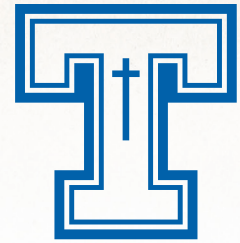


# Congratulations, Seniors

CELEBRATING OUR SENIOR CLASS OF 2024



10510 Main Cross Street • Whitesville, KY 42378



## The Trinity Message

TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL • ALUMNI NEWSLETTER • 2024 SEMESTER 2

### FROM OUR PRINCIPAL



First and foremost, congratulations to the Class of 2024! These students entered Trinity High School masked on August 26, 2020. They walk out, unmasked, and prepared for the many endeavors that will come their way. Two students from this class are choosing to protect us in the military, and I am thankful every day for the men and women who continue to choose to sacrifice their own lives to protect our freedom and liberty. Riley Brown and Isaac Reed, we will pray for you every step of the way. We also have many students entering the workforce, welders, a physical therapist, a cosmetologist, a businessperson, an engineer, a psychologist, a veterinarian, a nurse, a mortician, a diesel mechanic, a dietician, a graphic designer, and a math teacher (praise the Lord!). As these students take their next steps in life, I am certain that this group will show Christ to the world! Graduating Class of 2024, keep your priorities straight, put God first in every decision, and remember our essential purpose in life is to get to heaven and help others make it to heaven, too. I promise to continue praying for you and wish you well on the next journey that awaits you.

The major buzz around Whitesville is the “Barn” coming down! As I write this article, only the steel frame and roof remain! The wooden court we all played on as kids has been cut into pieces and the metal was purchased and will be transferred to its new home. As the Barn was stripped of its walls, I kept returning to one thought: “How in the world do I sum up what this place means to me?” My memories from the St. Mary’s Gym (or the “old gym” or the “Barn”)

all came flooding back. My first memory of the old gym was when I was about six years old. I remember walking over from school to the gym with Mrs. Bickett for PE class, and I remember the Class of 1994 as 1st-grade students. We attended Kindergarten at Whitesville Elementary School because no one thought about preschool back then! I remember going over as a 1st grader and stretching, doing bicycle exercises, and running relay races. I always looked forward to going there because it was a place of innocence, no worries, and freedom to run with my friends.

Fast forward a few years, and I remember sitting at games watching my brothers play and watching the cheerleaders, wanting to be just like them. I also remember wishing the game would end soon so I could do back handsprings down the floor! A few more years later, I remember watching the Lady Raiders play basketball. I have a very specific memory of Julie Coomes passing the ball up the floor to her teammate for a lay-up, and this was the first time I thought I could play basketball—so I could pass the ball like her. I found out later I preferred to be the receiver of a pass so I could shoot it, but Julie’s pass was the first time I remember watching girls play basketball. I never told anyone about possibly wanting to play basketball, and my mom was shocked the day I did not go to cheerleading practice in 7th grade. I attended gymnastics and dance from the time

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of losing what we have, that small school feeling.

Around 2016, I received a call to become principal. This position has further broadened my perspective of how many people it takes to run a place like Trinity High School. From the priest-pastor to every staff member, coach, student, and volunteer, each person is important in the mission we have to bring Christ to the world. As a kid, I was innocent and had no clue—praise the Lord! In middle school, I saw what my team and my family did and began to gain an understanding of the level of dedication it takes for a school like Trinity to continue. When I was a teacher and coach, I only knew what happened in my classroom and with my team, but as a principal, I can now see it all. I see Fr. Brian, the parish staff, and the administrative team work tireless hours coordinating all the events on this campus and abroad. I see all the staff members’ efforts to maintain our campus and educate our youth. I see our countless volunteers work fundraisers, Bingo, and serve during sporting events. For sports, I also see the athletic director, our coaches, and the student-athlete’s hours and hours of work and dedication it takes to run successful programs.

