TRINITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Faith and Expectation

WINTER 25

SPORTS RECAP | PAGE 4 ACCREDITATION UPDATE | PAGE 7 STUDENTS OF THE MONTH | PAGE 12

Stepping into 2025 with Faith and Expectation



Jon Vugteveen, Head of School

Happy New Year! As we walk confidently into 2025, I want to remind you of the incredible promise found in Isaiah 43:19 (ESV):

Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

This year, God is inviting you into new beginnings and breakthroughs! He is a God of abundance, doing amazing things even in places that once felt dry, doomed and desolate. Whatever challenges or uncertainties lie ahead, trust that God is already preparing a path for you and providing streams of refreshing and blessing along the way.

Are you ready to embrace the "new thing" God has for you in 2025? Trust in His power to bring forth growth, joy, and abundance, even in unexpected places. As you continue to rely on Him, watch as He works in your life, fulfilling his promises and leading you into a year of fulfillment and grace.

TCS is looking at new and wonderful things that may come its way in the coming year. We have already begun a wonderful new relationship with The Village Church, who now uses our facility on the weekends. We are looking to finalize our first ACSI Accreditation this spring, and we know the Lord has so much more in store for us!

Thank you for being a faithful partner in our shared ministry. Your support helps spread this message of hope and love to hundreds of students daily. Great things continue to flourish here at TCS and we couldn't do it without your prayers and financial support.

I am excited to see the blessings God has in store for all of this year!

In His Grip,

Jon Vugteveen Head of School











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TCS EVENTS





We had many wonderful events here at Trinity Christian School during the first semester!

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 and school leadership. 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 on 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 having a dance party!

Right before Thanksgiving break, we held a big **Thanksgiving Luncheon** with all of the students and teachers. Older students were buddied up with younger students at each table and we enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving meal as a school family.

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! All together, our school packed over 350 boxes!

We are thankful to Mrs. Adalys Colianne, our Special Events and Volunteer Coordinator, and to all of our amazing volunteers, for all of their hard work planning and running these events for our school!





SPORTS UPDATES

Soccer

Our soccer team had a great season this past fall! We were excited to see many new faces on the team this year, and to see our older athletes support and encourage new players. They gave it their all on the field, taking second place in both the Cross Lutheran and ICC tournaments. Congratulations to Cayden V. and Jacob V. for being chosen for the All Tournament team! Thank you to Coach Payton and Coach Fabbre for your leadership and example to our athletes both on and off the field.

Girls' Volleyball

Both our elementary and junior high girls' volleyball teams played hard during their season. The 5th/6th grade team took third place and the 7th/8th grade team took second place in their respective ICC tournaments! Congratulations to Jacqueline B. for being selected for the 5th/6th grade All Tournament team, and Taylor K. and Gabrielle U. for being chosen for the 7th/8th grade All Tournament team! Thank you to Coach Deeter, Coach Fouts, and Coach Uram for investing in these athletes and continuing to grow the teams.



Boys' Basketball

Boys' basketball finished their season strong with a handful of great tournament placements. The 5th/6th grade "A" team took first place in their ICC tournament, while the 7th/8th grade team took first in their ICC tournament as well as third place in the hard-fought Trinity Invitational. Our basketball players were led by Coach Vugteveen, Coach Smith, Coach Fabbre, Coach Stonitsch, Coach Baker and Coach Proskey. Thank you coaches for your mentorship and guidance! Congratulations to Elijah S., Tanner V. and Zach V. for being chosen for the 5th/6th grade All Tournament team, and Nathan F., Nate S., and Jacob V. for being chosen for the 7th/8th grade All Tournament team!

Cheerleading

This season, our cheer team consisted of 30 dedicated, hardworking, and talented cheerleaders. These girls brought drive and encouragement to our court and we loved watching them perform each home game. The cheer team used their talents and strength to master an impressive halftime routine full of dance, stunting, and tumbling. Even when their music went out during one of the tournament games, the girls completed the cheer routine to verbal counts without music while still hitting every stunt. Thank you to Coach Bekermeier and Coach Kirkland for leading and encouraging these athletes!









Christmas Program Highlights

The Joy of Christmas

(Kindergarten - First Grade)

Our kindergarten and first grade students performed *The Joy of Christmas* for their Christmas program this year. Through a combination of speaking parts and remixes of classic carols, these students reminded us that there are many things to get excited about at Christmas time, but the true Joy of Christmas is the gift of Jesus for all of us.

