

BELL TOWER NEWSLETTER

FALL 2025



DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT



Fuqua School is pleased to announce that Jeff Metcalf has joined its administrative team as Director of Institutional Advancement. In this role, he will lead the strategic integration of enrollment, marketing, communications, alumni relations, and fundraising efforts.

An alumnus from the class of 1983 and a 1987 graduate of Johnson & Wales University in Providence, Rhode Island, Jeff brings over thirty-five years of experience in hospitality, event planning, and development fundraising. His career has included roles at Kingsmill Resort in Williamsburg, The Sanderling in Duck, North Carolina, and most recently at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. At Colonial Williamsburg, Jeff worked in the Office of Development with a focus on event planning, donor engagement, and fundraising, including the launch of a major campaign initiative.

“BUILDING TOGETHER, SOARING BEYOND”

In September 2024, our Board of Trustees took a bold step in our school’s history by launching our very first Capital Campaign — “Building Together, Soaring Beyond.” The vision was simple yet profound: to provide the very best learning environment for our students through the construction of a new 16,000-square-foot Upper School. This building will not only offer classrooms and spaces designed for today’s learners but also stand as a symbol of what we can achieve when we dream big together!

Since that launch, the campaign has gained tremendous momentum, fueled by the generosity of alumni, parents, grandparents, and friends. Together, we have already raised close to \$4 million and are within \$2 million of our \$6 million goal. Even more encouraging, much of Phase One—and parts of Phase Three—are already complete. Progress is all around us, and each milestone moves us closer to the day we will open the doors of a new Upper School. (For details and updates, visit www.fuquaschool.org/capitalcampaign.)

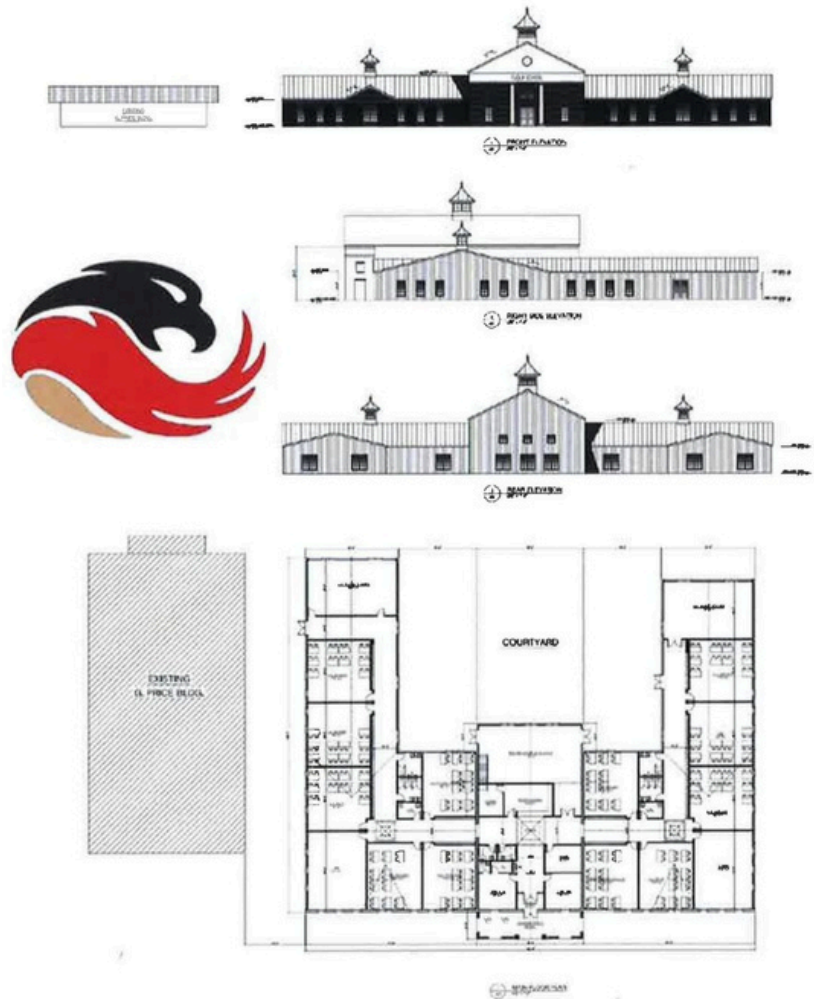
This remarkable progress is only possible because of your belief in our mission. And yet, the journey is not finished. To begin construction in the summer of 2026, we must cross the finish line together. That final \$2 million is both a challenge and an opportunity - a chance for each of us to help shape something truly transformative for our students.

