

EDITION THREE

TOGETHER WE THRIVE: THE JAXTHRIVE NEWSLETTER

Editor in Chief: Olivia Owens

October 27th, 2025



CONTENT INCLUDES

- CO-PRESIDENT SPOTLIGHT
- EDITORS LETTER
- REFLECTIONS OF A JAXTHRIVE TUTOR
- NASIBULLAH'S JOURNEY
- NEW CHAPTER ATX JAXTHRIVE
- MATH 4 MINIS
- JAXTHRIVE'S NEW BOOK

WELCOME TO THE JAXTHRIVE
NEWSLETTER! ENJOY ARTICLES
WRITTEN BY OUR VOLUNTEERS
AND NEWLETTER TEAM, AND
MOST IMPORTANTLY,
HIGHLIGHTS ABOUT OUR
JAXTHRIVE STUDENTS FROM ALL
AROUND THE WORLD.



LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

2025-2026



Co-President Spotlight

WRITTEN BY MAYA JONES

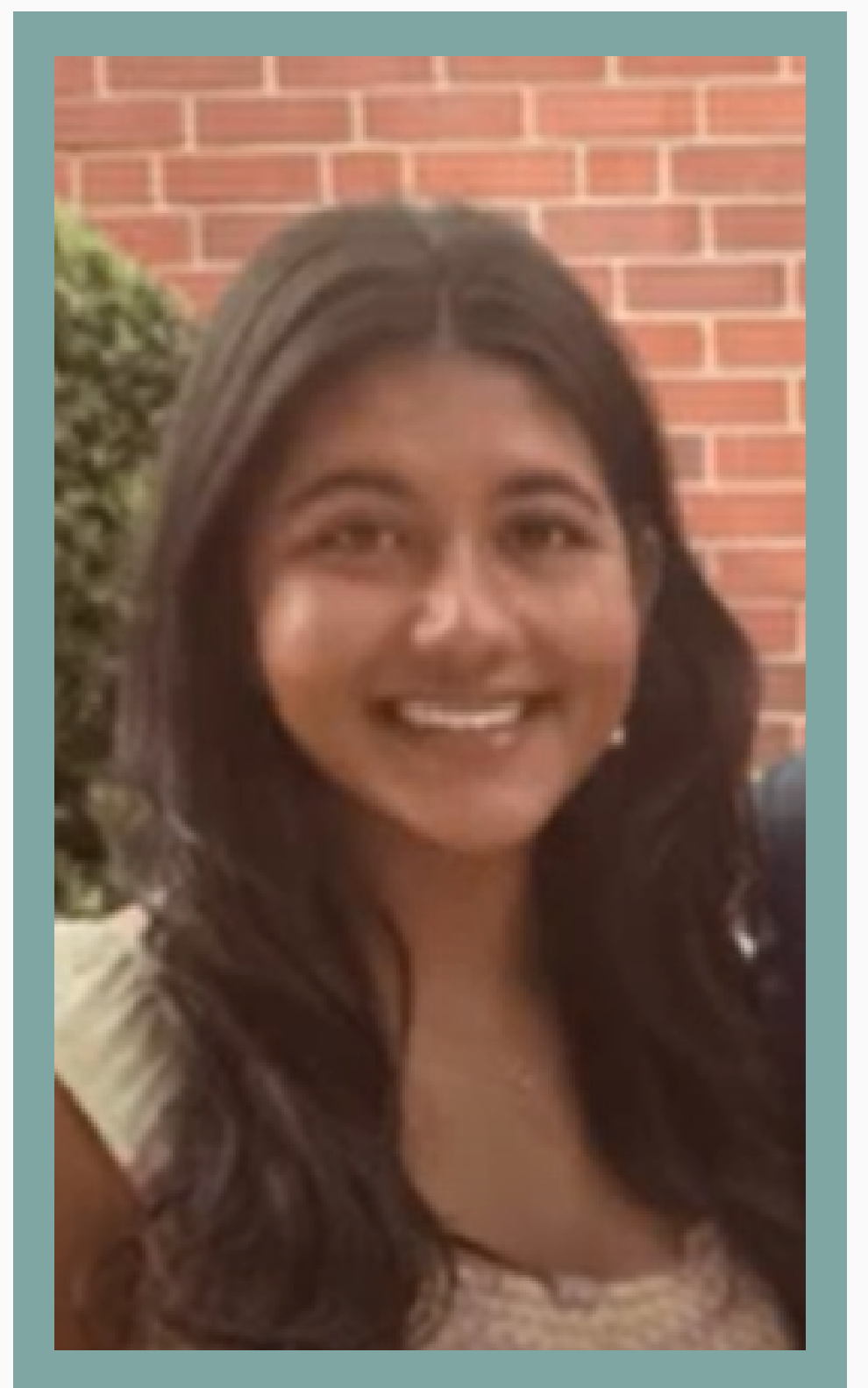
Hello from JaxTHRIVE! As one of the Co-Presidents, I'm thrilled to open this year by welcoming 45 new refugee students, all from Afghanistan, into our vibrant community. This semester, we launched a collaboration with Math4Minis, where Jackson Bohsali and his team from Ponte Vedra High School are providing targeted math tutoring on Super Saturdays, building strong foundations alongside our ongoing STEM, English language, and Arts programs.

