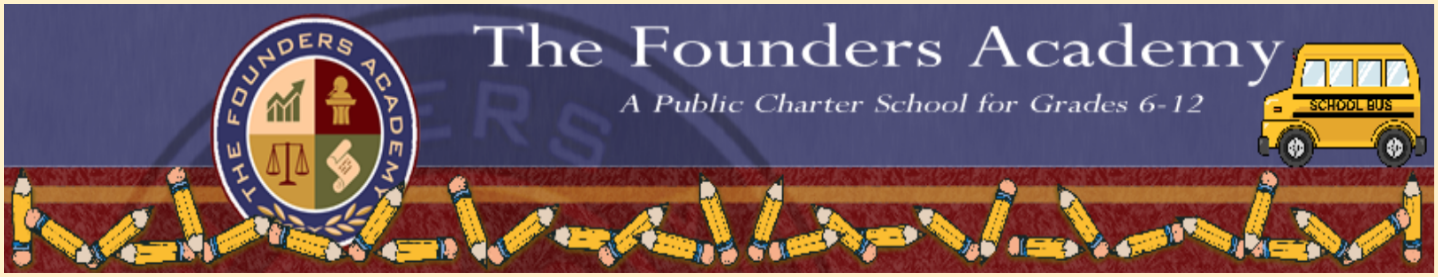

September 1st, 2023

PARENT/GUARDIAN NEWSLETTER

From the Dean of School

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- The Founders Mission Statement
- The Founders Academy School Store
- SignUpGenius: $5000 Back to School Giveaway!

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Founders on Social Media

Follow Us!

From the Dean of School

Dean Hayes's Weekly Message

Welcome to the 23-24 school year! We are so excited to have you all back next week. Our faculty and staff returned this week for several workshops. We focused on things like the mission, curriculum and school safety. Teachers also had time to prepare their classrooms. They look great!

Everyone should have received the information about their Alma accounts (our new portal system). More information is below to help you get set up.

Have a wonderful holiday weekend!

-Cassie Hayes
Dean of School

The Founders Mission Statement

The Founders Academy is a public chartered school encompassing grades 5 - 12 that is free and open to all New Hampshire students. The Academy develops leaders who understand and apply the lessons of the past, demonstrate exceptional character and lead by example. The Academy recognizes the importance of balance in the development of the whole person, and respects each student's journey.

Principled leadership is fostered by means of a curriculum of classical studies that includes analyzing the lives of great men and women of history, mining the rich classical ideals of the Western tradition, and tracing the evolution of the precious and costly idea of liberty.

Link: http://www.thefoundersacademy.org/about/mission___vision

SignUpGenius: $5000 Back to School Giveaway!

Enter a favorite school in our back-to-school giveaway for a chance to win them $5,000. The winning nominator will help make their school's year extra special, plus receive a $100 gift card!

VOTE FOR FOUNDERS!

The Founders Academy School Store

Suit up with some Founders swag! **Our school store is open and taking orders through September 15th**!

Browse our options here: https://stores.inksoft.com/the_founders_academy/shop/home

Orders will be processed after the 15th and will be ready to be picked up the first week of October.
***Please review the size charts carefully prior to ordering as items cannot be returned.*

NEED TO KNOW

Important Dates

What:	When:
First Day of School 23/24	Wednesday, September 6th
Class of 2024 Senior Night	Thursday, September 14th, 6:30PM
Teacher Workshop || No School	Tuesday, September 19th
Back to School Night and Family BBQ	Wednesday September 27th, 5-7pm

Medication

Students who need to take medication at school must have an updated medication form for the 23-24 school year. Please see the front desk for this documentation. We cannot administer medication without an updated form.

