

VISION

TRINITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

WINTER 24



Blessed to be a Blessing

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Keep the Blessings Flowing



Jon Vugteveen, Head of School

Recently during one of our most special days of the year, Grandparent's Day, I had the privilege of talking with a special grandpa that I hadn't spent much time with before. I expected the normal quick conversation of, "thank you for a special day" as I passed along, but instead I received so much more. He went on and on about how much he loved TCS and that he was so happy his grandkids could attend here, and that they were learning and growing so much. But one thing he shared stood out to me. He was very adamant about how much TCS had been such a blessing to him because it had blessed his family, his kids, and grandkids. He thanked me for making TCS a special place for everyone and to keep the blessings flowing.

During this time of the year, as we go from Thanksgiving to Christmas and now into a new year, it is imperative for us to remember to KEEP THE BLESSINGS FLOWING. I am proud of our student body as they continue to work on this in many ways; important ways such as:

- Blessing each other at school with their actions and kindness as their teachers encourage and challenge them daily on their integrity and empathy with one another.
- Being intentional in the community by reaching out in service, and sharing our time and talents with the neighborhood and community, and the great people at Alden Nursing Home.
- Generously giving by turning in 400 gift boxes for Operation Christmas Child that will bless a child on the other side of the world!

These are just a few of the flowing blessings happening around TCS.

Being a blessing to others is a calling on our lives by God to love one another more than ourselves. Scripture tells us in Philippians 2:3-4, "*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.*" Students are reminded of this daily and are given opportunities to live it out.

My prayer is for Trinity to continue to KEEP THE BLESSINGS FLOWING, for our students, our teachers, our families, our community and beyond. As you experience TCS through this issue of VISION, I hope that resonates with you as we want to enable our students to bless others and we want to enable MORE FAMILIES and STUDENTS to have the opportunity to feel blessed at our school. Just as that special grandparent shared, let's "keep the blessings flowing."

In His Grip,

Jon Vugteveen
Head of School



Serving Our Community

At Trinity Christian School, we teach our students to be servants and leaders. There are many opportunities throughout the year for students to lead and serve each other within the school and those in our community outside the school.

Within TCS, we pair up older students with younger students throughout the year, doing things such as leading them in prayer, reading with them and helping them with school work.

Our student body engages in community outreach through visits to our neighbors at Alden Estates nursing home and raking leaves along Shorewood Drive. Trinity also has a global impact through packing meals at Feed My Starving Children and putting together boxes for Operation Christmas Child.

Students at Trinity Christian School learn to be servants and leaders in their school, in their community, and in the world.



Why Trinity?



Rachel Woodford, Director of Education

Have you ever asked yourself the question “Why Trinity?”

In this article I would love to take some time to answer the “why Trinity?” question. Trinity Christian School’s vision and mission statement are as follows:

The **vision** of Trinity Christian School is to make a difference for Christ in the lives of its students, its families, and the communities in which it is situated. **Interwoven with spiritual growth, we endeavor to continue to provide outstanding opportunities for students to excel in academics, athletics, and the arts. We strive to foster a loving environment in which each student can develop his or her God-given gifts and talents to the best of his or her ability.**

The **mission** of Trinity Christian School is to provide a **personalized, goal-directed approach to education and to equip children with the desire, discipline, and skills to pursue excellence in all that they do** “with all (their) heart, as working for the Lord.” (Colossians 3:23)

We seek to equip students to be disciples of Christ, applying their knowledge in creative and responsive ways to life and the world around them.

Trinity provides a personalized educational approach by striving to meet each student where they are academically, yet at the same time pushing them to be the best student they can possibly be. Teachers work closely with resource teachers, team teachers, and administration to discuss and develop ways that will best meet the needs of each student. At Trinity, we recognize that each child learns differently and needs different teaching and learning strategies to make lessons engaging and applicable.

In the younger grades you will find teachers using small, academically-leveled groups. These groups will often work on reading or math together, along with their teacher, to help them be successful academically at their level. You will also find many of the younger grades doing learning centers to build their confidence in a recently taught concept. This is where you will see the mission of Trinity walk hand in hand with the vision, students working together, growing together, and learning together to excel in their academics.

