

*“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6*



# TRI-STATE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

## Calendar of Events

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<b>June/July</b>	<b>Summer office hours are 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, M-TH</b>
<b>August</b>	<b>26 First Day of School</b>
<b>September</b>	<b>2 NO SCHOOL (Labor Day)</b>
	<b>4-6 7<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grades Spiritual Retreat</b>

### Principal Prose

Have you ever worked on a jigsaw puzzle without looking at the picture on the box? We own a couple of mystery puzzles that only show a part of the picture. This type of puzzle requires some different approaches and an extra dose of determination to put it together. I know the pieces go together to create a cohesive picture, but without knowing what that looks like, the individual pieces can seem random. The strategy of looking for corners and edge pieces can be used. Colors get grouped, designs are analyzed, and shapes compared. Little by little, bit by bit, pieces are linked together, and a picture starts to form. What was once a pile of diverse pieces eventually becomes a complete picture. I think most people can say they have had moments in the past when life didn't make sense; when they wish they could see the whole picture to understand the "whys" and "hows" of situations. Or maybe we ask the Lord for a glimpse of what His plan is because we have a decision to make. Seven years ago, the Lord presented me with a puzzle piece in the form of an opportunity to start my graduate work. I had no idea what His plan was, but I knew He was calling me to it, so I obeyed. Once I completed my Master's, people would ask me what I was going to do with my degree and I honestly replied, "I have no idea!" I knew I could apply what I had learned to help me be a better educator and leader at my school, but God had not given me a glimpse of how my degree would connect to another puzzle piece. A little over a year ago I was contacted about an opening in the Teacher Education Department at Emmaus Bible College, a position that required a Master's of Education. Then we learned about a teaching opening there that my husband was qualified for and interested in, followed by the news that Tri-State was moving to Dubuque. And bit by bit, we started to see a part of the picture God was creating for our future. It's interesting how God surprises us, though! Just a few months ago I had no idea the Lord would call me to serve at Tri-State as the new principal. And yet, I can look back over the last several years, even decades, and recognize how God was fitting the pieces together, preparing me for this appointment.

I am reminded of the many times in Scripture when God's people were told to reflect on the great things the Lord had done for them and respond with hearts of thanksgiving and praise. Psalm 40:5 says, "Many, LORD my God, are the wonders you have done, the things you have planned for us. None can compare with you; were I to speak of your deeds, they would be too many to declare" (NIV). I rejoice in what the Lord has done in my life to prepare me to serve Tri-State for such a time as this. As you look back, I hope you recognize moments in life that seemed insignificant or challenging, but in hindsight, you see that God was at work creating a beautiful picture and preparing you for things to come. May we rejoice together at the great things He has done in our school and in the lives of our children as we work together to point them to the Savior.

Mrs. Amy Rush

## Outdoor Fun & Education

Psalm 104:24

How many are your works, Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

The first and second graders had the opportunity to take a field trip to Swiss Valley Nature Center. There they took a hike around the grounds, and observed different plants and habitats that are native to the Midwest. They learned that God designed the beaver to gnaw on wood to keep their front teeth short, because if their front teeth grow too long, it would prevent them from opening their mouths. They also learned that when a beaver is cutting down a tree, it cuts it at an angle where the tree will fall so it can easily be rolled into the water. After learning about the beaver and its unique design, they were able to feel a beaver pelt. The students were quite surprised at how soft the fur was!



They were also shown different plants, and insects, and taught how to identify them and learn what they are used for. They had a lot of fun searching under logs and leaves for decomposers. They found slugs, worms, pill bugs and a millipede!

This field trip was a great opportunity for the first and second graders to see God's creation, and how He is in all the intricate details of how plants and animals are designed and what their purpose is on Earth!



## Cream of the Crop



On Friday, May 10, five students from the 4th and 5th grade classes participated in the 28th Annual Mississippi River Eco-Meet in Dubuque. Over the past three months, Reagan, Simeon, Emma, Emily, and Julia studied four packets of information on topics such as Water Safety, Prairies of the Midwest, Fish of the Mississippi, and The Mississippi River and Its Uses.

At Friday's event, the team listened to presentations from the Army

Corps of Engineers. After each session the team took a test over what they learned about each topic. Our Eco-Meet team competed against 17 other teams, and I am pleased to announce that they placed 1st in the competition and brought home a wonderful trophy. Their hard work and diligence sure paid off!



Mrs. Keller

## Final Reflections

It is with hearts full of gratitude that Deanna and I prepare for our move to Kansas. We feel so blessed to have been a part of Tri-State Christian School over the last 7 years. When we consider the wonderful teachers and staff we worked alongside, the supportive parents with whom we partnered, and the fantastic children we have grown to love, we know that we have been in a special place. We are overwhelmed with gratitude as we consider all that the Lord has accomplished during our time here. The vision of the TSCS Board, the perseverance of our teachers and staff, and the unwavering support of our families have allowed the relocation from Galena to Dubuque to become a reality. This move, coupled with our recent accreditation with ACSI, has poised Tri-State for unprecedented growth in the years to come. We will greatly miss the friendships we have developed over the years. Friendships like the ones we have developed while here are not easily made, and we do not take them for granted. Tri-State Christian School will continue to be in our thoughts and prayers. We love the school and pray God's best for it in the years to come.

