

Warrior Express

A Publication of Trinity Christian School

Superintendent's Perspective

Recently, the Headmaster at St. David's School in Raleigh, NC shared the following message with his families. I received his permission to pass it on to our families. Enjoy!

"Relax and go," is the familiar cheer that my father would boom out on the backstretch of a track, or the trails of a cross-country course. The gun has gone off, the race has begun, and I trust that your child has gotten off to a good start! As we come to the end of the third week of school, I hope and pray that you (and your children) are beginning to find the right pace, the right rhythm. As a former runner and coach, pacing, contact, and position are critical components to the strategic and tactical elements of racing. Let's encourage our students to focus and set the right pace for the academic year. This is not a sprint—it is a cross-country race, complete with hills and valleys and the need to create a manageable pace that is sustainable. Go out too fast and you will struggle to finish. Go out too slow and the leaders of the field may leave you in the dust—struggling to regain contact and position. Let's help our sons and daughters find the right pace for their varied pursuits as student-academicians, athletes, and artists. Let's encourage them to use their God-given gifts and talents to maximize their potential as they begin this academic year. The gun has gone off...find your pace, stay in contact, protect your position. "Relax and go!"

In His service,
Mr. Ken Howard

Trinity Ranks as one of 50 Best!

Were you ever caught by surprise with good news? That's what happened to the Trinity community this August, a few weeks prior to the first day of class.

As is often the case with social media, prior to receiving an official notification word was spreading that the school made a list of **The 50 Best Christian High Schools in America** by TheBestSchools.org. Soon thereafter, the school staff was notified by Managing Editor Wayne Downs that Trinity was named to the list.

When asked about the recognition, Superintendent Ken Howard responded, "I was thankful for a faithful God, humbled by the honor, and grateful for all of the work done by the past faculty, staff, & board."

Mr. Downs indicated that Trinity was selected "based on several weighted factors, including academic excellence, extracurricular richness, geographical and

demographical diversity, and reputation." He added the list included only "non-boarding, coeducational day schools."

Another notable characteristic of the schools cited in TheBestSchools.org article was that the "Christian faith (is) taken seriously." Spiritual development is a focus of the Trinity administration, staff, and the Spiritual Life Committee. Biblical integration training for the faculty, Spiritual Emphasis Days for our students, and creating dynamic chapels with increased student involvement are a few of the tools being used to build a strong Christian foundation in the lives of our students.

To read the article and learn more about the list, please visit the following direct link from TheBestSchools.org.

<http://www.thebestschools.org/features/50-best-christian-high-schools-america/>



The AXIS team spend 3 days with our secondary students for Spiritual Emphasis Days. Members of AXIS mingled with Trinity students during lunch.



Trinity K5 teacher Jodi Shoemaker helps a student with his classwork.

Q & A with Jodi Shoemaker, K5

With your return to the elementary classroom, you've come full circle in your teaching. Can you recount your journey as a teacher?

After a time substitute teaching just out of college, I taught high school wood shop and graphic design for two years in Southeastern Greene School District, PA. That led to my role as a Therapeutic Staff Support member, working with students alongside behavior specialists for Centerville Clinic in Washington County, PA. I then taught third, sixth, and first grades at Alliance Christian School in Morgantown. Following the merger of Alliance and Trinity, I taught kindergarten, science grades K-7, and eighth grade math. I am very happy teaching kindergarten and feel this is truly where I belong.

How has your experience as a Trinity parent influenced your teaching?

My experience as a Trinity parent has greatly influenced my teaching. I have been a Trinity parent for nearly fifteen years. Many sacrifices have been made to carry on God's plan for this school. Watching our school through strengths and struggles has encouraged me to be a better teacher. With each milestone our school community gains faith and strength for the next race. I have had the unique opportunity to experience my children's education from the inside. I have visibly witnessed our teachers pray for my children each morning, lifting up requests for them before they even begin their day. I can be assured that my three children have experienced the teachers God had planned for them. The care and compassion they have experienced here at Trinity is beyond compare. I want to extend that same quality education to my students.

What is your favorite way to spend a Saturday?

My favorite way to spend a Saturday is with my family. We begin with breakfast and strong coffee, then we all slip on our work boots and head outside to do chores. My favorite chore is weed-eating, my husband enjoys carpentry, and my girls prefer taking care of our boer goats. Most Saturdays are

spent working outside. We cut firewood for winter, stack hay, run fence, take care of our animals, and maintain our home. There is always plenty of work to do. We often cook our meals outside over a wood fire. At the end of a long day we build a fire on the patio and sit around the glow to talk. On days that are not set aside for work, we love to take hikes in the woods to pick berries for the freezer, view wildlife, or fish the pond near our house. Although our world faces struggles, nature remains uncorrupted. God has given us the wonderful gift of creation and it is good (Genesis 1:31).

Schoolwide Initiative

Tech-savvy

When it comes to cellphones and tablets, our students are growing up tech-savvy. As educators, our challenge comes in equipping them to utilize technology in a responsible way in their personal lives, in the classroom and ultimately in the workplace.

To that end, the strategic use of technology within our classrooms continues to expand. As a result of our partnership with Citynet, all of our instructional areas on campus have wireless connectivity. In addition, an anonymous \$20,000 gift provided a tablet for each of our teachers, which will allow for increased mobility and interactivity as we increase our use of digital textbooks.

After receiving positive feedback last year, Trinity will again participate in the Hour of Code. This grassroots movement began last year in an effort to introduce students of all ages to writing code for computer programs. From December 8 - 14, 2014, Trinity students will experiment for at least an hour with different computer languages to create programs or apps.



Middle school students utilize their phones and tablets to film a 3D printer in action.

