

ALL IN

MARK 12:30

TRI-UNITY
CHRISTIAN



THE DEFENDER
FALL 2022

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A LETTER FROM

Deb Blanker

A THANKFUL HEART

I am so thankful for my years at Tri-unity Christian. I am grateful for the people who have spoken into my life, encouraged me, propped me up when I needed help, and let me be vulnerable along the way.

I tell parents and new hires all the time, “this is a unique community”. We have wonderful families and a staff that loves serving Jesus! We love our freedom to worship and pray for each other. We love our Bible classes, sports teams, Christmas Shop and the list goes on.

My journey here has been one of twists, turns and surprises. Thirty-four years ago I wouldn’t have imagined sitting in the seat I sit today, and I am thankful for every minute. Well, almost every minute! It is with a thankful heart I close this season of my life. On June 30, 2023, I will step away from my administrative role and see where the Holy Spirit leads. I am grateful to have been given this opportunity to serve. If not for the encouragement of my predecessor and friend, Lorraine Ophoff, I may have missed some of the biggest blessings of my life.

There are not many people who can end a career and still say “I love my job”. Yet, I do love my job, my families and especially my students. God’s timing isn’t always understood, but it is always perfect. I expect Him to put me to work somewhere and I hope it includes Tri-unity Christian School.

So, formally, I thank my staff and all of you for the best years of my life. You have enriched me, challenged me, and made me better every day. God has great plans for TCS – WATCH FOR IT!!





CITY ON A HILL VISION

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

What Phase 1 includes:

- Construction of 5 new classrooms
- 30 acres of land across the street on Wilson Ave. for future home of new 9-12 HS Campus and Defender Athletic Park
- Payoff of existing \$500K land contract on original elementary building

FUNDRAISING PROGRESS

Total fund goal: \$4M

Total raised to date: \$1,583,599

Total still needed: \$2,416,401

PRAYERS

- The remaining provision of \$2.4M of Phase 1
- Funding and city approval for additional portable classrooms and 9-12 HS campus necessary by 2024-25
- Funding, favor, and wisdom for construction of a 9-12 HS campus on our new 30 acres!

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

2022-23 - Fundraise

2023-24 - Fundraise

2024-25 - Fundraise / add 1st portable / construction of new HS Building + Athletic Park begins

2025-26 - Fundraise / add 2nd portable

2026-27 - NEW 9-12 HS Campus open!



NEW



WINNING



NEW ELEMENTARY WING OPEN!





FALL BANQUET

RAISED OVER **\$153K** THIS YEAR!



Hello Tri-unity Family and Community,

We are so blessed to have a school like Tri-unity Christian to which we send our children and loved ones! A Holy Spirit-filled school that stands on God's Word and is staffed with Christ-following individuals that speak life and truth into our students daily.

To this end, you would be hard pressed to find someone that has served TCS more faithfully and diligently than Mrs. Deb Blanker. Throughout her thirty plus years with TCS, Deb has been a teacher, elementary and high school principal, and for the last twenty years, our Superintendent. Over this time, Deb's duties have grown so large that in most other districts they would be divided among several people. Yet, she has handled her numerous responsibilities with grace and integrity and TCS would not be the incredible school it is today without her. This being said, when she announced her decision to the Board to retire at the end of this 2022-2023 school year, it was met with both sadness and a deep appreciation for all that she has done and meant to TCS throughout her career and many years of leadership. While serving on the Board, I have had the privilege of seeing firsthand her wisdom, selflessness, and dedication to Tri-unity Christian School and to the individuals associated with this community. I can honestly say without reservation that no one has worked harder to make TCS what it is today than Deb Blanker. Thank you, Deb...TCS will forever be grateful for the sacrifice, dedication, and guidance you have demonstrated throughout your time here.

Knowing that we couldn't keep Deb forever, the Board has been working on a succession plan for some time now. I am very pleased to announce that the TCS Board of Trustees has unanimously approved the hiring of Ben Ophoff, our current Director of Development, to be the next Superintendent of Tri-unity Christian School. Ben has proven to be an effective leader and we are excited to see him use his many gifts and talents in this new role. Ben will continue to assume many of his former duties as Director of Development, along with the administrative tasks associated with the Superintendency. With the amount of growth TCS has had over the last few years and the enormous job the Superintendency has become, I am also happy to announce the addition of Kristina Annis as the part-time High School Principal (she will continue teaching AP Psych and AP English) and Jodi Venema as the full-time Elementary Principal. Both roles will help serve as oversight of their respective educational levels will and take on administrative duties to help support our new Superintendent.

It has been and continues to be evident that God's favor rests upon TCS. We are excited for what lies ahead and are confident that the best is yet to come as Tri-unity continues to serve as a "City on a Hill" dedicated to graduating academically excellent disciples of Christ that will advance the Kingdom and bring glory to God!

Blessings,

Justin Knoth

TCS Board President



VARSITY FOOTBALL



DEFENDER ATHLETICS



VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

VARSITY CHEER

Fall of 2022 was a great season to be a Defender! Our Varsity Football team represented well, playing a tough schedule with a possible playoff berth on the line all the way up to the final week of the regular season. Volleyball had a phenomenal regular season, going undefeated in the alliance league, winning the conference for the first time since 2019, but ultimately falling short to Martin in Districts. Our Cross Country team represented themselves well and even had two runners, Tyler Laansma and Brielle Voorhees, get a chance to compete at the State Finals meet. As the weather changes, we look forward to basketballs bouncing and Spring sports that are not too far off in the future.