2023-24 School Calendar

2023/24 Founders Academy Calendar

Calendarpedia
Your source for calendars

September 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					TW	2
3	V	TW	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	TW	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
						*17

October 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	TW	7
8	V	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	PC	31				
						*19

November 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	TW	8	9	V	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	V	V	V	V	V	25
26	27	28	29	30		
						*15

December 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	V	V	V	V	V	23
24	V	V	V	V	V	30
31						*11

January 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	V	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	V	16*	17*	18*	19*	20
21	22	23	24	25	TW	27
28	29	30	31			
						*20

February 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	V	20	21	22	23	24
25	V	V	V	V		
						*16

March 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					V	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	TW	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						*19

April 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	TW	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	V	V	V	V	V	27
28	29	30				
						*16

May 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	TW	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	V	28	29	30	31	
						*21

June 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4*	5*	6*	7	8
9	TW	TW	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						*5

x	=	First and Last Days of School
	=	1 PSAT Fall Testing Day (Grades 9 & 11) - 10/26
	=	4 SAS/SAT/PSAT Spring Testing Days (3/27, 4/10, 4/17, 5/1)

PC = Parent/Teacher Conferences; **TW** = Teacher Workshop Days

Approx. end-of-quarter dates: Q1 - 10/27; Q2 - 1/19; Q3 - 3/29; Q4 - 6/7

Graduation - 6/15

Note - The NH Primary date will not be decided until the school year begins. No school on that day.

Federal holidays 2023/24

Sep 4, 2023	Labor Day	Nov 11, 2023	Veterans Day	Jan 1, 2024	New Year's Day	May 27, 2024	Memorial Day
Oct 9, 2023	Columbus Day	Nov 23, 2023	Thanksgiving Day	Jan 15, 2024	Martin Luther King Day	Jun 19, 2024	Juneteenth
Nov 10, 2023	Veterans Day (obs.)	Dec 25, 2023	Christmas Day	Feb 19, 2024	Presidents' Day	Jul 4, 2024	Independence Day

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Class of 2024 Senior Night

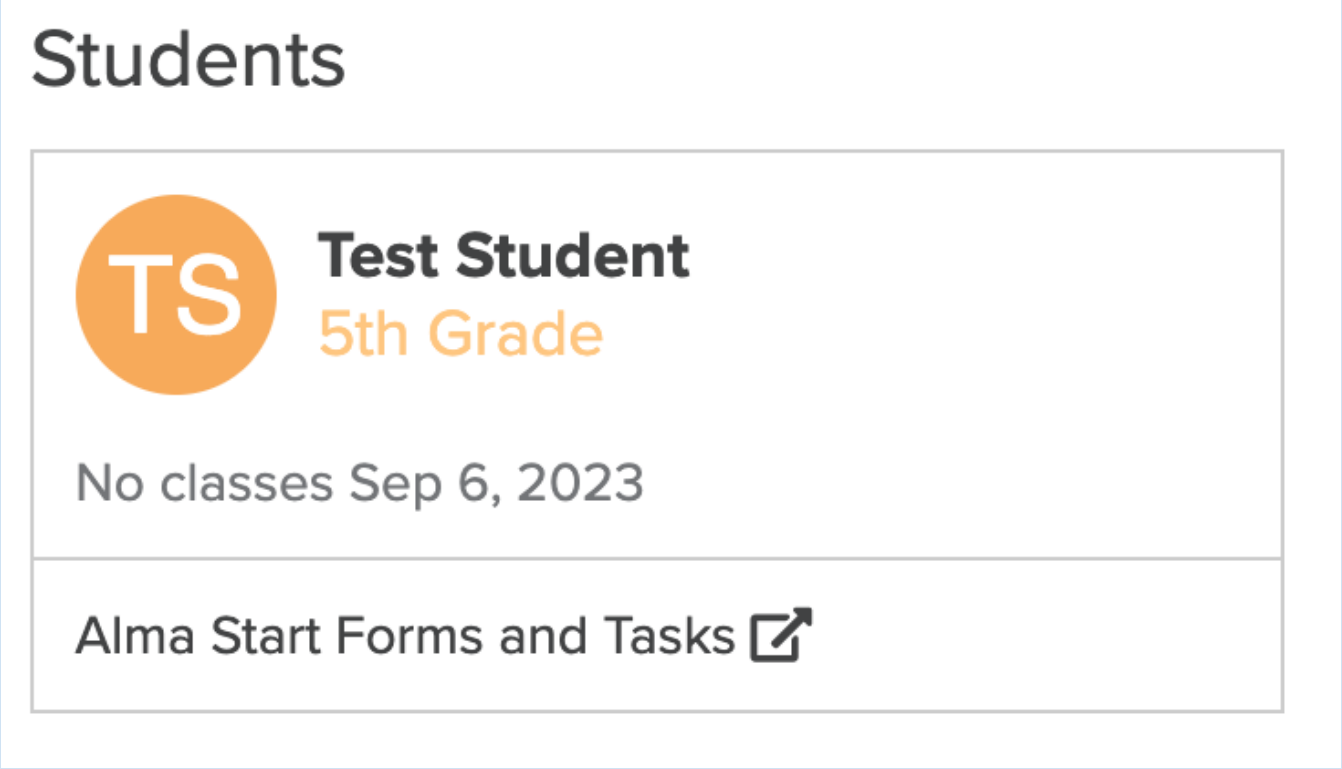
Welcome to Alma!

