

VISION



Running to the Father

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Running to the Father in a New School Year

"Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you."

Psalm 55:22

Dear TCS Family,

Welcome to a brand-new school year at Trinity Christian School! There's something so refreshing about this season - new classrooms, new friendships, new opportunities to grow, and most importantly, new ways to see God's faithfulness at work. As we step into this year, our theme verse, Psalm 55:22, calls us to Run to the Father. In the midst of excitement, challenges, and change, we are reminded to bring every worry, every joy, and every dream to the One who holds it all.

This year, you'll notice exciting updates around our campus - from new signs, new teachers, a new band program, updated computer/stem classes, to the joyful buzz of students eager to learn and grow. Each "new" is a reminder that God is continually making all things new in Christ.

As we begin this 2025-2026 journey together, let's encourage one another to run - not walk - to our Heavenly Father in prayer, praise, and trust. May this school year be marked by hearts that depend on Him and lives that reflect his sustaining love.

Here's to a year of learning, laughter, and leaning on our faithful God!

Jon Vugteveen

Head of School





RUN ^{TO THE} FATHER

**CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD AND HE
WILL SUSTAIN YOU; HE WILL NEVER LET
THE RIGHTEOUS BE SHAKEN.
PSALMS 55:22**



RUN TO THE FATHER

As we begin this new school year, our theme, "Run to the Father," is rooted in the powerful truth of Psalm 55:22.

This verse is a reminder that no matter what challenges or uncertainties lie ahead, we are not alone. God invites us, and our students, to bring every burden, every worry, and every joy to him.

In addition to our regular chapels, we will have six special chapel days when we will have two separate chapels, one for kindergarten through fifth grade, and one for middle school. These special chapels will focus on topics outside of our main chapel theme and be tailored more specifically to their age groups, presenting them with important biblical truth that they can connect with in their stage of life.

WATCH CHAPEL

Chapels are recorded and uploaded to our [YouTube channel](#), Trinity Christian School, weekly. Check out the chapel playlist for all our chapel recordings!



STUDENT-LED CHAPELS

Each grade level, along with Student Council, leads one chapel every year. These chapels usually coincide with a holiday, which the students theme their presentation around with worship songs and messages.

This year, instead of being assigned a holiday, middle school students will choose a chapel topic during their Spiritual Formation elective in the spring, allowing them to explore and share what the Lord puts on their hearts.

October 29	1st Grade	Pastor Appreciation
November 12	Student Council	
November 19	4th Grade	Thanksgiving
December 17	5th Grade	Christmas
February 4	3rd Grade	Black History Month
February 11	2nd Grade	Valentines' Day
February 18	6th Grade	
March 4	7th Grade	
March 25	8th Grade	Easter
May 13	Kindergarten	Teacher Appreciation

Summer Camps & Enrichment 2025

This summer was packed with fun at Trinity Christian School! We had a ton of camps and enrichments where students had fun, developed new skills, and made new friends.

Sports camps for basketball, volleyball, and soccer sharpened students' skills ahead of the upcoming school sports season, and a general fitness camp at the beginning of the summer introduced students to fun and engaging ways to get their heart rates up all year round! Students also learned many styles of dance and stunting techniques in the dance and cheerleading camps!

Some students got to exercise their creativity and imagination this summer as well. Robotics camps used LEGO bricks, along with motors and coding skills, to create windmills, cars, and more. In Art and Science Discovery Camp, students grew crystals, made paper, learned about the wonders of the ocean and much more as they explored God's creation through exciting hands-on science experiments and creative art projects. Students even got to build their own rockets and launch them in Rocketry Camp while learning about physics and engineering!

We are excited to jump back into another school year filled with exciting sports, creative arts, and engaging STEM activities!



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UPCOMING EVENTS

October 25

Alumni Soccer Game

November 7

Grandparents' Day

November 21

Thanksgiving Luncheon

December 6

Christmas Craft and Vendor Fair

December 12

Kindergarten - 4th Grade Christmas Program

December 16 - 17

Preschool Christmas Programs



alumni reunion



Over 75 alumni stopped by during our Alumni Reunion event in July! This was our second big alumni reunion in recent years, and we are actively looking for ways to continue growing our alumni engagement!

