

VISION



A New Stage

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SPRING '26

A New Stage

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TRINITY

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Trinity Christian School is a preschool through eighth grade in Shorewood, Illinois. Our mission is to provide a personalized, goal-directed approach to education, and to equip students with the desire, discipline, and skill to pursue excellence in all they do, with all their heart, as working for the Lord.

As you flip through these pages, you will see our mission in action through our staff, our students, our families, and our community.

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VISION is a tri-annual publication of Trinity Christian School. The purpose of this publication is to share the story of Trinity Christian School and to strengthen the bonds among our extended school community in support of Christian education.

VISION is e-mailed to an ever-growing list of alumni, grandparents, and friends of the school. If you would like to update your contact information or if you know someone who would like to receive VISION, please contact Jack Hayward and we will be happy to update our e-mail list accordingly.

VISION MAGAZINE CONTACT: Jack Hayward | jhayward@trinitychristian.info | 815-577-9310 x352

A New Stage - Part of the Journey

As our class of 2026 gets ready to walk the stage one last time this week and grab their diplomas, it gets me excited about the new stage that they will be stepping into this fall in their new schools. For many, it may be a little scary, but I think for most they are excited and have a renewed vision for their education and what lies ahead for their careers.

Over the past year, I feel that TCS has also taken some steps that are exciting and mark some historic milestones that we can celebrate and get excited about as new doors open.

One of the great accomplishments in the past year was achieving Association of Christian Schools International accreditation. This recognition was a testament to hard work, dedication, and Christ-centered commitment from our teachers, staff, students, families and board members. Accreditation affirms the quality of education and spiritual development taking place at TCS each and every day, while also challenging us to continue striving for excellence.

In addition, as 2026 came upon us we celebrated another transformational milestone as Trinity Christian School officially became debt free after paying off the remaining mortgage on our building. What an incredible blessing and testimony to God's faithfulness through the generosity of our school community and beyond.

Because of these milestones, we now find ourselves in a season of renewed vision and opportunity. With greater financial freedom and a strengthened foundation, we are able to think about the future of TCS in new and exciting ways. We are eager to continue investing in our students, enhancing programs, supporting our teachers, and improving our facilities to meet the growing needs of our school community.

This renewed sense of vision has energized our Board of Directors and leadership team as we prayerfully consider what God has in store for TCS in the coming years. We believe the Lord is continuing to do great things here, and we are excited to walk faithfully in the future he is preparing for us.

Stay engaged! Pray, commit, support, and serve! The Lord is working through TCS.

In His Grip,

Jon Vugteveen
Head of School



SPORTS RECAP



Sports Awards Ceremony

The Athlete of the Year award is presented annually to a TCS athlete who demonstrates outstanding dedication to the school's athletic program. The recipient is chosen through nominations by coaches and a selection process involving staff input, and prayer. Selection is based on athletic performance, Christian character, team impact, participation in multiple sports, leadership, and academics.

This year's Athlete of the Year was Taylor K., who has had a long and successful sports career at Trinity, including over 1,000 points scored in basketball over the years, a record for a Trinity student.

We also awarded the Brent Haas Athletic Service Award. The Brent Haas Athletic Service Award honors an individual who has made significant contributions to the Trinity Christian School athletic program through dedication, hard work, and a servant's heart. Named after Brent Haas, a beloved teacher, coach, and mentor whose life and faith deeply impacted the school, the award recognizes someone who reflects his selfless spirit, loyalty to TCS, and commitment to advancing God's kingdom through athletics and the growth of young athletes.

This year, we were happy to award the Brent Haas Service Award to Coach Anna Payton. Coach Payton has served as our soccer coach for eight years, growing the program into what it is today. Coach Payton also organized our first-ever alumni soccer game this past fall, further demonstrating her commitment to her players and the program. Our students were excited to hear that Coach Payton will be returning next year to continue coaching soccer here at TCS.



5th/6th Boys'

Basketball

20 - 0 (A Team), 2 - 6 (B Team)

1st Place: Christian Liberty

Tournament

1st Place: TCS Invitational



7th/8th Boys' Basketball

20 - 4

2nd Place: Christian Liberty

Tournament

2nd Place: TCS Invitational



5th/6th Girls'

Basketball

6 - 9



7th/8th Girls' Basketball

10 - 1

1st Place: St. Rita

Tournament



Boys' Volleyball

6 - 6



Students of the Month



January 2026

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

Roman A. and June U.
Noah D. and John E.
Theodore S. and Penelope S.
Olivia B. and Henry F.
Weston D. and Luke M.
Alexandra C. and Olivia P.
Harper A. and Camden M.
Nikolai D. and Reagan L.
Edison E.