ALMA IS LIVE! After *months* of transferring information over from Rediker, we're finally able to open up Alma to our students and their families!

We're so excited about this new and user-friendly software that will make it easier to track our students' progress and simplify communication between teachers & parents/guardians.

Parents/guardians should receive their Alma account activation emails on <u>Friday, September 1st.</u>

<u>PARENTS/GUARDIANS</u>
Once you activate your account, we are asking parents/guardians to <u>review the account information</u> for their students' accounts. This can be easily done by **clicking the "Alma Start Forms and Tasks"** button under each student's account on your welcome page and then following the prompts (*see below*). By completing this task, you are helping to ensure that all information in Alma is up to date and accurate.



STUDENTS

Student activation emails will be sent to the student's tfanh email. Student activations were sent on September 2nd.

***New Students can log into their tfanh email (which can be found in Alma through the parent's view). **New student email passwords: *Firstname*student1!** (for example Jane Doe's password would be Janestudent1!). When you log in for the first time you will be prompted to change your password.

Please direct *account activation or password questions* to Kelsey Marot at kelsey.marot@tfanh.org

A NOTE FROM THE REGISTRAR

As you look through your Alma account you will see your schedules for this year.

Please note, some of these are still being revised and they could change. If you have any questions, changes or conflicts you need resolved please email your school counselor.

High School- Mrs. Smith
michelle.smith@tfanh.org

Grades 7&8- Mrs. Hillsgrove
autumn.hillsgrove@tfanh.org

Grades 5&6- Ms. Barrett
michelle.barrett@tfanh.org

Staff will be making necessary changes when they return to school from Labor Day weekend (no earlier than Tuesday, September 5th).

Semester 1 changes are the highest priority. Any student , who has semester 2 changes can see their counselor about these in October. This does not include seniors. Any semester 2 class changes for seniors will be processed as soon as possible.

5th Grade Hub

Attention Grade 5 Families!

The Grade 5 teachers have created a Hub for families to have information readily available about Grade 5.

If you have not received an email with the link to the Google Classroom Hub please email Ms. Robichaud at k.robichaud@tfanh.org. We can then make certain you have the link and are able to get connected with the Hub.

Before & After School Program 2023-24

Founders Academy is happy to announce the return of the After-School Program and the Before School Program for the 2023-2024 Academic Year. The Before School Program allows parents to drop their children off to be supervised prior to the start of the academic day. The after school provides adult supervision and support for students.

Before School Care will start on September 6th, After School Care (homework club) will start on September 7, 2023.

PROGRAM HOURS

Before School Care: 7:00 AM – 7:20 AM
At 7:20am students will go to the cafeteria until the start of the school day.

