

# Academy Board Report - February 2026

## Student Center Launch and Purpose

This month, we officially opened our new Student Center, a multi-use space designed to better support student learning, regulation, and accountability. The center consists of four newly created rooms located in the back of the existing library, allowing us to expand supports without disrupting classroom instruction.

The Student Center serves several important functions. It provides quiet workspaces for students who need a reduced-stimulus environment, make-up testing rooms, and calm, supervised spaces for students who may be experiencing emotional dysregulation. These rooms may also be used for time-outs or assigned detentions, ensuring students remain in a structured and monitored setting.

We have assigned a full-time staff member to oversee the daily operation and functionality of the Student Center. A primary emphasis is placed on supporting TLC students, particularly those who benefit from a quieter environment or who need assistance regulating during the school day. This structure allows us to both meet student needs and appropriately bill for services when applicable.



Teachers may also issue a temporary pass for students who need a quieter place to work for a portion of a class period, helping students stay productive while minimizing classroom disruption. TRIO utilizes a dedicated room each Monday to work with our graduating seniors to help plan next steps whether that is a scholarship, help with FAFSA or campus tours.

Finally, the Student Center provides a dedicated, supervised location for students involved in disciplinary situations or ongoing investigations, allowing administrative processes to occur without escalating issues or removing students from supervision.

Overall, the Student Center has already proven to be a flexible and valuable addition—supporting student needs, preserving instructional time, and strengthening our ability to respond thoughtfully to both academic and behavioral situations.



## **Student Advisory Clubs**

Student Advisory Clubs continue to be a popular end-of-the-week activity, with many students looking forward to gathering with peers and engaging in areas of personal interest. These clubs have become an important way to build relationships, increase student buy-in, and end the week on a positive note.

The Cruisers Rollin Store often operates during this time, adding an element of fun and positive reinforcement to the experience while recognizing student engagement and behavior.

This quarter, we expanded our offerings with several new clubs, including weightlifting, cosmetics, and music appreciation, while continuing established favorites such as art,

skiboarding, photography, and RPG games. The variety allows students with diverse interests to find a place where they feel connected and engaged.

We would also like to extend our appreciation to Shelby and Garth from CTE for stepping in to mentor two of the clubs. Their involvement has strengthened the program and reinforced collaboration between the Academy and CTE.

## **Student Life – Upcoming Events**

This week, our Student Council sponsored a Candy Gram fundraiser in advance of the upcoming Sadie Hawkins Valentine's Dance. The dance will be held on Friday, February 13, and will include a lighthearted twist on the traditional hearts-and-roses theme (nothing too extreme).

We are also in the final stages of repurposing and repainting a metal cart to launch our new COSSA Cruiser Coffee Cart. All supplies and an industrial coffee maker have been ordered, and we anticipate this becoming a popular student council-led fundraiser. Initial plans include selling to CTE students as they leave for lunch, with additional opportunities built in as the program develops.

# **Academy Board Report - January 2026**

## **Culture & Climate Update**

### **1. A New Year, Semester, and Quarter**

As we begin the new year, COSSA Academy is experiencing its highest enrollment in the past five years, with 102 students currently enrolled and three additional students expected to begin shortly. This growth reflects greater flexibility in student intake as well as growing confidence from consortium district principals and school counselors in COSSA Academy as an effective placement option for students.

With increased enrollment and larger class sizes, administration has renewed its focus on attendance and chronic absenteeism, utilizing daily attendance reports, prompt calls home, and welfare checks when needed to support consistent student engagement. These practices are intended as early supports to address barriers before they become ongoing concerns.

New students are welcomed through personalized tours, introductions to the school, and a COSSA Cruisers beanie—a simple gesture that helps establish a sense of belonging. Most importantly, students are welcomed into a calm, supportive, and relationship-centered environment. Parents and students continue to report feeling supported and cared for, reinforcing the importance of a thoughtful, student-focused approach.

### **2. Winter Dance**

The Winter Dance was planned and hosted by the COSSA Student Council in collaboration with a newly formed student dance committee. This event marked the first school dance in several years and was well supported by both students and administration, with music provided by our in-house DJ.

As always, the Culinary program prepared an excellent selection of finger foods and sweets, contributing to a welcoming and festive atmosphere. Tickets were sold in advance and, in many cases, generously gifted to encourage broad participation and student buy-in.