Our virtual tutoring is going strong with tutors from as far as Austin Texas. Please join me in welcoming our newest chapter at LASA High School, spearheaded by KJ (Kyung Joo).

EmpowHer welcomes a new yoga instructor starting in December to guide students through mind and body wellness and build confidence.

Our volunteer base has expanded by 20%, drawing committed volunteers from 10 Jacksonville high schools who share one goal: to serve with empathy and excellence. Together, we'll mentor, tutor, and celebrate every milestone, big and small.

Thank you to every tutor, partner, and supporter who makes this mission possible. Let's help our students thrive academically, emotionally, and creatively, this year and beyond. Here's to an amazing year ahead!



LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

BY: JAXTHRIVE NEWSLETTER TEAM

WE ARE THRILLED TO SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER AND CONTINUE TO SPREAD THE INSPIRING MESSAGE OF JAXTHRIVE. WATCHING THE GROWTH OF THIS INITIATIVE HAS BEEN SO FULFILLING, AS EACH PROJECT REFLECTS THE COMPASSION AND DEDICATION OF OUR VOLUNTEERS. FROM COMMUNITY EVENTS, TUTORING SESSIONS, DONATION DRIVES, AND SUPER SATURDAYS, EVERY EFFORT CONTRIBUTES TO A STRONGER COMMUNITY. WE'RE CONTINUALLY AMAZED BY THE HEART AND DEDICATION THAT OUR MEMBERS BRING TO SERVING REFUGEE FAMILIES IN JACKSONVILLE. THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF THIS JOURNEY AND HELPING JAXTHRIVE MAKE A LASTING IMPACT!

SINCERELY,
YOUR EDITORS:

Olivia Owens Megan Seifried Kyra J. P.
Gianna Goll Enakshi Bansal Sarah Maloney

REFLECTIONS OF JAXTHRIVE TUTOR

SARAH MALONEY

Phebe Ball ('28) recently attended her first Super Saturday as a JaxThrive tutor, and her time with the refugee students instantly became a memorable experience. Ball's favorite part of the day was helping students create their own dances. "They all had so much fun and there was lots of laughter!" Ball remarked. She loved not only helping the refugees, but also getting to know them personally by learning little things about their lives. "I connected with the refugee students by asking fun questions such as their favorite American foods," she mentioned. Ball felt that she gained a greater understanding of how communities can support each other. "One of the best ways to help those around you is reaching out and connecting with people in a different situation from yourself," Ball reflected. She looks forward to continuing to volunteer with JaxThrive in the future!



Nasibullah's Journey

INTERVIEWED AND WRITTEN BY OLIVIA OWENS

Nasibullah was born in Afghanistan. His family finally arrived in the USA recently after much hardship. They left behind their grandparents, with whom they WhatsApp call weekly, and faced many challenges to get here. They had an intense and exhausting flight schedule, first flying to Dubai before arriving in the States. Nasibullah seemed to greatly miss his family when I spoke to him. He mentioned he misses Christmas back home, which I was interested to learn. In the States, his family preserves their heritage by celebrating Eid al-Fitr, which is a massive Islamic festival to celebrate the end of Ramadan. Nasibullah remarked that he loved this festival.

Apart from his travels and traditions, Nasibullah loves his friends here. He mentioned that he has friends from many cultures in Jacksonville, and he “has learned kindness from them.” Soccer was the topic he seemed to enjoy the most, noting that it helps him create new friendships the quickest. Even amongst cultures he is not a part of, soccer helps to bridge the gap as a sort of shared language. Nasibullah said that leaving his country was hard, but he enjoys life here. Finally, Nasibullah commented about his enjoyment of JaxTHRIVE. He adores learning soccer and the time for chatting with his friends, both opportunities that JaxTHRIVE presents and ones that Nasibullah smiled about.



NEW CHAPTER: ATX JAXTHRIVE



ATX JaxTHRIVE members at LASA High School
Note: Not all members present

NEW CHAPTER DROP: ATX JAXTHRIVE

Kyung Joo Park

Hello from Austin Texas!

My name is KJ Park, and I've had the privilege of opening the first Texas chapter of JaxTHRIVE at LASA High School (Liberal Arts and Science Academy)!

