

Warrior Express

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Our Focus for 2025-2026: Accreditation, Accountability, and Reliability

by Charlie Atwood, Superintendent



Mr. Charlie Atwood

In my first year at Trinity, I spent most of my time observing, learning the culture, and gaining an appreciation for what makes TCS unique. As I enter my second year, I am focused on creating a system and culture of continuous improvement to ensure that we fulfill our mission to Glorify God, Honor Christ, Inspire Excellence, and Educate for Life.

I believe we find a biblical mandate for continuous improvement and external checks in Proverbs 27:17 (NIV) "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another," and 2 Corinthians 10:12, "we do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise."

To ensure we are not judging ourselves by ourselves, my focus this year will be on instituting four data-driven measures.

1. ACSI Inspire Protocol Accreditation: We are very excited to announce that ACSI has scheduled the TCS Accreditation visit for April 19-22, 2026! Accreditation through the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) is a scientifically validated protocol of nearly 70 indicators of flourishing schools broken down across 6 Domains. An independent panel of Christian school leaders will rate TCS on a 4-point scale against each indicator over the three-day visit.

The process is intense for both the school and the visiting team. At the end of the visit, the team shares their preliminary findings with TCS administration and then submits their report to ACSI's accreditation committee. In the Summer of 2026, the ACSI commission will send us a list of Prioritized Action Items to improve our operations. These items will become part of the school's strategic school improvement plan.

2. ACSI Flourishing School Culture and Flourishing Faith Surveys: These scientifically validated, research-based surveys will be sent to students, faculty, administration, Board, parents, and alumni to assess the culture and faith impact TCS's programming have on the various constituent groups. The data collected from the surveys will be used in the school's strategic school improvement plan.

3. NWEA MAP Growth Testing: Starting this Fall, we will replace our state standardized testing with the NWEA Measure of Academic Progress Growth testing. These tests use an algorithm to push a student to the top of their ability in a given academic skill, regardless of grade level and their nationally normed growth over time. We can then use that data as an external validation of our academic programs and internally to create more individualized instruction.

4. High Reliability Schools: The Marzano Institute is the leading educational research institution in the US. Their experts created the High Reliability Schools Model as a research-based, data-driven system for schools to use internally to verify adherence to the best research and highest standards in school safety, school culture, and academic excellence. While this is a similar framework to ACSI's Inspire and Flourishing Schools Model, the Marzano HRS model fills in some gaps the ACSI model leaves.

Overall, our goal for this year is to ensure that at every step, every level, every classroom, every day, TCS students are getting the best possible instruction, from the best possible teachers, in the best possible environment, to be equipped to love God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love their neighbors as themselves.



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Academic Highlights

The school year is off to a good start! Our **enrollment is up 5%** from last year, necessitating the expansion of the second grade. Our **teacher and staff retention level is high**, with only two new staff members, Stephanie Howard and Meredith Marsh, both joining the Humanities department. When the College Board recognized students for their achievements on Advanced Placement exams this summer, we were thrilled to hear that the class of 2025 was well-represented. Receiving honors were Ethan Tomlinson - AP Scholar with Distinction Award; Lucas Kniska - AP Scholar with Honor Award; and Jillian Benn, Elizabeth Fulk, Lydia Knight, Brock Lewis, Landon Murdock, and Rylan Sharp - AP Scholar Award.

Our Early Education department is excited to return to the traditional preschool model this year. This change allows for increased academic rigor and better vertical alignment with the kindergarten through twelfth-grade curriculum plan and goals.

Secondary students continue to have more academic options with the introduction of two new electives this year—a **Christian Leadership class** and a **Business class**—bringing the total number of secondary electives to sixteen.

Ms. Marsh is teaching the **Christian Leadership class**, where students will learn how to grow as leaders and lead in Christ's image. She explained further, "As a class, we will work together on service projects and activities in our school community and the surrounding community. Throughout the year, students will be answering these questions: What does it mean to be a leader? How can we help our community? What are some of my God given gifts?"

Colton Daft teaches the **Business elective class**. "By the end of this course, students will understand the foundational principles of business, including entrepreneurship, financial literacy, marketing, and management. Through hands-on experience planning and operating a school store, students will apply these concepts in real time—developing skills in customer service, inventory, budgeting, teamwork, and decision-making."