Now, back to my resistance and fear of losing that small school feeling. When we left the “Barn,” some people thought we could never get the energy from the “Barn” into the Horn Center. While the energy in the “Barn” was special and different, I have seen it since we stopped playing there. For example, at Owensboro Catholic three volleyball seasons

ago, I saw it as our team made the regional championship game. People thought the bleachers in Owensboro Catholic’s gym were going to collapse, and the referees were asked to quiet our student section. The smallest school and the smallest community in that 3rd Region Tournament, by far, brought the biggest crowds! I have to shout out our school’s winningest program for absolutely representing us with pride and class! We saw it again in the Horn Center in the 3rd Region Volleyball Tournament this year as we filled the seats, and if we weren’t at capacity, we were close. That small school feeling truly has to do with the community support, loyalty, and love of the people. That is what makes us who we are! As we say goodbye to the Barn, which has meant so much to us and has served us well for 53 years, I will continue to pray that we never lose sight of who we are, the work ethic we have, and the love and dedication for the Raider Nation. More than anything, I pray we remember every person who works to keep Catholic education not only surviving, but thriving in our communities! Over the years, people have told me that sports are not that important, but from my perspective, sports truly help build leaders who can work together for the common good. Most importantly, I see great evangelization happen through our sports programs, and I pray we always show Christ to the rest of the world and continue to keep God first in all we do. For with God, nothing is impossible!

Blessings to you and yours,

**Emily Hernandez**

PRINCIPAL

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I was four years old, but, that day, I went to basketball practice instead of cheer practice and basketball has been an important part of my life since.

I was in middle school when I began to understand that running a gym took a lot of dedication from so many volunteers! I am glad I had those innocent years and I am thankful so many of our kids had those innocent years as well; kids should not have to worry about adult concerns. My perspective changed when my dad became the booster club treasurer and my mom assisted him with a lot of the work. After a game, we would all sit on the floor and roll coins until every dime and penny was rolled so Mom could make the deposit the next day. She was always running to stock the concession stand and do anything else she could do to help. I remember gym clean-up and asking, "Why do we have to do all of this?" Mom and Dad quickly informed me that it took all of us to run a facility like a gym in our community and that we work for everything, nothing is handed to us.

Another memory from the old gym is when the Trinity High School boys took on Cloverport during the 1988-1989 season, and the game went into five overtimes! What a phenomenal game, and I am still impressed by the will those players had. (The Raiders did come out on top that night, too!) The determination of those two teams to compete is etched in my memory. Fast forward out of my middle school years to my high school years, and I remember how proud I was when I began wearing that Trinity jersey. I felt a part of something special, something much larger than myself! I also remember the wonderful support from the community and how much fun it was when our boys' basketball team won the second district championship in 1993 right there in the "Blue Barn." The crowd was intense, and we were all banging on the metal walls so loudly that they made us stop because the goal was shaking. We went on cheering without hitting the walls, and it was so loud the Breckinridge County Tigers argued that the buzzer had gone off before the final shot. Regardless, the Trinity High School boys were the 1993 11th District Champs, and they sure had a great sixth man with our crowd! A couple of years later, I was at college celebrating from afar when my sister was on the girl's first 11th District Championship Team in 1997 as the lone senior. The team then repeated as district champions in 1998! I was so happy for them, and I remember thinking that I always wanted to achieve that wonderful accomplishment.

When I finished college, I returned to Trinity and began

teaching and coaching. Those five years stand out as some of my fondest memories besides my time with my husband and sons. It was a time in which I grew a lot and learned about teaching people more than just content, and the teams during that time were so much fun to watch. Those students and players taught me as much as I taught them. From 2001 to 2005, our boys and girls basketball teams brought home five more district championships and won seven All "A" 3rd Region Tournaments, making appearances at seven All "A" State Tournaments. A few of our Lady Raiders were daughters of the 1979 District Championship team, and they were raised by champions. They seemed to have a clear understanding of what it took to win championships, and those girls worked diligently in season and out of season to become champions. Those years were so much fun, and I can remember my dad telling me, "You may go ahead and coach somewhere else, but I don't think you will ever have any more fun coaching than with these girls right here." He was not wrong; they were a special group!

