

VISION

TRINITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

FALL 23

WELCOME

back to school

Trinity Christian Students



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A Reason to Enroll

Jon Vugteveen, Head of School

Over the years, one hears many reasons for placing children in Christian schools instead of public schools. Some families have told us they have come to TCS for its academics; some seek protection from bullying, secular influences, negative social pressures and more. Others see a beautiful building and a warm atmosphere that fits their hearts' desire for their students. All of these are great reasons to enroll; however, the greatest reason to enroll is the reason we are all here: a commitment as parents and teachers to ensure God's Word is reflected in every part of our students' education.

As Trinity continues to work towards accreditation through ACSI, we as a faculty and staff are taking moments to reflect on our mission, which remains unchanged since our founding in 1993: to provide a personalized, goal-directed education, and to equip students with the desire, discipline, and skills to pursue excellence in all they do, with all their heart, as working for the Lord.

As we dive into the 2023-2024 school year, we are excited to see our classrooms fill with students who are eager to learn about and grow closer to God. For the first time in a decade, we are back to two classes of every grade level, and our enrollment in K-8 is over 300 students. With a variety of reasons today that are compelling for enrolling in a Christian school, our ultimate mission will always be to build a strong biblical foundation in these children and their families.

TCS believes in the power of community and strives to create an environment where every student feels seen, known, and valued. Through initiatives such as student-led chapels, reading buddies, community service projects, and more, we encourage students to grow in their character, leadership skills, and compassion for others. As a part of this school year, we want to continue to foster a safe and supportive atmosphere where students can form lasting friendships, develop a sense of belonging, and thrive in knowing God more!

The verses Colossians 2:6-7 come to mind:

6 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, 7 rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Please take time this year to pray over the 300+ hearts walking through our doors every school day. God has a plan for every child and every family here.

We are excited to see what he has in store!

God Bless TCS!

In His Grip,

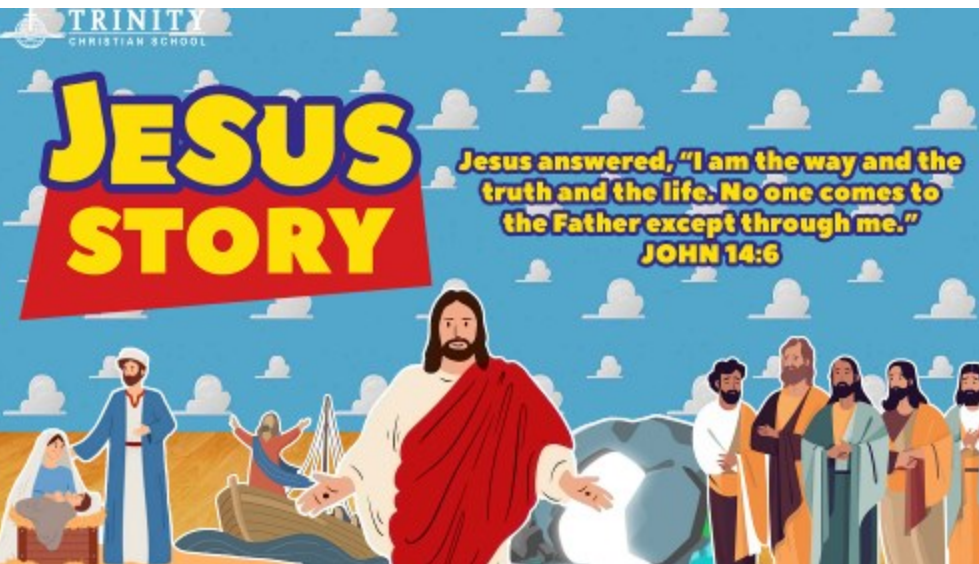
Mr. V



THE LIFE OF JESUS

At the start of each school year, faculty and staff select a passage of scripture to serve as the school scripture for the year. The passage provides the overarching theme for our weekly chapels and often emphasizes a specific character trait we wish to build up in our students.

This year our theme is "The Life of Jesus." We will be taking a look at Jesus' Story, from prophesy and birth, to his Ascension. In between all of that we will experience stories about his temptation in the desert, choosing the disciples, healing miracles, parables he told, calming storms, feeding thousands, and much more. We anticipate it will be a great theme for our kids to experience Jesus and what he did while here on earth!



Community Involvement

We love to invite local pastors to speak in our weekly chapels. We have over 85 different churches represented in our student body!

Watch Chapel

Chapels are recorded and uploaded to our [YouTube channel](#) weekly. Check out the chapel playlist to see every chapel we have recorded.

Visit Chapel

Parents, grandparents and alumni are welcome to attend chapels on Wednesdays at 8:40 a.m.

Chapels will begin September 6.

Grade Level Chapel Schedule:

October 25	1st Grade	Pastor Appreciation
November 15	4th Grade	Thanksgiving
December 20	5th Grade	Christmas
January 31	3rd Grade	Black History Month
February 14	2nd Grade	Valentines' Day
March 6	7th Grade	residents' Day
March 20	8th Grade	Easter
April 24	6th Grade	Earth Day
May 8	Kindergarten	Teacher Appreciation



TRINITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



SUMMER 2023 CAMPS & PROGRAMS

This summer was packed with fun at Trinity Christian School! We had 10 camps and enrichments throughout the summer, ranging from athletics including soccer, basketball, volleyball, cheer, dance, and bowling; to STEAM enrichments in art and robotics, and even sign language! These students had a great time learning and practicing their skills, along with developing team-building and good sportsmanship. Many new students made friends and got connected before the start of the school year. We are looking forward to seeing all of these students excel in the new school year!



CHEER



VOLLEYBALL



BASKETBALL



SOCCER



SIGN LANGUAGE



BOWLING



DANCE



ART



ROBOTICS

CONNECT WITH US



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UPCOMING EVENTS

September 16

Walk-a-Thon

October 2-3

Picture Day

October 26-27

Parent/Teacher Conferences

November 10

Grandparents' Day

November 20-24

Thanksgiving Break

December 2

Christmas Craft and Vendor Fair

December 8

K-4 Christmas Program

December 22-January 8

Christmas Break



Education Updates

Rachel Woodford, Director of Education

I would just like to take a moment and introduce myself. I am Rachel Woodford, previously known around TCS as a third-grade teacher. This fall is the beginning of my 19th year here at TCS. This 23-24 school year looks a little different for me. I have left the classroom and moved up into the front office as the Director of Education.

I am super pumped and look forward to partnering with the wonderful teachers of TCS. I have enjoyed seeing students back in the schools' hallways of this fall. It has been pure joy. The smiles on the students and teachers' faces are delightful. It is thrilling to walk through the hallways and hear the students engaging in lessons with their teacher. As I step into each classroom, I am often brought to tears, thinking just how blessed each student is to have such dedicated Christian teachers. I know that this 23-24 school year is going to be one of the best.

I began my role as Director of Education in June. My first task was to complete the full school schedule. That was quite the task, but with God's wisdom and help it was accomplished. Then I moved on to working with IT to get additional iPads and laptops purchased, so that we would have enough for our growing enrollment. We have purchased 73 new iPads and cases, along with 12 new laptops. All of these new devices have been set up and distributed to students.

My next task was to make sure that each classroom had all the needed curriculum. Through this process it was discovered that fifth grade needed an updated curriculum for history, so we have made the change to Bob Jones Heritage Studies. We hope to continue this change over the next few years by having fourth grade in Bob Jones Heritage Studies in the fall of 2024 and third grade in the fall of 2025. I look forward to doing some additional research throughout this year along with the Education Committee, to see what other areas of study need to receive updates or new curriculum.

Trinity has also added six new teachers to our staff this year, and with new teachers comes lots of training and IT learning. I can honestly say that this group of new teachers has jumped right in and is working hard to learn and implement all the new things they are required to do.

I look forward to a great year and many more to come. It is a pleasure to partner with TCS parents and staff to ensure that TCS remains a great place for children to learn academics and grow in their faith.

Blessings,

Rachel Woodford



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Taylor Busker, '13, graduated from Trinity Christian College with a BA in Psychology and a BS in Speech-Language Pathology. She just got her masters in May and started her first job as a speech-language pathologist for Westside Children's Therapy in Plainfield. Great work, Taylor!