- Dr. Tad Nuce

## What I Love About TSCS

Parting words from our teachers who will not be returning...

Tri-State has so many wonderful qualities that it is hard to choose just one. However, I think the thing I will miss the most is how respectful the students are. They express genuine appreciation for their teachers and the work they do. They always said "thank you" after every class. At first, I wasn't even sure how to respond because I have never had students thank me for teaching them. I have worked in a number of different schools, but I have never encountered such respectful and genuine kids. I will miss working with them and I look forward to helping out as a substitute next year.

- Mrs. Corfman

I have loved the TSCS sense of community. The staff, teachers, parents, students, and administration support each other in such a unique and wonderful way. The administration, staff, and teachers lead with a servant-style leadership that trickles down to the students and shows in their actions. I see our students show compassion, uplift each other in prayer, meet the needs of others without being asked, and display thankfulness, gentleness, and self-control. I know they show these qualities because they are taught at home by moms, dads and grandparents and because TSCS reinforces these admirable qualities. I will sincerely miss the TSCS family next year!

- Mrs. Dombeck

The thing I love best about Tri-State is the community amongst our teachers. We have the best teachers and the best friendships with our school staff. I have made lifetime friendships here and I will miss this the most. I will pray God's blessings on the future of TSCS.

- Mrs. Nuce

What I will miss the most about Tri-State are the people! The staff has been so supportive and encouraging. It has been a joy to work with godly men and women who are committed to Christ and the ministry of Christian education. The students at TSCS are delightful. I have been so blessed by their respect, love, and servant hearts. I will miss their sweet smiles, enthusiasm, and tender hearts. Thank you to all the parents as well who have made my time here so memorable. I will miss you all, and Tri-State will always be in my heart and prayers.

-Mrs. MacKay

I liked best working with believers who truly desired to glorify God, and teaching students who were receptive to the Word of God.

I will miss the support of the faculty and staff along with the caring student body.

I already miss the students!

-Caleb Dodge

## New Faces

It has been wonderful watching God work to bring us new teachers for next year. It is my pleasure to introduce you to Alli and Mike, two of those teachers! ~Amy Rush



My name is Alli Hertz, and I am going to be the new 7-12 history teacher at Tri-State. I am a recent graduate of Emmaus Bible College, and I majored in Bible Theology and Secondary Education with endorsements in World History and Psychology.

I am very excited to kick off my teaching career at Tri-State. I am looking forward to using my passion for history to influence a greater appreciation of history in my students. I am also excited to be able to teach history through a biblical lens, and evaluate the past through our biblical worldview.

I am excited for the upcoming school year, and look forward to meeting you all!



Mike and Julie are both Iowa kids. Mike was raised in Solon Iowa and Julie in Council Bluffs. Julie was raised in a strong Christian home. To use Mike's words, he was raised in a home and church that preached "good advice", but not the "good news" of God's grace. However, when he was 17 years old, he trusted in Jesus as his personal savior. A friend from high school invited him to his youth group where he heard the gospel for the first time. Mike eventually made his decision for Christ at an annual youth conference in Des Moines, IA. After high school, Mike attended Emmaus where he and Julie met. Mike and Julie have been married for 20 years this June and have been blessed with 7

children, ages 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14. About two years ago they were surprised with twin girls Lizzy and Gracie. After receiving his Bachelors degree in Bible and Theology from Emmaus, Mike attended Trinity Evangelical Divinity School where he received a Master of Divinity and a Master of Theology in Systematic Theology. During Mike's seminary years in Chicago, Julie taught 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade at Heritage Christian Academy. Julie is a stay at home mom who has enjoyed homeschooling their children. Some of the Eells' children will be attending Tri-State this year. For the last 12 years Mike has served full time as a pastor and youth pastor at the Atlantic Gospel Chapel in Atlantic Iowa. Mike is also going on his third year as an adjunct professor for Emmaus Distance Learning.

Mike says,

"For 12 years it's been my pleasure to teach and shepherd adults and youth in the local church. I'm very excited about the challenge of teaching and shepherding in the classroom setting. My passion is to provide Christ-centered, gospel-centered teaching while not ignoring its practical application for our lives. Tri-State's vision is to teach these precious souls with a discipleship focus, and I'm all in! I'm excited to see what God will do through our Tri-State students in the years to come! Julie and I will be praying the very same prayer for each student that we pray for our own children: "Lord, may our children abide in you and bear much fruit" (John 15)."