After School Care: End of school day – 6:00 PM
PLEASE NOTE: Students who are not picked up by 6pm will be charged an additional fee of $10 for every 5 minutes late.

If you would like to sign your student up, please fill out this form and send it to diane.bosia@tfanh.org

Bussing Information

We understand that those who signed up for bussing are anxiously awaiting routing information.

Unfortunately, the bus company has not released the routes to us as of Friday, September 1st. Routes change each year based on who signs up, so we can't even go off of the stops from last year as they may have changed and *we do not want to give you false information*.

We do obviously expect to receive the bus route information prior to the first day of school, but cannot promise when exactly that will be.

As soon as it is received, route information and bus stops will be going out to those who submitted forms prior to the deadline (August 21st).

We apologize for the lack of clarity and information at this time and very much appreciate your patience as we wait to hear about the buses for this year.

Thank you for understanding.

Attention: Looking for Substitutes

The Founders Academy Public Charter School seeks paid substitute teachers for middle and high school for the 2023-2024 school year!

Subjects covered can vary. Full day and half day opportunities available. hours are 7:30 AM until 3:30PM. The rate is $75/per day.

If interested please contact Kelsey Marot at kelsey.marot@tfanh.org

Recruiting Parent Board Members

Dear Founders Families,

The Founders Board of Trustees is eager to welcome **two new parent members** to the board to increase our effectiveness and efficiency. Since its inception, our Board has put a great deal of effort into writing/approving policies, developing a strategic plan, and planning for the future of the school, and we need more parents' volunteers for the Board in order to succeed in reaching our goals.
As our board will attest, charter school board service is a personally and professionally rewarding opportunity to help ensure that every child has the opportunity to attend an excellent school.

If you are interested in sharing your business, grant writing, fundraising, financial or education expertise as a volunteer member of the Founders Board, our community would be very grateful.

Read on to learn why you should consider and how to join our board of trustees. We hope you'll join us!
-Robert Best
The Founder Academy Board of Trustees, Chairman

Why become a member of the Founders Academy board? Charter school boards play a critical leadership role in supporting and determining the quality of the education delivered to its students and the long-term sustainability of the school. Every charter school board is the governing body of a publicly-funded nonprofit organization with a multi-million-dollar budget. As with all charter school boards, Founders board is responsible for ensuring that the school has strong leadership, sound finances, effective fundraising, and high academic achievement.

Need further incentive? Here's a recent an article highlighting how joining a non-profit board can boost your career, https://diversitymbamagazine.com/career-development/how-serving-on-non-profit-boards-can-boost-your-career/

Who can apply? Any parent or guardian of a Founders Academy student

What are the duties of a Founders Board member? We set policies, hire and evaluate the school director, work with our parent organization (the PTSG), oversee the budget, fundraise, community relations, and other tasks, as needed to ensure the continued strength and success of the school. We ask that you participate in monthly board meetings, join a minimum of one committee and attend as many community events as possible

Who is on the board today? John Bauer (parent representative), Frank Weiss, Kimberley Lavallee (co-founder and vice-chair), Kyle Fox (treasurer), Patricia Humphrey (co-founder and secretary) and Robert Best (chairman).

When does the board meet? Every third Wednesday of the month at 6PM at our school. We encourage interested members to attend a Board of Trustees Meeting to observe what type of issues are discussed and how important decisions affecting The Founders Academy are made.
What is the process to become a board member? Interested parents apply by sending their resume/CV to Kimberley Lavallee kimberly.lavallee@tfanh.org.
For more information about the board of trustees including meeting agendas and minutes, visit the governance page of the website found here.

School News

Nikki Haley is Coming to Founders!

On Wednesday, September 6th, presidential candidate Nikki Haley will be coming to Founders for two evening events related to education. Her team reached out to Founders because of our mission of developing leaders of our future. We are excited to have our school be a part of this process. We hope to have other candidates from all parties visit our school and recognize the importance of our school's mission.

