

VISION

TRINITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

FALL 22



Celebrating 30 Years

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30 Years

of Christ-Centered Education

Thirty years is a long time for change to occur. We have watched our facilities change from renting a church basement which flooded, to owning our own beautiful building, and even adding on to that with an additional building. We have watched our student population change from 50 kids in 1993 to over 400 kids in preschool through eighth grade in 2022. We have watched classrooms change, curriculum change, schedules change, staff change, and so much more over the years. However, one thing remains constant through the walls and hallways of TCS and that is our Lord and Savior! Trinity Christian School has always strived to keep Christ the center of all that takes place here.

Trinity is intentionally Christ-centered in our curriculum, in our culture, and with our instruction. Our biblical worldview acknowledges that all life, knowledge, and meaning extends from our Savior and our Creator. As part of our Mission Statement reads, “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.”

Despite pressures and worldly challenges, Trinity continues to keep the Christ-centered aspect prevalent throughout the entire school. Here are ways that Trinity continues to be intentional about a Christian worldview in all we do:

Christian Curriculum---more than just Bible classes, our curriculum is developed for a biblical worldview to be intertwined in all subjects of our academic program.

Prayer is encouraged in all aspects of our school. Teachers, students, parents are always encouraged to be in prayer for one another. Prayer is an essential part of living out a Christ-centered lifestyle as we support one another.

Christian Teachers who model and imitate Christ. Our teachers love, care and model what it means to be a Christ follower. Our teachers are more than knowledge givers, they are heart givers. They fill students with scriptural knowledge of what it means to be a valued and loving Christian student.



Weekly Chapel Services where the Word of God is mentioned and explained from local pastors and church leaders. This is one of our favorite parts of the week for the whole school body as we come together to worship God and grow closer in our relationships with Jesus!



Service Projects are done throughout the year as we share our blessings with others and express God's love to our community and beyond. Teaching students to serve others is a wonderful way of expressing our humble service and love to others in need. Students have several opportunities throughout the year such as, Operation Christmas Child, raking leaves in the neighborhood, spending time at the local nursing homes, and much more.



Spiritual Retreats and Trips are done with our junior high to challenge our students by digging deeper into the word and growing them closer together as a class in the Lord. Guest speakers, team building, and great fellowship occur to encourage these kids in their biblical worldview. A new experience that has been added this past year was a trip to the Creation Museum and The Ark, where students can experience firsthand wisdom in their biblical worldview.

Trinity Christian School has been through many changes over the past 30 years. We have been through our share of difficult times, beautiful times, sad times, exciting times, and challenging times, but God has never changed. Our Christ-centered purpose will never change at TCS.

Romans 11:36 For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

Jon Vugteveen

Administrator



STANDING ON THE PROMISES

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 "Standing on the Promises." The scripture we have chosen to focus on is Psalm 145:13b, "The Lord will keep all his promises. He is faithful in everything he does."



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 19-20
FLEX Testing

January 19-21
ICC Tournament at FOCCA

January 27-28
ACSI Tournament at TCS

January 29
Open House

January 30
Open Enrollment

With everything that has happened over the past two years, the chapel committee thought it was important that we focus on the faithfulness of God; that God always keeps his promises, no matter how difficult things get. There are so many promises found in Scripture and we felt it was important to remind and teach our students about these truths.

Some of the promises we are looking at this year remind us that God gives us wisdom, he exalts the humble, he meets our needs, he adopts us, and he protects us from evil. We are also discussing the fact that God gives us eternal life, prepares a place for us, gives strength to us, loves us, fights for us, forgives us, and redeems us. We want to be a school that speaks the truth of Christ and we're excited to plan a chapel theme that revolves around Scripture and the hope Jesus provides us.

2022-2023 Chapel Committee

SERVANTS AND LEADERS

At Trinity Christian School, we teach our students to be servants and leaders. Our older students are paired up with younger students throughout the year, leading them in prayer, reading with them and helping them with school work.

Our student body engages in community outreach through programs such as Feed My Starving Children and Operation Christmas Child. We also minister to the residents of the nursing home down the block by writing them Christmas cards and valentines, playing board games with them and sharing our testimonies with them.



30 Years

of Academic Excellence

In 30 years of academic excellence at Trinity Christian School, some things have not changed: our mission, our standard and our pursuit of excellence.

Our Mission

The mission our founding families had when they opened the school in 1993 is still the same mission today. Trinity Christian School provides a goal-directed approach to education and equips 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)

Our Standard

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 we are situated by providing a balanced education based on biblical principles. Our academics include programs that are designed to develop a person wholly: mentally, physically, socially and spiritually. Outside of the classroom, Trinity students model leadership through participation in chapel, sports and activities and community service.

Dedicated to Christian education, Trinity’s teachers are state certified, complete weekly professional development, attend outside conferences as well as use training resources provided by ACSI (Association for Christian Schools International) to keep current in the best practices to improve student learning.