A big thank you to Mr. Moody: our club sponsor, World Geography teacher at LASA, whom I couldn't have done all of the club paperwork without. After the landslide of paperwork and then waiting to get said paperwork finalized, our first interest meeting was in September. It was a huge success with a large turnout of students enthusiastic to JaxTHRIVE's cause.

This chapter was established with a focus on JaxTHRIVE's virtual tutoring program. In this program, LASA students get in touch with a JaxTHRIVE refugee and tutor them virtually on whatever subject they need. However, in addition to virtual tutoring, we are also currently working on a penpal project to build long-distance but personal connections between LASA and JaxTHRIVE refugee students. We will mail out our first batch of letters out by the end of the month, and establish a back and forth correspondence. This project will be active throughout the year, and the one on one format will help establish a deeper relationship between students

We've had a bit of a learning curve with the difficulties of being so far from Jacksonville. However, we now have reliable club officers, consistent meetings, and overachieving members who use some of their already-scarce free time at LASA to dedicate to JaxTHRIVE.

Overall, thank you so much to everyone at JaxTHRIVE for giving everyone here at LASA such a wonderful cause to work for, and to everyone participating in ATX JaxTHRIVE for working hard to contribute to JaxTHRIVE's mission!

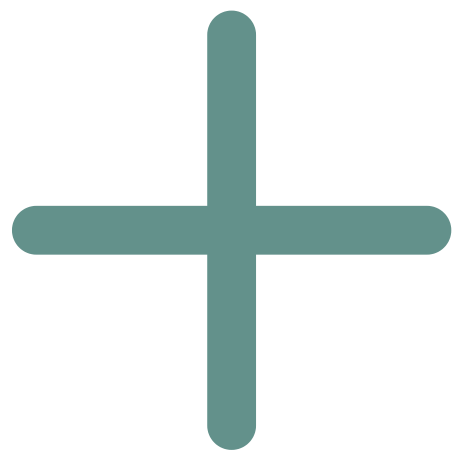


**LIBERAL ARTS AND
SCIENCE ACADEMY**
AUSTIN Independent School District

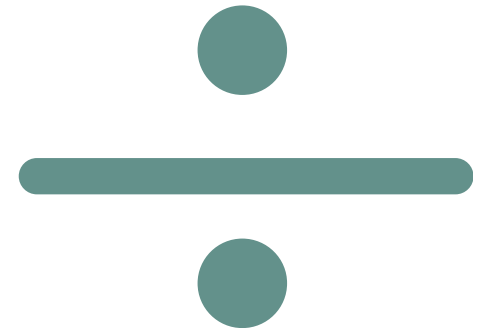


**ATX JaxTHRIVE club sponsor and
LASA World Geography teacher,
Mr. Moody**

MATH



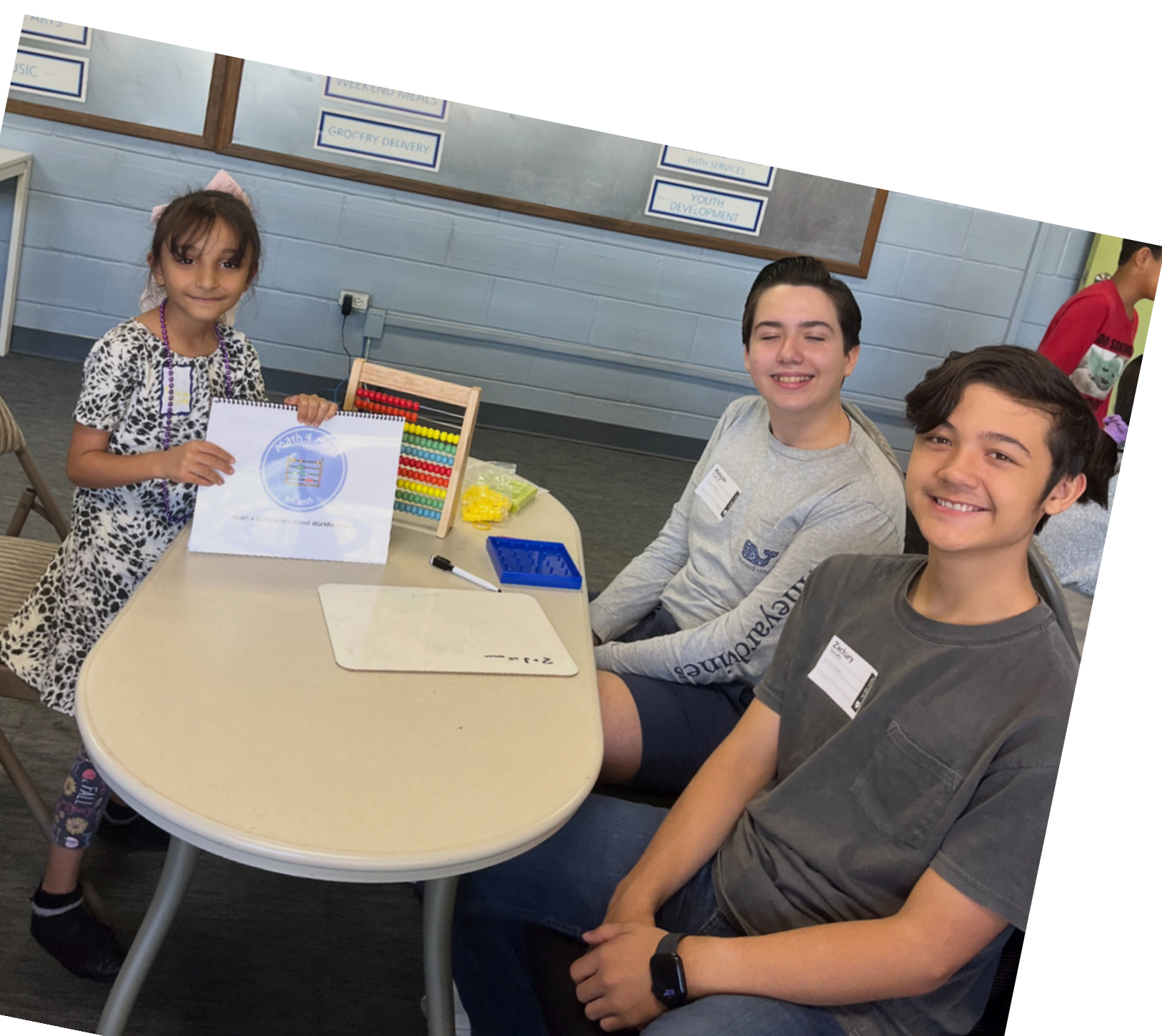
4



MINIS

By Enakshi Bansal

