

Warrior Express

Spring 2020

A Publication of Trinity Christian School

Superintendent's Perspective



Superintendent Ms. Stellato

If tough times are the defining moments in leadership, March 13, 2020 was a defining day. Nothing could have prepared us for the decisions that we would have to make and the discussions that would have to take place. We had no idea, really, what the days and weeks ahead would look like. We didn't know that our students would finish the school year at home, that our athletes would give up an entire spring season of sports or that our graduates would actually get to have a semblance of a traditional graduation ceremony.

While the last three months have been tough, we've survived them with a hope, endurance and strength that could only have come from our Creator. I am honestly so very proud of our staff, our students and our families for the ways that each person accepted and responded to

Innovation Amidst Challenges and Change

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden." ~ Matthew 5:14

This verse in Matthew, chosen as Trinity's annual theme, set the tone for the year. Little did we know that the school would need to shine brightly in ways never anticipated.

When the challenges posed by COVID-19 sent our students and teachers home in March, the administration came up with a plan that enabled school to resume one day after the stay-at-home order was issued.

"We took a unique approach to remote learning," said Teresa Barnett, Director of Student Services. "We wanted the kids to have interaction with each other and their teachers." To accomplish this, a block schedule was created so that students in fourth through twelfth

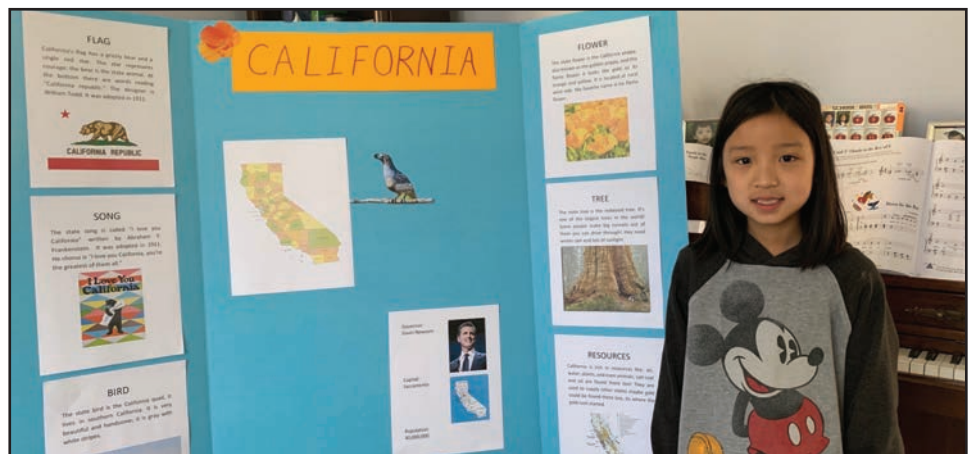
grades were in four online hour-long classes a day with a half-hour break in between for four days a week. Fridays were set aside for teachers to meet virtually with students one-on-one or in small groups to provide supplemental instruction and support.

Preschool and younger elementary students also participated virtual class meetings, but the format was tailored to be age-appropriate and fit the developmental level of the grade.

Weekly devotional videoconferences, led by Spiritual Advisory Board member and Trinity parent Josh Rhodes, enabled the faculty and staff to stay connected spiritually. The faithfulness of God was evident in the school's ability to quickly and creatively adapt to online learning.

From Field Trip Fridays to a virtual "zoo" where students presented fun

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Third-graders researched a state and virtually presented their findings to their teacher and classmates.

Continued on Page 3



Jenny Cunningham with husband Brandon and sons Jake (left) and Max (right).

Q & A with Jenny Cunningham, Fourth Grade Teacher

Q – What do you like most about teaching?

A – There are so many things I love about teaching! I love that each day in my classroom is different. Sharing knowledge and finding new and creative ways to deliver lessons is important. However, my most favorite part of being a teacher are the connections I make with my students. I love getting to know each student and finding ways to make them smile, laugh or know how to help them if they are struggling or facing a challenging situation.

Q – What are some unique things that you have done to adapt to online learning?

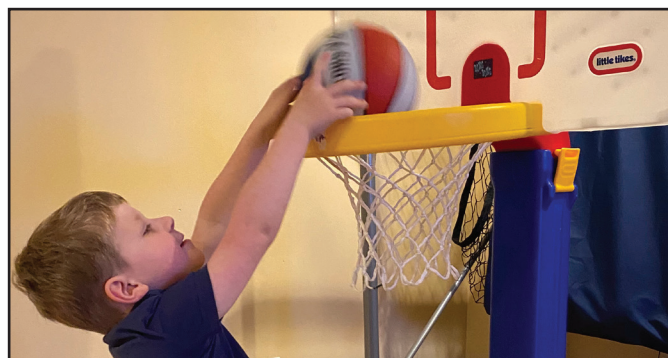
A – It has been a blessing to be able to quickly transform a face-to-face environment at Trinity into a virtual classroom. I am thankful that we have the resources to provide for our students and that our families have been supportive. I have spent most of my time researching ways to keep remote learning fun and engaging, while still delivering our required curriculum. Online learning has brought many classes closer together. For example, we had show and tell from our very own bedrooms. We've missed our physical field trip to Laurel Caverns this year, but instead we've had the opportunity to experience many virtual trips together including the White House and Churchill Downs to learn about the Kentucky Derby. We have even taken a much-needed vacation to Alaska and Hawaii! While online learning has been wonderful, I look forward to the day when it is safe to see my students in person for a real hug and high-five!

