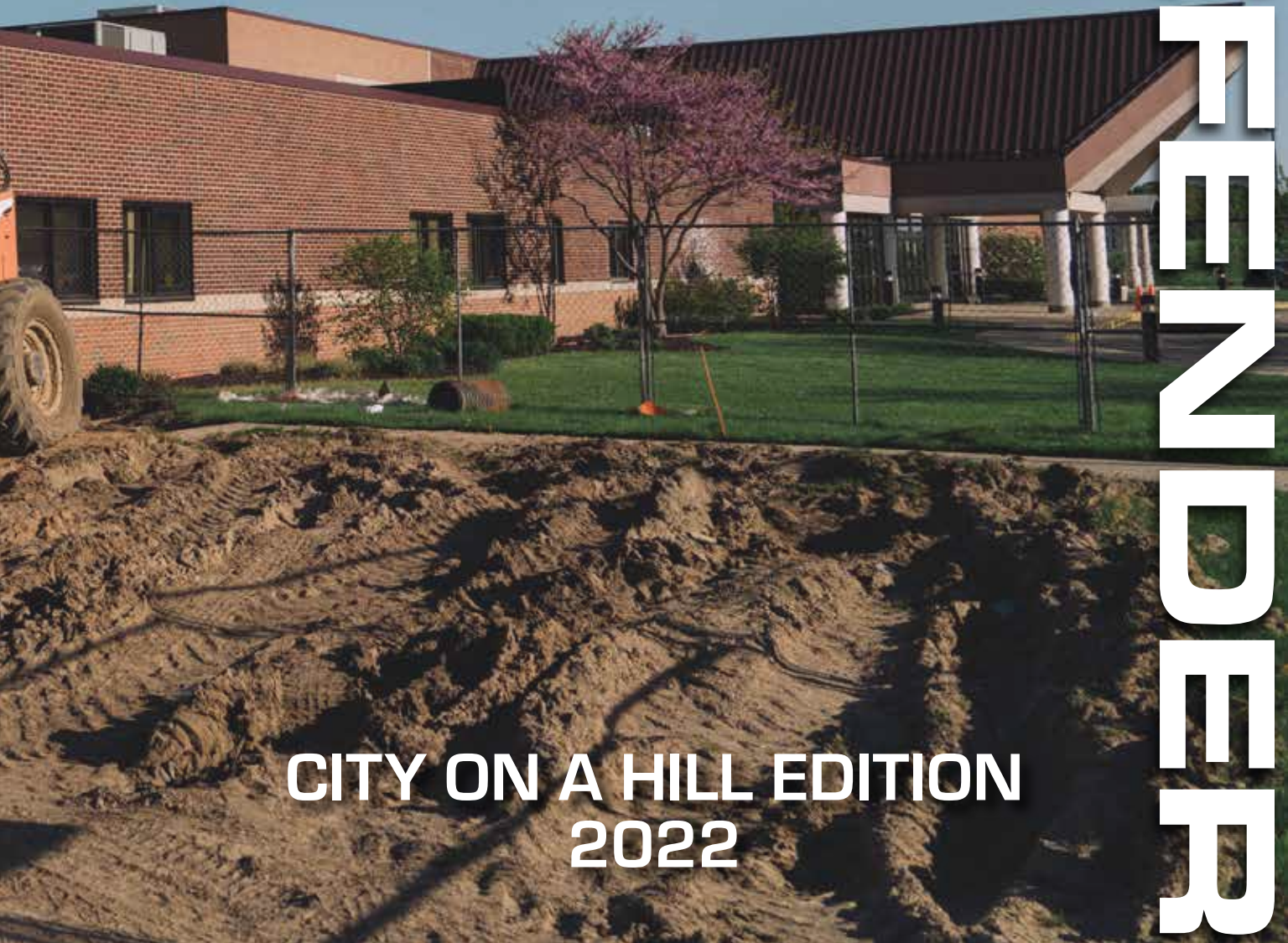




TRI-UNITY
CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL

DEEP ROOTS | STRONG WINGS



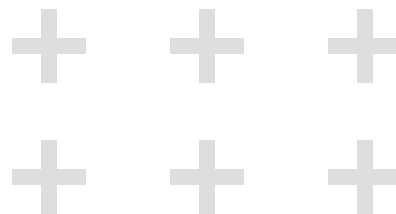
**CITY ON A HILL EDITION
2022**

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A LETTER FROM *the Principal*

