

# VISION



## Building a Firm Foundation

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

# WINTER '26

## Building a Firm Foundation

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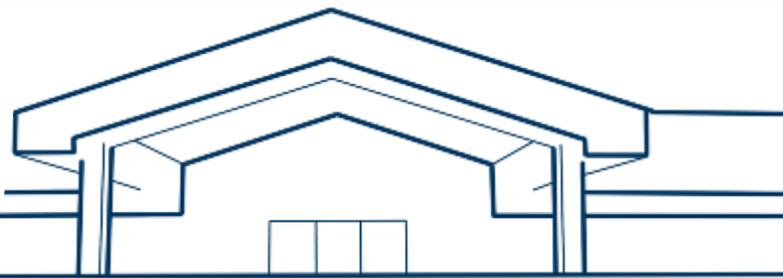


VISION is a tri-annual publication of Trinity Christian School. The purpose of this publication is to share the story of Trinity Christian School and to strengthen the bonds among our extended school community in support of Christian education.

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](mailto:jhayward@trinitychristian.info) | 815-577-9310 x352

# TRINITY'S FIRM FOUNDATION



At TCS, everything we do is rooted in one essential truth: a strong foundation determines the strength of what is built upon it. As a Christian school, our firm foundation is not found in trends, programs, or even achievements, but in Jesus Christ. Scripture reminds us in Matthew 7 that a wise builder builds their house on the rock. When storms come, and they normally do, the house stands firm. This truth applies not only to our personal faith but also to our mission as a Christian school community.

Our foundation begins with **BIBLICAL TRUTH**. God's Word shapes how we teach, how we lead, how we discipline, and how we love. Academic excellence matters deeply, but it is never separated from spiritual formation. We are committed to educating the heart, soul and mind of a child, so students grow not only in knowledge, but in wisdom and character.

A firm foundation is also built through **INTENTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS**. Our teachers and staff serve as mentors, modeling Christlike character in the classroom, on the field, and in everyday interactions. When students see faith lived out authentically, lessons go far beyond textbooks.

We are equally grateful for our **PARTNERSHIP WITH FAMILIES**. Christian education is most effective when school and home work together, reinforcing shared values and nurturing faith. Your trust, prayers, and involvement strengthen our mission more than you may realize.

Finally, our foundation is strengthened through **SERVICE AND COMMUNITY**. As followers of Christ, we are called to be his hands and feet. By serving others and engaging our community, students learn that faith is not passive; it is active, compassionate, and outward-focused.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to building wisely: anchored in Christ, guided by Scripture, and united in purpose. Thank you for being part of this mission and for helping us continue to build a Christian school that stands firm, no matter the storms.

In His Grip,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Vugteveen'.

**Jon Vugteveen**  
**Head of School**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### March

**10** Band Concert

**20** Benefit Event

**30** Easter Break Begins

### April

**07** Easter Break Ends

**16** Sports Awards Ceremony

### May

**08** TCS Presents *Disney's Beauty and the Beast, Jr.*

**12** State of the School Meeting

**21** Eighth Grade Graduation

# BIBLICALLY INTEGRATED LEARNING AT TRINITY

*“Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”*

**Matthew 7:24 - 25**

As the Director of Education at Trinity Christian School, I often find myself pausing in the middle of an ordinary school day and listening to the hum of classrooms, watching students collaborate, or hearing a teacher pray with a child. In those moments, I am reminded that what happens within these walls is far more than academic instruction. It is the shaping of hearts, minds, and futures. I am deeply grateful for the work God allows us to do.

At the heart of our mission is biblical integration, it is not a strategy or a curriculum requirement, it is a conviction.

**I believe students thrive when they understand their learning has purpose, that truth is not fragmented, and that God is present in every subject they study.**

When education is grounded in that foundation, students begin to see the world and themselves through the lens of Scripture.

I have seen this come to life in countless ways. Students recognize God's *consistency through the order* found in mathematics. They *wrestle* with historical events and thoughtfully consider what justice, mercy, and humility look like in real life. They marvel at the *complexity of creation* during science experiments and begin to understand that it points to a Creator who is intentional and wise. These moments affirm that learning, when rooted in truth, becomes transformational.

