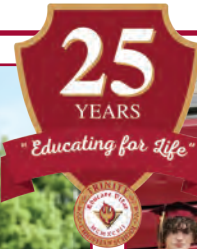


Warrior Express

Spring/Summer 2023



A Publication of Trinity Christian School

Superintendent's Perspective



Superintendent Dr. Matt Chavez

The Word for this past school year was “Anointed,” and it was based on Psalm 23:5: “*You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows.*”

As we reflect on this past year, we can see how the Lord anointed the school. Although too many to list here, some of the highlights were our band winning First Place Div-I at the Buckwheat Festival parade and then later earning a championship rating for the State

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Ready for the Next Step

“There have been so many opportunities that I have encountered at this school, and while I’m excited to graduate, I’m really going to miss it.”

Jaden Sheffstall '23

From our kindergarten graduates to our high school graduates, we witness how our mission can impact students through every phase of their young lives.

During kindergarten graduation, we listened in amazement as the students recited 26 Bible verses—one for each letter of the alphabet—they had memorized this year. All of the students will enter first grade reading and writing in cursive. As parent Alicia Perrine said, “Mrs. Patti did an amazing job preparing these little ones for what is to come.” They leave kindergarten ready for first grade.

Just a week after the kindergarten class graduated, we witnessed the senior class receive their diplomas and celebrate their achievements at the 2023 Commencement ceremony.

Collectively, the 12 students in the senior class earned nearly \$375,000 in scholarships. They plan to study bio-medical engineering, forensics, law, business, and more. They were taught God’s Word while being guided and challenged by loving teachers and coaches every step of the way. Whatever paths our graduates choose, our goal is for each one to be prepared academically, socially, physically, and most of all, spiritually.

Class of 2023 Salutatorian Jaden Sheffstall has attended TCS since kindergarten. She recently wrote, “There have been so many opportunities that I have encountered at this school, and while I’m excited to graduate, I’m really going to miss it.” We are privileged to have played a role in all of our students’ lives and pray for each of them as they take the next step.



Carrie Breaky

Q & A with Carrie Breaky

Q: What do you like most about teaching secondary math?

A: I truly love being in the classroom with the students. I love the moments we share together where I can watch the students learn and grow through the year.

Q: How does your Christian faith inform the way you approach the subject matter?

A: The subject of math points to an intelligent designer of the universe who created everything and established order in our world. I love being able to support this claim in my classroom and watching the students' eyes widen to learn about different aspects of God.

Q: What unique ways are you able to encourage students in their faith?

A: I love encouraging students to believe that God has a purpose for their lives. I pray this encourages them as they prepare for their future. I encourage students to follow God's ways for their good and His glory. And, I pray they realize that as they pursue God and put Him first, their future is in His hands.

Q: What is your favorite Bible verse and why?

A: Ephesians 2:10 is one of my favorite Bible verses. It says, "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." I love this verse because it is encouraging to hear that we are God's masterpiece, unique, one-of-a-kind, and God has a purpose for our lives!

Q: What do you like most about teaching at Trinity Christian School?

A: I love being at a Christian school. I became a Christian my freshman year of high school and always thought I would like to teach in a public school. However, shortly after I finished college, I was hired to teach at Trinity and it changed my perspective on education. I'm so thankful for the opportunity to be a part of Christian education.

Q: Can you share a fun fact about yourself that might surprise our families?

A: It might surprise families that I have taught at Trinity for over 10 years! I taught for a few years out of college and then took a few years off to stay home with my two sons! It is a blessing to teach at Trinity and be part of the Warrior family!

Middle School Initiatives

As a school we want to continually evaluate our middle school program and offer students age-appropriate educational and developmental opportunities so they are prepared to enter high school after eighth grade.

This year, our Bible department made the decision to have a middle school chapel, separate from high school. As Chapel Coordinator Ashley Murdock noted, "Middle School students are very unique. By giving them their own chapel time we've been able to meet their spiritual needs."

In addition to the change in chapel, middle school students had the option to take Veterinarian Science, a new elective taught by Mrs. Digilormo who holds a degree in Veterinary Medicine and Zootechnics. In the hands-on class, students studied live animals on campus including a dog, a chinchilla, a guinea pig, goats, and a chicken. The class also took field trips to a local farm and zoo.