Crazy, Busy, Peaceful, Holy Night

(Second - Fourth Grade)

Students in second, third, and fourth grade performed *Crazy, Busy, Peace-ful, Holy Night* for their Christmas program. The show follows a family getting wrapped up in the craziness of the Christmas season and reflecting on the similarly busy events of the first Christmas.



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

Both Christmas programs are available to watch on our YouTube channel: @trinitychristianshorewood.



ACSI Accreditation Update

Rachel Woodford, Director of Education



The ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International) School Accreditation process engages schools in a comprehensive organization-wide appraisal process and outlines areas of improvement. The accreditation process is to be a catalyst, driving improvement in private Christian schools so they can truly flourish. The new and improved **ACSI** *Inspire* accreditation protocol is the result of a revision process that took several years and included research, drafting and revision, multiple stages of feedback, and pilot school visits. The new protocol aligns with ACSI's Flourishing Schools research. With *Inspire*, ACSI is moving away from a 'compliance-based' protocol into a more reflective and collaborative process for schools and visiting teams.

Throughout the accreditation process, we are evaluating whether Trinity Christian School is fulfilling our mission and meeting the standards aligned with research. This process involves both a self-study and a peer review through ACSI. We are well on our way and making great progress. Within the *Inspire* Accreditation process there are six domains that are then broken down into standards, and then finally into indicators.

The six domains are:

<u>**Purpose:**</u> Assesses the school's purpose and alignment with its mission and values.

<u>Relationships:</u> Evaluates the school's people-centered culture, including collaboration, relationships, and respect for all.

Teaching and Learning: Evaluates the school's curriculum, learning outcomes, and alignment with educational standards.

Expertise: Evaluates the value and effectiveness of written policies.

<u>Resources</u>: Evaluates the financial, facilities and instructional resources.

<u>Well-Being</u>: Assesses the school's written policies and procedures to ensure a healthy, Christ-like, and safe environment for all students, families, and staff.

Each of these domains have been assigned a leader, along with a group of selected individuals who have worked together over the past two years to evaluate Trinity Christian School through a self-study. During this process, each team has been asked to evaluate standards within each domain. Once each standard was scored, the team was asked to supply evidences for each indicator within the standard to prove their findings. Throughout this process, teams can easily find where improvements are needed and where Trinity Christian School has resources and documentation in place.

After the self-study is complete, each team is asked to reflect on where they see need for improvement and suggestions for the improvement as well as list places where Trinity Christian is exceeding or meeting expectations.

Now that we are currently wrapping up our self-study, we are moving to the next exciting part of this accreditation journey. On March 6, our ACSI Accreditation Team Chair will take a look at some of our documentation. If he feels that we are ready, we will move to the next step of accreditation. A team from ACSI will come and spend four days here at Trinity Christian School to complete the peer review. We are currently scheduled for this visit from April 13-16. During this visit, the ACSI team will meet with leadership, teachers, and board members to confirm that we indeed have fulfilled the requirements needed to be recommended to ACSI for final recognition and to become an ACSI fully accredited school.

While this task has been strenuous, it has allowed our ACSI steering committee to truly see what a wonderful place Trinity Christian School is. We should thank the leaders who have gone before us. They truly sought God's wisdom and guidance in how to establish an amazing Christian school where students can grow academically as well as spiritually, while being trained to go out into the world and share the good news of Jesus Christ.

We look forward to the next steps in this process and ask that you keep us in your prayers as we do our best to have everything in place to greet the ACSI accreditation team in April.

TCS Continues Best of Will County Winning Streak!





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

Trinity Christian School has been awarded the Best Private Elementary School in Will County for the third year in a row! This award was voted on by community members in the 2024 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 2020.

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



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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!



Empowered to Make a Difference

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:3-6

I love the encouragement in this verse. I love how Paul is emphasizing the importance of partnership. In Trinity's mission of academic and spiritual excellence, <u>you are a critical part of</u> <u>the team</u>!

Lives are impacted every day here at TCS. God will always get the glory for the work that is being done in preparing children for the future God has planned. But we have an invitation to partner with God in his plan for this generation. How cool is that?

Imagine the prayers of joy from the families who without your partnership could not send their children to Trinity Christian School, thanking God for you!

I don't have to imagine because I have been on the other end of many phone calls, as families praised God through tears and thanked Him for the donors who made a way for their child to experience a quality education and the love of Christ every day!

Please consider being the reason someone is praying with joy, glorifying God and thanking Him for you and what your gift means to their child's future.

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: <u>https://www.trinitychristian.info/about/ways-to-give.cfm</u>.

Thank you for your generosity!





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 <u>https://www.trinitychristian.info/about/ways-to</u> <u>-give.cfm</u> 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!

