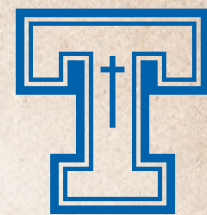




# The Trinity Message



TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL ● ALUMNI NEWSLETTER ● 2024-25 SEMESTER 1

## FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

After 25 years in education, I am ecstatic to attend school daily. I have learned many things through the years, and I am thankful for the opportunity to build relationships with over 2,500 students to date. Twenty-five years ago, I walked into my classroom as a 23-year-old teacher, nervous but excited. It was what I had dreamed of since I was 15 years old. Multiple people tried to change my career path and told me how I could make more money doing other things. I am not rich monetarily today, but I have never been hungry a day in my life, have always been able to pay my bills, and I truly feel rich in many other ways. I have learned many things through the years, but a few lessons stand out. I know that God must be at the center of every decision, building others is much better than tearing others down, forgiveness is key in education, and love is always the answer.

"God first" is our tagline at Trinity High School. The phrase was selected a few years back when our Trinity High School board knew we could not change the mission statement because all of the pieces were necessary, but we wanted something more concise. When we polled our students on what they

thought Trinity High School was all about, they used words like faith, family, and education, and we kept trying to put those words in a catchy phrase. Anna McDaniel walked into my office and said, "God first. That is our tagline." I agreed, and so did the school board. I have had multiple people ask me about our "God first" shirts, and I always say it is far more than a logo on a shirt; it truly is our way of life! I have worked with administrators from other schools and they say they cannot work the faith pieces into the day. I have explained that God truly is the center of what we do and every decision we make. When we operate with Christ as our focus, we are in harmony and things run smoothly. God first is our way and we truly are ALL IN for Christ.

I love building leaders all around me! When people say, "I don't know how you do what you do," I normally respond with something like, "It is God who gives me grace, and it is a village here, not just me." We love to educate at Trinity High School. We love to serve at Trinity High School. We work for Christ and our mission is emulated to our students from every adult in this building. In a world that is ready to tear down and beat up everyone for any

mistake ever made, we look to learn with our students and build them and ourselves into the disciples for which God intends us to be.

Forgiveness is key in every facet of our lives, but to be an educator, you must be capable of forgiveness. Twenty-five years ago, I decided I would start each day fresh! If a student had said or done something they should not have the class before, I would not focus on that and give them a fresh start the next day. It was a key decision that I made, and I have carried it for the last 4,300 days that I have worked as an educator. God gives us mercy and grace and as educators, we must give these students mercy and grace to be human. We are not perfect but we strive for excellence and must forgive when mistakes occur and start again. Students will say to me, "Remember when I did..." I normally say, "I don't. I can look it up in our discipline management system, but I moved past that when it happened." We discipline and help students make the right decisions, but our disciplinary



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issues continue to decline as they have over the last few years. The decision to forgive and start fresh daily is critical in building a positive climate and culture!

One of our focuses as educators at Trinity High School is to see, hear, and love every student who attends. We also see, hear, and love one another. The example we give in how we treat one another is key to how our students treat the adults in the building and their peers. Our environment is phenomenal because

we truly love every person who enters our school. We are not perfect, but we seek excellence daily and choose to love God and others. The Bible mentions the word love approximately 400 times, so God must have wanted us to love! It is the only way and we will continue to see, hear, and love our students.

After 25 years in education, I am thankful to walk into Trinity High School and work with these students. I have been around long enough at this point that I have

many "grandstudents" (the children of my former students). It gives me pure joy watching this generation of students learn, serve, and become the disciples for which God intends! I thank God for entrusting me with this important task and I am forever grateful for your love, prayers, and support. GO RAIDERS!

God bless you all,

**Emily Hernandez**  
PRINCIPAL

## RAIDER REPORT

It's great to be back in this amazing community and once again be a part of Trinity athletics. This place truly is something special. I love how everyone rallies behind these student-athletes and programs, which continue to compete at a high level despite our small school size.