Q – What is your favorite Bible verse and why?

A – My favorite Bible verse is about something that I always put as a priority in my classroom and life in general—kindness. Proverbs 31:26 says “she opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.”

Q – Can you share a fun fact about yourself that might surprise your students?

A – One fun fact about me is that I love to travel. During my last year of college, I completed my student teaching requirements in Birmingham, England working with a sweet class of first-graders. My parents were afraid I wouldn't want to come home because of how much I enjoyed my time overseas.



A student shot baskets during the Hoop-A-Thon at Home.

Surprising Success with Hoop-A-Thon at Home

The 2020 Hoop-A-Thon looked very different from past Hoop-A-Thons. While the global concerns of COVID-19 diminished all hopes of holding the event in the school building, a fun and innovative replacement resulted from the unfortunate circumstances—the Hoop-A-Thon at Home! All Trinity students were encouraged to share fun photos and videos of themselves shooting baskets, hula-hooping and celebrating the Hoop-A-Thon at Home through social media. We received footage of students shooting trick shots, participating in a basketball obstacle course and even shooting baskets while hula-hooping! We were blown away by the positivity and creativity our families displayed during the Hoop-A-Thon at Home. Additionally, we are proud to share that the fundraiser garnered over \$11,000! While the Hoop-A-Thon at Home took place amidst a time of uncertainty and change, the community and our Trinity families rallied together in support of the school just the same.



A student hula-hooped during the Hoop-A-Thon at Home.

Coming Back to Give Back



Trinity alumnus Jack Barnett (left) coached a team of Trinity fourth-graders to a championship victory in basketball this season.

Once a week, Trinity graduate Caroline Scherer '07 eats lunch with Katrina Hyde and her high school friends. For Caroline, a nurse practitioner who practices in the Morgantown area, visiting the school is a way to connect with and support the group of girls.

“Caroline is such an awesome role model,” said Katrina, a rising junior who attends church with Ms. Scherer. “Her taking time out of her day to come eat with me at lunch has been so great and has definitely been encouraging to me and my friends.”

Caroline is not the only Trinity graduate who has come back to the school to invest in current Trinity students. 2019 graduates Jack Barnett, Paige Dixon, and Daniel Woods volunteered as basketball coaches, while Christian Moats '16 also served as a coach for the middle school boys basketball and football programs.

It is difficult to quantify the influence of the alumni coaches. However, there is a good chance that the current players looked up to and cheered on their now-coaches when they were Trinity athletes.

Ridge Murdock, a member of the fourth-grade championship team coached by Jack Barnett, expressed respect for his coach. “Jack is a good coach because he knows the game of basketball well.”



Trinity Alumna Paige Dixon (back row, second from right) helped coach the high school girls basketball team.

Innovation (cont.)

facts about their favorite animal, teachers provided their students with engaging content to keep them on track and connected. Faculty and local clergy members also created elementary and secondary virtual chapels to allow opportunities for worship and spiritual growth.

Despite limitations posed by social distancing, teachers found ways to honor the school's commitment to community service by providing students with outreach opportunities such as making cards or baked goods for frontline workers or neighbors. The kindergarten class even made 14 bedtime bags for children at the Bartlett House.

“We did not want remote learning to be a maintenance program,” said Mrs. Barnett, noting that the administration and faculty worked together to maintain the school culture, meet benchmarks and adapt assessments to measure progress during the shutdown. “We were very happy to feel like we were progressing and moving forward.”

The parent and student feedback regarding remote learning was very favorable. One parent commended the school by saying, “I have to say how impressed I have been with not only how fast Trinity started the online classes but how good it has been for the students.”



Dr. Lois Campbell demonstrated how to create a robotic hand in an online science lab.

Superintendent's Perspective (cont.)

the challenges that came as a result of COVID-19 and moving the school to entirely remote learning. I believe it's safe to say, we couldn't have done it better! We were truly blessed.

Now, as we turn our attention to the future and opening the new school year with greater wisdom than we had on March 13, we will continue to seek Him and His direction for our school, fully believing He will provide and guide us each step of the way.

