

Winter/Spring
2015

A Publication of Trinity Christian School

Warrior Express

Superintendent's Perspective



As I walk through the halls of the building "slapping five" with the younger students, I'm reminded of what a great and wonderful responsibility we have here at TCS. All of these children have been placed here by their parents so that we can assist these parents in a very important task: instilling in their children a passion for truth.

The church, parents, and school must work together in preparing the students to face the many challenges of the world. Today's society will attack their very perception of what is right and wrong.

The Old Testament words found in Deuteronomy 11:18, 19 give us our marching orders: "Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds;...teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

Onward, Christian soldiers; that battle looms.

*In His service,
Mr. Ken Howard*

AP Advances at Trinity

It's the beginning of May and the normally lively senior lounge is full, but quiet. A group of Trinity students are diligently and quietly taking an AP Calculus practice test in preparation for their upcoming AP exam.

Created by the College Board, Advanced Placement courses allow high school students to take college-level courses and exams in preparation for a post-secondary education. Participating students may earn credit towards an undergraduate degree, depending upon their scores and their choice of college or university.

Currently, Trinity offers Advanced Placement courses in all of the core subjects: English,

science, history, and math. Of the 2015 seniors, 46% have taken at least one AP class, while 36% of the current junior class have done the same.

When asked to compare an AP to a standard course, veteran faculty member Debbie Dennis said, "It is much more rigorous. We cover much more material at a higher level."

Dennis, who has 10 years of experience teaching AP Chemistry as well as standard science courses, said that students benefit from the courses, even if they are unable to pass the exam. "It prepares them to take a college-level course."

All of the AP students at Trinity take the exam, unless an unforeseen circumstance occurs. Of the students taking the exams over the past five years, eighty-three percent of Trinity students have scored a 3 or better out of a 5 point scale. (Most colleges accept scores of 3, 4, or 5.)

The College Board requires AP teachers to undergo extensive training, including summer sessions and workshops. Prior to teaching a class, instructors are required to submit a very detailed syllabus that must be approved by the College Board.

The administration continues to expand the AP program at Trinity. The school is on track to add AP Biology and AP Statistics for the 2015-16 school year, and AP Physics for 2016-17.

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After exams, the Advanced Placement Chemistry students created a Silver Flask Award by using their knowledge of chemistry principles, including coordination compounds, solubility rules, and replacement reactions.



Kalyn Pierson interacts with a student in her classroom.

Q & A with Kalyn Pierson, Secondary History

Q: Our current families may not realize the long history that you have with Trinity and Alliance Christian School, with which Trinity merged in 2005. Can you briefly recount your various roles at both schools?

A: I started at Alliance Christian School in 1990 teaching preschool. My son Bo was 4 at the time. After that, the principal wanted me to try middle school, and it stuck! We started talking about making a high school in Morgantown. My husband Herman and I were there when Trinity literally opened its doors in 1997. I taught middle school in the trailers for 7 years. My son graduated over there in 2004; I came here when we opened our doors in the fall of 2004, and I'm still here.

Q: From where did your passion for teaching history originate?

A: It comes from my dad. He's a big history buff and has traveled all over the place. My degree is actually multi-subjects, kindergarten through eighth grade. I've taught everything. It (history) was the need Alliance had at the time, so I jumped in to do it and found out that I loved it. I didn't know it until God opened the door and said, "Let's teach history."

Q: Your husband Herman served the school in several capacities in past years and your son Bo is a Trinity alumnus. How will it feel when your granddaughter Carolina becomes the third generation of the Pierson family when she begins attending Trinity this fall?

A: Just amazing! We were in those grass-roots meetings talking about having this school in Morgantown up on the hill and to think that now my granddaughter is going to be a part of that. To see that come full circle is incredible and to know what God has done along the way to get us here has been amazing. Actually, I'm as excited for my son because I know

what it meant to be a parent and have your child at Trinity. For him to now be a parent and to bring his child through Trinity is what I'm as excited about as much as anything else. And of course, getting to see her here, I'm over the top excited about that!

Q: What is your favorite way to spend a Saturday afternoon?

A: With my grand-kids. I try to do that on the weekends. It's grandma time; actually it's Ama time. That's what they call me, Ama. I love playing with them!

Technology Initiative

One-to-One Pilot Program

It's no secret that electronic devices can be great academic tools. Throughout the school, teachers and students are increasingly using technology to enhance the educational experience.

To that end, the TCS administration and the Academic Committee have been exploring a 1:1 program where each student will use a personal device to access textbooks, complete assignments, take quizzes, and utilize specific apps, among other functions. After careful consideration, the decision has been made to pilot a 1:1 program in the sixth grade for the 2015-16 academic year.

In order to provide a consistent learning environment, each sixth grade student will be asked to bring a Samsung Galaxy Tab 4 Education. This device is specifically designed for classroom use. It is constructed with durable glass and comes in a ruggedized



Though teachers are already incorporating personal electronic devices in the classroom, the pilot program will result in increased integration of technology within the curriculum .

protective case. With an Android 4.4 KitKat operating system and a Multi Window® feature, this tablet will enable students to view multiple screens at the same time, and even browse educational content and type notes simultaneously.

