

Fall 2018

A Publication of Trinity Christian School

Warrior Express

Superintendent's Perspective



Superintendent Mrs. Stellato Belt

Last year, a new parent asked me, "What's the secret sauce of Trinity Christian School?" The question caught me off guard. In essence, this parent was asking me "What's the one thing that makes this school so special?" While I could recite a list of wonderful characteristics, I had never thought of the one thing that could be considered our Secret Sauce.

Some of the best recipes I've ever tasted have a secret ingredient. The secret ingredient is usually something one wouldn't expect—grape jelly in cocktail sausages or cream cheese in chocolate chip cookies.

Trinity is no different. We're a Christian school, with high academic expectations, and amazing athletic and artistic programs. Yet, despite those well known facts, our secret sauce isn't amazing curricula, top notch technology, or even a wonderful

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Enrichment: A Schoolwide Culture

How do you make what is already good even better? It's a challenge, but one that our teachers and administrators are willing to take on.

For instance, why stay within the walls of the classroom when you can take your Spanish students to an authentic Mexican restaurant to practice ordering and conversing in Spanish over lunch?

"The Spanish 3 students look forward to the Rio Verde field trip as a culmination of learning about Hispanic food, culture and terminology," said Spanish teacher Sarah Rice.

From cooking shows to sharing conversation and food at Spanish tables during school lunches, Mrs. Rice creates opportunities for her students to practice their language skills outside of the classroom.

To give the sophomore class an immersive experience, English teacher Jennifer Emery took them to see Julius Caesar performed on the stage. While reading and discussing the play was meaningful, seeing it acted out added another layer of learning.

Mrs. Emery explained, "Shakespeare's plays were intended to be seen rather than just read. Being able to take a front row seat and experience the play is the ultimate way of teaching it."

Students in grades first through fifth are working together in groups twice a week for Enrichment—a problem-based learning program introduced this school year.

For example, student teams recently created proposals for developing a hard surface playground on campus.

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Elementary students made proposals for hard-surfaced playground options on campus.



Mrs. Jennifer Emery

Q & A with Jennifer Emery

Jennifer Emery began teaching high school English at Trinity six years ago. In addition to her work in the classroom, Jennifer serves as the junior class advisor. Jennifer and her husband Blaine have a son and daughter who attend Trinity.

What has made your teaching experience at Trinity unique?

There are two unique things that I love about Trinity. First, is the freedom to teach literature from a Christian view point. We can read a story about nature and I am free to discuss the wonderful world that God made. We can read about a flawed character and discuss how we all make poor choices and how God is always there waiting to forgive us and help us move on. Second, I love the bond and relationship that I am able to form with each and every student. Here at Trinity we cultivate an atmosphere of love and family through everything from having the students for multiple years to worshipping and serving together.

What do you find most rewarding about teaching?

Without even a second thought—the kids! I love watching high school students learn and mature and grow and overcome struggles and love and laugh and play and joke and develop.

Outside of the classroom, what is your favorite activity?

Spending time with my family. Gracie and I like to ride horses, and together we all like to travel and explore. I also like to cook for them.

What is your favorite Bible verse and why?

I Corinthians 13:13 “And now abideth faith, hope and love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” I truly

believe that the most admirable Christ-like quality we can strive to attain is love for everyone no matter who they are or what they have done.

Enriching Culture (cont. pg.1)

Students took measurements, researched equipment and costs, and presented their findings to staff and their peers.

Elementary Principal Diana Kingsbury elaborated, saying “They are actually working on hands-on projects with problem solving using all the 21st century learning skills: Collaboration, communication, presentation.” She added, “Enrichment is really a way that we get children prepared for middle school and high school.”



High school students will begin using Turnitin in January 2019.

Tech Tool: Turnitin

Starting with the second semester of 2018-19, high school students will have a new tool called Turnitin to help improve their writing skills and avoid plagiarism while preparing them for post secondary education.

According to the Turnitin representative, 70% of all colleges use Turnitin, yet only 30% of American high schools have the program. Trinity is excited to join those ranks.

“Originally, I was proud to familiarize students with a program that most of them will use as they continue their education after Trinity,” said English teacher Jessica Duling. “However, using the program as a teaching tool where students can submit their work, receive immediate feedback, and make revisions is truly what excites me the most,” she added.

Turnitin equips students with editing tools allowing them to run grammar checks that not only show an error, but also explains it.

“Turnitin allows kids to put into practice what we’ve been emphasizing all along—that writing is a process,” said Mrs. Duling. “This will be a tool that helps our students make huge strides in developing effective composition skills.”

