I depart. This is such a special thing that has opened a lot of doors for everyone here and has provided numerous people with the outlet to share their work with any and everyone.

I have met some long time friends through this project and those bonds were what sparked the success of this magazine. It's become a part of who I am and what I choose to do moving forward. I'll always look back on these past few years with a sense of fondness, pride, and care knowing that I got to work hard to put my dedication into this magazine. Thank you to everyone who helped me along the way! I owe it all to you.

---Sincerely, Nerissa Stokes

CLIC Advisory







Water Games







CLIC celebrated another successful and fun end of the year with the Class of 2029 by organizing the Water Games 2026. The event pitted 9th grade homerooms against each other in three very wet and wild races.

The Final Moments

Seniors' Clap Out







SOCA Bar-B-Q



SOCA PRESENTS

END OF THE YEAR COOKOUT

MAY 15, 2026

LOCATION: AMPHITHEATER
TIME: 3:30

COME ENJOY FOOD, FUN, AND A FINAL FAREWELL TO OUR BDCHS SENIORS!

(FOR SENIORS AND SOCA MEMBERS)







Phoenix Awards

Congratulations!

On Wednesday, May 13th the 2026 Brooks DeBartolo Phoenix Awards were presented by our Administration and many of the faculty here on campus. It was a spectacular evening filled with so many wonderful honors that represented the tremendous achievements of our students, as well as faculty member, Board members, and parents. There were far too many awards to list them all individually, so here are the pictures clearly worth a thousand words:



PHOENIX SPORTS
The Latest News

BDCHS Boys Weightlifting: Pumped Up About State

by Madison Valdes

The boys weightlifting team had a historic 25-26 season, placing first as a team both at Districts and at Regionals. We were even able to hold a boys weightlifting meet at our school this year, for the first time ever! All of the boys showed massive improvements throughout the season which led to 4 out of the 10 boys qualifying for State, which is 3 more than last year. Overall it has been an amazing year and the team has continued to grow and succeed in many ways.

All four of the boys, Caden Ramos, Tristan Breedlove, Daniel Espinel, and Dante Acevedo, went to the State Championship and represented themselves and Brooks DeBartolo extremely well, placing top ten in almost every category they competed in. Congratulations to Coach Salerno and the BDCHS Boys Weightlifting Team.



BDCHS Phoenix Tennis: State Champions Crowned

by Mridini Surendran

The girls tennis team had a great season this year! The lineup consisted of freshman Noor El Sawy, sophomores Shelby Fulse, Mridini Surendran, and Chanyarin Wisalkhowit, and junior Alana Powell. The girls team had 5 wins and 3 losses. with Noor El Sawy going on to win the individual, Under 15 State title and finishing runner-up in doubles with Shelby Fulse!

The boys tennis team also had a great season with 3 wins. The lineup on the boys side was senior Andreas Borysov, senior Joel Surenth, sophomore Declan Livingston, junior Elijah Alverez, and senior Mateo Orjuela. Congratulations to Coach Kensky and both of our Phoenix Tennis teams.

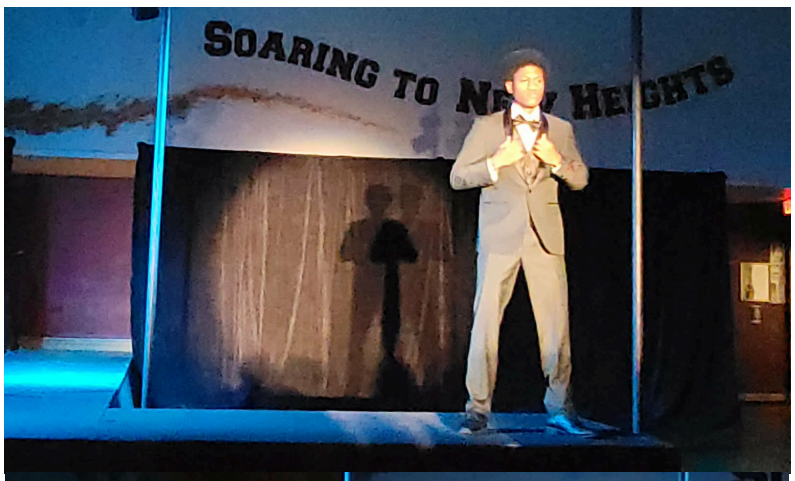




The BDCHS Art Department Presents:

A NIGHT OF ART AND FASHION



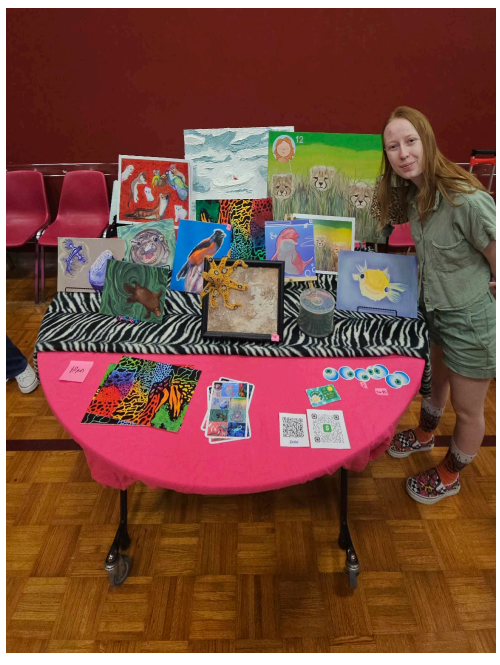












As many art students began to wrap up their final classes, our AP art students put on an amazing show. The annual Art and Fashion show is a place where very passionate, talented, creative people can present all their hard work and dedication to the public eye. From peers, students, teachers, and outsiders, the amount of support that this show receives from everyone is truly special. Thank you to everyone who was in attendance, volunteers, models, and of course, our amazing faculty and staff that helped along the way. A special thank you to our sponsors and Mrs. Mitchell for giving so many students the chance to grow and represent themselves through their work this year. Every year that this show is put on continues to advocate and give people a deeper understanding of all the love and hard work that goes into creating artwork. For non-AP students, they got the chance to showcase their art work in our Up and Comers section where people got to see a glimpse into the future of the art programs at Brooks. We also had an amazing fashion show with categories such as Urban, Cultural, Cosplay, African attire, etc. A huge thank you to everyone who strutted their way out onto the stage that night.

This year we had very talented students who were enrolled in AP Studio, AP Drawing, and Portfolio Development. They all worked to improve, create a substantial portfolio, and most importantly, witness the endless support from fellow peers and teachers. There was a 100% submission rate from all of our AP art students and we can't wait to see how the fruits of their labor reward them in the future as they continue their art journey's. Good luck!

This year was nothing short of amazing due to the kindness, support, willingness to learn, and friendships formed throughout the course of the year. From one class to the next, we thank you all for everything you've done. Whatever you decide to do next, we're rooting for you!

The Graduating Class of 2026





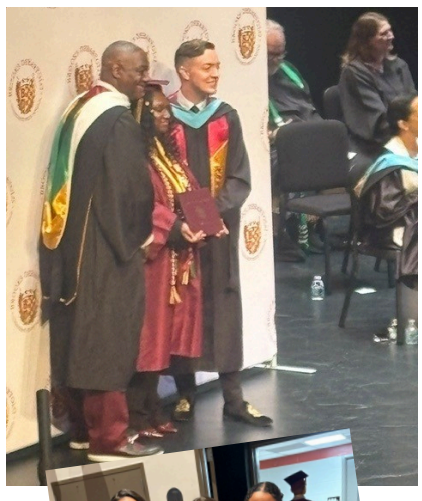




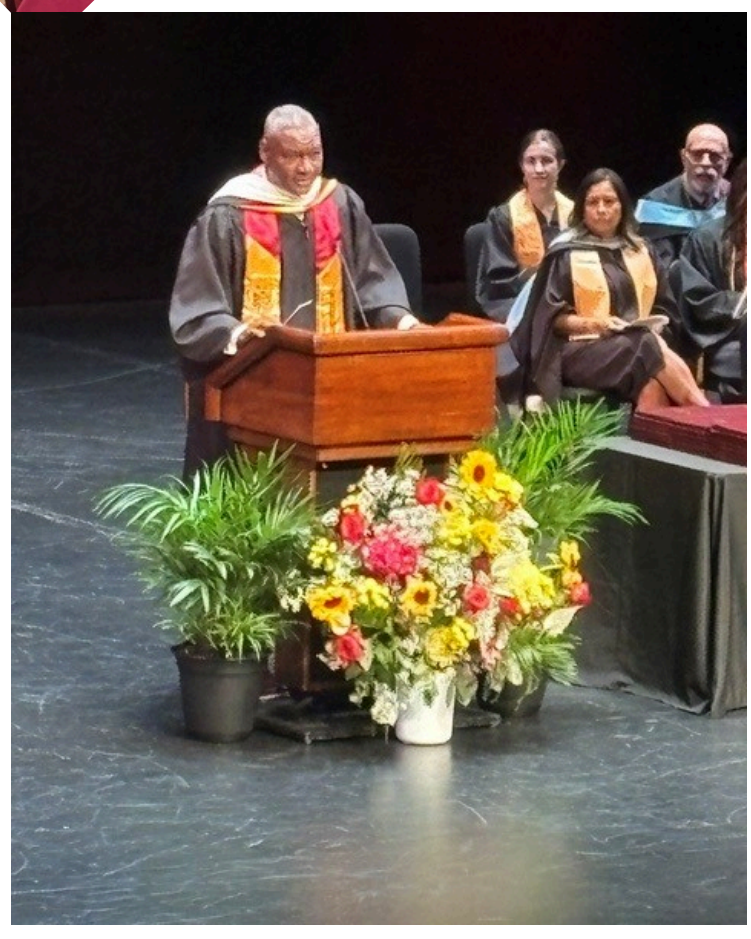
The Brooks DeBartolo Collegiate High School commencement ceremony took place on Saturday, May 23, 2026 in the Carol Morsani Hall - The Straz Center for Performing Arts at 11:00am in Tampa. The Class of 2026 featured speeches and motivational messages by Class of 2026 Valedictorian, Ryan Rabon, as well as distinquished guests, such as the school's founder and Board Director, Mr. Derrick Brooks, along with the Keynote Speaker, Mr. Joe Lubeck, Chief Executive of American Landmark Apartments. Additionally, Mr. Lubeck brought his partner and a close friend and associate of Mr. Brooks, Mr. Ray Lewis. The graduates were treated to very inspiring and wise words from the trio of ultra-successful speakers.



Distinguished Guests







Mr. Brooks, Founder and Chief Executive Board Member of Brooks DeBartolo Collegiate High School