Our girls' volleyball team recently captured the 12th District Tournament championship again, continuing their strong tradition of success. Cross country had a great season under new head coach and Boston Marathon runner Travis Roby. On the golf course, our boys' team competed well with nine athletes under first-year head coach Neal Kirkpatrick, while our girls' team was led by Magan Hayden and had two golfers qualify for the All 'A' state championship. We're looking forward to watching all of these programs continue to grow.

Our Esports team, led by Bubba Knott, qualified for state in multiple categories this year, a huge accomplishment for a program still gaining momentum. Both our girls' and boys' basketball teams have made significant improvements and are off to a solid start this season. Our wrestling team, while young, has shown great promise and recently returned from a successful tournament in Robertson County, Alabama, under new head coach Curtis Martinson. Coach Martinson brings a wealth of experience to the program, and we're excited to see continued progress.

Archery and bass fishing are both gearing up for a success-

ful spring. The bass fishing team currently features nine anglers with four boats and will begin competitions on February 15. Archery is also off to a great start as they prepare for their upcoming season.

Baseball and softball have begun preseason workouts. We recently installed new sod on the infield of the baseball field, overseeded both fields, and added Alabama red dirt to improve the facilities further. These upgrades will help us host several major events this year, including the 12th District Softball Tournament, the 3rd Region All 'A' Baseball Classic, and the 3rd Region Baseball Tournament at Whitesville Community Park.

A special thank you goes to Mayor Patsy Mayfield, Frankie Fulkerson, and everyone at the city for their continued support of our athletic programs. Many individuals from the community gave their time and effort to make significant improvements to our ball diamonds ahead of the season.

We have great athletes, great administrators, great coaches, and great fans. It's always a great day to be a Raider!

Regards,

**John Kirkpatrick**  
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Trinity High School and St. Mary of the Woods School



# OWN A PIECE OF ATHLETIC HISTORY

We left it all on the floor! "The barn" memorabilia pieces are available for purchase at home games, the parish office, or the school office. Each piece is \$50 and all proceeds will benefit the capital campaign.

#iwasthere #ourpastpresentfuture #wearetrinity



## Alumni SPOTLIGHT

Would you like to share an achievement  
in The Trinity Message?

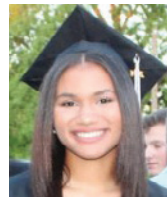
Share your news with the advancement office  
at 270.233.5533 or [anna.mcdaniel@trinityhs.com](mailto:anna.mcdaniel@trinityhs.com).

### Jessica Heffinger '04,

Executive Director of Glory Baby Ministry, was named as an official member of Forbes Nonprofit Council. The Council is an invitation only organization for senior level Executives of successful Nonprofit organizations. Members are respected leaders who are selected for the council based on the depth and diversity of experience as leaders in nonprofit organizations.

Glory Baby Ministry specializes in burial gown or memorial packages for parents grieving a miscarriage, stillbirth or infant loss (up to 12lbs).

Visit [glorybabyministry.org](http://glorybabyministry.org) for more details.



Katherine Hibbitt '22 graduated from Frontier Community College and signed on to continue her softball career at Oakland City University.

Cassidy Morris '22 graduated from Rend Lake University and signed on to continue her basketball career at Brescia University.



Gavin Howard '24 performed on the Grand Ole Opry stage this past summer.



Travis Roby '05 ran in the 128th Boston Marathon on April 15, 2024.



Dakota Hayden '22 reached Hollywood Week on seasons 20 and 21 of American Idol.



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#wearetrinity



# *New School* — UPDATE —

Campaign Income  
for New School

**\$6,956,058.24**

Campaign Pledges  
(555) as of 1/20

**\$11,968,944.80**

## TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL APPEAL



If you were unable to give to the annual appeal in December, please reconsider a gift to Trinity High School.

**Our alumni and friends make a difference, and your support is appreciated!**



Scan the code above  
to give online now!