STEAM is Rolling

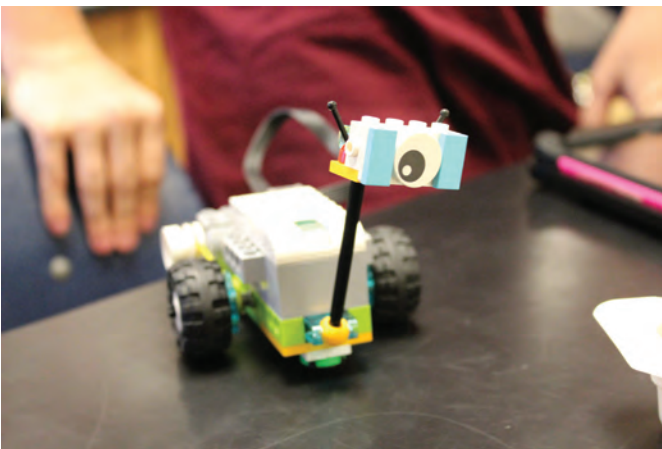


Students program their robots during middle school STEM class.

There is a great deal of buzz surrounding Trinity's STEAM programs. For starters, the secondary science department received the Buzz Aldrin ShareSpace Foundation grant, giving our students access to curriculum materials developed by Purdue University and the ShareSpace Foundation staff. Intended to ignite children's interests in science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM), the curriculum incorporates the Giant Mars Map™, a set of ten *Welcome to Mars* books and a VEX IQ robot which utilizes C language programming.

In addition, the school received a Little Bits Droid Inventor Kit R2D2 Star Wars Robot as part of the Promethean board STEM challenge. The middle school STEM students are utilizing the robot with the Promethean board. They learned to build the robot, then programmed it to complete tasks, such as negotiating the Mars landscape using the Giant Mars Map™.

Finally, the sixth grade is using WeDo Robotics kits to develop self-driving vehicles that are preprogrammed to negotiate the Giant Mars Map™. This class and the high school Earth and Space science class (utilizing the VEX IQ Robot) are using the Mission to Mars curriculum and the *Welcome to Mars* books to learn about the challenges explorers of Mars will face such as how they might navigate the Martian surface when establishing colonies on Mars during future NASA missions (Journey to Mars).



A sixth-grade student programs a WeDo Robot in class.

Middle School Football



The middle school football team celebrates after a victory.

The Trinity middle school athletes made history when they completed the school's first season of middle school football. The team finished with a 2-6 record, gaining in experience and strength as the season progressed.

"Out of the 16 kids we had, we will have 13 back from this year's team and expect bigger and better things," said Coach Rick Hill. "I'm very proud of these athletes for their hard work and dedication."

The team included two players from Covenant Christian School as a result of a new partnership between the two schools.

"It was such a blessing to be able to partner with Covenant to provide this opportunity for their students as well," said Superintendent Michelle Belt. "Their participation made our football dream possible!"

Superintendent's Perspective (cont. pg.1)

facility. I earnestly believe Trinity's secret sauce is Family.

When one of our employees is sick and others give their own sick time to him/her—that's TCS Family. When teachers and students drive for hours to support their friends at sporting events—that's TCS Family. When former teachers, board members, and parents pray over our school every Tuesday—that's TCS Family. When teachers stay after school to tutor a student—that's TCS Family.

My hope is that our secret sauce is not a secret at all. Instead, it is that warm feeling of home that a new family experiences the first time they visit TCS.

A teacher recently sent me a note expressing her gratitude for the TCS family (parents, teachers, administrators, community partners) that had recently surrounded our high school students to give them a day of celebration as they entered the new basketball season. Her words said it best. "...tonight I'm going to bed with a happy heart. It takes a village—we are building a great one." Our village is more than a group of people, it's a family.

Alumni News

Jeffrey Merrifield '12 – Jeffrey is the president/director of the Tenica Futsal Club at Mylan Park in Morgantown. He also is one of the 3 coaches for the futsal (indoor soccer) program which is affiliated with US Youth Futsal and serves ages u6 (under 6) to u19 (under 19). You can learn more about Jeffrey's club through their Facebook page @Tecnica Futsal Club.

Anthony Ghiardi '13 – After graduating from West Virginia University in May of 2017 with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting, Anthony earned a Masters of Accountancy from WVU in June of 2018. Anthony passed the CPA exam in September of 2018 and is currently working at Arnett Carbis Toothman in the Morgantown and Bridgeport offices.

Jaelyn Alderman '15 – Jaelyn will graduate Summa Cum Laude from Penn State University in December of 2018 with a Bachelor of Arts in Advertising and a minor in Psychology. Upon graduation, Jaelyn will be working at Stewart Design in Morgantown as a Graphic Designer.

Maddie Spruill '17 – Maddie, a Dance major at WVU minoring in strategic social media and arts administration, completed a dance training course through the American Ballet Theatre in New York City to become a certified ballet instructor. Maddie is also a teacher and choreographer at Pizazz Dance Academy in Sabraton.



Abbie Barnett '15, a second-year Doctorate of Pharmacy student at WVU, administered flu shots at Bridge day in Fayetteville with the Pharm school.