By working together students will begin to see that God created each of us differently, with different strengths and weaknesses, so that as the body of Christ we can work together to fulfill God’s mission for our lives. Trinity greatly values students learning to work together because **we know that together we are stronger.**

Mrs. Jeske and Mrs. Ball, our resource teachers, can also be found in the classroom, outside a classroom, or up in

the resource room with an individual student or a group of students, helping them to be academically successful. They are an excellent resource to have at Trinity, to come alongside teachers helping struggling students find success.

Recently, Mrs. Ball and Mrs. Jeske took a great deal of time to assess all of the kindergarten through second graders in reading. This was done for several reasons, but the most important ones were to see where each student’s proficiency was in reading, as well as a tracking tool. Students will be reassessed as needed, so we are able to meet each of their individual needs. The classroom teachers and I were very grateful for this valuable information.

Third and fourth graders use a program called Read Theory to help teachers determine the student’s reading level. This program allows students to work at their own level and pace within the program. Third grade continues to do small reading groups using Raz Kids. Again, this allows students to read at their level. In addition, students who show a deficit in reading are seen by Mrs. Jeske or Mrs. Ball for additional reinforcement in phonics, reading comprehension, and fluency.

In other subjects you will often see a teacher pull a student or students aside after a lesson and work with them on a specific skill or you might even see a child that needs more challenging work, working independently during a lesson.

In middle school, you will see teachers continue to individualize instruction where needed. Students who need additional resources will be seen by Mrs. Jeske or Mrs. Ball. We also use the WIN (What I Need) program two afternoons a week. During WIN time, teachers will spend time with struggling or advanced students, and work in a small group setting with them. WIN also gives extra time for students to complete missing assignments or take a test. Additionally, students may be placed in an academically leveled math or reading class. This allows teachers to better meet students’ needs by moving at a faster or slower pace.



UPCOMING EVENTS

February 16

Parent/Teacher Conferences

February 26 - March 1

Spiritual Emphasis Week

March 25-27

Spring Break

May 3-4

5th-8th Grade Spring Musical

May 6-10

Teacher Appreciation Week

May 14

State of the School Meeting

May 23

Eighth Grade Graduation

May 30

Last Day of School

Our teachers work very hard at Trinity to meet the needs of our students. They spend countless hours looking for better ways to help or challenge the students. Our educational staff also take professional development classes to help them be better teachers to the advanced, average, and struggling students. We are blessed to have such dedicated teachers.

All instructional staff have also been working together to learn how to best integrate a biblical worldview into our curriculum, because as a Christian school, we believe that teaching academics is only a portion of what we are called to do. According to our mission and vision statement, we not only want our students to grow academically but also to become followers of Christ. We desire that our students understand the value of what they are learning. We desire to make our academics applicable to living out our faith. This training has been and continues to be valuable. We are learning how to bring the biblical worldview into our lessons and help each student understand the biblical reasoning behind what we are teaching.

Please continually cover our school in prayer as we strive to make Trinity a place where children and parents truly do feel loved, understood, and accepted. Our goal is to see each child who walks through our doors feel successful along their academic journey and grow to become true followers of Christ. Pray that our teachers are granted wisdom from God in how to best meet every academic need of our students.

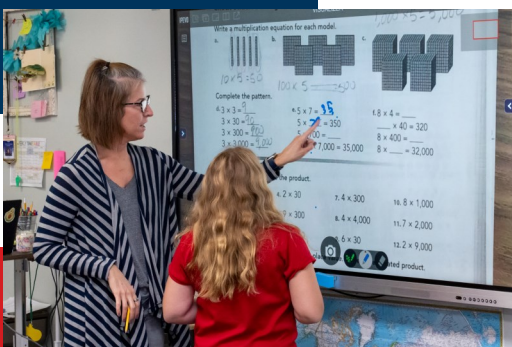
We know that we serve a Mighty God who created each child uniquely. Our desire at Trinity is to view each child as a gift from God who he has placed here for such a time as this. We know our teachers have also been placed here by God. God is at work, and we see him reveal himself through our students, teachers, and staff each day.

Trinity is a special place with amazing students, parents, and staff all working together for the same purpose of seeing each individual student walk back out through our doors upon graduation, having had a positively successful, and individualized academic career, feeling loved, and understanding what it means to be a follower of Christ.