Here’s how you can help:

- Introduce us to a friend, fellow alumnus, or community member who may be inspired to join this effort.
- Consider making a gift of your own, no matter the size, at the campaign website above.

Every gift matters. Every connection builds momentum. And every show of support brings us closer to the day when we will walk the halls of a new Upper School and know this dream became reality because we chose to build it together.

With your partnership, we will not only meet our goal—we will ensure that our students and our school continue to soar for generations to come!



ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME



**Newest Inductees to PEA/Fuqua School Athletic Hall of Fame
Kwadwo (Joe) Donkor '07 & Lauren Andrews McCarty '97**



**Several members of the PEA/Fuqua School Athletic Hall of Fame
Inductees were in attendance: Robert Smith '76, Richard Epperson II '75,
Kenneth Batts '76 & James Saunders '72 (not pictured Craig Howard '98).**

Plans are being made for the next inductions into the Prince Edward Academy/Fuqua School **[nomination form](#) or email Jeff at metcalfjm@fuquaschool.org**

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME



Lauren Andrews McCarty '97

A three-sport athlete and leader, Lauren Andrews-McCarty '97 epitomized Fuqua's tradition of excellence. Over her career, she earned 12 varsity letters in basketball, volleyball, and softball, leading her teams to multiple VCC Championships and three consecutive VISAA State Softball titles (1995–1997).

Lauren guided the Falcons to an incredible 81–9 record, serving as captain her final two seasons and earning VCC All-Conference, All-Tournament, and Team MVP honors. In volleyball, she was a three-time All-Conference and VCC MVP (1997) selection, helping capture the VCC Tournament Championship. On the softball diamond, she was a two-time captain, All-State honoree, and Fuqua MVP in both 1996 and 1997.

A scholar-athlete, Lauren was a VCC All-Academic Team member, National Honor Society student, Girls State delegate, and the R.C. Gilmer Sports Award. She continued her basketball career at Washington & Lee University, later achieving professional success in financial services, where she serves as a Business Development Specialist at Creative Planning, LLC. Lauren is married to Matt, and her son Carter followed in her footsteps at Washington & Lee University.

Lauren's legacy is one of talent, teamwork, and joy in competition—embodying the true spirit of Fuqua athletics.

Lauren emphasized her family's importance to her Basketball, Softball and Volleyball careers and the rest of her life. "For me it was about teamwork and togetherness and having a good time with my teammates," McCarty said. "I'm incredibly honored".

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME



Kwadwo (Joe) Donkor '07

Kwadwo “Joe” Donkor ’07 was an exceptional three-sport athlete at Fuqua School, best known for his remarkable accomplishments on the football field. He was named Varsity Football MVP, Offensive Player of the Year, and earned 1st Team All-State Running Back honors. During the 2006 season, Joe made history by setting three school records in a single game: most rushing yards (304), a 98-yard rushing touchdown, and five touchdowns in one contest against North Cross.

Joe’s fondest memories from Fuqua include Friday morning team breakfasts at Shoney’s and the deep sense of brotherhood and camaraderie built with his teammates. He still smiles recalling Coach Davis breaking a clipboard in the heat of competition—moments that reflected the team’s passion and drive.

After Fuqua, Joe went on to Bridgewater College to play football until a knee injury sidelined him, only to lead him to his true passion in the athletic training department.

Joe continued his dedication to athletics as a certified athletic trainer, at Fishburne Military School, the Staunton Braves, and Staunton High School. His excellence has been widely recognized, earning the 2024 Virginia Secondary School Athletic Trainer of the Year, the NAACP Community Image Award, and JMU’s Preceptor of the Year.

Joe is married to Kirsten Donkor and is the proud father of Nyamekye, Xavier, and Jadon.

Joe’s legacy is one of talent, teamwork, dedication and determination in competition—embodying the true spirit of Fuqua athletics.

