

Warrior Express

Spring 2024



A Publication of Trinity Christian School

Trusting in Him and Leading from the Heart

The Word for the year was TRUST from Proverbs 3:5-6, *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.”*

The Lord gave us plenty of opportunities to trust in Him this year by presenting challenges where we could not lean on our own understanding. As we acknowledged Jesus, He made our paths straight. This year was a year of culture change at Trinity Christian School. At the Back to School Bash in August 2023, we could sense the idea of the “Warrior Family” was taking hold among our community. We fed close to 400 parents, staff, and students and hosted our largest crowd yet for Orientation Day.

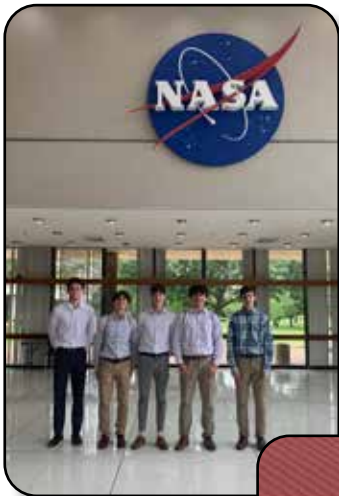
At Homecoming, the Warrior Family came out in force as the entire school put on a massive tailgate event for fun and fellowship. Our Administration team implemented a monthly Friday Finale assembly where the whole school celebrates Character Award winners, shares schoolwide news, and worships the Lord in song.

The culture of Trinity Christian School has changed for the best, and it is a direct result of, *“In all your ways acknowledge HIM, and HE will make your paths straight.”*

As we finish out the year of TRUST, we move on to the Word for the 2024-2025 school year: ABIDE. In John 15:5 Jesus said, *“I am the Vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”* We trust that as we abide in Jesus alone, our beloved school will be able to do greater things in 2024-2025 than ever before.

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Academic Highlights



Our students ended the year on an academic high note with strong scores on the West Virginia Summative Assessment and 92% of our secondary students making the second semester honor roll. In the spirit of “Educating for Life,” we also saw a high level of student engagement in Student Council, Community Service, and Mentor projects. Here are just a few of the outstanding highlights from the second semester:

- Senior and 2024 valedictorian Carmelo Kniska was accepted to Columbia University, making him the first TCS grad to attend an Ivy League school for an undergraduate degree. Carmelo received numerous achievement awards, and we can't wait to see how God moves in his life as he pursues a degree in mechanical engineering.
- A team of STEM students capped off an amazing year by being selected as a top team in the NASA App Development Challenge (ADC). Team Spaghetti Code, comprised of brothers Carmelo, Lucas, and Marcos Kniska, along with Ben Lohmann and Ethan Tomlinson, won a trip to NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston to visit NASA's unique facilities, meet industry leaders, and present their work to the public and NASA leadership.
- Elementary and middle school students met for STEM clubs throughout the year, exploring engineering with VEX robotics kits. Aftercare students shared a memorable moment when they experienced the 2024 solar eclipse together.
- The Trinity Christian Honor Society welcomed 22 members this year, more than doubling last year's inductee list.
- Our math department has focused on regaining what was lost in math skills during COVID, especially in the current seventh grade class. After great intent to change the trajectory for this group of students, the seventh graders are 72% proficient in math which is 41 percentage points above the state.
- For the spring community service project, our mentors and their buddies filled one hundred backpacks with a Bible, school supplies, snacks, books, and more for children in the foster care system. They also prayed for and wrote kind notes to the recipients.

Athletic Highlights

Warrior high school athletics finished out an incredible year by winning the OVAC Overall Class 1A Champion title for the first time!

High School Winter/Spring Highlights

Baseball – The boys had their second consecutive 10+ win season. Parker Hopkins earned 2nd team all-state, and 1st team all-conference for the OVAC and Mason-Dixon. Will McPherson earned 2nd team all-conference for the OVAC and Mason-Dixon. Trenton Timperio and Ryan Parker earned honorable mention for Mason-Dixon.

Girls Basketball – The girls went 19-6 and reached the State Tournament. The team won its 4th consecutive sectional championship, taking the title six of the last seven years. Jenna Barnett exceeded 1,000 career points and she and fellow senior Ella Lynch were named all-state.

Boys Basketball – The team made it to the state tournament in back-to-back seasons by winning the regional championship. The boys also qualified for the OVAC championship. Chayce Adams surpassed 1,000 points in only three years and received 2nd team all-state honors. Carter Hartsock received all-state honorable mention and played in the OVAC and North/South all-star games. Ben Lohmann, Lucas Kniska, and Parker Hopkins received all-conference honors.

Cheer – The winter season of cheer was wonderfully blessed by God. As Mrs. Jeckering stepped into the head coach position, scared but willing, the cheerleaders were there to pick her up every time; they truly embody what the name implies. They led their coach in cheer. The team is so excited to continue in the fall for football season! Go Warriors!