Blessings,

Rachel Woodford

Director of Education



TCS SPORTS

FALL SPORTS

Our fall sports saw some big wins this season! Though there was no ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International) tournament this year, all of our fall sports teams competed in and won their ICC (Illinois Christian Conference) tournaments!

Congratulations to the following students for being selected for the All Tournament teams:

Soccer: Caden B., Darrius W., Graham N.

Elementary Girls' Volleyball: Taylor K., Gabrielle U., Natalie D.

Junior High Girls' Volleyball: Anna A., Brooklyn H., Alaina D.

In addition to their championship wins, our soccer and junior high girls' volleyball teams went undefeated all season, and elementary girls' volleyball nearly went undefeated with 16 wins and 4 losses!

Thank you to soccer coaches Ms. Anna Payton and Mr. Joe Fabre for their leadership on and off the field this season. Thank you elementary girls' volleyball coaches Mrs. Maddie Deeter, Ms. Tiffany Fouts and Mrs. Christine Uram for taking the time to invest in these young athletes and continue to grow the elementary team. Thank you junior high girls' volleyball coaches Mrs. Beth Overall and Mrs. Kristi Lewis for your hard work this season and your mentorship in the lives of your athletes.

We are proud of all of our fall athletes, not just for their championships wins, but their champion hearts, the great sportsmanship, and Christian character they showed along the way.



TCS EVENTS



Our **Walk-a-Thon** fundraiser was a huge success! Each classroom exceeded their fundraising goals, and as a school we surpassed our goal of \$70,000 with a final total of \$86,061 raised! Thank you to Mrs. Karen Kapsch and the Walk-a-Thon committee for all of their hard work.

In October, we hosted several local pastors for our **Pastor Appreciation Chapel**, put together by our first grade classes. After chapel, pastors were treated to a breakfast and got to connect with one another. This event is always a great opportunity for us to unite with local pastors in our shared vision to raise up children and families in their walks with Christ.

November brought with it two big events! The first was our **Grandparents' Day** celebration. Each grade level put together a performance for their grandparents, then they got to spend time together in their classrooms and doing other fun activities like playing bingo, visiting the book fair, or watching an episode of The Brady Bunch!



Right before Thanksgiving break, we held a big **Thanksgiving Feast** luncheon with all of the students and teachers. Older students were buddied up with younger students and we all enjoyed a meal together. This was also when we bought together all of the boxes for Operation Christmas Child packed by our students, which we prayed over and sent on their way to children around the world!

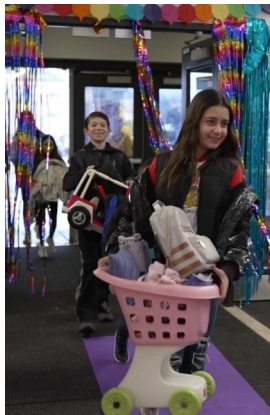
Thank you to Mrs. Toya Thomas, our Special Events and Volunteer Coordinator, and to all the volunteers who made these events possible!



TRINITY



Student Council planned a fun and creative Spirit Week for us this year! Themes included Pajama Day; Sports Day/Anything But a Backpack Day; Class Color Day; Red, White and Blue Day; and Career Day. Thursday of Spirit Week was also the day of our pep assembly for our boys' basketball team and cheerleading team. They went on to win the TCS Invitational Tournament that weekend!



CHECK OUT THE RECAP VIDEO ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL!



Christmas Program

Highlights

Christmas is Jesus

(Kindergarten - First Grade)

Our kindergarten and first grade students performed *Christmas is Jesus* for their Christmas program this year. Through a combination of speaking parts and classic carols, these students reminded us that Christmas is many things, but above all, Christmas is Jesus coming down to be with us.

Thank you to our kindergarten and first grade teachers for working with their students, and to our music teacher Mrs. Veronica Tanka for directing it all! Great job students on reminding us what Christmas is all about!

Photos courtesy Mr. Mark Wanner.

Jingle Bell Beach

(Second - Fourth Grade)

Students in second, third, and fourth grade performed *Jingle Bell Beach* for their Christmas program. When contestants in a singing competition get stuck on an island for Christmas, they must come together to remember that Christmas means God is with us and we are never alone no matter where we are.