Joe states “I never considered myself to be a star athlete and what success I did find was due to a collaborative effort from invaluable teammates and coaches, To be inducted into the hall of fame has been a monumental moment in my life and it shows me that you can make a tremendous impact in a short period of time. Being around other individuals who wanted to improve themselves and hold each other accountable is something that has been a key component in my professional career.”

REUNIONS

Bell Tower-Reunions and Fuqua Fall Weekend

"Welcome Home" to all Prince Edward Academy and Fuqua School Graduates. We were pleased to have several reunions this year both at Fuqua School and nearby locations. A great time for all to gather and share past and present stories with those that surrounded us during our early years.

We also launched the Fuqua Fall Weekend which was composed of the Athletic Hall of Fame, Skeeter Fore Memorial Golf Tournament, and Shellabration. The proposed plan is that we will hold this annually. The weekend will kick off on Friday evening with the Athletic Hall of Fame which will honor two past graduates for outstanding athletic achievements. This event will host the honorees, offer special presentations, and an outstanding meal experience. While this event is not open to the general public, tickets will be available for both Prince Edward Academy and Fuqua School family, friends, and guests. The golf tournament on Saturday was a wonderful experience; proceeds helped to fund two scholarships in the memory of Skeeter and Beth Fore. The evening and weekend were finished with a wonderful Shellabration and silent auction held at Fuqua School.

Additionally, we encourage all reunions to hold their reunion experience on Saturday evening at The Shellabration. All events and menus are pre-planned which makes it easy on the class and attendees.

More to follow so be sure to let us know your current contact information so that you can learn more about this exciting event.

Mark your calendar's for October 23rd & 24th , 2026
We look forward to seeing you!

REUNIONS

RECENT REUNIONS



Class of 2005



Class of 1965

REUNIONS

RECENT REUNIONS

Class of 1982



**Class
of
1985**



**Class
of
1990**

ALUMNI BIRTHS



**Tabitha Tatum
Carmichael '09 &
husband Jacob
welcomed triplets.**



**Andy Ware '13 & Tyson Spoloric
welcomed daughter Hensley.
Andy is the son of Rhonda
Parker Ware '85 & Fred Ware.**

**Alison Newman Dunn
'10 & husband
Anthony welcomed
their third child
Anniston Raye! Alison
is the daughter of
Karen Elsaesser '82 &
Mickey Newman.**



**Caroline Bryant Reams '13, &
husband Austin welcomed their
second son Hudson.**



**Jason Ellington & wife Juliet
welcomed daughter Stephanie
Colette. Jason is the son of Judy
Lawhorn Ellington '81 & Johnny
Ellington '82.**

ALUMNI BIRTHS



Hunter Lafoon '15 & wife Alisa welcomed baby Lilah. Hunter is the son of Kipper Lafoon '73 & Joann Lafoon.



Colby Cunningham Vassor '09 & Matt welcomed Harper Ann. Colby is the daughter of Diane Ward Cunningham '80 & Ted Cunningham '77.



Rebecca Ragland Grey '09 & Dusty Grey '08 welcomed their second child Jackson.



Whitney Forlines Canada '14 & husband Bryan welcomed their second daughter Emerson.

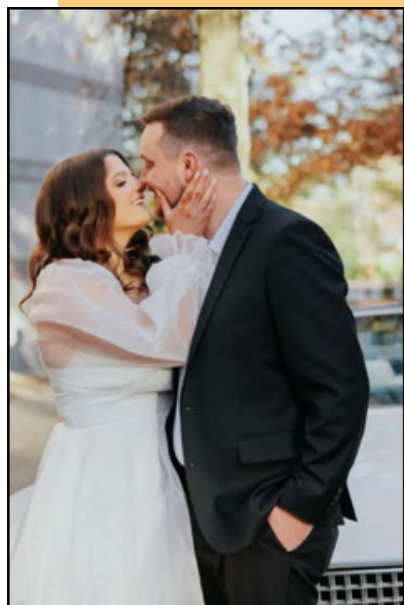


Kristin Addleman Pepper '89 & Joel Pepper '88 welcomed their first grandchild Ella James.

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENTS



Tori Dunn '16 & Bradley Lythgoe recently got engaged. Tori is the daughter of Katrina Hatfield Carter '89 & Kevin Dunn '86.



Sarvanana McKee '14 & Avery Bowels are engaged; a late November wedding is planned.