2023-24 School Supplies Lists

The link below will bring you to supply lists for the upcoming school year. Please note that lists for courses and teachers may still be added as the school year approaches.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vROkovTEqAsU66MJ-SBnWmEUzU7DXpEJkPDRl02axfif26DQtX-9NvqXs7UOzB-I1MvMz-gJI-ped6Q/pub

2023-24 Technology Requirements

6h - 12th Grade Families:
A reminder that your student needs to have a laptop computer for school. Students will be accessing their own computers daily in school.

5th Grade Families:
5th graders will be using computers at school, however these computers will not be leaving school. It is highly recommended that 5th graders have access to a computer at home.

Please note: 5th graders should not bring a computer from home to school as they will not be allowed to access their personal devices during the day.

Drama Club Fall Bulbs Fundraiser

Founders Community, it's that time of year again when our minds start turning to Fall and our mums and **Fall bulbs fundraiser for the Founders Academy Drama Club!** This year in addition to selling mums, we are also selling beautiful Fall bulbs!

But don't worry, you can still order mums too! In previous years you helped us make this fundraiser a great success, and we are hopeful that we can make it happen again!

Visit our landing page and enter our group code below to begin shopping! You pay right on the website to make purchasing easy! Mums will have to be picked up at the school, but you can choose to have bulbs shipped to you directly!

Purchasing bulbs or mums helps support our Drama Club and Three Rivers, a New Hampshire wreath and plant company. Please let me know if you have any questions (k.mote@tfanh.org).

https://threeriversfundraising.com/fundraiser/tfadc-f23

Join PTSG!

What is PTSG?

Our Parent Teacher Student Group (PTSG) is a very active community, focused on supporting the school. Our purpose is to positively impact Founders Academy by providing support through volunteerism and fundraising for student and staff needs, leadership opportunities for students, and family and community engagement opportunities.
https://www.thefoundersacademy.org/parents/p_t_s_g

Other

Free Access to Tutoring

NHED and Tutor.com have partnered to provide 24/7 online tutoring for students in grades 6-12 throughout the state. School districts are being encouraged to register for Tutor.com's free access for their students.

Raven the Rock Snake

Walk to End Alzheimer's

WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION®

Founders is looking for team members for the Walk To End Alzheimer's this year!

Held annually in more than 600 communities nationwide, the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's® is the world's largest fundraiser for Alzheimer's care, support and research. This inspiring event calls on participants of all ages and abilities to join the fight against the disease.

While there is no fee to register for Walk, all participants are encouraged to raise critical funds that allow the Alzheimer's Association to provide 24/7 care and support and advance research toward methods of prevention, treatment and, ultimately, a cure.

The Walk is being held at the Merrimack Premium Outlets on Saturday, October 14.

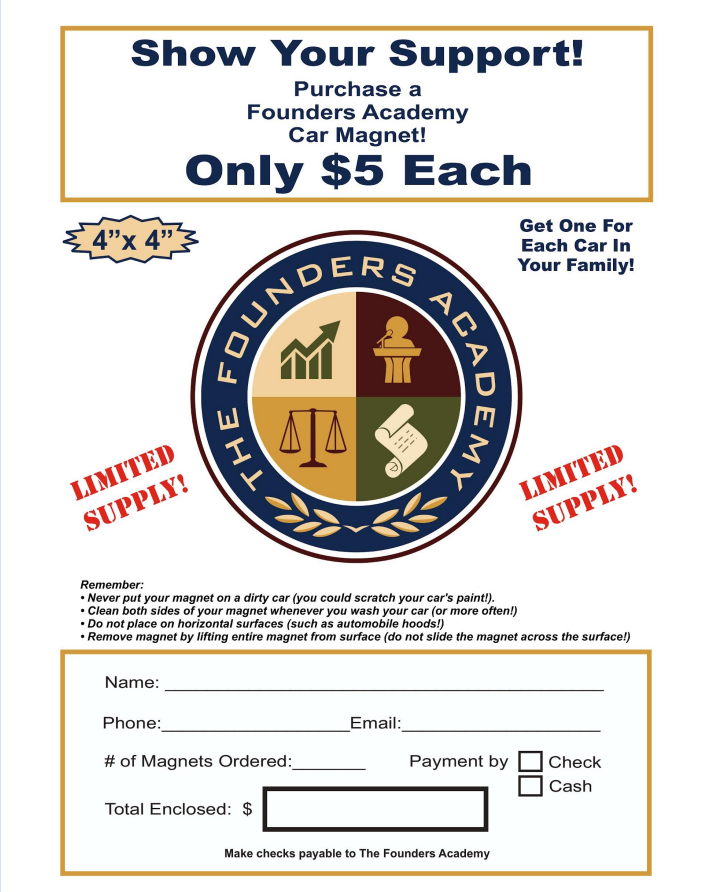
For more information, please visit this link.