Alumni got to catch up over pizza and snacks, flip through the latest issue of VISION magazine, laugh together over board games, and play TCS favorite games like nine square. A few of our middle school teachers stopped by to catch up, including previous TCS teacher, Mrs. Balek, who was in town from out of state!



A wide range of alumni showed up, from the recently graduated Class of 2025 to students in college and out in the work force. It was great to catch up with them all and hear about how Trinity set them up for success.

"Trinity prepared me very well for high school in many ways," shared Addie Byrer, Class of 2024, "but mostly spiritually. I felt very confident in my walk with Jesus going into freshman year."



"TCS was such an amazing place that really helped me lay down my foundation to be deeply rooted in Christ," said Taylor Mackin, Class of 2020. "I am so thankful to have had so many people around me helping me build my relationship with Jesus. I am super thankful to be on a Division 1 collegiate softball team that now has about half of the team that meets weekly for a team Bible study, which is super important to me, and it's great to have that community around me."





what are you studying or wanting to study?

nuclear medicine

Kailana Thompson '21

radiology

Maddie Baier '21

business

administration

Taylor Mackin '20

nursing

Christian Holman '20

forensics

Amelie Hart '24

**corporate
communication**

Maya Salomon '21

**business and
fashion design**

Ramsey Boutte '21

physics

Sarah Lauss '21

pathology

Addie Byrer '24

pharmacist

Haley Grant '23

orthopedic surgery or anesthesiology

Bradley Etolue '19

sport administration and leadership development

Peyton Miller '20

Welcome to Our New Staff!

Join us in giving a warm welcome to our new staff members! We are excited to continue growing our team with passionate, talented people like them as we head into a new school year. Be sure to say hello as you see them around this fall!



Mrs. Natalie Cisneros

Kindergarten Aide

Mrs. Cisneros is joining Mrs. Goral's kindergarten class this year as an aide. She has two children here at TCS and is excited to be joining the team!



Ms. Jennifer Ferguson

4th Grade Teacher

Ms. Ferguson has over 20 years of experience as a third-fifth grade teacher. She cites building relationships with students as essential to their development. She loves to serve in her church and cherishes the idea of being able to freely pray and speak about Jesus in school!



Mrs. Wendy Nystedt

5th Grade Teacher

Mrs. Nystedt has over 25 years of experience in education. She has been teaching third grade in Minooka most recently. Mrs. Nystedt loves music and regularly participates in her church worship team. She is excited for the opportunity to teach in a great atmosphere with great people.



Mr. Todd Downing

Music Teacher

Mr. Downing has three children at our school. He has a passion for music and has been using those talents for the Lord in many ways. Currently, he leads worship at The Table church in Joliet, teaches music classes at a local preschool, gives music lessons, and much more. Mr. Downing is well-known around TCS for volunteering in the library over the years, and he brings a passion for teaching music and worship that we know the students will love. He is excited for the opportunity to teach here, as well as lead the Christmas programs and Heartsong.



Mrs. Juliette Sokoloski

Front Office Secretary

Mrs. Sokoloski has a passion for working in a Christian atmosphere and using her many experienced skills in software, answering calls, and managing others. She has a heart for TCS already, with her daughter Penelope going into second grade. We are excited for her to welcome people to our school and work with each one of you in a variety of ways this coming year.



Mrs. Gabriella Shanahan

Co-Director of Development

Mrs. Shanahan will complete our team in development as they take TCS to the next level through strategic financial planning and raising funds for our school. She brings an amazing amount of experience in community relations and making connections with donors. She has two children here at TCS.

School Updates

This fall, we are beginning to implement some new and exciting updates to the school that were proposed and funded by Student Council last year!

We have a new soccer scoreboard, a new sign on Shorewood Drive, new floormats, and new American and Christian flags in the cafetorium. We are also replacing the marquee sign out front with an LED sign later in the fall. These updates help reflect the quality of our school to our families and our community.

We are thankful to Student Council for continuing to improve our school by raising funds and submitting proposals for projects like these!

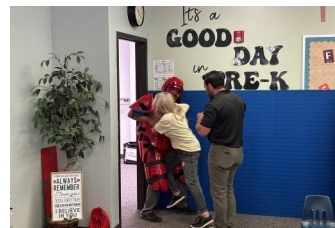


Security Updates

Teachers and staff took a four-hour course in EBRS (Escape, Barricade, Resist, Survive) active threat response training from Beacon Training Group. This course was a welcome refresher for staff who took the training two years ago, and a valuable experience for new staff.