Kevin Dunn '18 & Mackinze Morris recently got engaged. Kevin is the daughter of Katrina Hatfield Carter '89 & Kevin Dunn '86.

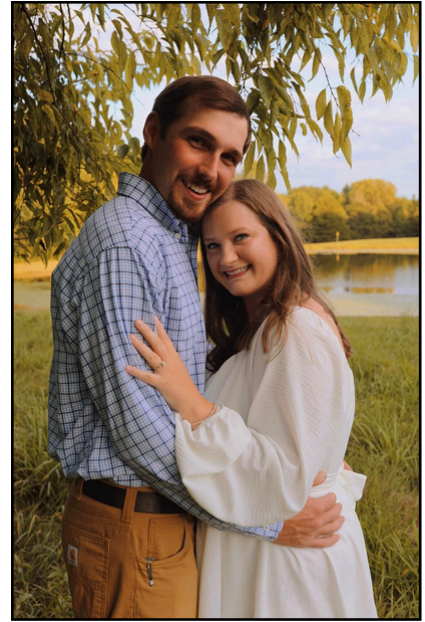


Hannah Palmore '18 & Dylan Saul recently got engaged. Hannah is the daughter of Sharon Gough Palmore '86 & Paul Palmore.

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENTS



Ireland Seagle '19 & Brandon Trombley '18 recently got engaged.



Ally Hensley '17 & Parker Moore '19 are recently engaged. Parker is the son of Sherri Parker Moore '90 & Rusty Moore.



Thomas Watson '15 & Alex Stroud recently got engaged. Thomas is the son of Lori Watson & Cannon Watson '86.



Brad Davis '17 & Payton Carter got engaged this past summer; a December wedding is planned.

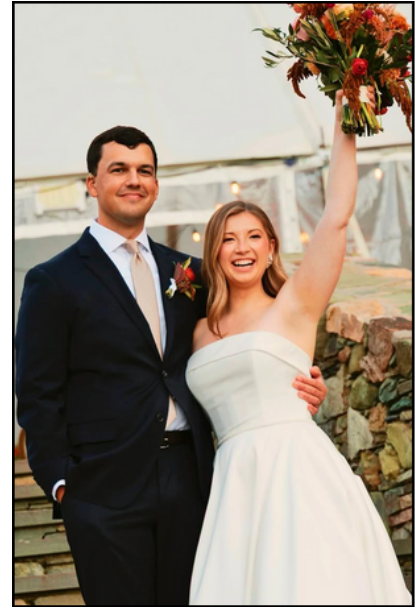
ALUMNI WEDDINGS



Martha Carter Diette '07 married Tim Diette in April. Martha is the Daughter of Beth Carter & Earl Carter '66.



Roman Davis '20 & Charity Morton were married in October.



Charlotte Townsend '17 & Dylan Craig were married. Charlotte is the granddaughter of Barbara Nelson Poulston '75 & William Poulston '67.



Curstan Tharpe Hoover '21 & Austin Hoover were married in September.