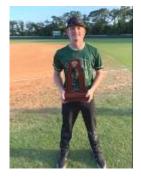


"I know our community can rally our giving to help support our scholarship fund and grow that beyond what it has ever seen before! Please consider being a part of Trinity and blessing others by providing scholarships these families can use to make a way for their children being a part of a truly wonderful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

Head of School, Mr. Jon Vugteveen

Deanne Bekermeier Director of Development

Alumni Spotlight



Camden Biskup, '21

"I graduated from Trinity Christian School in 2021. After graduating, I attended Aurora Christian High School my freshman year. After freshman year, we moved to Palm Coast, Florida. I am now a senior at St. Joseph Academy in St. Augustine, Florida. I have been blessed to play varsity baseball all four years of high school as a center fielder and I am thankful that God led me to play at St. Joe's. Our team is coached by a former MLB pitcher and former minor leaguers, but most importantly our coaches have showed us how to honor God through the game of baseball. My favorite high school memory is our team winning District Championships against one of the top high school teams in Florida during my junior year. Trinity Christian School has equipped me to excel academically in high school, maintaining a high GPA throughout my past four years. As I look to graduate high school this May, I will be attending Southeastern University in Lakeland, Florida, where I have made a commitment to play baseball. I am thankful for my years at Trinity, which helped lay a Christian foundation in all that I do."



Alyssa Castro, '15

"I graduated from Trinity Christian in 2015. I went on to Plainfield South High School, where I graduated in 2019. I did two years of college at Evangel University, then went on to Southeastern University to complete my degree in communications with a focus on broadcasting in 2024. After graduating college, I started working at Calvary Church as the Video Director for the live production team, where I am still working. The live production team handles everything that goes on in service on the live stream and on the screens in the church."

Have an alumni update to share? We'd love to hear from you!

Please contact Mr. Jack Hayward at jhayward@trinitychristian.info Alumni are also invited to join our Alumni Facebook Group: <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/tcsalumni1/</u>





Every January, Student Council plans a spirit week with themed days for students to dress up and show their school spirit. Each day, classes voted on who was the best-dressed in their class.

First was Pajama Day, the best way to start the week! Tuesday was Decade Day, and we loved seeing the range of styles from the '70s through the early '00s. Wednesday was Class Color Day, which was amazing to see when we had all the grade levels together for chapel! Thursday was Red, White, and Blue day as we amped up the school spirit with our basketball and cheer pep assembly! Lastly, Friday was split between two themes: Grades K-4th did Wacky Day, wearing the craziest outfits they could come up with, while grades 5th-8th had the students dress up as their teachers and the teachers dress up as students!

Student Council did a great job getting us in the school spirit!



Students of the Month









September 2024

Kindergarten First Grade Second Grade Third Grade Fourth Grade Fifth Grade Sixth Grade Seventh Grade Eighth Grade Nolan D. and Emerson K. Hazel T. and Jade W. Caleb A. and Oluwatoni F. Victoria B. and Aniyah D. Sonya M. and Beckett P. Taylor M. and Lily M. Leila J. and Reagan L. Cameron E. Claire G.

October 2024

Kindergarten First Grade Second Grade Third Grade Fourth Grade Fifth Grade Sixth Grade Seventh Grade Eighth Grade Aubrey B. and Zachary M. Elliott P. and Theodore S. Henry F. and Kenzie P. Luke M. and Dylan V. Ada F. and Jaxson W. Harper A. and Chase G. Baylee H. and Nicholas U. Taylor K.. Genevieve C.

November 2024

Kindergarten First Grade Second Grade Third Grade Fourth Grade Fifth Grade Sixth Grade Seventh Grade Eighth Grade Joseph M. and Nova N. Zander H. and Gabriella M. Lincoln A. and Colton K. Josophine L. and Abigail Z. Emmett H. and Eliana W. Mia G. and Daniel S. Caleb B. and Matthew M. Graham N. Aubrey C.

December 2024

Kindergarten First Grade Second Grade Third Grade Fourth Grade Fifth Grade Sixth Grade Seventh Grade Eighth Grade Avery A. and Raiden D. Connor N. and Drew S. Clara J. and Natalie Z. Michael C. and Charles N. Audrey G. and Janet J. Adelaide B. and Benjamin S. Jacqueline B. and Ava B. Edison E. Daisy V.

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Trinity Christian School *Benefit Event* March

Friday 14 At 6 PM

Whitetail Ridge Golf Club 7671 Clubhouse Dr Yorkville. IL

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me

Philippians 4:13