Education continues to evolve, and over the years, the needs of our students have changed as well. Trinity provides for these varying needs through a number of means. Along with assistance from our Learning Resource Coordinator, students receive opportunities for additional instructional support from our teachers through our WIN (What I Need) program which was added this year. All students benefit from this 20-30 minute focus period that provides

students with supported study hall, teacher-led small groups, and facilitated technology supported learning. Teachers have reported that this time has been beneficial to improving students’ skill, confidence, and scores. To ensure that students demonstrate progress towards mastery of state standards, we’ve updated our assessment tools to include progress monitoring and a standardized achievement test from IOWA. Trinity graduates go on to be Christian leaders and excel in academics in high school.

Trinity has made great advancements in technology instruction over the last few years. Blessed with the donation of 300 iPads and subsequently the purchase of laptops for fifth through eighth grade this year, students in grades kindergarten through eighth are 1:1, using technology to support and demonstrate their learning. The digital literacy, problem solving, engineering, coding and programming skills that they are mastering in their computer classes will prepare them for future success in high school and beyond.



Our Pursuit of Excellence

Trinity Christian staff and faculty are purposeful about our ministry and doing all that we do to the glory of God. We recognize the profound impact that our model and witness have on the lives of our students and families. It is for this reason that the board and administration have committed to the process of ACSI accreditation.

In our pursuit of continued school improvement, we have begun the process of obtaining accreditation through the Association of Christian Schools International. We have been members of this Christian organization for over 15 years. ACSI provides training and resources to Christian schools and educators. Their goal is to develop and strengthen the leadership of Christian schools so that they can thrive. TCS is a state-recognized school. This means that our school has been reviewed and proven to have met or exceeded Illinois school requirements. The distinction of further accreditation is not required, but one that we've chosen to pursue to edify our school, validate our program as excellent compared to Christian schools nationwide, and to fulfill our school mission and vision. The accreditation process, which may take two to three years, will strengthen our school in three domains: our purpose, our relationships, and teaching and learning.

The accreditation protocol will evaluate us in the areas of mission, spiritual formation and biblical worldview development, governance and school leadership, positive school culture, stakeholder and community engagement, instructional program, and curriculum planning.

The success of school improvement is directly related to the continued support and commitment of all of us: the board, administration, faculty, staff, parents, and students. We are so grateful for your partnership and appreciate your prayers as we look forward to all the Lord will do through TCS in the years to come.

Virginia Hayward

Director of Education



ATHLETICS **UPDATES**



FALL SPORTS

Our fall sports saw some big wins this season! The soccer team won the ICC (Illinois Christian Conference) championship and placed second in the ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International) championship. We are thankful for coaches Anna Payton and Joe Fabbre for their leadership on and off the field this season!



The junior high volleyball team took second in both the ACSI and ICC tournaments this year. Thank you to coaches Maddie Deeter and Kristy Lewis for their hard work this season.

We are also excited to see our elementary volleyball team grow under the leadership of coaches Jonas Byrer and Carrie Pilon. Thank you for the time you invest in these young athletes!



FALL EVENTS



We were very blessed this fall to bring back events that we were unable to do during the pandemic.

This September, our families raised over \$80,000 during our Walk-a-Thon fundraiser. Thank you families for your support!

In October, we were able to thank and serve our local pastors at our annual Pastor Appreciation Breakfast. Afterwards, there was a time of fellowship and a special chapel put together by our first grade classes.

We honored our grandparents and our veterans with a wonderful Grandparents' Day performance and activities in the beginning of November.

Our older students buddied up with our younger students to celebrate Thanksgiving together as a student body right before we went on Thanksgiving break.

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



"I'M A BLESSED MAN."

This year we celebrated the retirement of Mr. Kerry Kraker, who served as our Head Facility Manager for 9 years. During a chapel to honor him on his last day of work, Kerry shared with our students that everything we were celebrating about him was due to Christ in him. We then presented Kerry with a tree dedicated to him on our property. Kerry is looking forward to spending more time with his wife, children, and grandchildren.



Best Private Elementary School in Will County 2022



From left to right: Preschool Director Mrs. Brenna Cook, Director of Education Virginia Hayward, and Administrator Jon Vugteveen.

Trinity Christian School has been awarded the Best Private Elementary School in Will County for 2022. This award was voted on by community members in the 2022 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

30 Years

of Family Focus

I love telling the story of the beginnings of Trinity Christian School because it started with family. God did not place His plan for a Christian school in this community with a local church or an established ministry. He placed it on the hearts of a few families.

From its inception, Trinity Christian School has had family at the center of its mission. Our founders desired a Christian school that would provide an education for their children, focused on excellence in both academic and spiritual education. When they did not find what they were looking for, they answered a call from the Lord, stepped out in faith and began what is known today as Trinity Christian School.

Dr. Alexander, one of the founders of TCS and current school board president, uses the analogy of a three-legged stool to represent the mission of Trinity Christian School. In the analogy, Dr. Alexander shares that the three legs of the stool are family, church and school, all working together to nurture the gifts that God has given to each child and to grow the child's faith in Christ.

