

The Calm Before the Storm

Hurricane Helene, a category 4 hurricane, made landfall on Thursday, September 26 in Florida and the 27th in Georgia. It devastated six states, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia, and killed 232 people, making Helene the deadliest hurricane since Katrina in 2005. Many schools and communities went weeks without opening, and many have not completely recovered.

When asked how the faculty and students at Thomas Jefferson Academy spent their time, the answer varied. When asked how long he or she went without power, most answered with anywhere from thirteen to sixteen days, and none slept through the night. Large amounts of the student body live in rural areas, many did not have access to water, but the ones who did claimed it was “very cold” and did not know “if it would be safe to drink”. Many passed the time by cleaning up his or her yard, reading, puzzles, coloring, and listening to downloaded music.

On Thursday, September 26, no one realized just how bad the storm would be. Most found themselves excited about a long weekend and a few days off school. When asked how they felt about Helene on the night of the 26th and the morning of the 27th, the reactions are drastically different. Many quickly become terrified a tree would fall through their house, damage cars, or delay them from finding safety when the hurricane ends.

The storm proved to me more disastrous than expected, but brought neighbors and communities closer together. Sometimes it can take a disaster before we decide to work together.









