



newsletter

TENLEY STUDY CENTER

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SPRING 2025

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dear Friends of Tenley,

BY THE TIME YOU RECEIVE THIS LETTER, THE ACADEMIC year will have come to a close. As we reflect on these past months, we're filled with gratitude for all that has taken place—and excitement for what lies ahead.

In this edition of the newsletter, you'll find two wonderful articles written by Peter McCall, a 7th grader at The Heights, and Leo Gress, an 8th grader also at The Heights, sharing their experiences in Tenley's Club Garrison. Their words are a reminder of the impact our programs have at every age level. Club Garrison continues to thrive, offering younger students a place to grow in friendship, virtue, and confidence.

Our Sophomore Seminar wrapped up a great season with an impressive lineup of speakers—ranging from an architect to an aerospace professional involved in imagining and planning missions to Mars. As you can imagine, the students had tons of questions.

This spring also saw a remarkable UNIV trip to Rome. Both our high school and college students presented papers at the international conference and participated in a debate competition—where they took home first place. It was an unforgettable experience of intellectual engagement, cultural immersion, and friendship. But what was, without a doubt, the highlight of the trip was seeing Pope Francis at St. Peter's Square on Easter Sunday, the day before he passed away. It was truly a great blessing for everyone.

Looking ahead, our summer is shaping up to be just as vibrant. Our *High School and Beyond* program for incoming freshmen and the *Practical Leadership Seminar* for incoming sophomores, and led by Richard Ybarra, are both filled to capacity and running waiting lists. Both programs will be led by Richard Ybarra and promise to be a strong start to the summer. Michael Cheely will take more than 15 young men to serve as camp counselors at the new camp in Pennsylvania, bringing their energy and example to younger boys.

Internationally, I will lead 18 rising juniors on a service project to Peru, where they will help restore a small village church in the Andes.

As always, thank you for your generous support. Everything we do at Tenley is made possible by your commitment to the mission of forming young men of character and faith. We are deeply grateful.

With sincere appreciation,


Joe Cardenas
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Tenley Study Center is dedicated to the academic and character development of men of all ages. Its activities encourage them to see their studies, work and family responsibilities from the perspective of character growth and service to others. The spiritual dimension of Tenley's activities is entrusted to Opus Dei, a personal prelature of the Catholic Church.





GARRISON



7TH GRADE

BY PETER MCCALL, HEIGHTS 2030

Seventh graders at Club Garrison have done many fun things this year. I believe this program helps us become better men of God and helps us on our path of life. We are shown how we can use our time wisely so that we can do all our work and still have time to have fun and hang out with friends. Throughout the year we have participated in many fun games and crafts including nerf wars and making gingerbread houses. Every time we meet, we listen to a talk about virtues to think about and improve upon. We also have a study hall so that we can get our school work done. During our study hall, we not only work but we are sometimes mentored by our assigned mentors from the Tenley staff. Our mentors help us set academic, athletic, and spiritual goals. They are good role models and give great advice about things we may be struggling with. Club Garrison is a valuable part of my middle school experience as life gets more complicated. It is something I personally look forward to each meeting. ★



SON

8TH GRADE

BY LEO GRESS, HEIGHTS 2029

For the past year, I've been starting my weekends off in the best way possible by attending the Tenley Study Center, Club Garrison on Friday afternoons. Many of my classmates and I wait a couple minutes after school and board vans driven by Mr. Cheely and Mr. Cardenas.

The drive is always great, and every now and then, when there are very few of us in the van, we may stop at a 7-Eleven and grab a slushy and something special for our snack. When we arrive at Tenley, we make a quick visit to the chapel and then start the study hall. Some of the college students who help at Tenley take us out one by one and mentor us on school, family and faith. After the study hall, we listen to a virtue talk with a notebook to keep track of what we thought was important.

After the talk is over, we enjoy a snack prepared by the snack crew, who unfortunately must skip part of study hall to make a snack for everybody. With whatever time is left, we play a game. Since it has been cold, wet, and dark on Friday for the past couple of months, we usually have a large-scale nerf battle where we play numerous modes including some that you have to make up and want to try. Now that it is getting warmer, we will start playing sports outside again. After the games, we head home and look forward to a nice, homework-free weekend.★



FROM THE DESK OF PHIL WEHLE

My dear friends,

TENLEY'S MENTORING AND LEARNING CAPITAL CAMPAIGN is well underway to meet our goal of \$35,000, with \$11,800 raised to date. All donations will be used to replace our well-worn furniture, fixtures and carpeting that has seen years of use by thousands of young men who have come through Tenley over many, many years. They continue to come, year in and year out because, as one student noted, Tenley is "the best place imaginable for a teenage boy." If you have not already done so, please consider a joining our campaign with a financial gift to push us over the top and meet our objective. Contributions can be made at www.tenley.org by clicking on the donation tab or by mailing your contribution to the Tenley Study Center. Tenley's address is 4300 Garrison Street, NW, Washington, DC 20016. Please note on your online contribution or check that it is for the Mentoring and Learning Capital Campaign.

With much gratitude to all,

Phil Wehle
DIRECTOR, TENLEY ASSOCIATION

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Send high quality photos of a face, newsletter, and iconic background to jamesferstl@verizon.net.

LOCATIONS: 1 Australia; 2 Iceland; 3 France; 4 Maryland; 5 Arizona; 6 Virginia; 7 Rhode Island