JV VOLLEYBALL



8TH VOLLEYBALL



7TH VOLLEYBALL



CROSS COUNTRY



MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCCER



OUR STAFF

NEW FACES FOR 2022



COURTNEY ZUDWEG

EL Paraprofessional



KENNEDY HENEVELD

2nd Grade Teacher



ALEXIS KOOIMA

1st Grade Teacher



KAYLA MANNARD

3yr old PS Aide



ILZE CATARINO

4th Grade Teacher



TINA KIPKOSGEI

Librarian



CHAD KOOTS

3rd Grade Teacher



RON BOWER

Maintenance



JOAN BOWER

PLT Supervisor



JENNY YOUNG

1st Grade Teacher



ANGEL CALNIN

MS Teacher



LISA STOWERS

5th Grade Teacher

ALL IN



MARK 12:30

TRI-UNITY
CHRISTIAN

ALL IN! It's a phrase I'm sure you've all heard before. Maybe you've even said it yourself at times. It's a phrase we often use to tell people we are totally committed to something. Most Christians would say they are **ALL IN** with Jesus. That should be obvious right?

But, as I look around our culture, I feel like I don't see much of that. I don't see the sold out followers of Christ like I would hope. Instead, I see a lot of Believers following Jesus when it's convenient for them. They love the parts of the Bible that talk about topics like grace and love, but they don't want to hear anything about obedience or holiness. The result? We have many people who claim to be followers of Jesus, yet they don't obey His Word. This type of lifestyle wasn't uncommon in Jesus' day either. And just like now, He was confused by how people could live this way. In Luke 6:46, Jesus asked a group of people this question, "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?" The word "Lord" means "supreme master." Jesus was confused how someone can call Him their Supreme Master, yet not obey his commands. The same is true for us today.

This is why our theme for the 2022-23 school year is **ALL IN**. We are determined to teach our students what it looks like to be **ALL IN** for Jesus. Our verse for this year is Mark 12:30, "Love the Lord your God with **ALL** your heart and with **ALL** your soul and with **ALL** your mind and with **ALL** your strength." Jesus is telling



CHAD ZUDWEG

Director of Spiritual Life

us what it looks like to follow Him. It means we love Him with **ALL** our heart, soul, mind and strength. Not most of our heart, but **ALL** of it. We are teaching our students that we don't want them to just be fans of Jesus, but true followers. Fans know about Jesus; followers know Jesus.

Our goal is to raise up a generation of true followers of Jesus Christ. Students who don't just claim to be Christians, but show it in the way they live their life. They are **ALL IN**! Our culture is heading down a dark path and we need the body of Christ to rise up and stand up for righteousness, to not give in to the lies of the enemy, and stand up for the truth of the Word of God! Pray that our students catch this message and live out their faith in the way that God intended!

Chad Zudweg



“OUR GOAL IS TO RAISE UP A GENERATION OF TRUE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST. STUDENTS WHO DON’T JUST CLAIM TO BE CHRISTIANS, BUT SHOW IT IN THE WAY THEY LIVE THEIR LIFE. THEY ARE ALL IN!”





WE ARE TEACHING OUR STUDENTS THAT WE DON'T WANT THEM TO JUST BE FANS OF JESUS, BUT TRUE FOLLOWERS. FANS KNOW ABOUT JESUS; FOLLOWERS KNOW JESUS.





LEGACY PARTNERS

Each day brings with it a new assault on Biblically-based education in America. God is being systematically removed from classrooms as a new curriculum seeks to eliminate even the idea that He exists. At Tri-Unity Christian School, we believe truth should never be defined by cultural relativism but rather by God's Word. If His Word says He never changes, then neither can His Truth. Here at TCS, our mission is to graduate academically excellent disciples of Christ who stand firm on God's Truth...but there are many who need a helping hand to embrace this legacy.

+ WHO?

A Legacy Partner is anyone who makes an annual donation of \$1,000 or more towards the gift of a Christian education for a student with qualifying financial need. Gifts are applied toward each current school year and are renewed/declined in March concurrent with re-enrollment for the following school year.

+ WHY?

Over 60% of families at TCS request tuition assistance each year for a total need of over \$200,000. Further still, several more families seek qualified assistance beyond what is available. Consequently, our fundraising goals increase each year to accommodate this growing need and the families qualified to receive it.

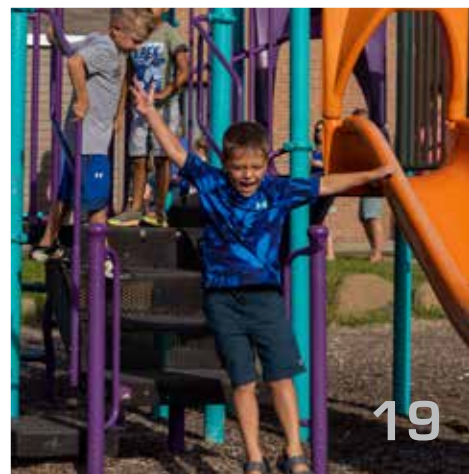


HOW TO BECOME A LEGACY PARTNER:

If you decide to become a Legacy Partner and wish to give online, please go to triunitychristian.org and click the "Become a Legacy Partner" link at the top of the page. Follow the prompts to submit the TCS Legacy Partnership form and donation information safely and securely through our SafeSave payment gateway. For additional information or questions on the Legacy Partner program please contact Ben Ophoff at 616.328.9414 or at beno@triunitychristian.org.



FALL KICKOFF



TRI-UNITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

