

The class of 2016 did the first Senior Walk in their caps and gowns down the halls of the school as the entire student body stood on the sidelines rooting for them



1st Graduating Class

Tompkins High School says goodbye to

The journey at Obra D. Tompkins High School (OTHS) has been a distinct one for the first graduating class. They had the opportunity to create their very own traditions from the ground up. They are the ones who made the way for future Tompkins High School Falcons for years to come.

The First to Start It All

As senior basketball player Kim Lauritano works on her college housing plans, she reflects on how these three years have been at the newly opened school. "Going to Tompkins has given me the opportunity to figure out who I am as a person," says Lauritano. "Starting the basketball program has been meaningful because as a team we left traditions that will have a lasting impact."

Senior Michail Shaposhnikov says, "My three years at Tompkins have been both enriching and nurturing, and because we were the first senior class, there was no one to look up to, but we also had no one to limit us. One of my greatest experiences came from building the Science Olympiad from the ground up with a very ambitious officer team who was looking to create a STEM club like nothing Katy ISD had ever seen before. That opportunity could only have come from a school like Tompkins."

Becoming Falcons

Tammy Laurence, twelfth-grade assistant principal, has watched her class grow and evolve. "As I look back at our first year at Tompkins, I remember students who did not want to be here, they wanted to be at Seven Lakes. Then by the time the first semester was over, the sophomores as a whole became the Tompkins Falcons," she says. "I am very proud of the class of 2016. There are so many wonderful students in this class. I have really enjoyed getting to know and watch them in their activities."

Building from Scratch

Band director Stephen Bond's greatest challenge in the first three years has been getting students and parents to come together and establish a band program. "We had students the first year in the band from nine different schools. Only a handful of kids actually had competitive marching band experience, so we were starting from scratch. Fortunately, our kids are amazing and they were determined to build something great, which they have," says Bond. As the first class departs the halls of OTHS, the memories they take with them will hold a special place.



of Obra D. Tompkins

its first graduates, the class of 2016

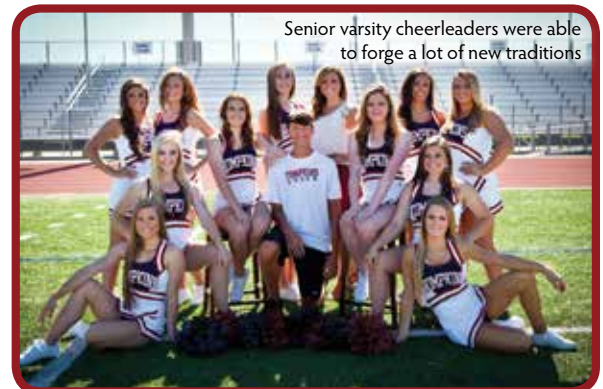
Written by Shetye Cypher

“Being a part of the first graduating class gave me the opportunity to make new friends and create lasting memories. One memory I will never forget is being able to co-found the Tompkins chapter of Best Buddies,” says senior Maddie Geiger. “I will always remember at one party we had a photo booth with dress-up items. It ended in one huge group photo with everyone making a silly face and it will hang in my dorm room. My three years at Tompkins have given me more than I could have ever asked for.”

Leaders of the School

Teacher Jason Crump sees the value in being at the top every year. “The first class is full of leaders who adapt very well. They’ve been seniors for three years and have no issue with jumping into new things and cutting a new path for themselves and the school,” he says. “It’s impossible to put into words how proud I am of the class of 2016. These have been the leaders of this school since we opened and it’s very hard to imagine this school without them here.” **KM**

SHETYE CYPHER is a freelance writer who is also the journalism teacher and publications adviser at Tompkins High School.



Senior varsity cheerleaders were able to forge a lot of new traditions

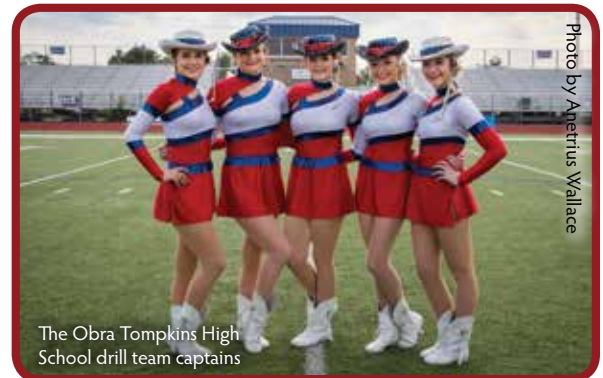


Photo by Anetarius Wallace

The Obra Tompkins High School drill team captains

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