Photos courtesy Mr. Marty Shanahan.



Student Council: Servant Leaders

At Trinity Christian School, our Student Council exists to promote school spirit, provide opportunities for leadership training, and set an example in outstanding Christian conduct. The council is responsible for representing the students to the administration and vice versa, developing student life in the areas of spiritual stimuli as well as social awareness.

TCS's Student Council is made up of four sixth grade representatives, four seventh grade leaders, and five eighth grade leaders. Every middle school student can be nominated to run. To be eligible to run, students must receive two recommendation letters from teachers, staff members, coaches, youth pastors, or positive role models in their lives. From here, those nominated to run must campaign through creative posters and giving a speech to the middle school student body. The middle school student body, teachers, and staff elect our nominees. Once the Student Council is chosen our student council members will elect a president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary within the group.

"It is my goal to help the students at Trinity feel that they have a voice and are heard," said Alaina D., Student Council President, in a Student Council introduction video. "I look forward to giving God the glory in all that we do, and I can't wait to contribute to another amazing year at TCS."

The goals for Student Council include: lead by example in both spiritual growth and in academic areas, promote school spirit, present class ideas, help fundraise for different needs throughout the school and community, and serve both our school and community.

Student Council meets twice a month during the lunch and recess hours. Student Council is led by teacher sponsors who help guide the students, but ultimately it is the students who come up with ideas, write proposals, and work to put their plans in action.

In recent years, Student Council has blessed the school with the "Eagle Zone" student section banner, digital clocks in the middle school and elementary buildings, a vending machine and two water bottle fill stations.

Student Council members are involved in many activities and service opportunities throughout the school year, including our major fundraisers, planning events for the student body such as the Middle School Lock-In and Spirit Week, leading the school in a chapel, and helping with Operation Christmas Child packing.

Student Council is sponsored this year by Miss Bekermeier, Mrs. Zientek and Mrs. Mohr. We are very thankful for the hard work and leadership they bring to these students.

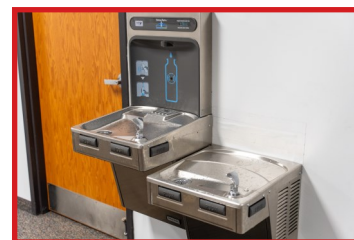
We are proud of Student Council for their leadership and service to their school community and beyond!



The 2023-2024 Student Council and Sponsors

Second row from left to right: Mrs. Kristi Zientek, Mrs. Vanessa Mohr, Graham N., Nate S., Alaina D., Leah S., Cayden V., Royce D., Miss Kayla Bekermeier

Front row from left to right: Tessa W., Kiari S., Olivia C., Sofia C., Ashley P., Brianna M., Faye N.



Some of Student Council's recent contributions to the school



Best Private Elementary School in Will County 2023



From left to right: Head of School, Mr. Jon Vugteveen; Director of Education, Mrs. Rachel Woodford; Preschool Director, Mrs. Amy Boutte; and Assistant Preschool Director, Mrs. Carrie Pilon

Trinity Christian School has been awarded the Best Private Elementary School in Will County for the second year in a row. This award was voted on by community members in the 2023 Herald-News Best of Will County Readers' Choice Awards in September.

Trinity Christian Preschool, a branch of Trinity Christian School, had the honor of being named one of the Best Preschools in Will County, coming in second place overall. Trinity Christian Preschool has consistently placed in the top three preschools the past three years.

We are thankful to the community for their support and look forward to continuing to serve through our commitment to academic excellence and missional outreach.

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[Trinity Christian School](https://www.youtube.com/TrinityChristianSchool)



www.trinitychristian.info

SHARE YOUR STORY

Do you have a TCS testimony, or just want to share a review of our school? We'd love to hear from you!

You can e-mail Mr. Jack Hayward, our Marketing Director, at jhayward@trinitychristian.info.

Hope to hear from you soon!

Blessed with Blessings



Deanne Bekermeier, Director of Development

In my role as Director of Development, I have the privilege of witnessing first-hand the impact of giving to Trinity Christian School.

