



From the Office of the Headmaster

Tuscaloosa Academy

Think. Play. Belong.

Why **Play?**

What do we mean by **Play**. Certainly we do not want to convey in our tag line that we lack rigor; after all we are a college preparatory school where academics must come first. So where does play fit? The answer is, "More places than you may realize."

PLAY means *opportunity*. TA families value the opportunities their children have to PLAY. Almost anything a TA child wants to do, they can do. We strongly believe, for example, that no child should be cut from a sports team. Yet we manage, through strong programs and coaching, to field consistently competitive teams year-after-year. We also do not limit participation to just one activity at a time – so students can *do it all* if they desire.

Opportunities extend well beyond the field and the gym. If students want to be in a school production they can, even if they are not born actors. Special Events such as Pumpkin Knight, dances, proms, grade-level plays and presentations are always very inclusive. Within the curriculum, small class sizes, outstanding facilities and ample resources lead to high levels of engagement in the classroom...science experiments, field trips, discussion opportunities...all of these pedagogical varieties give a play-like quality to our rigorous and comprehensive curriculum. Students have fun while they learn, yet they are exposed to a college preparatory curriculum. Common sense and empirical research tells us that this is the optimal environment for learners.