Early on this past fall, our staff committed to teaching not just for information, but for transformation. We want students to gain knowledge, but more importantly, to be changed by what they learn. This approach fosters lifelong learners, not because they are required to memorize facts, but because what they are learning is meaningful and valuable. **Education grounded in purpose extends far beyond assessments; it carries significance for life.**



This mission is lived out daily by our teachers. They do more than deliver lessons. They shepherd students. They pray over their classrooms, speak truth with gentleness, and intentionally seek ways to biblically integrate instruction so students understand both the what and the why behind their learning. They model integrity, curiosity, and compassion, and their commitment is one of the greatest strengths of Trinity Christian School. I am truly humbled to serve alongside them.

*“Rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught”*

**Colossians 2:6 - 7**

As I reflect on the work God is doing at Trinity Christian School, my prayer is simple and steadfast. I pray that every student who walks through our doors leaves not only academically prepared, but firmly rooted in Christ. In a world that shifts constantly, we are committed to building on the unchanging truth of God's Word. When faith and learning grow together, students are equipped not just for the next grade level, but for a lifetime of purpose, discernment, and faithful leadership. This is the foundation we strive to build, one that will stand long after their years at Trinity.



**Rachel Woodford**  
**Director of Education**



# TCS ALUMNI ON WHAT MAKES TCS TEACHERS SPECIAL

The teachers at Trinity have impacted my life even long after I have graduated. The strong work ethic and determination they push heavily at Trinity has followed me and helped me pursue many honors and AP classes throughout high school. Their kindness, knowledge, and patience are admirable and their love for their job truly shines through in the success of their students.

Makayla B., Class of 2022

The teachers at TCS were very impactful in my life. They had taught me all the quality life skills I would need and how to be a good person while doing that. The teachers were so positive and always had my back with everything I did. They did more than just grade papers, they were mentors to my life.

Ryne D., Class of 2024

Trinity's teachers have made an invaluable impact on my life and have taught me lessons that I live my life by. They have exemplified for me what it means to actively follow Jesus through the decisions they make. The time they spent on me showed me that I was valued and loved. They taught me that I am not defined by grades, achievements, or my reputation, but by my identity as a child of God. I cannot thank them enough for setting me on the right path for my education and most importantly, my walk with Christ.

Alaina D., Class of 2024

The teachers at TCS have had a meaningful impact on my life in so many ways. They helped strengthen my faith by encouraging me to grow spiritually and live out my beliefs each day. From the very beginning, they made me feel welcomed and valued, creating an environment where I felt like I truly belonged. Whenever I needed help, whether academically or personally, they were always there to listen and support me. Because of their guidance and care, I've grown not only as a student, but also as a person.

Taylor V., Class of 2023

The teachers at Trinity are so full of genuine kindness and care that they put other teachers to shame. Even the ones that claim to be Christian pale in comparison to the love shown towards us students. They truly desire to see you molded into individuals after God and it reflects in the way they teach. I am so blessed to have been put under the teachers of Trinity and thank them for caring so much for me and my future.

Nate F., Class of 2022

The teachers at TCS are unwavering. Unwavering in their care for each student. Unwavering in the level of excellence they provide in their teaching, and unwavering in their love for the Lord. It is so refreshing and uplifting to know that I always have someone in my corner no matter where life takes me because TCS teachers are not just there for you when you're at school, but they are there for you always. The love of God shines so bright through these teachers, and it is truly such a blessing to have had the opportunity to have that same love poured into me.

Leah S., Class of 2022

Beyond their strong teaching skills, the staff at Trinity reflects the love of Christ in all they do. They lead through their actions, showing compassion, patience, and kindness every day. Every teacher carries a deep love for their students, just as Jesus calls us to, and their dedication is what makes Trinity such a special and impactful school.

Addison B., Class of 2024

# SPORTS RECAP

All of our fall sports teams had fantastic seasons this year! We saw a lot of new faces in athletics this year, and look forward to seeing younger students continue to develop their talents. Thank you to our coaches for their leadership this season, and to all our TCS Athletics families for your support!

## ***Elementary Girls' Volleyball***

Season Record: 16-7

Consolation winners in the Millbrook Tournament

2nd place in the Cross Lutheran Tournament

## ***Junior High Girls' Volleyball***

Season Record: 14-4

1st place in the Christian Heritage Tournament

4th place in the Christian Liberty Tournament

## ***Soccer***

Season Record: 15-5-1

3rd place in the Christian Heritage Tournament

1st place in the Cross Lutheran Corn Classic



## **UPCOMING HOME GAMES**

**March 9** Boys' Volleyball vs Timothy Christian

**March 12** Boys' Volleyball vs Home School Resource Center

**March 16** Boys' Volleyball vs. TCS Girls' Volleyball

**March 26** Boys' Volleyball vs Crossroads

**Sports Awards  
Ceremony**

**April  
16**



# 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 usually coincide with a holiday, though they can also be themed around a biblical topic.