February 2026

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

Emilia C. and Skylar M.
Vivienne M. and Winnie U.
Lillian O. and Maxwell O.
Oliver B. and Emylee W.
Elena O. and Mackenzie W.
Raymond K. and Julia R.
Taylor M. and Shawn R.
Layla T. and Tanner V.
Natalie D.



March 2026

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

Leonardo A. and Grace K.
Isaac A. and Kamryn F.
Judah K. and Kaya S.
Jacob M. and Natalie Z.
Rowen E. and Addison H.
Janet J. and Sonya M.
Trinitee D. and Matthew W.
Caleb B. and Leila J.
Jaclyn B.



April 2026

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

Karina D. and Armine M.
Emilia T. and Isla V.
Daniella C. and Maren D.
Jacob D. and Clara J.
Landon E. and Luciano H.
Makayla L. and Beckett P.
Abigail A. and Caiden T.
Corinne B. and Baylee H.
Aidan C.

Empowered to Make a Difference

As we prepare for the 2026–2027 school year, we are humbled and grateful for the Lord's continued faithfulness to Trinity Christian School. Year after year, God has provided abundantly for our students, families, faculty, and community, reminding us that every good gift comes from him. As Philippians 4:19 declares, "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus."

As Trinity Christian School continues to grow, our desire remains steadfast: to keep God at the center of all we do while making a Christ-centered, academically excellent education accessible to every family who seeks it. Scholarship support is a vital part of that mission, opening doors for students to learn, grow, and be disciplined in a biblical environment rooted in God's truth and love.

We invite you to prayerfully consider partnering with us in this ministry by supporting the TCS scholarship program and helping another family experience the blessing of Christian education. If you know a community member, business, or church partner who may feel called to invest in the next generation of Christ-followers, please contact Gabriella Shanahan or Deanne Bekermeier. Together, we can continue equipping students to know Christ, pursue excellence, and impact the world for his glory.

In addition to scholarships, there are many needs throughout the school. If you feel it on your heart to give in a different area, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Development Department. God bless you all and have a wonderful summer!

With gratitude,

Deanne Bekermeier and Gabriella Shanahan

Directors of Development



Want to Give via Check?

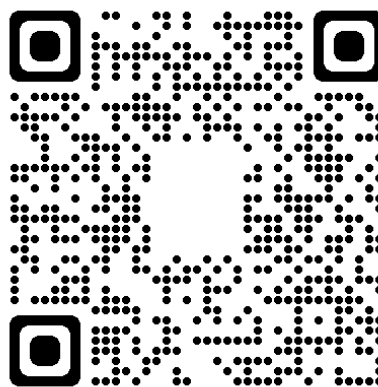
If you would like to give via check, please mail your gift to:
Trinity Christian School
Attn: Business Services
901 Shorewood Dr.
Shorewood, IL 60404

Want to Give Online?

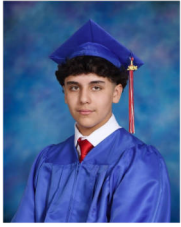
Follow the instructions below to give a one-time gift or set up recurring giving.

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!



Congratulations to



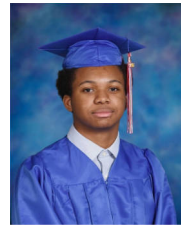
Ricardo Alamillo

"I have attended TCS for one year now. TCS has impacted my faith boldly. Eighth grade boys' Bible study, middle school small groups, and chapel at Trinity have greatly impacted my faith. My TCS basketball coach, Coach Nate (Pastor Nate Smith), is a big reason my faith grew so much this year. He helped me see the Lord in what I love doing most – sports. Next year, I will be attending Joliet Catholic Academy. My future plans are for me to become an intelligent MLB star and receive a business degree."



Olivia Colianne

"I have been attending Trinity Christian School for eleven years now. TCS has impacted me in my faith by allowing me the blessing of getting baptized here. I have also grown in my faith by attending our amazing 8th grade girls' Bible study on Friday mornings. Additionally, I am grateful to have had the opportunity to go see the visual of Noah's ark in Kentucky and learn more about all the incredible things God has done for us. In the fall, I will be attending Yorkville Christian High School. I hope to grow even stronger in my faith in these coming years because I know God has an important plan for us. In the future, I hope to become a business owner or a lawyer. On the side, I want to work with animals and continue to pour into the horse world and make a college equestrian team."