School Advancement Updates

Spring 2020

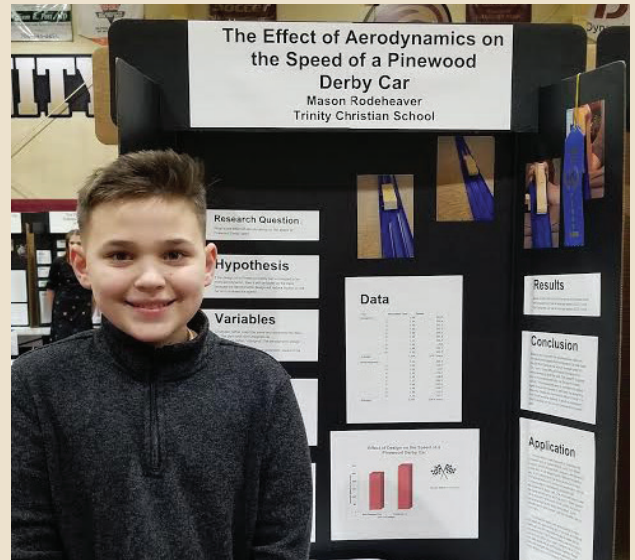
Tuition Assistance Needs Support

This past May, Trinity was unable to hold its second annual Spring Gala for tuition assistance due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While the loss of this event was heartbreaking, the school quickly bounced back and continued pursuing opportunities to fundraise. On May 5, Trinity was able to raise money for tuition assistance through an online global day of giving called Giving Tuesday Now. During the event, Trinity shared stories of families who have benefitted from tuition assistance on Facebook while providing opportunities to donate. The school was encouraged to see this effort bring in \$2,275 for the Tuition Assistance Fund! However, there is still much more to be raised.

The 2019-20 fundraising goal for Trinity's Tuition Assistance Fund is \$75,000. This fund currently assists numerous students including Mason Rodeheaver.

"Mason transferred to Trinity Christian School last year and it has been the best family decision we've made thus far in his education," shared parents Stacey and Rick Rodeheaver. "Trinity's tuition assistance program is essential for our son's future education."

Trinity desires that no family be turned away due to financial need. If you have a passion for Christian education and would like to contribute to the Trinity Tuition Assistance Fund, visit tcsnv.org and click the "Donate" button or fill out and submit the form below.



"Mason transferred to Trinity Christian School last year, and it has been the best family decision we've made thus far in his education... Trinity's tuition assistance program is essential for our son's future education. Please consider donating to this wonderful and rewarding program..."

-Trinity Parents, Rick & Stacey Rodeheaver

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Thank you for your prayerful consideration of a 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 Office at 200 Trinity Way, Morgantown, WV 26505.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

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

Alumni News

Torren Bricker '19 is currently pursuing a BSN at Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus. Torren is an anatomy tutor at her campus and a Clinical Assistant at Ruby Memorial Hospital. She was awarded two additional scholarships this spring: the Port Family Public Service Award for community service and the President's Freshman Award for earning a 4.0 cumulative GPA.

Leighton Croft '19 had a successful freshman year at Waynesburg University. She recently received her official letter welcoming her into the professional Nursing program. A freshman basketball player, Leighton was named to the PAC (Presidents' Athletic Conference) Sportsmanship team. She played in 24 games and averaged 6.1 pts per game.

Sam Dale '16 graduated from the University of Toronto receiving an Honours Bachelor of Science in Bioethics and Human Biology. Sam has been published in Columbia University's Journal of Bioethics and is scheduled to give a presentation at the World Bioethics Conference in Porto, Portugal in March 2021. This summer, Sam plans to study at Yale University's Summer Institute in Bioethics. He has also been elected as President of the University of Toronto Gospel Choir.

Joshua Gilliland '16 graduated from Geneva College with a B.S. in Computer Science, a B.A. in Philosophy and a minor in Creative Writing. He plans to pursue an M.A. in Philosophy while working full-time in computer science with the eventual goal of earning a PhD in Philosophy. He and his wife Molly live in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania while Molly completes her undergraduate education at Geneva College.

Jack Goellner '15 graduated Summa Cum Laude from West Virginia Wesleyan College and will attend the Joan C. Edwards College of Medicine at Marshall University in July 2020.

Jerid Jento '12 is serving in the Air Force. He and his wife live in Florida, where he currently awaits his one-year deployment.

Sophia Kenney '16 graduated Summa Cum Laude with Presidential Honors from WVU with a B.S. in Immunology and Medical Microbiology and minors in Communication Studies, Religious Studies, and Biology. In the fall, she will begin the Molecular, Cellular, and Integrative Biosciences Graduate Program at Penn State University with an emphasis in Immunology and Infectious Disease.

Katy Kessler '19 finished her freshman year at WVU as a Biology major in the Honors College where she made the Dean's List both semesters. Katy has since changed her major to English and was recently contacted by one of her English professors who suggested that she consider publishing one of her writings.

Hannah Keyser '16 graduated Summa Cum Laude from WVU with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing and a minor in Forensic and Investigative Sciences. Hannah has accepted a nursing position with WVU Medicine's HVI on the Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit and will start there this summer. Hannah has served on the board for the Health and Wellness Commission for the city of Morgantown for the past year and a half and currently holds the position of secretary.

Christian Moats '16 graduated with honors with a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Salem University.

Jalen Wimer '19 completed his second semester at WVU, majoring in Exercise Physiology. He is looking forward to working with the youth of Monongalia County by umpiring baseball games this summer.

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TRINITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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