An innovative use of technology being employed this year is the concept of the "flipped" classroom. In this model, students access the lesson from home digitally or via the internet. The next day, the students do their homework in the classroom, where the teacher is available to answer questions or offer clarifications. Instructor Debbie Dennis is using a flipped classroom for her AP Chemistry class. When asked about the differences of the approach, her students indicated that the class required more self-motivation, comparing the experience to an online class with the

benefit of having access to a “real” teacher.

“It’s nice that we have a whole class period to ask questions,” remarked one student. Mrs. Dennis added that flipping the classroom has freed up time to do more hands-on labs than previous years.

The TCS Administration, along with the Academic committee, is finalizing a comprehensive technology plan that will include a one-to-one device initiative. The plan will be released to our families in the summer of 2015.

On a Mission



Members of the Missions and World Languages Club are actively planning a mission trip to Nicaragua.

The Missions and World Languages Club was formed midway through the 2013-14 school year. The club is the result of a collaboration between Spanish teacher Sarah Rice and Bible teacher Denise Evans, with a vision to encourage and equip mission-minded Trinity students for missions work at home and abroad.

Now entering its first full year, the club’s members are involved with local mission projects, such as feeding the homeless and overseeing the school’s shoebox collection for Samaritan’s Purse.

The group is also planning their biggest project yet: a trip to Nicaragua. Their work will include teaching English at an orphanage and an ACSI school, and serving at feeding stations in outlying villages, in conjunction with Metanoia Missions.

Since its inception, the club has received 2 grants from Read-A-Loud of Monongalia County for Spanish/English teaching aids in preparation for the trip.

Development News

Changing lives, one gift at a time

There is no doubt our school changes lives. It is a blessing to walk alongside a growing community of supporters who want to join in advancing that cause. The following is a snapshot of recent events and new giving connections.

Denim and Diamonds Annual Dinner

Our First Annual Dinner and Silent Auction was a tremendous success! The 115 guests enjoyed a wonderful evening of friends,

family, supporters, and lots of old-fashioned barbeque. Mr. Barry Fasnmyer, Regional Director of MetLife, issued a stirring challenge to look within and ask, “What more can I do?” The Trinity community responded, with over \$34,500 being raised at this signature event. Special thanks to our event sponsors: MedExpress, Virtus Wealth Solutions, the Trinity Spiritual Advisory Board, Alpha Associates, Micah 6, Pediatric and Teenage Dentistry, Lonnie and Winslow Galloway, and Brian Kerekes.

United Way

Federal and state employees, and military service members can now contribute to Trinity through the United Way. To ensure that 100% of the donation goes to the school in employer-sponsored giving campaigns, be sure to designate code #23729. Pledge cards are available at www.unitedwaympc.org or through the school Development office.

Finish Strong/Start Fresh End-of-the-Year Campaign

Once again, it’s time to take part in the ***Finish Strong/Start Fresh*** challenge. From now until January 30th, 2015, you can help us meet our giving goal of \$200,000. Make your pledge today online at www.tcsww.org. Let’s finish this year STRONG and start FRESH in 2015!

Our heartfelt thanks goes out to the following:

- The Weldon Family Foundation for their generous gift of \$2000 toward the athletic field maintenance.
- The Hayes Family Foundation for their generous grant award toward Supportive Instruction Education.
- Precept Marketing Group for their generous gift of \$600.
- Model Media for their \$500 pledge toward the Bruce Mulhollen Scholarship.
- Read-A-Loud of Monongalia County for their \$350 grant award toward Missions and Foreign Language Club.
- United Way for their installment gift of \$128.
- The DelSignore Foundation for its \$1000 gift toward our Annual Fund.
- Target’s “Take Charge of Education” for its \$455 contribution.



Denim & Diamonds guests enjoyed a BBQ dinner at the Touchdown Terrace, which overlooks WVU’s Mylan Puskas Stadium.

Alumni News

Olivia (Smith) '08 and Richard Rohrsen '05

Olivia graduated May 10, 2014 from West Virginia University with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree and a Graduate Certificate in Gerontology. She is presently working in the pharmacy at Mon General Hospital.

Richard graduated from WVU with a BS in Civil Engineering in 2009. He earned his MBA from WVU in 2013, becoming a registered professional engineer the same year. Richard currently works as a Manager of Operations and Engineering for Laurel Aggregates, the stone quarry in Lake Lynn, Pa.

Olivia and Richard were married in 2010.

Kaitlyn (Street) Turnbull '08

Kaitlyn graduated from West Virginia University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2012. She and Jacob Turnbull were married on June 8, 2013. Kaitlyn is currently employed as a Registered Nurse at MedExpress Urgent Care.

Sarah Dale '13 and Angelo Palmieri '13

Sarah and Angelo were married in August of this year in a beautiful outdoor ceremony, surrounded by family and friends who joined in celebrating their union. Members of the wedding party included alumni Gabrielle Smith, Hannah Friend, Sarah

Mitchell, Chad Johnson, and Josh Jarvis. Samuel Dale, current TCS student and bride's brother, served as best man. The wedding was officiated by former TCS chaplain Seth Campbell.

Sarah and Angelo are continuing their undergraduate studies at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario where they currently reside. Sarah is a chemistry major, while Angelo is majoring in biology and music.



TRINITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

200 Trinity Way • Morgantown, WV 26505



We are thrilled to announce our new Partnership in Education with PikeWood Creative! Superintendent Ken Howard (L) and PikeWood Creative Executive Producer Dan Lohmann (R) signing the PIE agreement.



Like us on
Facebook

Thank you to our Partners in Education: CityNet, My Bank! First United Bank & Trust, and PikeWood Creative

Trinity Christian School admits students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic or other school administered programs.