Best Buy is partnering with Trinity to provide these specialized tablets at a discounted cost through an exclusive website designed for Trinity families. The program will use Google Apps

for Education (GAFE) for classroom management software, and the tablets will come preinstalled with Google Play for Education at no extra charge. Google is partnering with us to provide support in creating a secure online classroom environment, as well as training for our faculty.

The proposed timeline for the schoolwide 1:1 program is as follows. A comprehensive technology plan will be published at a later date.

- Summer 2015—Middle school teachers receive training in the use of Google Apps for Education. At least two middle school teachers will become Google certified.
- 2015-2016—Implement pilot program with the sixth grade class. Evaluate effectiveness of the program each quarter and make adjustments as needed. Grades 1-5 and grades 9-12 may continue to use their personal devices in the classroom at the discretion of the classroom teacher.
- 2016-2017—Expand required 1:1 program to all middle school grades. Middle school teachers will train elementary and high school faculty in GAFE. Continue to evaluate effectiveness of the program and make necessary adjustments.
- Summer 2017—Additional teachers will become Google certified.
- 2017-2018—Expand required 1:1 to include other grades. Further training will be offered as it is available. Continue to evaluate the effectiveness of the program and make adjustments as needed.

Serious about Science



Fifth grade students measure the force on the lever when changing the fulcrum in a science lab.

The science community in the region and the state is discovering that science is serious business at Trinity Christian School.

After an impressive first annual Science Fair Extravaganza held in January, Trinity students continued to excel at the North Central West Virginia Math, Science, Energy, and Engineering Fair and the State Science Fair. Students representing Trinity also scored well at the ACSI Academic Day held in April.

To access information on each event, including the participating students and their awards visit, <http://tcsww.org/category/news/>.

Student News

Griffith Receives Laut Scholarship



Senior Pierce Griffith (front - R) is joined by Wheeling Jesuit admissions representative Christopher Rouhier (front- L), and (back L to R) Superintendent Ken Howard, Secondary Principal Inez Hill, and Pierce's parents Kevin and Renee Griffith.

Trinity senior Pierce Griffith is a passionate guy. From participating in sports to sharing his faith to doing the morning announcements, he approaches all he does with an intensity and enthusiasm that is contagious. Pierce's dedication paid off in a big way when he was recently awarded a Laut scholarship from Wheeling Jesuit University. As a winner, he will receive four years of full-tuition in his pursuit of a history degree.

When asked how he felt upon receiving the news that he was a recipient of the scholarship, Pierce responded, "It was a really good feeling because so many students from so many different states entered the competition. They've selected the top students and I felt lucky just to be among them. That makes it even more of a blessing that they chose me out of those students."

Pierce was quick to acknowledge the role that his family and the TCS faculty played in his accomplishment. "I want to thank my parents for putting me in the position to be successful," he said, adding, "and also my teachers. I'm appreciative of their job and their caring for our education as individuals."

Read the full story in the News section of our website at <http://tcsww.org/category/news/>.

AP Advances (from pg.1)

Superintendent Ken Howard explained, "I believe it's evidence of our commitment to providing a challenging academic experience for the students who are inclined toward a very aggressive academic load."

To learn more about Advanced Placement courses at Trinity, please contact the school's Guidance Office at 304-291-4659.

Alumni News

✦ **Tacy Layne '08** married **Robert Layne**, also of the 2008 Trinity Christian School graduating class, in 2010. In 2012, she graduated from Fairmont State University with a Bachelor of Arts in English. Currently a marketing administrator for *Your Bulletin Board*, Tacy is in the early stages of raising financial support to begin working as a writer/editor for World Orphans.

✦ **Jonathan Holbert '08** graduated this May from Chestnut Hill College with a masters degree in administration of human services, earning a 4.0 GPA. Jonathan received his bachelor of arts in political science from Eastern University/ Templeton Honors College in 2012. Jonathan and his wife Christine (Murrison) reside in Philadelphia.

✦ **Brittney Smith '10** was honored as the top overall scholar in her graduating class by the WVU Reed College of Media, in addition to being named the top Public Relations student. Brittney graduated from WVU with a B.S. in Journalism, a major in public relations, and a minor in communications.

✦ **Rebecca Berhanu '12** has been selected as a Milan Puskar Leadership Scholar for 2014-15. Rebecca is majoring in Pharmacy at West Virginia University, where she has been accepted into the Pharm.D. Program. She will begin her

doctorate studies in the fall of 2015.

✦ **Allie Beto '11** was recognized as an Outstanding Public Relations senior and graduated Summa Cum Laude from the WVU Reed College of Media, where she earned a B.S. in Journalism Science degree with a concentration in Public Relations. Allie will begin her studies toward a law degree at Emory University in the fall.



Trinity alumni (L to R) Tacy Layne '08, Zack Layne '10, and Rob Furr '05, shared their experiences with seniors during Spiritual Emphasis Days.



TRINITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

200 Trinity Way • Morgantown, WV 26505



The Trinity Drama department delighted audiences with their performance of the musical *Into the Woods, Jr.*



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