Cameron Etolue

"Trinity Christian School has impacted my life so much. I have attended TCS since second grade. What truly helped me grow in my faith was eighth grade boys' Bible study. I will be going to Plainfield North High School. In the future, I want to help people and carry out God's will by becoming a neurosurgeon."



Ian Martin

"I have been attending TCS for four years now. I have had a great time. I have grown a lot closer to God the past years. My teachers impacted me a lot. I am going to Minooka High School next year. I have made a lot of good friends at TCS and I will miss them."



Austin Styrzula

"I have attended Trinity Christian School for ten years. Trinity has helped me grow in my faith and be bold in my faith. I have grown in my faith this year through learning much in Bible class with Mr. Baker and having the opportunity to be baptized at Trinity. I will be attending Joliet Catholic Academy next year. In the future, I hope to play basketball or baseball in college."



Jaclyn Beaumont

"I have been attending TCS since fifth grade and have loved it every year. This year, I have grown closer to God through middle school small groups and eighth grade girls' Bible study on Friday mornings. I love Trinity because everything is centered around Christ and we are constantly reminded how much God loves us. I hope to keep shining the light of Jesus next year at Yorkville Christian High School."



Natalie Danielson

"I have attended Trinity Christian School for seven years and they have been the best seven years of my life. Through Trinity, I have learned so much more about my faith. I also have learned so much more of who I am through our eighth grade girls' Bible study. The last five weeks were really impactful because Pastor Nick Dedetsinas came in to talk to our eighth grade class about spiritual warfare. I learned a great deal from this. In the fall, I will be attending Minooka Community High School. In the future, I hope to be able to go to a nice college and study political science. I cannot wait to go and spread the Gospel at Minooka Community High School."



Leonardo Eutimio

"I have attended TCS for three years – since sixth grade. Bible study really helped me grow in my faith. I will be attending Plainfield South High School next year. In the future, I plan to be a pro soccer player and if that does not work out, I would like to go to college and get a decent job."



James Mierop

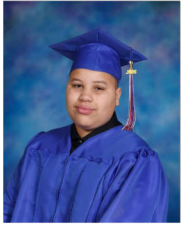
"I have been attending Trinity for five years. Trinity has helped bring me closer to God and has helped me grow in my faith. Next year, I will be attending Plainfield Central High School. When I am older I want to go to college and be successful for God."



Elias Tenea

"I have attended TCS for four years. TCS has impacted my faith by bringing me closer to God through retreats, small groups, our trip to Kentucky, and eighth grade boys' Bible study. I am going to Joliet West High School. Some of my future plans are to spread the Gospel to unbelievers in the public school. I desire to be a light and to spread Jesus to others."

the Class of 2026



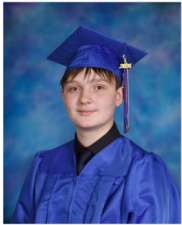
Aidan Clodfelter

"I have been attending TCS since fourth grade and it has left a positive impact on my life. TCS impacted my faith through eighth grade boys' Bible study with Mr. Baker. Mr. Baker has helped me grow a stronger relationship with Christ. Next year, I will be attending Marist Catholic High School. In the future, I hope to play football. I would also like to become a therapist and start a family one day."



Skylar Downing

"I have been going to TCS for nine years and will be attending Joliet West for high school. I have grown in my faith at TCS by talking to God more and reading my Bible more. I have really enjoyed and loved Trinity Christian School and have developed more friendships here. I am planning to play volleyball in high school."



Mason Hester

"I have been attending Trinity for six years. Our Boys Bible Study has positively impacted my faith the past two years. I will be attending Joliet Catholic Academy next year and hope to be successful in the future."



Graham Novinski

"I have been going to Trinity for six years – since third grade. Trinity has helped me grow spiritually. I have made many friends along the way. Also, I am very grateful that I got to be baptized here at Trinity my last year. I am going to go to Minooka Community High School. In the future, I hope to go to college, be successful, and give glory to God in all that I do."



Koa Thompson

"I have been attending TCS for ten years. My faith has grown this year through Bible study and Pastor Nick Dedetsinas's messages in our eighth grade elective class. Next year, I will either be attending Aurora Christian High School or Chicago Christian High School. In high school, I hope to play football."



Gabrielle Uram

"I have been attending Trinity Christian School for eleven years, starting in preschool. Trinity has taught me so much. TCS has helped me grow in my faith through eighth grade girls' Bible study, the retreats, and through the teachers. I will continue to shine God's light at Joliet Catholic Academy. In the future, I hope to play volleyball at a good college and also work in business. Trinity Christian School will forever hold a special place in my heart."