A SEASON OF GROWTH

Tri-unity Christian is experiencing its most significant growth cycle since the 1980's. Overnight, we have gone from a small Christian school community to a bustling moderate-size feel. It has been both exciting and daunting.

It is exciting to see families investing into the vision of TCS; partnering with home and church to graduate academically excellent disciples of Jesus Christ. However, it's daunting to disciple our students through the outside influences they face today as absolutes are becoming fewer and fewer.

Tri-unity Christian School was built upon the rock of parental responsibility to train up children 24/7 in the Word of God, in a Spirit-filled learning environment. The outside culture is discouraging families from being part of something that maintains strong Biblical values. Maintaining this mission, holding Biblical truths as absolutes, and closing the door on the world's message is our mantra.

Next year, we forecast an additional 50-75 students will enter into Tri-unity Christian School. As we march forward and introduce this new group of parents and students to TCS, we pray the presence of the Holy Spirit is experienced through the halls, in the classrooms, and each time we meet together.

We are a City on a Hill. May our Light shine Jesus in all we do.

Deb Blanker

Head Administrator

NEW CHALLENGES, GREAT OPPORTUNITY

Hello Tri-unity family and community. It is so exciting to see all of the great things that are happening right now and throughout this entire school year at TCS. The newly renovated “Gymnasium” looks fantastic and will be a huge blessing for many years to come. It is abundantly clear that God is moving and setting Tri-unity Christian School to be a “City on a Hill” at a time when it is needed more than ever. It is also evident that TCS has something the world is looking for as we continue to receive requests for new enrollments and support from outside of our community. As many of you are aware, we are bursting at the seams and continue to grow as more and more families look to partner with TCS in raising generations of disciples that will advance the Kingdom and bring glory to our Heavenly Father.

With this new added growth comes new challenges, but it also presents great opportunities as we seek to do His will and put our confident trust in the Lord that He will provide what we need. I love the Amplified translation of Proverbs 16:3, “Roll your works upon the Lord [commit and trust them wholly to Him; He will cause your thoughts to become agreeable to His will, and] so shall your plans be established and succeed.” God has opened so many doors this year and has provided us with an amazing new piece of property as we continue to expand. We also look forward to the new addition being completed on our existing building and a new parking lot (no more potholes!). While these projects are quite ambitious, we are confident that God will provide as He has done so every step of the way so far. I can confidently speak for everyone on your Board of Trustees that we will continue to seek His will in every decision we make and be obedient to the Holy Spirit.

Thank you to everyone that has given of their time, resources, energy, and prayers to make TCS the great school that it is.

Blessings,

Justin Knoth

TCS Board President





spirit **FOCUSED**

A SPIRITUAL 'LIGHT'

Of the many spiritual highlights this past year, one that shines bright has been the TCS Praise Band. Since the beginning of the school year they have grown together in talent and confidence, but more importantly in their spiritual walk with the Lord. As they have led worship every Thursday at Recharge, they have come to see the importance of worship in a corporate setting along with the hard work that goes into leading each week. Leading worship in front of your peers can be a very intimidating task, but this group has certainly risen to the occasion and gone beyond. Leading worship at elementary Praise Gathering, Muffins for

Moms, and most recently at a local youth group, it has been a joy and privilege watching them shine Jesus through worship, even outside of TCS.

As our school continues to grow in numbers, I am excited to think of who the Lord may bring in and add to our group! As we endeavor as a school to be a light and a 'city on a hill', I am grateful for our TCS Praise Band and the role they play being a part of that vision. The Lord has great plans for TCS and I count it a privilege to be a small part of that vision! To God Be the Glory!

Dawn Petrick



DISCIPLESHIP

RAISING ROLE MODELS

Roots to Wings' is the heartbeat and foundation of Tri-unity. What does Roots to Wings mean? Simply put, it means discipleship. Helping students to become disciples of Christ, growing and maturing in their walk with the Lord and not just a 'convert'. Discipleship is really the heart and soul of our school and one of the ways we implemented this discipleship model was with 8 seniors; 4 ladies and 4 gentlemen. These students were handpicked due to their testimony, fruit of their life, and their love for Jesus as evidenced in their everyday life. Mrs. Petrick had the privilege of working with the 4 ladies as they mentored our 7th and 8th grade girls once a week during Bible. Some days it was a tough barrier to break through, but these ladies persevered and built relationships with the younger ladies

through servant leadership, teaching God's word and praying over them. Mr. Sherrod worked with the 4 guys as they worked with the 7th and 8th grade boys. They discussed and modeled relevant issues such as God's direction in a confusing world, standing up and doing what is right in the face of persecution and ridicule, finding true identity in one's relationship with the Lord, and the importance of receiving the truth of God's Word with the faith of a child.

It's exciting to see how the Lord continues to use our older students in modeling discipleship to the younger generations! The youth being a City on a Hill!

† Dawn Petrick & † Don Sherrod



+ A LETTER FROM *the Athletic Director*

The 2021-2022 season had a sense of normalcy to it compared to just a year prior. With a lot of COVID-19 restrictions that we faced a year ago lifted, it gave our student athletes and coaches a sense of relief to not constantly be battling the unknown. Our fall season (2021) was off to a great start with Football and Soccer competing hard and our Volleyball team also had an outstanding season, and under Coach Petrick, advanced to the Regional Final, where they fell a little short. The 2021 Spiritual Life theme of “Raise the Bar” was put into place by our fall coaches, and I am excited to see how our teams build on this success in the fall of 2022.

Just like the fall, it was nice for our winter athletes to return to normal as well. A full gym at Friday night basketball games felt like forever ago, but it was good to see the community able to be back out and supporting our Defenders. Both our Boys and Girls Varsity teams had successful years. The Girls lost a close, competitive game in Districts, while our Boys made it all the way to the end of the season and capped it off with a State Championship, our fifth in program history! We had a few long-held records on the Boys’ side get re-written this year by Brady Titus. Most notably, he broke the scoring record for most points in a game, season, and career. As we moved forward to spring, the

change of weather brought plenty of new opportunities. It was nice to be able to be back outside, enjoying God’s creation, while cheering on our baseball, golf, and soccer teams! For the second and third time in program history we had two golfers (Owen Rosendall and Hezekiah Noble) qualify for the State Championship. Additionally, our boy’s baseball team won the Alliance League Conference Championship, but fell just short of a district championship in the title game.

With the continued growth of our school, it is only natural to think of “what’s next” for Tri-Unity Athletics. While it is exciting to dream about the new school and Defender Athletic Park that will one day be our home, we are grateful to God for the many blessings He has currently given us. We have a great set of coaches that continue to “Raise the Bar” and be good examples for our student athletes. We have great families to support and cheer on our teams. And we have great students, who represent our school well, on and off the playing surface. Thank you all for your support of Tri-Unity Athletics! Go Defenders!

Evan Przybysz

Evan Przybysz: High School Athletic Director



STATE + + + CHAMPS

2021-22 BOYS BASKETBALL





CITY ON A HILL

V I S I O N

My drive to school each morning is relatively short. About 5 miles or 12 minutes, depending on how you like to measure your commute. It's just enough time for me to get a good start on my first cup of coffee and listen to the live version of "Waymaker" on many mornings. It's also just enough time for me to audibly lift up the various cares and concerns, fears and favor, I'm seeking from God for that day and beyond. You know what I'm talking about...we all have our morning commute routines.

But about 18 months ago, I started adding something else to my morning routine. As I drove down 52nd St. between Ivanrest and Wilson one morning, I happened to look to the South and saw this familiar stretch of open land. I knew this land because I had walked this land. I knew this land because I had stared at this land through my office window for the last few years since the MS/HS joined the Elementary on one campus back in 2017. But on this day, I started praying for this land and what this land could mean for the future of TCS. So I continued to pray...on nearly every morning commute from then on. And not just myself, I knew others were praying too. And while we may all wonder what begins to stir in the Spirit realm when we pray, what I know for sure is that nothing short of miraculous came to pass nearly a year later when God's favor and provision collided to make Tri-unity Christian School the proud owners of 30 acres of new ground!

As if this miraculous provision of new land wasn't spectacular enough, it coincided with a record number of enrollment as 89 new families and 128 new students made TCS

"You are the world's light—a city on a hill, glowing in the night for all to see. Don't hide your light! Let it shine for all; let your good deeds glow for all to see, so that they will praise your heavenly Father."

MATTHEW 5:14-16

their new home for Christian education and the City on a Hill Vision was born! Who would have thought that just a few short months later would see the launch of this Vision as we began immediate construction of five new classrooms and a much needed parking lot expansion and resurfacing.

Tri-unity Christian School has existed for over 40 years with a call to raise up generations of Christ-followers, equipped with a comprehensive understanding of His Word and a knowledge of the world He created. While our mission remains constant, God has made it abundantly clear that He is calling Tri-unity to a new level of educational and spiritual influence—one that requires us to take bold stands and even bolder steps of faith. And ultimately, one that calls us to be a City on a Hill, both figuratively and literally.

Five miles and twelve minutes. Just enough time for God to begin the extraordinary. What's He beginning to do in your commute?



Director of Development

"GOD HAS MADE IT ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT HE IS CALLING TRI-UNITY TO A NEW LEVEL OF EDUCATIONAL AND SPIRITUAL INFLUENCE, ONE THAT REQUIRES US TO TAKE BOLD STANDS AND EVEN BOLDER STEPS OF FAITH."



PHASE 1

READY HARVEST

- + 5 ELEMENTARY CLASSROOMS
- + A NEW SET OF RESTROOMS
- + COMPLETE RESURFACING OF EXISTING PARKING LOTS
- + EXPANSION OF PARKING IN FRONT AND REAR LOTS
- + ADDITIONAL PARKING LOT EXIT ON WILSON AVE
- + PAY OFF REMAINING LAND CONTRACT BALANCE
- + PURCHASE OF 30 ACRE LAND PLOT ON WILSON AVE
IN PREPARATION FOR PHASE 2

TOTAL AMOUNT NEEDED: \$4,000,000



PHASE 2

NEW GROUND

- + CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW 9-12 HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING
- + CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW SPIRITUAL LIFE AUDITORIUM
- + RETIREMENT OF REMAINING LOAN ON THE CURRENT
- + CONSTRUCTION OF DEFENDER ATHLETIC PARK:
FOOTBALL/SOCCER STADIUM, BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL
FIELDS, AND CONCESSIONS/LOCKER ROOMS

TOTAL AMOUNT NEEDED: TBD



ALUMNI CONNECTION CLASS OF 2013

Katie (Wierenga) Trimble

Soccer was a big part of your life at Tri-unity and you compiled quite a career. How far was soccer able to take you and how did those experiences help shape you into who you are and what you are doing today?

I played soccer post college semi-professionally and professionally for 3 seasons. I was on the roster with teams in North Carolina and England, and was even able to play with a few USA women's national team players while being coached by my dream coach at the time.

This was a really exciting period of life because I could 100% dedicate myself to something I loved with nothing else competing for my attention! I was able to put my dream out there, which felt very vulnerable. That in particular gave me confidence to continue to run after things that I love despite the fear, even now. It was also very stretching, since soccer is a sport based on taking risks while still needing to keep good stats. There was plenty of pressure, and I realized how much I thrive off challenges as well as how to be okay with mistakes.



In addition, each season, I switched teams and countries, so it took effort to find a place on the team, make friends, and adjust to the new city. This showed me how much I crave community and the ability to invest in long term relationships, a church, and being near family. It helped me fully jump into my life now in Grand Rapids and embrace settling down.

Life has changed a lot for you since “hanging up your boots.” What does a day in the life of Katie Trimble look like today?

I work from home these days for Amway as an Experience Designer. It is a fancy term for someone who studies how users interact with digital experiences like websites and apps. Companies cannot afford to make every digital idea they can think of, so my position helps the team identify user problems, explore new ways to solve user's problems, and guide decisions of where to invest.

Outside of work, no day is ever the same! It is a lot of learning new things. Sometimes that means I am learning how to refurbish historic windows and other days it means I am figuring out adulting skills like grilling or taking care of a hot tub. It also includes a good amount of time with friends and family, but every day is really quite different.

In addition to your day job, you've recently made the huge leap into the world of a small business owner. Why now? Why choose that industry? What are the risks vs. rewards?

A year and a half ago, I purchased a bed & breakfast that now operates as a wedding venue, known as Alden Orchards. I always



wanted to be an entrepreneur, and the market was prime after many weddings were delayed during Covid, causing a high demand for venues the following years. I spiritually knew this was where God was leading me, but it still came with some nervous, sleepless nights.

The biggest motivator for the wedding business was the opportunity to restore the 1885 home and to explore interior design over the next few years of renovations. That reward has not quite come to fruition yet, but in the meantime, the business allows me to see the support of my family and all the effort they have made to invest in this adventure. It really means the world to me. They even went to the extent of helping me host my own wedding on the property last summer, which was really special.

The venue has increased my confidence in taking business risks and makes other ideas

in the future seem more feasible. I can now dream even bigger.

The TCS Community has traditionally always supported its own by using community-owned businesses and contractors when possible. How could someone reading this and looking for a new chic wedding venue get a hold of you to find out more?

I would love to host celebrations with those from the TCS community! The space is open for weddings along with hosting midweek workshops/retreats (unfortunately unable to offer the space for open houses...). You can visit AldenOrchards.com for more information and to connect and it would be great to know that you are from the Tri-unity community in your inquiry! And for those simply looking to connect, you can follow along @aldenorchards on Instagram. I hope our paths cross!

NEW DEFENDER ALUMNI NETWORK!

SIGN UP HERE

tcsdefederalumni.searchwavelength.com



POINT. SCAN. RECONNECT.



meet the Schneiders



How did you hear about Tri-unity Christian School and why did you decide to send your kids here?

We had a lot of friends in our community already a part of the TCS family. We loved our previous school, but didn't have peace with the direction we saw public education heading. After MUCH prayer, we felt God leading us to Tri-Unity.

What have been your favorite parts of life at TCS?

Definitely the freedom! As parents, we know we are the first influence in our children's lives. I love that TCS doesn't stifle that but encourages it! The staff supports and encourages the whole child; spirit, soul and body. It's not just about the grades.

The Schneider Family is a unique blend. What's your story?

Travis and I married at 19 and had 3 kids by age 25. In the following 5 years we felt a strong calling from the Lord, through His word, to deeply love beyond the walls of our home. We knew adoption was for us but didn't know how to make it work financially. God made a way where we saw no way and we adopted Owen in 2009 and Adelyn in 2012, both from Ethiopia. God has continued to draw us near to the children of Ethiopia through ministry, family partnership, and child sponsorship. We have been there 5 times and plan to continue this connection.

What is one thing you would want the TCS Community to know about the Schneider's?

Honestly, we are broken people serving a really great God. We will do our best to serve our school community in humility and love but we might fall short. Thank God for his grace and mercy to allow us to get up and try again the next day. We're grateful for that.

Now for the most important question of the Spotlight: If you had to describe the Schneider Family as a type of candy, which one would they be and why?

I'm gonna say a Hershey Bar because we work well with others. You can use a plain, ordinary Hershey bar in many recipes, with smores, or enjoy them alone. We're an ordinary family willing to be versatile and flexible for the sake of making something great.

Last question. What would you recommend to new or prospective families to get the full TCS experience?

First, I would recommend a meeting with our fearless leader, Deb Blanker. I would also recommend they meet some staff, attend a praise gathering and a sporting event. I think that could give a new family a really good feel for the TCS culture.



COUNSELOR

COORNER

FINDING TRUE NORTH

Some of the exciting student development programs we are working on here at Tri-unity include programs like 'Flex Mod Scheduling', Dual Enrollment, Career Exploration, and adding more AP courses, just to name a few! We are working to implement a new program that encompasses both discipleship AND career/calling development, helping students find their True North'. The Lord certainly has a plan and purpose for each of our students and we are committed to helping them find that path. Attached is an overview of what we are currently developing and are very excited to implement this plan beginning next year!

Capstone-12th Grade

Learning and growing in practical 21st century skills for your post-high school experience.

Calling & Career Exploration—10th Grade

Exploring spiritual gifts, career interests, preparing for the SAT, beginning job shadows. Ministry? College? Vocation?



Compass-11th Grade

Finalizing plans for post-high school; Take the SAT; college and career visits; Looking ahead

Connect—9th Grade

Helping freshman prepare for high school life, socially and academically

Helping students find their 'true north' while shaping academically excellent disciples of Christ

“FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU, SAYS THE LORD. PLANS TO PROSPER YOU AND NOT HARM YOU, PLANS TO GIVE YOU A HOPE AND A FUTURE.” JER 29:11

OUR STAFF

NEW FACES FOR 2021/2022



SARAH BERNARD

2-9 Art Teacher

GRCC

Enjoys to workout, play volleyball, travel, and create art.



TOM HOLT

HS History, Economics Teacher

Bob Jones University and
Ashland University

I enjoy bike riding, playing golf and pickleball.



RUTH KAERCHER

**MS and HS Spanish, Calculus,
Consumer Math Teacher**

Cedarville University

**I love to play tennis/pickleball,
spend time with family, hike, read,
and crochet.**



ANNA BERHOW

1st Grade Teacher

Emmaus Bible College

**Enjoys hiking, baking, reading,
and spending time at the beach
with friends.**

AUBRIE VANDERMALE

Young 5's Teacher
GRCC

**Enjoys hiking with my dog and husband
and spending time up north boating
with my family.**



AIMEE WEIBER

Young 5's Teacher Aide

**Enjoys doing hair and spending time with my
family in our pool or at Sandy Pines. Taking
golf cart rides, going to the beach, campfires,
listening to music, and going to concerts.**



KATE BIRDSALL

Y5-1 Art Teacher
GRCC

**Enjoys gardening, creating, reading, being
with family and friends**





MOLLY KEEN

EL Special Education Teacher

Taylor University

Enjoys camping, hiking, exploring new places with my family.



HOLLY MURPHY

EL Spanish Teacher

GRCC

I like to hike, go to the beach, cook, and salsa dance.



SHANNON SCHNEIDER

6th Grade Teacher Aide

GRCC

I love camping, the beach, being outdoors, and spending time with my family.

BRAD KAIGHEN

PT Maintenance

Michigan State University

**I love hanging out with the family,
mountain biking, riding dirt bikes, playing
golf, snowboarding, and camping.**



CHERYL KEELER

3rd Grade Teacher

Grace College - Winona Lake

Enjoys taking walks and crafting.



ELIZABETH LAUNSTEIN

4th Grade Teacher Aide

Grand Valley State University

**I love watching my kids play sports, going
to the beach, warm weather, and hanging
with my family.**





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 50% 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 trinitychristian.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@trinitychristian.org.

**VISIT US ONLINE AT
WWW.TRIUNITYCHRISTIAN.ORG**



TCS
AT YOUR FINGERTIPS



DEEP ROOTS | STRONG WINGS



Crafted by David & Brook