Hats for Sale

There is a limited supply of school hats for sale! $15 per hat. Contact Dean Hayes at cassie.hayes@tfanh.org if you're interested in purchasing one to show your school spirit.

Founders Academy Car Magnets

Love The Founders Academy? Display your school pride on your ride when you purchase a Founders Academy car magnet for only $5.00! These make great gifts for students, parents, and grandparents. Purchase one for every vehicle!
Supplies of these beautiful 4-inch round magnets are limited so...ORDER NOW!



Show Your Support!

Purchase a
Founders Academy
Car Magnet!

Only $5 Each

4”x 4”

Get One For
Each Car In
Your Family!

THE FOUNDERS ACADEMY

LIMITED SUPPLY!

LIMITED SUPPLY!

Remember:
- *Never put your magnet on a dirty car (you could scratch your car's paint!).*
- *Clean both sides of your magnet whenever you wash your car (or more often!)*
- *Do not place on horizontal surfaces (such as automobile hoods!)*
- *Remove magnet by lifting entire magnet from surface (do not slide the magnet across the surface!)*

Name: _____

Phone:_____Email:_____

# of Magnets Ordered:_____ Payment by ☐ Check ☐ Cash

Total Enclosed: $ _____

Make checks payable to The Founders Academy

Donations

Bridge the Gap

Annual Fund Letter From Dean Hayes

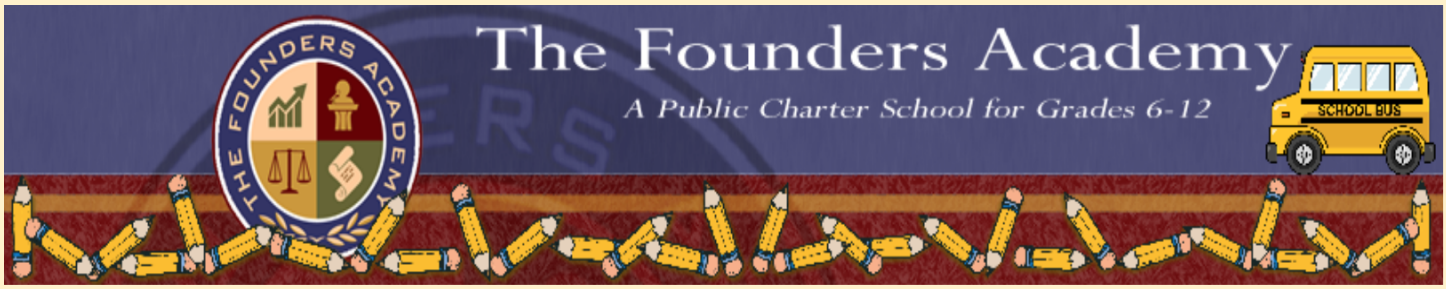
Founders On Social Media

Be sure to follow Founders on **Facebook** here:

Founders' Facebook **Carpooling** Group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/123952141583545/

Be sure to follow Founders on **Twitter** here:

Check out Founders **Youtube** Channel here:



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