## PASTOR APPRECIATION CHAPEL

In October, First Grade led us in a Pastor Appreciation Chapel. Several local pastors were in attendance to hear these students share about some of the things pastors teach them, like who Jesus is and what he did for us on the cross. The students did an amazing job leading the rest of the school in fun songs, and they loved seeing their pastors in the audience! After the chapel, we had a special moment to pray over the pastors. First grade definitely made them feel appreciated!



## UNITY CHAPEL

In early November, our student council led us in a special chapel on unity. These middle school students performed moving songs and dances to honor our veterans and call for unity in a divisive time. Skylar D., student council secretary, shared a message on being unified as Christian believers and lifting each other up as we walk out our faith together. Natalie D., student council president, spoke on prayer and forgiveness as powerful tools in creating unity in our lives.



## THANKSGIVING CHAPEL

Later in November, fourth grade led Thanksgiving chapel focused on thankfulness for all God has done for us. Guest speaker Mr. Jason Magafas shared his testimony of salvation, emphasizing how his thankfulness for being saved has transformed his life. The fourth grade students closed with a moving dance involving banners of different colors to represent the blood of Jesus and the purity he brings, as a student dressed as Jesus invited other students on the sidelines to join in. It was a powerful reminder of the many things we have to be thankful for!



## CHRISTMAS CHAPEL

As we wrapped up the first semester, fifth grade led our Christmas chapel. The theme of their chapel was "Light of the World," which was creatively expressed through a dance by the boys, in which they used sticks to create various Christmas scenes and shapes to a song, and the girls' dance using lanterns. Guest Pastor Frank Volpe gave a message tracing the "Light of the World" from the beginning of everything, as mentioned in the book of John, through the time of Jesus, and into our lives today.



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

# Trinity Voted “Best of Will County” in 2025, Continuing Six-Year Streak



Preschool Director Mrs. Amy Boutte and Co-Director of Development Mrs. Gabriella Shanahan receiving the certificates at the Best of Will County celebration event in December.

Trinity Christian School has been awarded the Best Private Elementary School in Will County for the fourth year in a row! This award was voted on by community members in the 2025 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 every year since 2019.

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.

## CONNECT WITH US



[@TrinityChristianShorewood](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityChristianShorewood)



[@trinitychristianshorewood](https://www.instagram.com/trinitychristianshorewood)



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



[www.trinitychristian.info](http://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 Jack Hayward, our Marketing Director, at [jhayward@trinitychristian.info](mailto:jhayward@trinitychristian.info).

Hope to hear from you soon!

# Students of the Month



## September 2025

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

Lillian L. and Penelope O.  
 Avery A. and Jeyah M.  
 Connor N. and Hannah R.  
 Olivia H. and Adrianna K.  
 Ezekiel M. and Morgan S.  
 Ada F. and Eliana W.  
 Leah B. and Natalie K.  
 Makenna H. and Zion P.  
 Skylar D.



## October 2025

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

Blake D. and Lucas H.  
 Nathan F. and Jack N.  
 Elet D. and Jade W.  
 Lincoln A. and Spurgeon D.  
 Vivian B. and Max N.  
 Emmett H. and Elena O.  
 Noah D. and Vera N.  
 Steven S. and Caleb S.  
 Nathan V.



## November 2025

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

Mackenzie H. and Zion K.  
 Brissa C. and Raiden D.  
 Adalynn B. and Gabriella M.  
 Edie F. and Rylee W.  
 Victoria B. and Elsie E.  
 Olivia J. and Mackenzie W.  
 Chase G. and Grace M.  
 Kamryn M. and Jozie W.  
 Gabrielle U.



## December 2025

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

Lilah E. and Emma P.  
 Aubrey B. and Emerson K.  
 Elliott P. and Andrew S.  
 Asiago C. and Colton K.  
 Aniyah D. and Josophine L.  
 Andrew S. and Jaxson W.  
 Adelaide B. and Lily M.  
 Eva A. and Hudson D.  
 Graham N.

