

Warrior Express

Spring/Summer 2020-21



A Publication of Trinity Christian School

Superintendent's Perspective



Superintendent Ms. Stellato

Editor's Note: After 5 years as superintendent, Ms. Stellato has moved on to a new opportunity. We are thankful for her leadership and service.

Five years. 900 school days. 10 semesters. Wow, that seems like a long time . . . until you're reflecting on it. It's hard to believe that much time has passed since I first arrived at Trinity.

As I write this, my last column

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Pivoting Through a Pandemic

"Our teachers feel the impact of COVID on our students."

"Things will look a little different this year."

While these words have become a pandemic cliché, the phrase has come to define the history-making 2020-2021 school year. Staff and administration reimaged daily routines, classroom activities, and treasured traditions to assure that students could safely experience on-campus learning as effectively and consistently as possible.

Terms like temperature checks, social distancing, masks mandates, and classroom pods will hopefully become irrelevant in the coming days, but we recognize that these protective measures allowed us to teach students in-person, meet for chapel, and play sports when many schools were still relying on remote learning.

"Behind the four walls of every

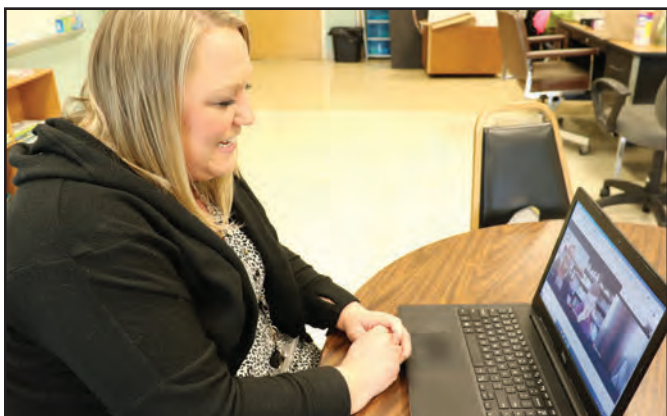
classroom teachers put their souls into creating an environment where children still experienced activities," said Jodi Shoemaker, kindergarten teacher and Trinity parent when reflecting on the year.

Since Trinity is known for cultivating a family atmosphere, in a normal year parents are welcome to attend chapels and visit the classroom to read to the students. They are guests at special presentations, help with classroom

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Virtual and on-site students interact.



Elementary Virtual School teacher Christy Stinoski

Q & A with Christy Stinoski

Q: Due to Covid-19, there was a need to offer an Elementary Virtual School option for the 2020-21 school year, and you were chosen as the teacher. What has been the greatest reward in that move?

A: The greatest reward was developing relationships with students of all grade levels. I realized that children of all ages and developmental levels were special and unique. On Fridays, we would all join together for a few games. Watching my older ones interact with my little ones was a special treat I will never forget.

Q: What was the greatest challenge teaching EVS?

A: Familiarizing myself with all the curriculum for all the grade levels was my greatest challenge. Teaching five different math skills and five different reading stories a day is not an easy task. Many, many weekends were spent preparing lessons and digital copies for my students. However, I will also say that this challenge has helped me grow as a teacher. I am confident that I can successfully teach any elementary grade level.

Q: You found many creative ways of engaging students through online learning. Can you give one example?

A: My students worked so incredibly hard this year and I could not be any more proud of them. One of my highlights in the EVS program would be “The Five Days Before Christmas Break.” I prepared 5 surprise treats for the students to open up each day. They then used the themed-treat as math manipulatives for the day. The students could not wait to see what was in their surprise bag each day and loved using them during their math activity. It was the most excited I’ve ever seen a group of students working on math problems, especially a week before Christmas Break.

Q: What was the most important thing you learned as an educator teaching through the pandemic?

A: I learned that our kids are strong. They are resilient. These students had to completely relearn the way they learn. And they did it. They have grown in so many ways. Not only were they successful at learning reading, math, and writing skills, they grew in their faith. Our children put their trust in the Lord to help guide them through virtual learning and this pandemic. Their relationship with our Savior grew stronger everyday.

Q: What is your favorite scripture and how has it helped you as an educator during this time?

A: My favorite scripture during this pandemic was Proverbs 3:5, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.” During this time of uncertainty, I decided to put my trust in our Lord. This year wasn’t easy for any of us. I was terrified my students would struggle. I became overwhelmed and exhausted at times. However, I prayed. I put my trust in Him. He provided. God wants you to turn to Him and seek refuge and refreshment from Him. My students and I were able to accomplish our goals this year, because we trusted HIM.

Softball Team is a Home Run

Not many schools would add a new sport during a pandemic, but that is exactly what Trinity did. Under the guidance of Coach Colony Hopkins, the young team learned a great deal, showed improvement over the course of the season—they even won a few games!

“It was quite a challenge to start a team, especially during the pandemic since softball and basketball overlapped so much this year,” said Coach Hopkins. “However, it was an amazing experience to get to know these girls and to see them develop every week.”

It will be exciting to see how the team develops next year.





Graduate Taylie Dulin at the 2021 Commencement.

A Senior's View of a COVID Year

(Editor's note: This article is Taylie Dulin's written perspective of her senior year based on questions we asked her before she graduated.)