Students reported enjoying the event, and momentum has already built toward a Valentine's-themed Sadie Hawkins Dance, currently in the planning stages. These events reflect COSSA Academy's commitment to providing students with access to a positive and inclusive high-school experience, including social opportunities that help build school culture and community.



It should also be noted—purely for the record—that a significant portion of the dancing was enthusiastically led by Dr. Williams, with Mr. Rothamer and Ms. Flake also doing their part to encourage student participation and keep the energy high.





### **3. Senior Project Presentations**

Sixteen seniors successfully completed and presented their Senior Project presentations, earning strong evaluations overall, with several projects standing out for their quality, originality, and real-world impact. Student projects reflected a wide range of interests and pathways, including the construction of animal shelters, handmade blankets, the installation of a new bench in front of COSSA, and career exploration projects in areas such as audio recording and engineering, cosmetology, and other professional fields.

Presentations were evaluated by a panel of judges that included representatives from the military, law enforcement, and in-house staff. Judges consistently commented on the professionalism, preparedness, and presentation skills demonstrated by students, noting the overall high quality of both the projects and the presentations themselves.

These projects continue to serve as a meaningful capstone experience, allowing students to demonstrate growth in communication, planning, and real-world application of skills as they prepare for graduation and postsecondary pathways.



### **3. Last Day Before Winter Break**

The final day of school before winter break proved to be one of the most memorable student events of the year. This was due largely to a series of creative challenge games prepared by Dr. Williams for the student body. The highlight of the event was an eating contest that generated the most enthusiastic student response—particularly after students were led to believe they would be enjoying festive holiday treats, only to discover it was a “baby food edition.” Laughter (and a fair amount of gagging) quickly followed, creating a shared moment of fun and camaraderie.

In addition, students celebrated the “12 Days of Christmas – COSSA Version,” a schoolwide positive behavior initiative in which daily prizes were awarded through drawings for eligible students. The celebration included a playful song performed by students (and, reluctantly, Mr. Rothamer) highlighting positive behaviors. A sample of the verses included:



Verse 1

*On the 1st day of Christmas my students gave to me...  
No tar-diessss in the Acad-e-my!*

Verse 2

*On the 2nd day of Christmas my students gave to me...  
Two clean behavior logs,  
And no tardies in the Academy!*

This event exemplified COSSA Academy's ongoing efforts to balance structure, accountability, and joy, reinforcing positive behaviors while fostering school spirit and a strong sense of community.



#### **4. Upon Their Return**

Students returned from break to begin the new semester and quarter with an awards celebration recognizing individual student achievements, teacher awards for performance, growth, and other stand-out contributions, perfect attendance, and new RISE recipients. This event served as an intentional opportunity to highlight positive behaviors, effort, and character across the school community.

The celebration helped set a strong tone for the new year by emphasizing recognition, encouragement, and accountability, while reinforcing COSSA Academy's commitment to honoring both student success and educator excellence. The event also included an element of fun, ensuring that recognition felt meaningful, engaging, and motivating.



Overall, the celebration provided a positive and energizing start to the new semester and quarter, reinforcing the value of effort, consistency, and character at COSSA Academy.





## 5. Conclusion: Reflecting and Looking Ahead

As the new semester and quarter begin, COSSA Academy continues to reflect on recent accomplishments while looking ahead with purpose and optimism. A recent schoolwide assembly provided students with a year-in-review, reinforcing expectations through policy refreshers—most notably regarding cell phone use—while also emphasizing the importance of consistency, accountability, and shared responsibility within our school community.

The assembly also looked forward to new opportunities for learning, connection, and belonging. Planned experiences include a student ski trip, additional enrichment field trips such as attending *Les Misérables*, expanded school dances, and a variety of senior-focused activities designed to celebrate milestones and build community. These include events such as go-kart racing and a Senior Roundtable, where members of last year's graduating class will return to share reflections on life after COSSA, lessons learned, and postsecondary experiences.

As always, many of these events are thoughtfully supported by our Culinary program, which continues to play an important role in bringing students together and enhancing the overall school experience.

Together, these efforts reflect COSSA Academy's ongoing commitment to balancing structure with opportunity, and expectations with belonging, as we continue working to ensure students feel supported, engaged, and proud of their school community.