

# Proclamation



*Jane Castor, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, in 1959, founding fathers Dr. Ralph C. Aye and Dr. Collin Baker envisioned a school with a strong liberal arts curriculum grounded in moral instruction whereby students could learn from impassioned and inspiring teachers, and a committee was formed to bring a private secondary school to the Tampa, Florida area, and it was named The Episcopal Academy of Tampa; and

**WHEREAS**, the name of the school was changed to **Berkeley Preparatory School** (Berkeley Prep) in honor of scholar and philanthropist Bishop George Berkeley, and it opened its doors September 9, 1961, at St. Andrews Parish House on Plant Avenue, relocating in 1962 to the former Davis Island Hotel on Biscayne Boulevard until 1979, when the new site on Kelly Road became its home; and

**WHEREAS**, the founding trustees set the goals and ruling principles, and established the Berkeley Prep method of nurturing students' intellectual, emotional, spiritual, and physical development, and the school is well-known for its excellence and one of the most prestigious educational centers in the Tampa Bay area; and

**WHEREAS**, all Berkeley Prep students participate in community initiatives throughout the year, and along with a balanced curriculum of academics and activities, the students play exceptional competitive sports, with 80 percent of them playing at least one sport, and the school is a member of the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA); and

**WHEREAS**, the **Berkeley Prep Varsity Football Buccaneers**, led by its beloved coach of the past 17 years, Dominick Ciao, along with his dedicated staff, captured the school's first **FHSAA Class 2M State Football Championship** title when the skilled and focused team upset the previously unbeaten Miami Norland Vikings with a 28-20 victory, held at Bragg Memorial Stadium at Florida A&M University on Saturday, December 9, 2023, which culminated a season of dedication, commitment, and extraordinary efforts by each team member and the coaches.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Saturday, December 16, 2023 as

## **“BERKELEY PREPARATORY VARSITY FOOTBALL BUCCANEER FOOTBALL DAY”**

in the City of Tampa, Florida, in honor of Berkeley Prep Varsity Football team bringing the FHSAA State Football Championship home to Tampa, and all citizens are joining me in congratulating them on this achievement, which is a source of great pride for Berkeley Prep and the entire community, and we wish the players and coaches continued success in their futures.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.



*Jane Castor*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor