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Warrior Express

A Publication of Trinity Christian School

Superintendent's Perspective



What does it mean to have a "Christ-centered" education? This is a statement that is used quite often, but its meaning is seldom explained. Dr. Paul A. Kienel (President Emeritus of the Association of Christian Schools International) defines it this way: "An educational process that puts the Bible at the center of the curriculum and asks the student and the teacher to evaluate all they see in the world through the eyes of God. It is total surrender to the authority of the Scriptures." He continues by naming the key distinctives of a Christ-centered education:

- Christian school educators emphasize the worth of every child.
- Christian school educators point students toward the Savior of the world.
- Christian school educators lift up Christ and the Bible as the ultimate authority or truth.
- Christian school educators attempt to inspire loyalty to the church.
- Christian school educators attempt to inspire students to love their country and have respect for civil government.

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Digging deep and reaching out

*Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.*

*He is like a tree planted by water,
that sends out its roots by the stream,
and does not fear when heat comes, for its
leaves remain green,
and is not anxious in the year of drought,
for it does not cease to bear fruit.*

~ Jeremiah 17:7-8 ESV

We were meant to THRIVE!

This is the annual theme for Trinity Christian School in 2015-16. With a focus on digging deep into God's word and reaching out with His love, the theme has been the catalyst for intentional and meaningful outreaches within the school community and beyond. Just as healthy tree limbs extend to provide shade and fruit, the seeds of our students' efforts are reaching

further into our community than the faculty and staff initially imagined.

Classroom partnerships were formed at the beginning of the year, pairing younger students with older ones to provide opportunities for mentorship and cooperative outreach. To date, the classes have collectively reached out to an extensive list of community organizations which includes the Bartlett House, Calvary Chapel, Chestnut Mountain Ranch, Mapleshire Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Sundale Care, and WVU Children's Hospital.

"This whole concept is really about instilling a desire to be a part of something greater than ourselves," said Keri DeMasi, Trinity parent and Director of the Bartlett House. "It's a mentorship. Kids that may not have otherwise worked together are working on

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A fifth-grade student pampers a Mapleshire resident with a manicure.



Linda Street explains a writing assignment to a student.

Q & A with Linda Street, Fourth Grade Teacher

Q: How many years have you been teaching at Trinity?

A: I've been teaching at Trinity for 11 years. I taught 10 years in the public school, 1 year at another Christian school, and 3 years at Alliance Christian School before coming to Trinity in 2004.

Q: You've taught other grade levels over the years. What characteristics are unique about fourth grade?

A: I love this grade because they know how to read and write; and we can do fun things. But, more importantly this is the year where they truly understand what Christ did for them. During those Bible times, you see those lightbulbs come on.

Q: How do you feel when your former students walk through the halls now as juniors and seniors?

A: It's fun to watch them grow up. These TAs (teacher assistants) that I've had - they were in this room in fourth grade and then we get to talk as adults! I hope I have a little bit of wisdom that I can pass on, even as their fourth grade teacher.

Q: Your two daughters are Trinity graduates. They are both married and working in the medical field. In retrospect, how do you feel they benefited from a Christian education?

A: They knew to be surrounded by Christian friends - the accountability of having a Christian friend. They were taught that through the teachers they had here; they knew they could go to them, even after leaving. They knew they could

always come back and speak to them if they needed to. It's been that cord of three strands. That was so important: the church, the home, and the school. The school is just one of the three.

Performing Arts

It's show time

"Playing guitar for the Praise Team has not only cultivated my personality as an individual, but also how I see myself as a Christian, as a member of the church. That's the single greatest way that I feel I contribute to spreading the gospel," said senior Sam Dale, describing the personal impact of participating in the performing arts program at Trinity.

During his four years of high school, Sam has been involved with the drama and music programs, including Praise Team and Choir.

Performing arts experiences at Trinity are woven into student life at the onset. Preschool through fifth-grade students participate in musical performances for a variety of school programs in addition to the Christmas and spring musicals. Third-grade students are required to take a recorder class, and fourth and fifth-grade students have the opportunity to take a band elective and audition for the elementary Praise Team.

In middle school, students can elect to take choir or band with the option of auditioning for the spring musical. As they move into high school, students can take classes in drama, choir, or band. They have opportunities to audition for Praise Team and the spring musical. The school's band program currently includes a marching band, concert band, and ensembles.

Exploring the arts often leads to students uncovering talents they didn't realize they possessed, as was the case with high school student Abby Goff. Abby didn't feel she had talents in music or



Only in its second year, the Warrior Marching Band is making a name for itself in the community. They will perform in the Star City Christmas parade on December 11, 2015.

Digging Deep (cont. pg.1)

something so much bigger than themselves.”

Mrs. DeMasi has witnessed the students’ efforts firsthand. The fourth and eleventh grade students are community partners with the Bartlett House’s new facility, located on West Run Road. Besides assembling and delivering hygiene care packages, and helping to prepare the new facility by cleaning and landscaping, the students painted canvases to personalize the living space.