The school also introduced a STEM club for middle schoolers looking for an extra-curricular activity. Club members explored a variety of engineering and design challenges such as creating a roller coaster from paper.



A Veterinarian Science student pets a chicken during class.



Guests viewed student artwork at Night of the Arts.

Night of the Arts

From band and choir performances to an impressive array of visual arts, our students' creative talents took center stage at the Night of the Arts in early April.

The evening began in the school's foyer where guests enjoyed student artwork created in a variety of media including a digital art display. It continued in the gym, where students of all grade levels performed instrumental and vocal pieces to an appreciative crowd. The evening ended with an awards ceremony for students who were recognized for their outstanding artwork as voted on by guests. The Night of the Arts was a lovely reminder that the arts are alive and well at Trinity Christian School.



The West Virginia team at the test launch site in Maryland.

STEM Program Continues to Soar

The Nationwide Eclipse Balloon Project (NEBP) is a NASA mission to build and operate high-altitude balloon systems during the solar eclipses in October 2023 and April 2024. The West Virginia team of Trinity Christian School and West Virginia Space Grant Consortium is currently designing and building their stratospheric systems that will fly in October. STEM students and brothers Marcos, Lucas, and Carmelo Kniska traveled with other members of the team to the University of Maryland for a NASA workshop. During the trip, they launched a good test flight.

Winter/Spring Sport Highlights

Baseball – Will Hancox represented Trinity Christian and Team West Virginia in the OVAC All-Star baseball game. Parker Hopkins was named OVAC Baseball All Conference and Ryan Parker was named 2nd Team All Conference. Both were named Honorable Mention All-State for Class A. The Baseball team had their first sectional playoff win since 2018.

Boys Basketball – The team beat Frankfort to win the Regional Championship. The boys qualified for the state tournament as the 8th seed for the first time since 2019 and first time as Class AA. Carter Hartsock received Second Team All-State and Levi Teets and Chayce Adams received Honorable Mention All-State.

Girls Basketball – The team was named Sectional Champions for the third year in a row! Jenna Barnett was 2nd Team All-State and Honorable mention went to Sucora Brown.

Middle School Boys Basketball – The team defeated county rivals Clay-Battelle in a one-point victory!

Middle School Girls Basketball – The varsity team was the Mason-Dixon Runner-Up and the JV team won the Junior Varsity Mason-Dixon Championship!

Softball – The girls continued to show significant improvement since restarting the program last year.

Middle School Softball – The team built on last year's success as they added talented girls to the roster.

Tennis – Taylor Stephens, Abigail Fisher, and Landon Murdock advanced to the second round of the regional singles tournament. Liz Fulk advanced to the third round. The girls team advanced to the second round of regionals and lost to the number one seed Williamstown.

Track – A successful track season resulted in 13 All-State Track athletes including five state champions: Chase Livengood in the Long Jump and Cora Friend, Sofia Pancoast, Jenna Barnett, and Rylan Sharp in the 4x400 relay.

Middle School Track – The boys team won the Mason-Dixon Championship.



The State Champion 4x400 relay team on the podium.

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Superintendent (cont.)

of West Virginia. We had Science Fair, History Fair, and English students all winning awards. Our sports teams won State, Regional, Sectional, and Conference Championships, many of which occurred in the second half of the year and are listed in this issue under *Winter/Spring Sports Highlights*. Our advancement department was anointed in raising twice as much as was budgeted for the Gala. My personal favorite example of our teachers and students being anointed was ALL of our Kindergarten students learning how to read. They are all well on their way to reading the Bible for themselves. Our cup truly overflows.

Though this past year was tough in many areas, we thank the Lord for anointing our school and granting it favor and blessing. We are so grateful for His grace helping us to finish well.

As we look forward to the next school year, we are excited to see how the Lord is bringing staff members to minister to our children on a daily basis. We look forward to the many security upgrades we will see this coming school year along with the blessing of seeing our students thrive in a Godly environment.

It's great to be a Trinity Christian Warrior!