Softball – The program grew from ten to 20 players this year, fielding full JV and varsity teams. Varsity went 14-11, qualified for the OVAC playoffs, and won 2 sectional playoff games. Peyton Moore earned 1st team all-state, and Paige Hopkins earned 2nd team. Peyton and Paige also earned 1st team OVAC all-conference, and Marlo Flecker earned 2nd team.

Tennis – The boys team won their first official match in school history. The girls team celebrated numerous wins with several players advancing at Regionals. The team grew tremendously, had a lot of fun, and was well-fed at amazing tailgates at each match.

Track – The team had three 1st team OVAC all-conference runners and six OVAC 1A/2A Champions, and three overall champions. The girls team finished as OVAC runner-up and Elecia McCurrie was the performer of the meet. The team had five regional champions and 17 state-qualifiers (12 girls, 5 boys) in 17 events. The finished a great season at States with 4 state championships and 15 all-state medals. The girls finished 3rd in the state. For the season the team set 3 OVAC meet records, 2 all-time OVAC records, 3 state meet records, and 16 school records (8 boys, 8 girls).



Arts Highlights

Our Arts department ended the year on a high note with a fantastic Night of the Arts event featuring an arts walk and elementary music performances. Independent art student Liz Fulk's breathtaking mobile greeted guests as they entered the lobby while the high school Praise Team provided beautiful worship music as a backdrop. Visitors enjoyed students' art from all grade levels and a variety of media including a slideshow featuring work from the digital design class. The entire evening was a joyful celebration of the arts!

Earlier in the spring, new music teacher and Band Director Josh Salisbury led our band in a strong performance at the Region 10 Band Festival followed by a spring concert just a few weeks later. We look forward to watching the music programs grow under his leadership and expertise in the upcoming school year.

While their primary focus is ministering in Chapel, our high school praise team continues to have new opportunities to serve in the community. In May, they led worship at the National Day of Prayer event for pastors and believers in the Morgantown area. The entire high school student body joined those in attendance to worship and pray. What a great experience for all!

As we look to next school year, we are excited to announce additional fine arts electives including drama and public speaking.



TRINITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

200 Trinity Way • Morgantown, WV 26505

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

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Advancing the Mission

Spring 2024

This Spring, we saw the Lord answer our prayers and bless our advancement efforts in numerous ways. We kicked off our spring fundraisers with a successful Pepperoni Roll Fundraiser in January followed by the greatly beloved Hoop-A-Thon in March. We had a high number of volunteer parents take part in rebounding and counting basketball shots and hula hoopers during the Hoop-A-Thon, and the event ended with the Hoop-A-Thon Finale where the high school team reclaimed the Hoop-A-Thon cup from the TCS staff team! Hoop-A-Thon participants collectively raised over \$13,300 for the school!

Just a little over a month later, the same gymnasium that housed the Hoop-A-Thon was transformed into the venue for A Night of Transformation Spring Gala. This was the fifth year we held an annual spring gala benefiting the TCS Tuition Assistance Fund, and the community support was stronger than ever! The majority of our Gala Committee members returned to plan this event from the previous year, many attendees joined in on the table decorating contest, and the well-known and respected Pastor Junius Lewis was honored as the 2024 Trinity Christian Champion. A lovely dinner was enjoyed, auction items were bid upon, and the tuition assistance program received over \$28,000 in donations from the event!

Additionally in May, we received grant money from Mr. Richard G. Snyder for a 15-passenger van. This van can be used for transporting small amounts of students for school-related events and has been an item on the school's wish list for quite a while. Grants from Mr. Snyder and the Christ Foundation will enable us to make upgrades to the Warrior Cafe and the multipurpose room. Along with the fruitfulness of our spring fundraisers, these generous gifts were answers to the prayers of our teachers and staff!



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

Alumni News

Spring 2024

Sara Karsten (McClymonds) '06, husband Wes, and their four sons welcomed a daughter, Anna Grace to their family in March.



Sara Karsten and family

Michael Dehlin '16 and wife Olivia live in Northwest Ohio where he is employed as an Industrial Engineer with Lowe's Home Improvement, and she works as a Data Analyst for Conservation Labs. The couple is re-joining because a 6-year-old girl they recently fostered was placed with a family who loves the Lord and intends to adopt her.



Daniel Woods



Turner Lawrence

Daniel Woods '19 was recognized by the West Virginia Broadcasters Association in the television category as Best Sports Anchor for his work at WBOY in Clarksburg. In the radio category, he received awards for Best Newscast and Radio Rookie Professional of the Year. Daniel also began hosting a classic country music show titled "The Big Dawg Ride Home" on WICL in Martinsburg.

Turner Lawrence '20 graduated cum laude in the spring from Western Michigan University with a B.S. degree in Sports Management with a minor in Event Management. He is currently employed as Director of Food and Beverage for the Kalamazoo Growlers, a baseball team in the Northwoods League.

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