They learned how common weapons work and how to take control of them, refreshed their knowledge on applying tourniquets and stopping bleeding, and went through several drills with the EBRS instructors to apply this knowledge in various scenarios.

We are thankful to have a close working relationship with Beacon Training Group and the Shorewood Police Department. Our staff is equipped and empowered to continue providing a safe and secure learning environment for our students.



Empowered to Make a Difference

Each day at Trinity Christian School, we witness the incredible growth of our students - intellectually, socially, emotionally, and spiritually. This transformation is only possible because of the support of a dedicated and generous community that believes in the power of an exceptional education, through our Lord.

Today, we invite you to be part of that impact by supporting the **Trinity Christian School Annual Fund**.

The Annual Fund is essential to the everyday excellence that defines our school. While tuition covers a significant portion of our operations, it does not meet the full cost of delivering the enriched, well-rounded experience our students deserve.

Your gift helps bridge that gap, ensuring that we can continue to offer:

- Rigorous academics and innovative curriculum development
- Professional growth opportunities for our outstanding faculty
- Vibrant arts, athletics, and extracurricular programs
- Tuition assistance for families who need it
- Safe, updated learning environments and technology

Your participation - regardless of the amount - matters. Every gift sends a powerful message: **you believe in our students, our educators, and our mission**. We hope to achieve 100% participation from our community, showing unity and commitment to the values we all share.

Give, and it will be given to you (Luke 6:38).

Thank you for your continued partnership and generosity. Together, through our Lord, we are shaping the leaders of tomorrow - one student at a time.

With gratitude,

Deanne Bekermeier



Gabby Shanahan



Directors of Development



Want to Give via Check?

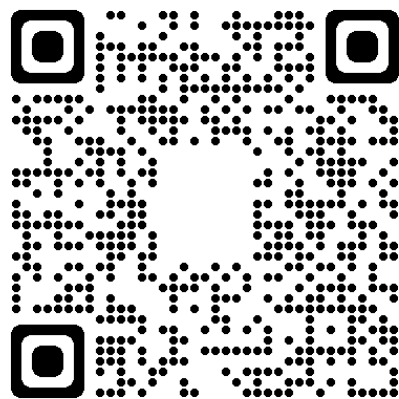
If you would like to give via check, please mail your gift to:
Trinity Christian School
Attn: Business Services
901 Shorewood Dr.
Shorewood, IL 60404

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!



Walk-a-Thon 2025

Our annual Walk-a-Thon fundraiser was a huge success this year! Students spent four weeks gathering pledges for the walk, aiming to meet both classroom fundraising goals and our school-wide total goal.

On October 4th, we gathered together to walk about three miles around our neighborhood, with all the students decked out in their class colors. It was a perfect fall morning to be outdoors and we're thankful for the beautiful weather.

After the walk, we all went inside to go over the results of the fundraiser, and we were thrilled to learn that we smashed our goal of \$90,000 with...

\$110,000

Raised!



Additionally, our families brought on new sponsorships to the school totaling \$7,500! We are thankful to all of our families for their incredible efforts in raising funds to support our school.

Special thanks to Mrs. Adalys Colianne, our Special Events and Volunteer Coordinator, for leading the way for another great event. We are thankful as well to the 2025 Walk-a-Thon Committee: Mrs. Karen Kapsch, Mrs. Allison Murillo, Mrs. Kaly Dedetsinas, Mrs. Erin Zilvitis, Mrs.



Erin Mongelli, Mrs. Samantha Weaver, Mrs. Heidi Georgantas, and Mrs. Sarah Kelbus! They put a lot of time and energy into organizing the event and making sure everything ran smoothly.

We are also thankful to our amazing volunteers and the eighth grade Pledge Team (Olivia C., Natalie D., Carolyn P., and Nathan V.) for championing the Walk-a-Thon to the students and getting them excited to fundraise!



Trinity Christian School Presents Our 11th Annual

Christmas

Craft & Vendor Fair

Saturday, December 6

from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

901 Shorewood Drive, Shorewood, IL

**Gifts, Home Decor,
Candles, Clothing,
Jewelry, Baked
Goods, Wreaths
and more!**



Free Entry at the Door! 75+ Crafters and Direct Sales!

Email TCScraftfair@gmail.com for questions and applications