Dr. Matthew Chavez



TRINITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

200 Trinity Way • Morgantown, WV 26505

Thank you to our Partners in Education: Citynet, First United Bank & Trust, and Pikewood Creative.

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

Spring/Summer 2023

Far More Abundantly

This spring, Trinity Christian held its two largest fundraisers of the school year and, additionally, brought back a beloved fundraising event that was last held in 2021.

First, students participated in the Hoop-A-Thon in March and raised over \$13,000! The TCS Staff/Coaches team beat out the reigning student champs during the Hoop-A-Thon Finale, and there was even a new addition of a Staff Cheer team at the event.

In April, the Night of Transformation Spring Gala took place. The event included a catered dinner, a live and silent auction, a table competition, and honoring the 2023 Trinity Christian Champion Dan Lohmann. Over \$47,000 was raised for Tuition Assistance through the Night of Transformation Spring Gala! The total included a very generous donation from Mr. Richard G. Snyder, a faithful friend of the school.

Lastly, the Capes and Tiaras Fun Run was held in May. Kids and adults dressed in their princess or superhero gear and had a fun morning participating in the obstacle run or the 2-mile fun run. A little over \$1,200 was raised through this active, family-friendly event. Though the spring semester often feels like a whirlwind, we will clearly remember how the Lord provided for these spring events through good weather conditions, wonderful volunteers, and generous hearts.

"Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen." - Ephesians 3:20-21



Above and Right: Students hula-hoop and shoot hoops at the Hoop-A-Thon.



Above: Guests in costume at the Spring Gala. Right: 2023 TCS Champion Dan Lohmann and his family.



Above: A Capes & Tiaras runner poses.

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

Alumni News

Tyler Etris '06 is an architect for Paradigm Architecture in Morgantown. Tyler and architect Paul Walker, Paradigm's founder, recently received a Citation for Interior Architecture awarded by the American Institute of Architects - West Virginia for The Terrace at Tibb's Run located within the West Virginia Botanic Garden. Tyler and his wife Liz live in Morgantown with their two daughters. Their oldest daughter Caroline recently completed kindergarten at Trinity Christian School.

Major Kris Warner, Jr. '09 and **Maggie (Graham) Warner '09**, along with their children Trip (age 6), AnnMarie (age 4), and Seneca (age 2) currently live in Dayton, Ohio where Kris was reassigned to Wright Patterson AFB after a five year assignment at Edward's AFB in California. Maggie will begin teaching a sophomore nursing course at Ohio State University in the Fall. Maggie earned her Master's in Nursing Education from Liberty University. Kris and Maggie are homeschooling their children. They recently celebrated their tenth wedding anniversary while traveling in Scotland.

Ryan Wise '11 is the Assistant Director of the Boys & Girls Club of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. The club serves roughly 300 kids on Hilton Head Island.

Abigail Finn '17 earned a bachelor's degree in Forensic and Investigative Science from WVU in May 2022. Prior to completing her degree, she served the Gwinnett County (Metro Atlanta Area, Georgia) Police CSI Unit as a Forensic Science Intern, the same department where her father, Steve, was an officer. Abbey is currently employed by the Las Vegas Metro Police CSI Unit as a Crime Scene Analyst.

Eden Kinkade '19 is serving as a full time missionary in Guadalajara, Mexico with YWAM (Youth With A Mission) Zapopan. To learn more Eden's work or subscribe to her newsletter visit: bit.ly/46iMcqQ

Jalen Wimer '19 graduated in May 2023 from WVU College of Applied Humans with a bachelors of science in health and well-being, minoring in sport psychology. Jalen is now working towards a masters of science and safety management at WVU.

Isaiah Anderson '21 is in his second year at Fairmont State University where he majors in business management, information and technology, and minors in graphic design.

Turner Lawrence '20 just completed his junior year at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, MI. Turner is majoring in Sports Management with a minor in Event Coordination. He is interning this summer with the Kalamazoo Growlers of baseball's Northwoods League. The Northwoods League is a collegiate summer baseball wooden bat league based in the U.S. Midwest.



Tyler Etris receives AIA-WV award.



Abigail Finn in uniform.

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