John Nash, '14, graduated from Trine University Summa Cum Laude with a BS in Civil Engineering and a minor in Structural Engineering. He played football all four years of college and maintained a 4.0 GPA. He is now working at Strand Associates, Inc. as a transportation engineer in their transportation department. Way to go, John!



Kennedi Thomas, '20, now a Senior at Minooka Community High School, is a National Honor Society member and the MCHS Connections Crew Vice President. She is a scholar-athlete on the varsity tennis team. She received a National Recognition Award from the College Board for her academic achievement on her PSAT score (10% in the state) and an AP Scholar with Honor Award. Kennedi served on the MCHS Superintendent Student Advisory Committee and Equity and Diversity Committee. Awesome job, Kennedi!



Ruby Yepsen, '19, began cheerleading at TCS and continued to do so in high school at Plainfield North, where she was an all-conference athlete and chosen to be a part of the first IHSCCO all-state team. She was also chosen to be a part of the University of Minnesota's cheer team. She is studying communications, with minors in gender studies and psychology. Her goal is to eventually go to law school and become a women's rights attorney specializing in domestic violence. Keep it up, Ruby!

Have an alumni update to share? We'd love to hear from you!

Please contact Mr. Jack Hayward at jhayward@trinitychristian.info

Alumni are also invited to join our Alumni Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/tcsalumni1/>



Security Updates

Trinity continues to assess the security and safety plans for our school. Especially in light of continued active intruder events at schools around the country, we have taken a few steps in improving school security and equipping our staff to be more empowered in an emergency situation. We have established a new board committee that will continue to assess and find ways to be sure TCS is a safe and secure place. Here are some updates:

All entrance doors around the building have been equipped with a new film over the windows that give the glass a more secure bond that prevents someone from shooting the windows out or smashing them in easily. You may have noticed the reflective film on the main front doors.

We have added several more cameras around the building both inside and out. Accessibility has been upgraded to those cameras for administration and for the Shorewood Police Department.

On August 16, the entire TCS staff participated in Active Intruder Training and Trauma Response Training, led by one of our very own parents, Mr. Witt and his Beacon Training Group. Staff were taught the concepts of EBRS which stands for "Escape, Barricade, Resist, Survive." They received hands-on experience with controlling an active intruder with a gun. All became certified in "Stop the Bleed" training for trauma and using tourniquets. Everyone went through a number of live scenarios in our own building to learn what to do in certain situations that involved an active intruder.

Our staff was empowered and everyone felt it was the best training they had ever been a part of. Due to this training, our staff is better equipped to take appropriate action in a given situation and better protect our children.



New Staff Introductions

Help us welcome all of our new staff members.

As our school continues to grow, we are blessed to have these people on our team!



Mrs. Stacy Ball *Learning Resource Teacher/Reading Interventionalist*

We are excited to have Mrs. Ball joining us this fall! She is working alongside Mrs. Jeske to implement reading intervention strategies and assist in the Learning Resource Center. Mrs. Ball has a BA in English, an MA in Reading, and a Reading Specialist Certificate. She has two children here at TCS.



Mrs. April Tucker *2nd Grade Teacher*

Mrs. Tucker is coming to us with over 15 years of teaching experience. She has a compassionate and kind heart, and really wants to impact students for the Lord. Mrs. Tucker has a BA in Early Childhood Education and we look forward to her bringing her experience into TCS and becoming a part of the family.



Ms. Amy Verhulst *3rd Grade Teacher*

Ms. Verhulst brings a sweet spirit and a kind heart to third grade this year. She has an MA in Elementary Education. She is very excited to be a part of TCS and we are excited to have her on our teaching staff!



Mrs. Joyce Westenberg *5th Grade Teacher*

Mrs. Westenberg comes to us with over 20 years of teaching experience in science, math and as a media specialist. She has a BS in Elementary Education and a MA in Teaching. Mrs. Westenberg recently spent a few years homeschooling her grandkids. She loves students and wants to impact them in special ways this year!



Mr. Logan Chagdes *Middle School Bible Teacher*

Mr. Chagdes and his wife Lindsey have recently moved back to the area after attending school in Michigan. He has a BS in Biblical Studies and is currently getting his MA in Educational Ministries. He has previously worked with high school students through a non-profit para-church ministry and is excited to dive into the Word with our middle school students!