The impact comes in the form of abundant blessings both to the receiver and the giver.

It is such a blessing to be a part of Trinity Christian School. Students are blessed here daily, families are blessed, lives are changed, and students grow in a place they trust and feel safe. Students discover their gifts and talents, and begin discovering who God created them to be and how he is preparing them academically for their next step and beyond.

It is a joy to watch a generation of children be blessed with the understanding of calling and purpose. They are blessed to know that they can be confident in their role as Christ-honoring decision makers and students who are ready to positively impact their peers.

As parents and grandparents, there is no greater blessing than knowing that our children and grandchildren are being raised in God's truth and given outstanding educational opportunity.

The blessings don't stop there. The blessings a donor receives from giving to Trinity are countless. There is nothing more rewarding than knowing that you participated in the work that God is doing in the lives of children and families. What a blessing to know that, as parents pray for the opportunity to send their children to Trinity, and as staff prays for provision for this ministry, God is using you to answer those prayers!

Donors also receive the blessing of watching their gift shape a generation. What a blessing to know that God will raise up future leaders and citizens from TCS who are experienced in leadership and service, and whose foundation is grounded in God's word.

Additionally, donors are blessed to know that they are responding in obedience to God's call to bless others with the blessings God has given to us. We can trust him and know that he is faithful.

I am so very grateful that I am blessed to watch God work in the lives of both our amazing students and their families and our incredible donors. It increases my faith and causes me to stand in awe of how God binds us together for our blessing and for his glory!

Please reach out to me if you have any questions on how you can bless our students and our school.

With gratitude,

Deanne Bekermeier
Director of Development



Empowered to Make a Difference

Deuteronomy 20:4 states, “For the LORD your God is the one who goes with you to fight for you... to give you victory.”

This past November the Illinois State Legislature ended the ***Invest In Kids*** program which provided scholarships for low-income children to attend private schools. The state legislature took away educational opportunity for children.

This program provided full or partial scholarships for over 40 Trinity students.

Ending the ***Invest In Kids*** program has left a financial gap that not only impacts these children, but Trinity Christian School as a whole, the church, this community, and future generations of believers.

While we are extremely upset and disheartened by this action, we know the God we serve. The legislature abandoned these children, but God never will.

The truth is, we do not need to feel discouraged and helpless because God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment (2 Timothy 1:7). We can feel empowered to make a difference and allow God to use us to bring academic opportunity and God’s truth to these children.

All throughout scripture, God brings ***victory*** through the willing and obedient action of his people. When God moves in this way his people are blessed and he is given the glory!

We need your help to fill the financial gap the state has created. Will you answer this call to allow God to use you in the lives of these children? This is your opportunity to contend for future generations and ensure that we are ***victorious*** in impacting children with academic excellence and the love of Jesus Christ.

Your gift of any size to our Scholarship Fund will allow us to carry out this mission. You can make a secure gift online at: <https://www.trinitychristian.info/about/ways-to-give.cfm>.



Want to Give via Check?

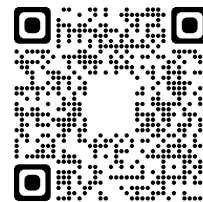
If you would like to give via check, please mail your gift to:
Trinity Christian School
Attn: Business Services
901 Shorewood Dr.
Shorewood, IL 60404

Want to Give Online?

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

1. Visit <https://www.trinitychristian.info/about/ways-to-give.cfm> or scan the QR code below.
2. You can give a one-time gift or set up recurring giving for an amount of your choosing.
3. You can choose to give toward our Annual Fund, Scholarships, a memorial gift, or give an Unrestricted Contribution.

Thank you for your support of Trinity Christian School!



“I know our community can rally our giving to help support our scholarship fund and grow that beyond what it has ever seen before! Please consider being a part of Trinity and blessing others by providing scholarships these families can use to make a way for their children being a part of a truly wonderful place!”