During that time as a teacher and coach, I also got an even clearer understanding of what it took to make a place like Trinity High School operate. Specifically for the gym, I can remember Jimmy Aud and Tommy Conder in the gym working tirelessly. Jimmy was running dances, collecting dues, and doing whatever it took to keep the place going. Tommy was always there to fix anything that would break. One night, we were playing a game and one of the scoreboards went out. A little while later I looked up and saw Tommy walk in, and he began to crawl up that ladder and I said, "Who called him?" Tommy had just got out of the hospital from having what I remember to be some sort of heart procedure! Those two were as tough as any two I have ever seen, and they gave up their own time for our benefit. For me, those two men were true examples of showing Christ through dedication and hard work.

Fast forward another 10 years, and we were hearing about the possibility of a new gym. My first instinct was, "I really don't want a new gym. I like the one we have." That was the statement I gave my dad. He was on the committee to build a new gym, and he told me, "Well, you may want to start thinking further ahead for your grandkids and their kids. That gym won't make it through them." I stopped and began to think. Someone thought ahead for me, and I had to think ahead for future generations. Why was I so resistant? Why did I truly not want to make that change? It was for my fear

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# TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL APPEAL

Keeping tuition costs affordable for our school families is no easy task, as there is a consistent difference between the total expenses required to educate our students and the combined funding from tuition fees and the parish subsidy. To address this difference, we fundraise!

We created our annual appeal for this purpose, which is vital to our fundraising efforts. From these yearly appeals to bingo to our Thanksgiving social, all of these fundraisers go towards bridging the gap. Last year, our THS friends and family donated \$11,198.52 to the annual appeal!

**Our annual appeal goal this year is \$15,000!** Please consider donating any amount you can. We thank you in advance for your generosity in helping us close the financial gap that tuition alone does not cover! We believe in Trinity High School's importance to our students and this community. This school will be around for generations to come because of the prayers and devotion of its leaders, faculty, staff, and community. We know the education and foundation provided by Trinity High School are well worth the investments we are all making, and we are forever grateful for you and the support you provide to this effort.



Scan the code above to give online now!

## RAIDER REPORT

Happy Summer! As another school year ends, so does another season of Trinity Athletics. This year, Trinity hosted the softball "All A" Tournament and the baseball 12th District Tournament. In preparation for hosting these tournaments came much-needed upgrading to the fields with replacements to both fields' backstop netting. Baseball and softball both had young teams, but they each worked hard and had competitive seasons. Softball, in particular, had an impressive record of 15 wins and 10 losses. The Raider baseball team is coached by Ethan Maxey, and the Lady Raiders softball team is coached by Jessica Morris.

Hawaiian native Chad O'Helo became the new head coach for our Boys Volleyball Team, leading the boys to an exciting season. The KHSAA has established boys volleyball as a sport and will be hosting state championships in the 2024-2025 school year, and the Raiders Volleyball team will be ready to be one of the first teams to compete for KHSAA Boys Volleyball next spring.

A new addition to Trinity Sports this year is Track and Field. While we do not have a track of our own, our students continued working hard by practicing in the parking lots, conditioning in the Horn Center, and traveling to compete. Our athletes competed in the 1600m, 800m & 400m run, shot

put, discus throw, long jump, triple jump, and high jump. The team is coached by Christina Hawkins.

Archery is still going strong at Trinity. The team is still practicing and will continue to compete through the summer. The archery head coach is Josh Payne.

Esports, coached by Aaron "Bubba" Knott, started back up this year. The team had a great time learning how to work together online during the meets and loved competing as a group with other schools.

The bass fishing team continues to grow and succeed. This year, Carson Fitzgerald and Brady McBrayer qualified for the KHSAA State Tournament held at Kentucky Lake, and the pair brought home third place. The entire team was treated to a parade and celebration when returning to school on Monday! Head coach for the Raider fishing team is BJ Fitzgerald.

The future for Raider Athletics continue to look bright. I hope you all have a wonderful summer!

**Debbie Connor**  
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR



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