The most difficult adjustment for this year was not knowing how my senior year would go. I would constantly think about not being able to have all of the senior activities because of COVID and I hated it. It was the biggest adjustment because no other senior class has had to go through a pandemic not knowing how their school year would go.

The most valuable lesson I have learned from COVID is to never lose faith. Throughout the school year, there were many challenges with sports, school, and college applications. In sports, you can never lose faith because you had to keep thinking, "Give it all you got, because this could be your last game." This was because some sports weren't allowing their schools to play and some were—it all depended on how COVID was in their county or state. In school, it was the same way. If people were exposed to COVID, a class or group would have to quarantine for two weeks. In college applications, it was hard to communicate with advisors, counselors, and people that could help you succeed because they were not always available.

Yet I was able to make the most of my senior year because I was constantly doing something. I tried not to feel sad or lonely during this time, so I would go out for slushies or lots of walks or watch movies with family. As for school, there was always someone to help me out. If I was struggling in "virtual school," there was always a teacher to help me and understand. There were times where it was difficult to think this was how my senior year of high school was going to go, but I will cherish some of the most valuable memories that I have created my senior year.

Despite all the new rules and regulations that were handed to us, we made the best out of it. When people all around the world were scared, I knew I couldn't be.

As a result, some of my best memories are from the pandemic. One was when I decided to do "themed dinners" at home with my family. For one week, I created a theme for a different theme for each night and a game to go along with it. One day it was Disney-themed, and we had "pizza planet" pizza from Toy Story and played a Kahoot game. Another night was beach-themed, so we had Hawaiian chicken and played bingo.

Another great memory is when Madison Stellato and I would go on walks. We were constantly going on walks at any park or anywhere because we wanted to hang out. During the pandemic it was hard to constantly be with family. Getting away to go on a walk helped relieve some steam and get quality time with my best friend. Madison and I also went biking, and some nights I would pick her up and we would just drive with nowhere to go, but just drive.

Pivoting (cont.)

parties, and so much more! Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the school had to curtail many of these activities and the school community felt the loss. Mrs. Shoemaker said at the time, "Our teachers feel the impact of COVID on our students. We miss spending time with our Trinity families."

For that reason, the faculty and staff found creative solutions to include online students and parents in activities. Academic programs such as the secondary Science Fair and the elementary State and Country Fairs took place with modifications. Sporting events resumed under WVSSAC guidelines, and the traditionally one-day Hoop-A-Thon fundraiser was lengthened to a week to keep it safe for participants. By the time the Spring Gala rolled around, no one seemed to mind wearing a mask in order to finally gather for a social event to support the school's Tuition Assistance Fund.

As restrictions lifted by the end of the academic year, the school was able to host graduation and promotion ceremonies as well as field days. These celebrations were extra sweet this year, after having to cancel or modify them last year. We are humbled by God's provision and goodness in guiding our leadership, equipping our teachers, staff, and students to successfully complete a challenging year!

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Superintendent (cont.)

for the Warrior Express, I can't help but feel grateful and honored to have served alongside so many special people who have given their time, talents, and treasures to the students and families of Trinity. Trinity is truly a special place—a solid educational institution where students are empowered to discover God's plan for their lives and grow into the people God created them to be. I truly believe the school has arrived at a special season—one that we've prayed long and hard for—and the future holds many opportunities for continued growth and development.

I pray God's blessings on each and every student, family, and staff member of this school. I will be forever grateful that God allowed me to play a tiny role in His plan at Trinity Christian School.



TRINITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

200 Trinity Way • Morgantown, WV 26505

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School Advancement Updates

Spring/Summer 2021

Spring Fundraising Blessings

The spring semester is typically jam-packed with events, including the annual Hoop-A-Thon fundraiser, a fun, schoolwide event held in the Trinity gymnasium. While COVID-19 restrictions made event-planning a challenge in the spring of 2021, it did not lead to the cancellation of any Trinity fundraising events! The annual Hoop-A-Thon was spread out over a week's time to allow preschool, elementary, middle school and high school students to participate in the gymnasium during separate time slots. Students' efforts to gain sponsors, shoot baskets and hula-hoop for Trinity resulted in approximately \$19,000 dollars raised.

Another major event held in the spring semester was the Spring Gala for Trinity Tuition Assistance. The evening included dinner, a live and silent auction, dancing, and the honoring of two Trinity Champions. The event saw just over 115 attendees and raised a little more than \$42,500. We attribute the success of our spring fundraisers to God's grace and guidance, and our final spring fundraiser—the Capes and Tiaras Fun Run—was no exception. At the Fun Run, both adults and children from the community ran in age-appropriate obstacle course races while dressed like their favorite princesses or superheroes! The weather was beautiful for this outdoor event; it was well-attended, and approximately \$885 was raised!



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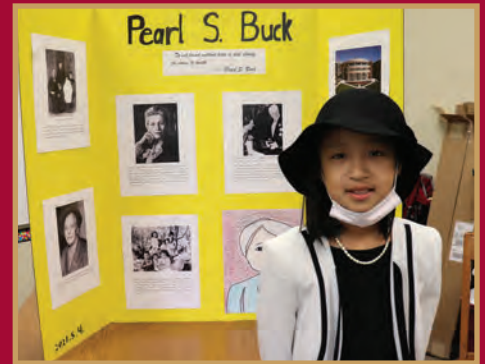
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