Head of School, Mr. Jon Vugteveen

Students of the Month

We are excited to announce the continuation of the Student of the Month Program for the 2023-2024 school year. This program provides the opportunity for students to be recognized for their desire, their discipline, and the utilization of their skills to pursue excellence in all that they do “with all their heart, as working for the Lord.” (Colossians 3:23)

Trinity Christian School Students of the Month are selected by the Trinity Christian teachers and administration based on notable excellence in academic performance, character, behavior, effort, social relationships and attendance. Students of the Month must demonstrate exemplary effort in the classroom. Additionally, they must show an intentional focus on blessing others, leading by example and living out their faith. This is a prestigious award. The faculty and administration carefully consider the criteria when determining a recipient.

This year, due to our growing enrollment, we are adjusting the number of students chosen for Student of the Month. Any grade level with 32 or more students total will have the potential of two students selected to receive the award. A grade level with less than 32 students will have the potential to have one student selected to receive the award.

We encourage our families to talk with their child about the Student of the Month award as a goal-setting opportunity. It is good for them to understand the expectations and biblical principle of pursuing excellence in all that they do, as working for the Lord. It is also valuable for them to understand that whether an award is received or not, the Lord honors hard work and is pleased when we serve others because of our love for him.

We look forward to a wonderful year and anticipate the good things that God has planned to grow each student academically and spiritually.



September 2023

Kindergarten
First Grade
Second Grade
Third Grade
Fourth Grade
Fifth Grade
Sixth Grade
Seventh Grade
Eighth Grade

Jack D. and Gabriella M.
Adrianna K. and Anthony W.
Michael C. and Morgan S.
Eliana W.
Chase G. and Helena N.
Ava B. and London H.
Koa T.
Sara F.
Darius W.

October 2023

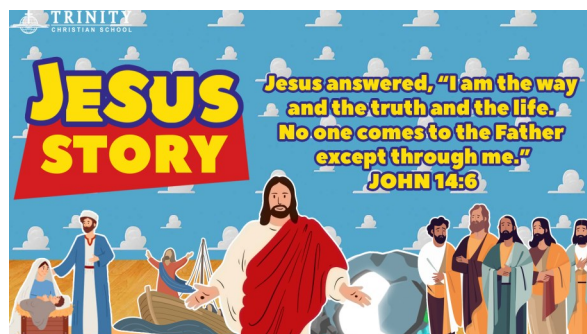
Kindergarten
First Grade
Second Grade
Third Grade
Fourth Grade
Fifth Grade
Sixth Grade
Seventh Grade
Eighth Grade

Daniella C. and Hazel T.
Edie F. and Phillip L.
Victoria B. and Veronica L.
Ada F.
Adelaide B. and Matthew W.
Simone C. and Layla T.
Olivia C.
Jacob V.
Emelia V.

Students of the Month are also recognized during our chapels the month after their nomination. Parents, grandparents and alumni are welcome to attend chapels on Wednesdays at 8:40 a.m.

Can't make it in person? Chapels are also uploaded to our YouTube channel and shared on our social media each week. Check out our chapel playlist for every chapel video.

All students have an opportunity to serve by running one chapel each year, usually centered around a special event. Mark your calendars for the grade- level chapels coming up this semester!



February 14 Second Grade Chapel

March 6 Seventh Grade Chapel

March 20 Eighth Grade Chapel

April 24 Sixth Grade Chapel

May 8 Kindergarten Chapel



November 2023

Kindergarten
First Grade
Second Grade
Third Grade
Fourth Grade
Fifth Grade
Sixth Grade
Seventh Grade
Eighth Grade


Judah K. and Connor N.
Henry F. and Emylee W.
Luke M. and Dylan V.
Elena O.
Lily M. and Burke Z.
Carter A. and Emmett E.
Leonardo E.
Grace A.
Alaina D.



December 2023

Kindergarten
First Grade
Second Grade
Third Grade
Fourth Grade
Fifth Grade
Sixth Grade
Seventh Grade
Eighth Grade

Olivia M. and Jade W.
Clara J. and Rylee W.
Elsie E. and Samantha P.
Emmett H.
Michael B. and Layla D.
Aubrey F. and Jozie W.
Ian M.
Ashley P.
Brooklyn H.



*Give,
and it will be
given to you.*
~ Luke 6:38

TRINITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
BENEFIT EVENT

MARCH

FRIDAY

15

AT 6 PM

2024

WHITETAIL RIDGE GOLF CLUB

7671 Clubhouse Drive

Yorkville, IL