Hazel Cole

"I have been attending TCS for eleven years. I have been here since preschool. This school has helped me grow so much closer to God through all of the Christ-centered activities we do. Next year, I will be going to Plainfield North High School. One day, I hope to get a good job, travel the world, and grow even more closer to God over the years."



Edison Elloe

"I have been going to Trinity for nine years and it has been great. Trinity Christian School has impacted me greatly. Having Mr. Chagdes and Mr. Baker as my middle school Bible teachers has strongly impacted my walk with Christ. I will keep following God at Plainfield North where I will be attending high school next year. I hope to play sports in college, but if that does not work out, I hope to go to college, be successful, and praise God in all things."



Taylor Kravarik

"I have been going to TCS since third grade. TCS has made such a huge impact on me and my faith. The teachers are the best here. They truly shine a light for Jesus and I have learned so much from them. This year has been the absolute best. Our eighth grade girls' Bible studies have had a ginormous impact on me. Discussing Biblical topics with Miss Bekermeier, Mrs. Zientek, and the girls have been so much fun. Next year, I will be attending Benet Academy in Lisle. I am sad that all of us will be split up next year. This year passed by so fast and I will miss it so much."



Carolyn Payton

"I have been attending Trinity Christian School for nine years – starting in kindergarten. This school has helped me grow in my relationship with Jesus through the kindness our teachers show us and the Bible studies we have. I will continue to shine the light of Jesus to my new friends and teachers at Plainfield South High School. I plan on going to a good college to become a vet. I will always love Trinity Christian School and am thankful for how it has helped me grow spiritually and academically."



Nathan Volpe

"I have been attending TCS for nine years. Trinity has impacted my faith by helping me grow closer to Christ and helping me learn more about him. I have been very thankful I had the opportunity to go to a Christian School these past nine years. I am grateful that I could learn more about Jesus and how to be unashamed for Christ. In the fall, I will be going to Lincoln Way West. In high school, I am planning to play football and lacrosse. After high school, I want to enter the trades and weld."

UNASHAMED: Spiritual Emphasis



Each year, we designate a week to focus on a specific spiritual topic and engage in service projects in our community and globally. This year, our theme was "Unashamed," with Romans 1:16 as our theme verse. In our four chapel times throughout the week, guest pastors from local churches spoke to our students about being Unashamed of the Gospel, what the Gospel means, and how to share it with others.

In addition to the messages from local pastors, a teacher shared his or her testimony during each chapel. The students were greatly impacted by hearing from their teachers about how they came to Christ and how he has worked in their lives.



Middle school students also participated in small discussion groups throughout the week, going more in-depth on the chapel topics for each day. They loved the groups so much that they continued for the rest of the school year!

On the Wednesday of Spiritual Emphasis Week, each grade level engaged in service projects that blessed our local community here in Shorewood and ministries around the world. This year, our kindergarten through second graders collected and prayed over donations of puzzle and activity books for our neighboring nursing homes. Third grade classes made blessing bags for our local police officers. Fourth grade collected school supplies for an orphanage in Africa, then went to the pond across the street to pick up trash. Our fifth through eighth grade students went to Feed My Starving Children and packed meals that will be distributed around the world.

Following Spiritual Emphasis Week, many students felt called to take the next step in their faith and get baptized. We were excited to once again have a special chapel in which students could be baptized by their pastors and publicly declare their faith in front of their peers. Sixteen students were baptized in our chapel this year, and one more student who was unable to make it to school that day was baptized at her church shortly after. We are so proud of these students for taking this step in their faith journey!



Week and Baptism Chapel





2026



STUDENT-LED CHAPELS

Each school year, every grade level, along with student council, is responsible for leading the school in one chapel. The students perform songs and dances, read scripture, and the older students share longer messages or testimonies. These chapels are themed around a holiday or a theme chosen by the students based on what they are learning in their Bible class.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH CHAPEL

Third Grade led a special chapel in the beginning of February about Black History Month and shining our light for Jesus. They shared about several Black Americans throughout history who used their unique gifts to fight for equality, and encouraged us to use our God-given gifts as well to make him known.



VALENTINE'S DAY CHAPEL

Second Grade led us in a special Valentine's Day chapel, all about God's great love for us! They did an amazing job speaking and singing about how much we are loved by God. Pastor Nick Dedetsinas from Grace Bible Church shared a message about how God's love finds us, even when we don't deserve it, and brings us home. The students did a great job reminding us how great God's love for us truly is!



IDENTITY IN CHRIST CHAPEL

Sixth Grade themed their chapel around affirming our identity in Christ. They shared songs that reminded us that we are who Jesus says we are, and Pastor Marco Miramontes from Mission Bible Church enforced this message by reminding us that God, as our creator, is the one who gets to define us and our purpose.