TCS has continued to thrive for 30 years because of our amazing families and their commitment to our mission and vision. Our families support this school with their time, talent and resources. We are so blessed by parents, grandparents and extended family who step up and volunteer to make our school great. They are the heartbeat of our school. We are also so thankful for families that financially support our ministry. They are investing in this generation and because of their generosity our students, our school and our world will grow and flourish.

Trinity is now and always has been about serving students and their families. Our teachers and staff sincerely love our students; past, present and future! It brings us great joy when we hear from prospective and new families that when you first walk through the doors of TCS, the family atmosphere is evident. Trinity is something very special in that regard. Furthermore, we are equally thrilled when our alumni return and share that even though they have graduated, TCS will always feel like home.

It is awe inspiring to look back and see how God's plan for a Christian school, which began with a few families, has blessed hundreds of families. With God's blessing we look forward to serving families for the next 30 years and beyond!

Deanne Bekermeyer

Director of Development



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. Erika Jeske *Learning Center Coordinator*

Mrs. Jeske comes to us with over 25 years of experience teaching. She has her degree in special education deaf and hard of hearing, as well as an endorsement in early childhood special education. She is an organized professional with the ability to provide great instruction and grow student confidence. Most importantly, she loves the Lord and is excited to begin a new journey in a Christian school setting. Mrs. Jeske is married with three children.



Mrs. Kristi Lewis *Middle School Science Teacher*

Mrs. Lewis is no stranger to TCS. She was our No. 1 substitute last year, including a full quarter stint as our middle school history teacher. Her love and degree are in the sciences, as she graduated with a degree in biology and conservation/wildlife management and earned her teaching degree in 2011. Mrs. Lewis is married and has a daughter in first grade at TCS. She loves to get involved, give her all, and make things work for the best of the students.



Mrs. Jazmine Cardenas *Front Desk Secretary*

Mrs. Cardenas joined us at the start of the school year, and has done a great job! Mrs. Cardenas answers the phones and the door, as well as take care of a number of important functions in the front office. She comes to us with a business degree and background. She is married and has a one-year-old son at home. We are excited for her to meet all of our wonderful families as you come to visit us in the office!



Mr. Tom Frickenstein *Head Facility Manager*

Mr. Frickenstein is our new Head Facility Manager. He and his wife, Misty, live in New Lenox. They are blessed with three children; Joel who is 20, Haven who is 14, and Aubrey who is 10. Mr. Frickenstein is excited to start his journey here at TCS! He is grateful to God for the opportunity to support our staff as they reach students through Christ, and he considers this an honor.



Mrs. Brenna Cook *Preschool Director*

Mrs. Cook is the new Preschool Director. She is excited to get started, get to know our program, and meet everyone. Newly moved back to the area from Arizona, she has five years of classroom experience, and enjoys working with children and parents. She also enjoys spending time with her husband, her two cats, and Zumba!

30 Years of Support

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.

- You may give directly to Trinity Christian School, either by mail or online at bit.ly/tcsgive
- 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 go to empowerillinois.org or contact Deanne Bekermeier at dbekermeier@trinitychristian.info.



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 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.

This year, we have already had 29 students be able to attend Trinity through Empower scholarships! Thank you, donors, for impacting their lives in this way.

Students of the Month



September

Kindergarten - Rylee W.
1st Grade - Dylan V.
2nd Grade - Mackenzie W.
3rd Grade - Grace M.
4th Grade - Simone C.
5th Grade - Ian M.
6th Grade - Kellyn M.
7th Grade - Brooklyn H.
8th Grade - Baileigh L.

October

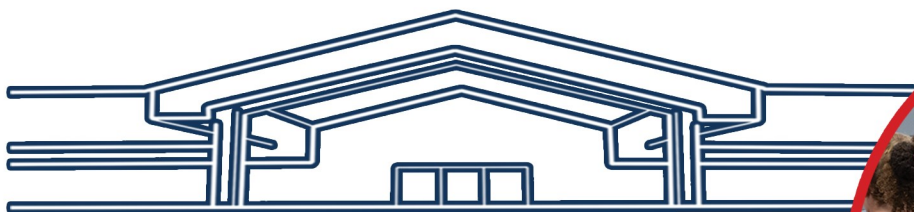
Kindergarten - Lincoln A.
1st Grade - Josophine L.
2nd Grade - Makenna A.
3rd Grade - Chase G.
4th Grade - Claire B.
5th Grade - Khloe D.
6th Grade - Jacob V.
7th Grade - Darrius W.
8th Grade - Bradley O.



November

Kindergarten - Anthony W.
1st Grade - Reid S.
2nd Grade - Benjamin P.
3rd Grade - Camden M.
4th Grade - Tanner V.
5th Grade - Royce D.
6th Grade - Morgan N.
7th Grade - Samuel N.
8th Grade - Emily V.





Join us for

Open House

Preschool
through
8th Grade



January

29

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.



901 Shorewood Drive, Shorewood, IL 60404

www.trinitychristian.info

815-577-9310

TRINITY
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



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