Mrs. Lauren Holton *Middle School ELA Teacher*

Mrs. Holton is no stranger to TCS, having taught in our preschool the past two years. She has a BA in Secondary ELA and has taught at several levels in Chicago Public Schools. Mrs. Holton is super excited to dig in and become a part of the middle school team! She has a daughter in first grade and a daughter in preschool here at TCS.

30 Years of Support

An Eternal Impact

For three decades, with God's blessing and the financial support of parents, grandparents, alumni families and community partners, Trinity Christian School has impacted children with a foundation of God's truth and academic excellence.

Trinity Christian School could not exist without support from donors with whom the mission and vision of Trinity resonates, and who desire to make an impact in the lives of this generation of students.

If you would like to partner with Trinity Christian School and help us build up students who are prepared with an outstanding academic foundation, ready to positively impact their peers, and are experienced in leadership and service, we have several ways to give.

Ways to Give

1. You may give directly to Trinity Christian School, either by mail or online at bit.ly/tcsgive
2. You may give scholarships to Trinity Christian School through Empower Illinois and receive an Illinois state tax credit in the amount of 75% of your donation.

For more information on this program, please visit empowerillinois.org or contact Mrs. Deanne Bekermeier at dbekermeier@trinitychristian.info.

Our world needs students in this generation who are ready to be Christ-like decision makers and leaders. Will you help us prepare students to answer that call?



Want to Give via Check?

If you would like to give via check, please mail your gift to:
Trinity Christian School
Attn: Business Services
901 Shorewood Dr.
Shorewood, IL 60404

Want to Give Online?

Follow the instructions below to give a one-time gift or set up recurring giving.

Gift amount

One-time donation

Recurring donation

\$50

\$100

\$250

\$500

Other amount

I want to support

Annual Fund

Support another fund

Empower Illinois Scholarship Program

Empower Illinois is a state-designated nonprofit scholarship granting organization. It is designed to create funding for Illinois families desiring a state-recognized private school education and who are in need of financial assistance to make that a reality. Illinois donors who fund this program receive an Illinois state tax credit totaling 75% of their contribution.

As an individual, you can direct your dollars to benefit Trinity Christian School Shorewood students specifically. To learn more go to empowerillinois.org.

We already have 32 students funded through Empower for the 2023-2024 school year and 30 on the waiting list. Thank you for supporting these students!



Let Illinois Legislatures Hear Your Voice: Tell Them to Save Our Scholarships

We are very thankful to our donors and supporters who have made a Trinity Christian School education possible for 30 students and counting through an Empower Illinois Scholarship.

The Empower Illinois Scholarships not only bless these students but bless our entire TCS school family.

This program was originally designed as a 5-Year Pilot program that is set to reach its “sunset” (expire) in December of 2023.

It is coming up for a vote in the fall legislative session.

How You Can Help:

Contact - We need your help to contact your legislator and urge them to “Remove the Sunset” and save this scholarship program.

It is so easy to do, just use the QR code to locate your state senator and state representative. **The email populates for you. You can edit or send as is. It literally takes under one minute.**

Action Needed - Remove the Sunset Campaign

Contact Options:

1. Text the number 52886 the message “RTS” and click on the link that is texted back to you.
2. Click on this link <https://p2a.co/gmqrehi> and enter your zip code
3. Use the attached QR Code



Donate – This program is a Win-Win for Children and Donors!

You can make Christian education possible for a qualifying student. We still have current and incoming TCS students who qualify to receive an Illinois Invest in Kids Scholarship on a Trinity Christian School waitlist.

We need your help to fund these students!

By donating to Empower Illinois, you will receive a state tax credit in the amount of 75% of your donation. That is a tax credit not just a deduction, so you will directly reduce what you owe in Illinois taxes! A blessing for you at tax time!

It is not too late to fund students for this school year. Please consider making a donation of any size to help make a TCS education possible for the students and families on our waiting list.

You will impact the lives of these precious children with academic excellence and the love of Christ!

Please contact Mrs. Deanne Bekermeier at dbekermeier@trinitychristian.info for details on how to bless these students and reduce your state taxes at the same time!



Walk-a-Thon



September 16, 2023