Trinity parent and artist Malisa Smith oversaw the creation of the paintings which included scripture verses or inspirational phrases. She described how the secondary students took the time to discuss with their younger counterparts the meaning of what they were going to write on the painting. “It really was a collaboration, a spiritual collaboration,” she said.



Boys from the fourth-grade class show the paintings they created with their eleventh-grade partners for the Bartlett House.

The older students’ leadership was evident when the fifth-grade class teamed up with the twelfth grade on a recent visit to Mapleshire Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

“When we first came I was a little nervous. I didn’t know if it was going to be sad,” said a fifth-grade girl. “When we first walked in it was sad ‘cause there were like a lot of people in wheelchairs just sleeping.” After one of the senior students started off the activities, which included playing games with and giving manicures to the residents, the atmosphere changed. “Then it got really lively and fun,” continued the student.

When asked if they wanted to return to Mapleshire, the group of girls answered positively, even discussing ideas to implement on their next visit.

That’s exactly what Denise Evans, Bible department chair and Chapel Director, is hoping to see. “We are encouraging students to put feet to their faith; to serve God by serving others.”

As Mrs. DeMasi observed, “That’s something you can’t sit down necessarily and teach. That’s something you go out and do.”

Their own words

Why should parents choose Christian education for their child? That’s the question posed to eleventh-grade students for a recent writing assignment for Honors English class. Here are a few excerpts from their responses.

“Christian schools equip students with necessary knowledge and life skills to excel through education and to thrive spiritually. Students have a safe environment in which they can learn things that reflect Christian morals so that they can grow in their faith and walk with the Lord.” ~ Madeline Spruill

“Christian schools alone can provide that welcoming atmosphere I get at Trinity and those teachers that genuinely care about the student’s well being. Above all else, only Christian schools can provide the strong faith in God that they have given me throughout my life, for which I am and will be eternally grateful.” ~ Adam Isabell

“Christian education assists in presenting students with the knowledge of Christ and His significance in their lives.” ~ Taylor White

Well said, students!

Show time (cont. pg.2)

visual arts, so by default, she chose drama as her freshman arts elective.

“But, I enjoyed it a lot,” she said. She ended up earning a speaking role in the Spring 2015 production of *Sherlock Holmes and the Portal of Time*. Now in her sophomore year, Abby is taking the class again.

Unwrapping hidden abilities is just one of many benefits of exposing our students to the performing arts. Students grow in confidence, learn responsibility and diligence, and develop friendships. Abby admits that she has met students that she might not have known outside of drama class.

Sam summed it up well. “Trinity - in its small class size - that environment really allowed me to thrive as a Christian, as an academic, and as an artist.”

Superintendent’s Perspective (cont. pg.1)

- Christian school educators equip students with basic academic skills with which to effectively apply themselves to live lives that are useful and productive.
- Christian school educators are themselves important role models for students (Luke 6:40).

Thank God for the many parents who love Christ and love their children enough to sacrifice and invest in the Christ-centered education offered at TCS.

*In His service,
Mr. Ken Howard*

Alumni News

✦ **Josh Keys '03** is in his fourth season as Assistant Coach and first as Recruiting Coordinator in the women's basketball program at Mount St. Mary's University. The Mountaineers are an NCAA Division I, full-scholarship program competing in the Northeast Conference.

Keys is married to the former Christy Eller of Sicklerville, Md., who also works at The Mount as the Assistant Registrar. The couple resides in Emmitsburg, Md., with their one-year-old daughter, Melora, and their Labrador, River. The family has membership at Westminster Baptist Church where Josh is a candidate for Deacon, and Christy works with youth. They are expecting their second child in May.

✦ **Rebecca (Street) Prudnick '06** graduated from WVU in 2010 with a Bachelors of Science in Exercise Physiology, the same year she married Colton Prudnick. She then earned her doctoral degree from West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine in 2014. Rebecca is currently an OB/GYN Resident at Grand Rapids Medical Education Partners at Spectrum Health in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where she and Colton reside with their two golden doodles.

✦ **Grant Neely '06** earned his undergraduate degree in biochemistry from West Virginia University in 2011. He went on to earn his medical degree from the WVU School of Medicine in 2015. In June of 2015, Grant married Audrey Royce. He is currently doing his residency in anesthesia at West Virginia University Medicine.

✦ **Jocelyn Kinkade '11** graduated in May of 2015 from West Virginia University with a Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training. She has been accepted into the Physician Assistant program at the University of Pittsburgh, which she will begin in January of 2016.

✦ **Thaddeus Statler '12**
Thaddeus (Tad) Statler, a senior business management major at Waynesburg University, was the 2015 winner of Aflac's Elevate! Intern contest. For this recognition, he received a \$5000 scholarship and a trip to the Aflac headquarters in Columbus, GA. Thaddeus will graduate in May of 2016.



TRINITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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Junior Piper McLaughlin earned all-state honors after placing 9th at the State Cross Country Championship.



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