Students in the business class will also participate in the school's **new DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) chapter**. According to its mission statement, DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management in high schools and colleges around the globe. Mr. Daft plans to utilize DECA resources in the classroom, including real-world business/marketing and entrepreneurship role-playing scenarios and case studies.

"It is very exciting to be one of the first private schools in the state to introduce DECA," said Mr. Daft. "While this year we may start small, the goal is to at least take a few students to the Career Development Conference, which is a State Competition held in Charleston in March."



Ms. Marsh addresses students during Christian Leadership class.



Mr. Daft discusses recent business news with his Business class.

Arts & Athletics Highlights



Above: Annie Jr. cast members rehearse.

Below: Students practice portrait photography before class photo sessions



Athletic Director Jason White is very enthusiastic about Warrior athletics for 2025-2026. This year, the department hired new coaches for middle and high school volleyball and middle school girls' basketball. "The coaches are what make our programs great, and I feel very strongly that we have chosen great men and women of God to lead our students," said Mr. White. "I am so excited to see how our programs excel this year! Many programs are returning students, so we will be able to build on last year." Middle and high school cross-country, golf, soccer, and middle and high school volleyball have already started their seasons. To keep up with the team schedules, visit our athletics website trinitychristianschoolwv.bigteams.com/

Our Fine Arts faculty is also anticipating a good year with the full staff returning. Music teacher and Band Director Josh Salisbury expressed excitement when reflecting on this year's summer camp, saying the band has grown since last year. "Band camp was a success," said Mr. Salisbury. "The band was looking great while parade marching," he added. "We are looking forward to the Buckwheat Festival School Day Parade." He also hopes to have a pep band ready to perform for part of the basketball season.

The high school Praise Team has grown, too. The group is currently comprised of eleven students who share responsibilities of leading worship for both middle and high school chapels.

The Drama Department recently announced the cast for the fall musical, *Annie Jr.*, and rehearsals have begun. Performances will be held in the Chapel on October 2nd and 3rd at 7:30 PM and October 4th at 2:00 PM and 7:30 PM. To reserve your seats, visit trinitydrama.ludus.com. Following the musical, the department will work on a one-act competition piece.

After our photography students' successful debut taking the school's class photos last year, the class is preparing to do so again this year. Art teacher Samantha Nagy is coordinating the project and training students to produce professional-quality photos for the school. "I believe that it is essential for our students to learn real-life applications for the topics they are learning in school," she explained. "In taking the school portraits, the students are learning aspects of photography as a career, how to manage the large number of photos they are taking, how to organize files, and how to deliver client galleries. We spend time in class practicing these skills before we begin the school portraits to ensure that our student photographers are ready. It is also a beautiful way for our photography classes to serve the school community!"

**SAVE THE DATE
HOMECOMING!**



OCTOBER 10, 2025



Summer Highlights

Anna Lohmann Girls State Experience – Senior Anna Lohmann had a life-changing experience at West Virginia Rhododendron Girls State this summer. Anna met all the criteria for the selective week-long leadership academy hosted by the American Legion Auxiliary, but she wasn't sure what to expect. Anna's willingness to try something new paid dividends. She returned with lifelong friends, an increased understanding of the military, and a greater appreciation for all that West Virginia has to offer. Reflecting upon her experience, Anna shared, "It was literally life-changing. It was so fun! It's late nights, early mornings, but it's worth it. I left feeling so much more empowered than I was before."

Taylor Stephens Receives Award – Recent graduate Taylor Stephens is a 2025 recipient of the Waynesburg University Leadership Award. Taylor started her freshman year at the university in August, where she is studying early childhood education with minors in music and biblical ministry studies. She is also playing tennis for Waynesburg.

Playground Refresh – Our playgrounds were refreshed this summer with new rubber mulch. Thank you to the Armstrong County Community Foundation for sponsoring a grant from the Richard G. & Barbara A. Snyder General Charitable Fund that provided the funds for this upgrade. We are so thankful for this generous gift!



Anna Lohmann at WV Girls State

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