JACKSON BOHSALI IS A JUNIOR AT PONTE VEDRA HIGH SCHOOL AND THE PRESIDENT OF STUDENTS AGAINST DESTRUCTIVE DECISIONS. HIS PASSION FOR MATH LED HIM TO CREATE MATH 4 MINIS, A FREE VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION THAT AIMS TO BUILD FIRM MATH FOUNDATIONS FOR THE YOUNG MINDS OF AMERICA. THROUGH VOLUNTEERING EFFORTS, THEY TEACH KIDS BASIC MATH SKILLS TO HELP THEM SUCCEED IN THE SUBJECT. IN APRIL, HE FOUNDED MATH 4 MINIS AND MET WITH THE REPS FOR ST JOHN'S COUNTY'S HEADSTART AND VPK PROGRAMS. THROUGH HIS EFFORTS, THE PROGRAM HAS BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE A SOLID MATH CURRICULUM FOR THE REFUGEES THAT KIM'S OPEN DOOR AND JAXTHRIVE ALREADY WORK WITH DURING SUPER SATURDAYS.



NEW BOOK: SARINA OF KANDAHAR

MAYA JONES



JAXTHRIVE RELEASED A NEW BOOK THIS YEAR CALLED *SARINA OF KANDAHAR: AN AFGHAN GIRL'S JOURNEY TO CHANGE THE WORLD*. THIS CHILDREN'S BOOK WAS CO-AUTHORED BY MAYA JONES AND ALEXIS MAGNANO, WHO MET SARINA THROUGH THEIR WORK AT JAXTHRIVE. INSPIRED BY HER INCREDIBLE STORY AND REMARKABLE COURAGE, THEY FELT COMPELLED TO SHARE HER STORY. SARINA BECAME A CHANGEMAKER AT ONLY 14 YEARS OLD. MAYA AND ALEXIS WANT THEIR READERS TO REALIZE THAT THEY ARE NEVER TOO YOUNG TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD! THE BOOK IS AVAILABLE ON AMAZON AND [BARNES & NOBLE.COM](https://www.barnesandnoble.com/). 100% OF ALL PROCEEDS WILL SUPPORT THE REFUGEE CHILDREN. MAYA AND ALEXIS HOPE TO INSPIRE OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE TO FOLLOW THEIR PASSIONS TO HELP OTHERS.. THEY SHARED THE BOOK WITH THE SUPERINTENDENTS OF THE DUVAL COUNTY AND ST. JOHN'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS, WITH THE GOAL OF ADDING IT TO THEIR LIBRARIES. THE BOOK ALSO HAS A TEACHER GUIDE, INCLUDING MULTIPLE CHOICE AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR AN INTERACTIVE READ.