# 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,

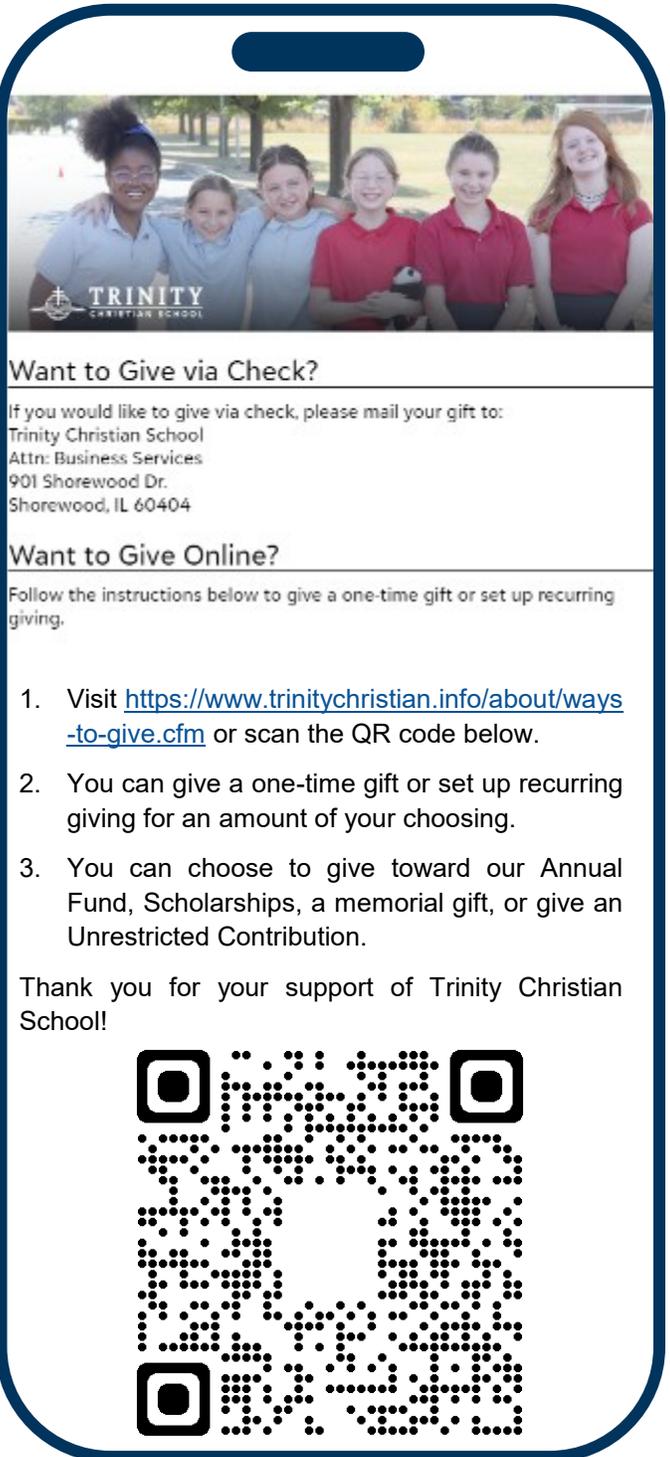


**Deanne Bekermeier**



**Gabriella Shanahan**

**Directors of Development**



**Want to Give via Check?**

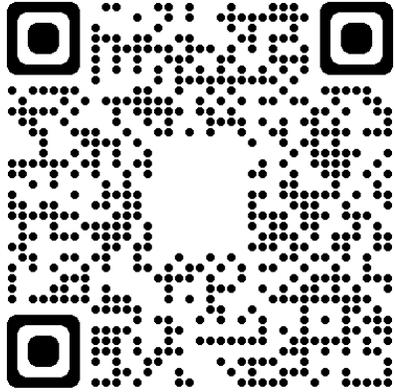
If you would like to give via check, please mail your gift to:  
Trinity Christian School  
Attn: Business Services  
901 Shorewood Dr.  
Shorewood, IL 60404

**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!



TRINITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL'S  
production of

Disney  
**BEAUTY  
AND THE  
BEAST**



Music by  
**Alan Menken**

Lyrics by  
**Howard Ashman and Tim Rice**

Book by  
**Linda Woolverton**

**FRIDAY, MAY 8  
SATURDAY, MAY 9**

Ticket Sales Start April 20

[www.trinitychristian.info](http://www.trinitychristian.info)

Disney's *Beauty and the Beast JR.* is presented through special arrangement  
with and all authorized materials are supplied by  
Music Theatre International, New York, NY  
212-541-4684 [mtishows.com](http://mtishows.com)