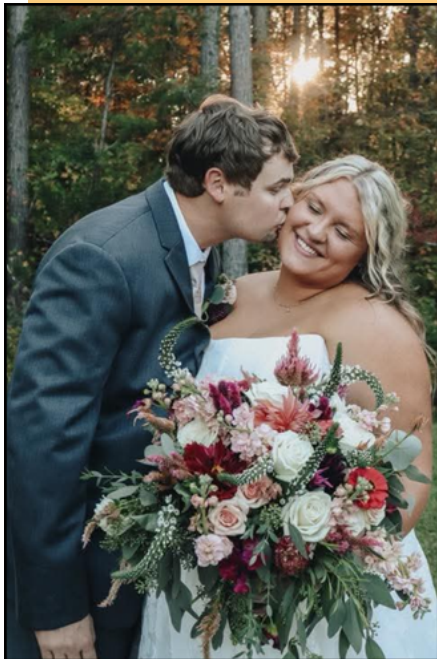
ALUMNI WEDDINGS



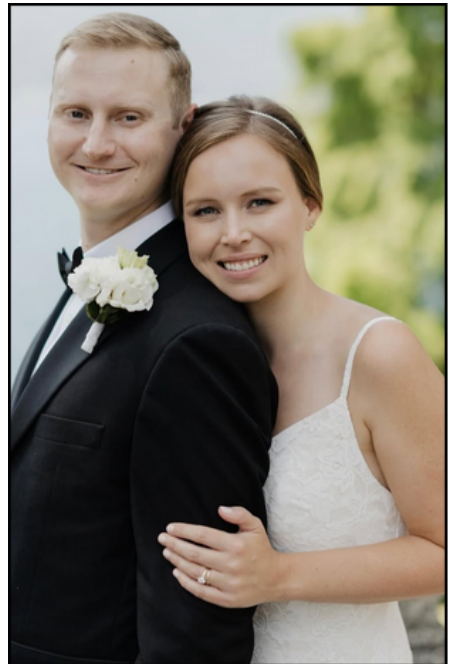
Lexi Marzloff Allen '18 & Devin Allen '17 were married in early November.



Logan McDonald Bryd '14 married Sarah Edwards, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Walter Edwards '76.



Ginny Rainey & Tyler Rice were married in October. Ginny is the daughter of Angela Jennings Rainey '88 & granddaughter of Judy Jenkins Jennings '66 & Ronnie.

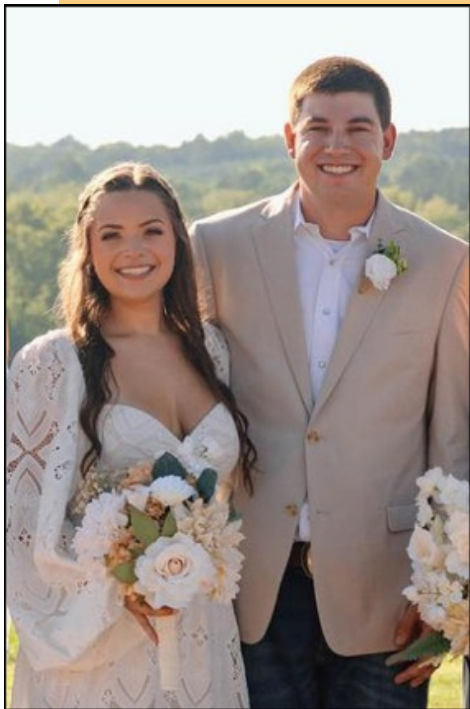


Aurelie Foster '12 & Zach Johnson '12 were married.

ALUMNI WEDDINGS



Nitalia Summa Thomas '14 & Joel Thomas recently got married.



Sierra Wharam '18 & Andrew Murphy '18 recently got married. Sierra is the daughter of Christy Lightner Wharam '95 & Justin Wharam. Andrew is the son of Christy Mottley Murphy '86 & Patrick Murphy.

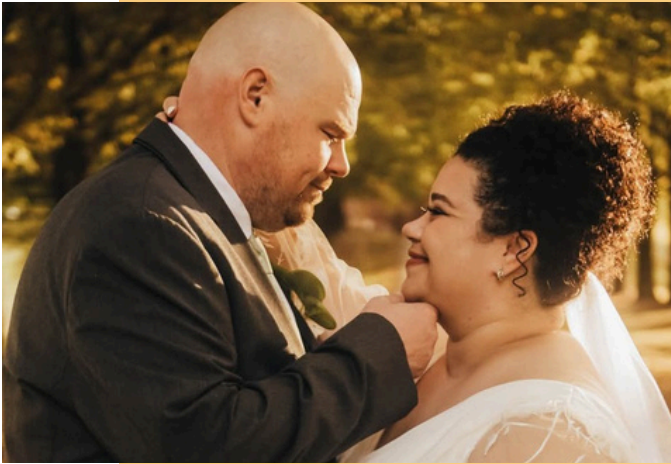


Trent Jacobs '15 & Haley were married in May. Trent is the son of Bobby Jacobs '81 & Krista Jacobs.



Mary Grace Amos '17 & Sam Williams were married in early October. Mary Grace is the daughter of Sallie Overstreet Amos '88 & Eddie Amos.

LOOKING FOR ALUMNI NEWS



Emily Agee '09 & Justin Bailey got married in early November. Emily is the daughter of Robert Agee IV '75.



Morgan Cole '18 & Todd Allen were married this past April.



Colton Hanks '12 & Amanda Hummel-Hanks were married in late October.



Lilly Metcalf & Jacob Bialer were married in May. Lilly is the daughter of Jennifer Metcalf & Jeff Metcalf '83.

