

July - September

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Trinity Academy News

From the Administrator's Desk: Mr David Murray

Scripture reminds us to be attentive to the Lord and to consider the steadfast love of the Lord in every occasion (Psalm 107:43). This year so far has been remarkable, and though we are faced with challenges, we are bolstered in knowing that we are linked to our brethren who have throughout history faced confrontation and persevered through the greatest and most difficult of times. We are told to persevere with integrity in our service to God and our neighbors. For the leadership, faculty, and staff at Trinity Academy this means prayerfully planning our day-to-day policies and practices to most faithfully serve our families. As Abraham Lincoln once said, "The best thing about the future is that it comes one day at a time."

Our reliance on God's Word and the vision cast for Trinity frame our decisions. Our mission states that we are called to be "a beacon of hope in the community ... to nurture joyful children whose hearts are inspired to love God and mankind... [to] discern what is true, good, and beautiful; and ... [to] speak with eloquence to boldly proclaim and defend Truth." To achieve these goals, we partner with parents as we provide a classical Christian education and rest in Christ's work.

These past couple of weeks, the Trinity Academy Board and I have been prayerfully examining our mission in light of the state of the world, specifically as it relates to Covid-19 and all the changes that this pandemic has brought into our world. In making decisions, we have agonized and lost sleep and, like Nehemiah, petitioned the Lord to direct our minds to His perfect will. We desire a clear conscience and solid confidence in the Lord, so that we may know that, in the strength of submission, God may be glorified through who we are and what we do at Trinity.

Our first month back

In light of this, we have had to make some hard decisions in this first month of school. Although we had a joyful reunion with students in August and continued to teach and serve them in our physical space for the first month, with one teacher contracting Covid after a visit home with family, another teacher's spouse and then several parents also independently testing positive, it was necessary that the entire 6th and then 4th grade classes be put into quarantine. And while other classes were still meeting in person, some families opted for distance learning as well, and so class attendance diminished. Therefore, our Administrator along with the board prayerfully decided that it would be best to take a two week hiatus beginning September 19th with classes resuming October 5th.

The following is excerpted from a letter written by Mr. Murray to Trinity staff and families:

On behalf of all teachers, staff, and leaders at Trinity Academy, thank you for partnering with us during what is probably our most abnormal, yet heartfelt and supportive launch to any school year. No parent or teacher would voluntarily choose a pandemic as a backdrop to a student's education; nevertheless we cannot help but praise God for being surrounded by such a continual outpouring of grace and love in this time of upheaval. As I visited classrooms this



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past month, I was enthralled by the pure exuberance on our students' faces and the delight in learning that has been displayed each day. The overwhelming eagerness from our whole community has been moving, and I cannot help but praise God daily for His work that is being done at Trinity Academy. May we continue to trust Him with everything and that He continue to get all the glory! As you know, this month has also not been easy. Families are and have been making the best decisions in light of the knowledge and wisdom that we have been given. Students have tested positive much earlier than we anticipated, and yet our families and teachers have been filled with persistent charity towards one another and towards Trinity. We are a family, we are the body of Christ, and we are unified in that love towards a common purpose.

Yesterday, I met and prayed with the Trinity Academy Board regarding our mission and vision regarding these past few weeks of school, and the next couple of weeks. Together, we sought discernment and decided that it would be best to move to distance learning for the next two weeks through Thursday, Oct. 1st. This was not a decision made lightly, but rather this was determined in order to be good stewards of our teachers and families, to thoroughly and deeply clean the school, and to collectively take a breath. This past week we have found ourselves with only a small percentage of students and teachers able to attend, which has also fed into our decision to go remote for the next two weeks. Our teachers will work with students and families to make this transition as smooth as possible.

Though this is not ideal and it pains us to not have the classrooms bustling with joyful laughter, we know this is just for a short season. If you would, please join with me in giving thanks to God for the days that He has given us. In an environment overshadowed by COVID-19 and the potential of outbreaks, I think it is important that we recognize the gift that we have been given this past month, and to pray that God is pleased to give us more. Trinity Academy is committed to keeping its physical doors open for as long as it remains safe to do so, and that is entirely dependent on the goodness of God, and on a healthy dose of our own prudence as a community. Please continue to pray for one another and for Trinity Academy throughout the year. 'Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain' (Psalm 127:1a).

Highlights

Workdays

Work days scheduled for Friday, July 31st and Saturday, August 1st saw many in our TA family preparing the school for the much anticipated arrival of our students. We painted, moved furniture, cleaned, and reorganized classrooms. We offer sincere thanks to all who helped on these days, who continued to work hard afterwards as well to get the school clean and disinfected before classes began. We especially appreciate the ongoing sacrifice and commitment of time and effort made by one local couple. Since last spring, they have volunteered to take on most of the custodial work on an ongoing basis. In large part because of their efforts, the school is sanitary and orderly, and we are deeply grateful.



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Enrollment

It seems fitting that we begin our 7th year at TA with 77 students enrolled. We have added two levels this year, Preschool and our first Rhetoric class of 10th grade. Logic / Rhetoric school attendance has steadily increased, with fourteen now enrolled in these upper levels. We are also thrilled to see preschoolers' happy faces in our halls, at this time limited to four and five year old siblings of other TA students.

Pictorial Documentation of our First Days Back

What a joy to see students entering our school for the first time since last April! They were so glad to be back and we were so glad to see them! Hearing their voices within and without the walls of the school remind us of the Anglican prayer which states, "You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices."



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Archery Program

Archery lessons have begun with much joy and enthusiasm. Students and instructors (parents too) are eager to practice this new skill. With 24 students now participating in archery lessons, we will be ready to compete in tournaments soon.



Upcoming Events

Archery Tournament, Saturday, October 17th: The tournament originally scheduled this weekend was postponed. It will be held at a later date to be determined.

Pastor Appreciation Day, Thursday, October 22nd: This year Pastor Appreciation Day will look a bit different this year. Instead of our normal invitation to ask our church leaders to join us at the school, we plan to create a video and write cards for these influential people.

Vendor Fair, October 31st: Hosted by Dough Delights, the vendor fair will be held at Trinity this year. Details will be available in the last weeks of October.

Open House Thursday, November 5th: Trinity will be hosting an Open House for prospective families from 6:30-8:30 on Thursday, November 5.

Pie Fundraiser, October / November: This year Trinity Academy will be working with Lee's Bakery (Roseville, IL) to sell handmade, fruit-filled pies. Pie order delivery will be just in time to provide us with dessert during Thanksgiving week.

Needs and Opportunities

We ask for continued, insistent, faithful prayers for wisdom, clarity, unity, safety, and good health for all children, parents and staff, as always, but especially in these unprecedented times.

As the terms of several members of the board will end within the year, we look for others willing and called to serve in this capacity, which is a great blessing to all they serve and to themselves as well. If you feel God leading you to this ministry, contact Claire Monteen at directors@trinityeagles.org.



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Psalm 34:4 & Psalm 62:1-2 (NASB)

⁴ I sought the Lord, and He answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.

¹ My soul waits in silence for God only;
from Him is my salvation.

² He only is my rock and my salvation, My stronghold;
I shall not be greatly shaken.