

Warrior Express

Fall 2024 — A Publication of Trinity Christian School



Plans and Partnerships

Trinity Christian School's new Superintendent Mr. Charlie Atwood is wasting no time in his new role. As he starts his twelfth year in Christian school administration, Mr. Atwood is applying his experience of serving on ACSI accreditation committees and facilitating Christian school professional development programs to his new role at TCS. When asked, he shared his vision for Trinity Christian School.

"My focus is always three-pronged: Spiritual Excellence, Academic Excellence, and Flourishing School Culture," he explained. "While those are focus areas, they are meaningless without goals to improve those areas, and goals are meaningless without a plan."

To that end, Mr. Atwood said his team is working on a strategic school improvement plan that includes earning ACSI Accreditation in the Spring of 2026 and a research-based overhaul of the curriculum to build a more cohesive vertical (within a grade level) and horizontal (grade-to-grade) alignment of curriculum.

Here are a few of the partnerships and plans the school's administrative team has implemented or initiated so far this year.

New Partnerships and Programs:

- **Joined Christian Schools International:** Benefits include Professional Development, Leadership Development, and Employee Retirement benefits
- **Houghton University Partnership:** Benefits include college courses in the high school at an affordable price with Christian Worldview Integration, automatic acceptance for TCS students, and tuition discounts for teachers
- **ACSI Accreditation Self-Study Launch**

Future Plans:

- More Christian College partnerships to diversify program offerings
- Increased Teacher and Leadership development opportunities
- Updated Safety and Crisis Management Plan
- Publishing of the Strategic School Improvement Plan
- ASCI Flourishing School Culture Survey
- ACSI Flourishing Faith Survey
- On-site Professional Development Institute



Superintendent Charlie Atwood speaks at the UnifiEd: On Purpose conference for Christian school leaders in Grove City, PA.



Spotlight on the Arts: Our drama department performed *Her Senior Year* at the West Virginia Theatre Association's Winter Festival and won multiple awards! See the full story on page 4.

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Academic Highlights

We started the school year with the distinction of receiving Gold for the 2024 “Best in Mountaineer Country” for Private Schools by Hope Gas. It was an honor to be named and provides extra incentive for us to live up to the title and fulfill our mission for the glory of God! Here are a few of the highlights from the first quarter.

- Senior Ethan Tomlinson was named a semifinalist for the 2025 National Merit Scholarship program!
- Our Advanced Placement students’ success resulted in the school receiving a Silver Level of Distinction on the AP School Honor Roll.
- Four of our high school students attended the Chick-Fil-A Leader Academy to learn how they can effectively impact their communities through proven leadership principles.
- Our digital photography students gained real-life experience by providing school pictures for students and staff. The students designed the set up of the classroom for the best traffic flow, tracked students’ attendance and payments, and helped pose the student before taking their picture.
- Our new school van has been branded and in operation for field trips and athletic contests. The purchase of the van was made possible by a gift from the Richard G. & Barbara A. Snyder General Charitable Fund through the Armstrong County Community Foundation.
- Novelis, Inc. gave the school \$8,000 in STEM supplies for various grade levels including elementary math manipulatives, secondary lab supplies, and a science bowl buzzer system. Our middle school science bowl team is practicing for upcoming competitions now.



Top Left: Ethan Tomlinson is a 2025 National Merit Scholarship semi-finalist.



Top Right: Superintendent Charlie Atwood and Board President Dave Sharp display the “Best in Mountaineer Country” gold award.

Bottom Left: Students and Mr. Atwood travel to the Chick-Fil-A Leader Academy in the new school van.

Bottom Right: Digital Photography students take a girl's school photo for Picture Day.



Athletic Highlights

Our students had a great time together and accomplished a lot this fall sports season; now the post-season honors are coming in. We'll start off our highlights with a few students who were honored over the summer.

- Recent graduates Carmelo Kniska and Ben Lohmann were named Scholar All-Americans for soccer, and Jillian Benn was named an All-Academic honoree for lacrosse. Jillian, a TCS senior, plays lacrosse for University High since Trinity doesn't have a team.
- Miles Steptoe made All-State for cross country with an 8th place finish. Miles is the first boy in school history to make the top 10 at States! Both girls and boys teams qualified for the State meet where the boys team placed 6th—the highest in school history.
- The soccer team won the Sectional Championship and has begun accruing post season honors. Jakub Galik and Parker Hopkins were named 1st Team OVAC All-Conference. Mason Rodeheaver and Austin Porta received 2nd Team honors. Mason Rodeheaver, Parker Hopkins, Jakub Galik, and Nathan Adams made 1st Team All-Region and Austin Porta made 2nd Team. Our All-State honorees include Parker Hopkins – 1st Team, Mason Rodeheaver – 2nd Team, and Jakub Galik and Nathan Adams – Honorable Mention. Coach Dan Lohmann was named Regional Coach of the Year and is a finalist for the State Coach of the Year. Additionally, Parker Hopkins is a finalist for the State Goalkeeper of the Year. The winners will be announced at the All-State banquet in a couple of weeks. Congratulations to all!
- The volleyball team ended its season as Sectional Champs! The team had a great season and made good memories together.
- After the football team had to fold due to injuries, the team played an intrasquad Red vs. White game on Homecoming. Fans and players alike raved about the event and it was great to see our football players and cheer team in action.



Alumni Spotlight: Levi Teets '23 is a sophomore at Grove City College and is a member of the football team, playing cornerback. The Wolverines are ranked nationally in NCAA Division III. Earlier this season, Levi recorded his first collegiate interception. Academically, he earned Dean's List honors as a freshman while majoring in Business Management.



Top Row (L to R): All-Americans Carmelo Kniska, Ben Lohmann, and Jillian Benn; Volleyball Team Sectional Champions

Middle: Boys Soccer Sectional Champions

Right: Miles Steptoe earns First Team All-State in cross-country.



Arts Highlights

With a resurgence in the arts this year, our students are finding many opportunities to grow in their artistic expression and abilities.

- Our Drama Department is back and stronger than ever. The school's drama program has been accepted as a Chapter of the International Thespian Society, the Theatre Honor Society for secondary students.
- Theatre Troupe #12393 performed *Her Senior Year* at the West Virginia Theatre Association's Winter Festival and have advanced to the South Eastern Theatre Conference! Individual awards went to Lydia Knight - Distinguished Performer; Rylan Sharp and Landon Murdock - All Festival Cast; Noah Toler and Bella Kelley - Honorable Mention for Music. We are extremely proud of the whole cast, crew, and Director Colton Daft.
- The Warrior Band performed before enthusiastic crowds at the Buckwheat Festival, the Homecoming football game, and the Veterans Day program. Our choirs also performed beautifully for Veterans Day.
- The Praise Team faithfully leads worship at weekly chapels and other events for the school and community.



L to R: Praise Team leads worship for *See You At the Pole*; Cast Rehearses *Her Senior Year*; Band performs for Veterans Day



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