THE JOY OF THE LORD CHAPEL

Seventh Grade themed their chapel around the joy of the Lord being our strength. Through their songs and dances, and a message from student Caleb S., they reminded us that even when life gives us lemons, we can turn to Jesus and experience a joy that isn't dependent on our circumstances, but on what Christ has done for us!

EASTER CHAPEL



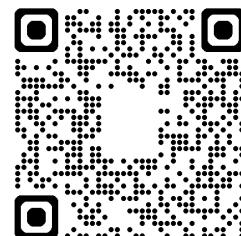
Eighth Grade led us in a special Easter chapel before spring break. Their songs, dances, and message from student Natalie D. reminded us that Christ died for us and rose again, and we should share that good news with everyone! It was a powerful reminder for us all as we headed into break before the Easter weekend.

TEACHER APPRECIATION CHAPEL

Kindergarten did an amazing job leading the whole school in chapel following Teacher Appreciation Week. They shared about how teachers impact them and model Jesus' love to them every day. Pastor Sid Casillas from Calvary Church in Lemont shared a message about why it's important to be close to others, and how being close to people makes us want to celebrate them!



**Watch these chapels and more
on our YouTube channel!**



STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Math Competition

Each year we send a group of middle school students to compete in Joliet West High School's Mu Alpha Theta Mid High Math Competition in March. This year, TCS took 2nd place overall in the competition! In addition to taking 2nd overall, our students placed in multiple different categories. Our 7th graders took 1st place in Lowest Terms, 2nd place in Laws of Exponents, and 2nd place in Linear Relations. Our 8th graders took 3rd place in Polygons, 3rd place in Probability, 3rd place in Pythagorean Theorem, and 3rd place in the group competition. These students gave up much time to prepare for this competition and we are so proud of their hard work!

Back Row from left to right: Edison E., Leonardo E., Zachary V., Graham N., Emmett E., Matthew M., and Tanner V.

Front row from left to right: Jacqueline B., Ava B., Kamryn M., Skylar D., Natalie D., and Carolyn P.



Robotics

The TCS ROBOTICS teams competed in the First Lego League competition in Oswego Saturday, Dec. 13.

The Terra Builders - including Alyse T., Cole H., Ronen A., Andrew S., and Beckett P. - brought home a trophy for the most points awarded during the Alliance round (that's where they pair up with another team to combine each of their robot's missions).

Congratulations to the Terra Builders and all of the teams from TCS who worked hard all semester to build and code their robots to compete in this tournament!



Spelling Bee

Fifth through eighth grade students participate in a spelling bee in the spring. Our students faced down some tough words and kept the competition going so long that we had to come back a second day! Great job to all students involved and congratulations to our winners!

Overall First Place: Riven D., Sixth Grade

Overall Second Place: Nathan V., Eighth Grade

Overall Third Place: Ada F., Fifth Grade





Spring Musical

This year our students performed Disney's Beauty and the Beast, Jr. for the spring musical. The cast and crew did an amazing job bringing this "Tale as Old as Time" to life!

In this lovely fairytale, audiences were transported from the mundane to a place of wonder and grandeur, where everything boiled down to good and evil. The show presented a valuable lesson about not judging others on looks, or letting looks be your guiding force in life, but giving everyone a chance to show their character.

Thank you to director Mrs. Holton, assistant director Mr. O'Brien, choreographer Miss Bekermeier, along with the tech team and all of the parent volunteers who designed costumes, sets and more to make this show a success!



Art Show

Students chose from their artwork throughout the year to put on display in our Art Show. This year, the art classes studied art styles and techniques from around the world, resulting in a wide variety of exhibits themed around different countries.

The upstairs hallway turned into a colorful adventure around the world thanks to the creativity of our students.

Thank you Mrs. Novinski and her volunteers for putting together such a fun Art Show this year!



Band

We started a new band program this year which greatly expanded opportunities for students to learn instruments and play in an ensemble with students from other local schools.

Students in band performed three concerts over the course of the school year, in addition to participating in a solo and ensemble contest, where many students came in first place in their categories!

We were excited to see many new students join the band program this year, in addition to several students from our previous band program continue to master their instruments.

We are excited to watch our band program continue to grow next year!

SUMMER CAMPS 2026 TRINITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Trinity Christian School Summer Camps and Programs are a fun way to continue to learn and grow in a variety of academic, athletic and artistic venues. Participants in our camps build lasting friendships and strong Christian fellowship in a fun and loving environment.

Register online with the QR code or at www.trinitychristian.info