Trinity Graduates: We want to keep in touch! Please submit your contact information through our website at tcs.wv.edu/org/connect/alumni/ and like our Facebook alumni page at fb.me/tcs.wvalumni. We look forward to hearing from you!



TRINITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

200 Trinity Way • Morgantown, WV 26505



Senior Golfer Mark Spruill represented Trinity at the State Tournament!



Thank you to our Partners in Education: Citynet, First United Bank & Trust, and PikeWood Creative and Charter Supporter of Trinity Athletics MedExpress

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.

School Advancement Updates

Fall 2018



Fall Festival

When the forecast turned chilly and rainy for our third annual Fall Festival, we brought the activities inside where it was warm and full of fun! Over 20 different food, craft and gift vendors helped visitors jump-start their holiday shopping. Kids of all ages played a variety of carnival games, won desserts in a cake walk, and created a fall craft.

Outside, the weather didn't stop families from enjoying hay rides, a barrel train, and new this year, horseback rides. We welcomed several families from the community and were excited to show others our beautiful school. Not only did all who attend have a wonderful time, we also raised \$5,300 for our school! Thank you to ALL our volunteers and sponsors who made this family, fun day possible! Our event sponsors were Cira and Associates Consulting, LLC, Clear Mountain Bank, Citynet, and Valley Healthcare.

Corporate Sponsorships

For the second year in a row, we welcomed area businesses to partner with us through our Corporate Sponsor program. We thank God for the following Corporate Sponsors who have either renewed their commitment to support Trinity or joined us for the first time this year!

We offer three levels of sponsorship with corresponding levels of recognition. If you are interested in learning more about our Corporate Sponsor program or to receive a sponsorship packet, please contact Samantha Loy at sloy@tcsww.org or by calling 304-291-4659 ext 158.

Lead Warrior Sponsors

Citynet
Anderson Excavating, LLC
Cira & Associates Consulting, LLC
Jack's Recycling
Cleveland Brothers
BMEC, Inc.

Courageous Warrior Sponsors

Laurel Aggregates

Honorable Warrior Sponsors

Falcon Consulting & Management
Touchdown Home Pros, LLC
Leslie Equipment Company
Bond Insurance
Laurel Mountain Orthodontics
Coen Energy

Support Trinity

*Thank you for your prayerful consideration of an immaterial or financial gift to advance Trinity Christian School's mission and vision. Please complete **all** of the information below and on the back of this tear off, so we may properly recognize your gift. Once detached, please mail or return to Trinity Christian School, attn. School Advancement at 200 Trinity Way, Morgantown, WV 26505.*

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____

Yes, I would like to receive updates about the school's activities and advancement efforts.

Mortgage Elimination Challenge

Our MEC is underway and you can still help!

What is the MEC?

- Mortgage Elimination Challenge is a challenge for our community, families, teachers, staff, and board members to join together and assist in paying off the school's mortgage.

Why is the MEC important?

- Paying off the school's mortgage will free up funds to be used for future improvements and plans for our school.
- Our students were asked what they envision for the future of the school and their answers included:
 - Swings on the playground
 - Baseball practice facility and field
 - Access to technical classes
 - Tennis court
 - Additional language classes
 - Lights for the football field

How can you help?

- ANY dollar amount will help us reach our goal! Cut off the panel below and mail the completed form with your payment. We are so appreciative to all who support our school! We know Trinity would not be the same without YOU!

Giving Thanks!

In addition to our new corporate sponsors, we are thankful for a special gift from Richard Snyder in memory of his late wife, Barbara. This generous gift arrived in the summer and Mr. Snyder's giving did not end there. He recently visited Trinity and gave our Superintendent, Michelle Belt a grant check for \$116,000 for technology upgrades for our school! This allowed the school to purchase 20 Promethean boards, 20 Chromebooks, 45 laptops for teachers and staff, new chapel equipment and more! Mr. Snyder's gift came from grant funds managed by Community Foundation Serving the Heart of Western Pennsylvania. We are so thankful for not only Mr. Snyder's generosity but also his heart for Trinity Christian School.



Questions?

If you have any questions about school advancement, donations, or how to get involved at Trinity, please contact one of our Advancement staff members at 304-291-4659.

Trinity Christian School

www.tcsww.org

304-291-4659

facebook.com/tcsww



My Gift Amount

Please complete all the information below, so we may properly recognize your gift. All gifts are tax-deductible. You may mail or return to Trinity Christian School, attn. School Advancement at 200 Trinity Way, Morgantown, WV 26505. All financial gifts are tax-deductible.

I would like to give a gift to Trinity Christian School by:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Praying | <input type="checkbox"/> a gift of \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering on a Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> a gift of \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering for Read-A-Loud | <input type="checkbox"/> a gift of \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering on an as-needed basis | <input type="checkbox"/> other amount: \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | |

Financial gift submitted via: Check Cash

Please apply my gift to: MEC Tuition Assistance Where most needed

Checks payable to "Trinity Christian School"