Let your fellow classmates, other alumni, faculty, and staff know what you have been up to since your days at PEA/Fuqua School. Share your weddings, births, grandchildren and general information such as college graduations, promotions or accomplishments. Please send us anything you would like us to share.

FUQUA FALL WEEKEND RECAP

On the weekend of October 17-18, Fuqua School held its first annual Fuqua Fall Weekend festivities. The weekend included the PEA/Fuqua School Athletic Hall of Fame ceremony for two new inductees, Joe Donkor '07 and Lauren Andrews McCarty '97, the Skeeter Fore Memorial Golf tournament, and the "Shellabration" oyster roast.

Fuqua School's Advancement Committee proposed and helped in planning the event, which will become an annual Fuqua Fall Weekend festivity. The weekend started with the PEA/Fuqua School Hall of Fame induction event on Friday, October 17. The ceremony was complete with plenty of food, desserts and drinks and was held in the Gee-Price Activity Center. Among the attendees were five past PEA/Fuqua School Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees: Robert Smith '76, Richard Epperson II '75, Craig Howard '98, Kenneth Batts '76 and James Saunders '72. The night ended under the lights of Gilmer Field with the Fuqua Falcons defeating Quantico Warriors 52-38.

McCarty, a three-sport athlete at Fuqua, was inducted first and gave a speech that emphasized her family's importance to her Basketball, Softball and Volleyball careers and the rest of her life. "For me it was about teamwork and togetherness and having a good time with my teammates," McCarty said. "I'm incredibly honored," she said at the "Shellabration" the day following her induction.

Donkor, a star running back on the Falcon football team was inducted based on his multiple accolades in his career, namely 1st team All-State running back and team MVP in 2006.

FUQUA FALL WEEKEND RECAP

“I never considered myself to be a star athlete and what success I did find was due to a collaborative effort from invaluable teammates and coaches,” Donkor said. “To be inducted into the hall of fame has been a monumental moment in my life and it shows me that you can make a tremendous impact in a short period of time. Being around other individuals who wanted to improve themselves and hold each other accountable is something that has been a key component in my professional career.”

The “Skeeter” Fore Memorial Golf Tournament took place Saturday morning with 19 teams gathering to enjoy a beautiful day and share memories. This year’s tournament was won by Tyler Allen ‘08, Dusty Grey ‘08, Ryan Sharpe ‘08, and Landon Allen. Our youngest alumni team representing the Class of 2023 took 9th place (1st place second flight). Team ‘23 consisted of Matthew Pemberton ‘23, Grayson Newcomb ‘23, son of Ashley Webb Newcomb ‘94, grandson of Hugh Webb ‘65, Evan Nichols ‘05, son of Katherine Agee Nichols ‘91 and the late Ricky Nichols ‘90, the foursome was rounded out by Jordan Ledger ‘05, son of Shawn Johnson Ledger ‘90 and the grandson of Linda Stokes Johnson ‘64 and the late Robert Johnson ‘63. The tournament also sponsored two scholarships in memory of Beth & Skeeter Fore.

The “Shellabration” event concluded the Fuqua Fall Weekend Festivities. This event was headlined by freshly made oysters and shrimp, a silent auction, a college football watch zone, and a reunion for the class of 2005. “This weekend really couldn’t have gone better,” Reynolds said. “The weather is amazing, the Hall of Fame dinner last night was great, the boys played super at the football game, we won last night, and all the golfers had a great time.”

Following the weekend’s festivities, Fuqua’s team leaders reflected on the weekend and looked forward to the future. “We thank all of those that participated in the three weekend events,” Metcalf said. “Many not only participated, but donated, volunteered and supported many other efforts in making it all happen. An additional goal is to have any and all class reunions on site,” Metcalf said. “The evening of the “Shellabration” gives us a chance to host those events on site without a lot of planning required by the class”

by: Chris Matthey

FUQUA FALL WEEKEND

Look for more information coming concerning
FUQUA FALL WEEKEND 2026
in future communications. Also see our website
at www.fuquaschool.org. Be sure to like us on
Facebook and Instagram!



FUQUA FALL WEEKEND





FUQUA SCHOOL

Boundless Individual Potential

OPEN ENROLLMENT

For new families applying for the
2025-2026 academic year

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