



TRI-STATE

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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

A Note From Principal Rush

This time of year people often take a moment to reflect on the past 12 months and excitedly plan for the future. Doing so feels different this year, and understandably so. Life is not how it had been or how we wanted it to be. Yet we have HOPE. HOPE in the One who came as a baby over 2,000 years ago to live a perfect life, die for our sins, and rise from the dead. We have HOPE in a sovereign God who holds the past, present, and future in his capable and almighty hands. We have a HOPE that is “an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.” (Hebrews 6:19) Because we have this certain hope, we can look forward to a year where we will see the faithfulness of God as he accomplishes his purposes in our lives and in the world. We can also share this hope by being a light to those around us who are feeling hopeless and need the Savior.

The TSCS Student Council recently enlisted the help of our 7th-12th graders to put together encouraging Christmas gift baskets to give to 12 of Tri-State’s neighbors. As our students delivered the gifts, they were so encouraged by the gratitude and smiles from the recipients. It was a joy to be a light to our neighbors. Immediately after the gifts were delivered, a neighbor contacted us to say she was delighted and touched by how thoughtful and nice our students are. She said, “You have a group of students you can be proud of!”



We are thankful for the opportunities to be a light and share the hope we have in Him. As you reflect on the past year and plan for the future, I want to encourage you to remember that we have a hope that is firm and secure. We have a savior, and his name is Jesus.

I pray you have a wonderful Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Mrs. Amy Rush

HUSKY RUN



The first annual Husky Run was an absolute success! On October 30th, the school grounds were transformed into a well-marked out track field. Each class was assigned their own 20-minute time slot to run. Students were able to keep track of their count with punch cards worn on their wristband. They were encouraged to try and complete at least 5.5 laps around the “field” which is equal to one full mile! The vast majority **far exceeded** that distance. Something else that **far exceeded** expectation was the money raised from the generous donations of those who sponsored our students. A total of **\$7,778** was raised during this fast paced and extremely fun fundraiser! *Congratulations to Peyton and MaKenna Fransman* for being the students who raised the most support for the Husky Run, and *congratulations to Mrs. Osworth* (1st grade teacher) for sending out the most sponsorship letters!

PAVE THE WAY



Our annual fundraising banquet is always a highlight of the year as friends of Tri-State Christian School gather to celebrate Christian education and raise money for student scholarships. Like so many other events in 2020, we had to modify the banquet since it could not be held in person. The beautiful thing about being forced to change a long-standing event is the opportunity to do something *new!*

Pave the Way Give Day was birthed out of this opportunity, and through many of you, the Lord blessed it! We are excited about the role that Tri-State has in the lives of students as we help *pave the way* for them to grow in wisdom and knowledge and in relationship with the Lord, who IS the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Invitations to visit our website on October 1st for a special presentation were sent out and if you watched the video, you got to enjoy seeing our students in the video montage (still available on our website) along with testimonials from some of them! With approximately *60% of our students qualifying* for and receiving financial aid, this fall event is instrumental in raising part of the funds needed for scholarships. Friends and families of Tri-State generously gave \$23,663, and we are *so thankful!* This is a good start to the approximately \$200,000 we need to raise during this school year. If you intended to give to this event, but haven't yet, you can still send a contribution to the school or give on our website to the scholarship fund.

Thank you again to all who support the ministry of Tri-State in so many ways!

MATCHING GRANT

We are excited to bring back the matching grant this school year! We are thankful for friends of TSCS who have committed to a match through this campaign as we work to raise the funds needed for student scholarships. We will be announcing this opportunity in more detail in the new year!

KINDERGARTEN NEWS



Kindergarten has enjoyed a great first semester! It is such a joy that we've been able to meet in person thanks to our wonderful administrator helping us navigate proper strategies for optimal safety and health. And of course, thanks be to God who is in control of all our circumstances!

We started off the year talking about how God made each of us unique, and we praise Him for the differences. We moved on to farm animals and crops, and from there, talked about the fall and God's majesty in His creation. We had a fun time in October, which we called "Octobear". We did all kinds of bear activities, culminating in our Teddy Bear picnic.

Last month we enjoyed learning about the Pilgrims and brainstorming about all the gifts we can be thankful for. This month is the best yet, as we realize that Christmas is all about Christ, and we celebrate His birthday without which we would not have the greatest gift of salvation! All of these topics have been accompanied with lots of fun crafts and activities. Learning is fun, especially with such a fine kindergarten class.



LIVING WATERS BIBLE CAMP RETREAT



During the first part of September, the 7th-12th grade students had the wonderful opportunity to travel to Living Waters Bible Camp located in southwest Wisconsin. It was an encouraging time spent surrounded by God's remarkable creation. Here is what one student had to say:

The Living Waters experience was something anyone would enjoy. The staff created a warm and enjoyable atmosphere. I loved learning about God through games, devotions, and every day activities. It was a great place for worship with family and friends. And don't even get me started on the food! Living Waters feels like a home away from home. –Oliver Taylor, 8th Grade



WHAT'S NEW?

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TRAINING

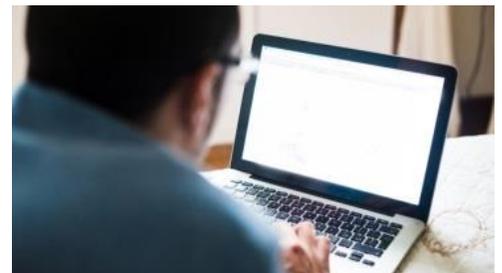


This year the Senior class got the opportunity to participate in leadership training at Living Waters Bible Camp. Here is what one Senior had to say:

The Living Waters spiritual retreat was a great opportunity to reconnect with God. I believe that the senior class benefited from the extra day of leadership training. Not only did we learn how to improve our leadership skills, but also how to serve others better. We were able to take what we learned, and apply it at school. We did many activities that strengthened our relationships with our fellow students and I truly feel that we have become closer as a class and as a school. –Cailyn Lord, 12th Grade

VIRTUAL CLASSES

One of the many benefits of encountering challenges is the process of overcoming obstacles. The TSCS family has greeted the new circumstances of 2020 with determination and embraced a whole new way of learning. Through developments in both technology and curriculum, TSCS is proud to be able to offer virtual learning to all TSCS students in the event of illness or quarantine.



At the beginning of the day, each teacher commences by starting his or her virtual meeting on a laptop within the physical classroom to live stream the class. Parents need only to call the main office to indicate that their student will be virtually attending classes for the day. The absent student is then able to log into each classroom at TSCS and switch to their various classes throughout the day. Core classes, such as science and math, as well as electives, such as art and music, are all offered virtually.

Teachers use individual Google classrooms to post assignments and give instructions to students learning virtually. This helps to keep a smooth flow of learning with both virtual and physically learning students while also engaging students visually and verbally via the camera and microphone. This is such a transformative and exciting time to be a learner, and we are thrilled to have the resources to continue to pursue life-long learning.

NEW TEACHERS

We welcomed two new faces to the TSCS teaching family this year!



For Anna Berhow, teaching runs in the family! Both of Anna's parents are elementary teachers! She is a graduate of Emmaus Bible College and loves teaching the 5th grade students about God!

Lindsey Temesvary graduated from Emmaus Bible College with a B.S. in Elementary Education and Biblical Studies. She is thoroughly thankful for the opportunity God has given her to teach the 6th graders, which is TSCS's second largest class, with 5 girls and 12 boys!



NEW STUDENTS

The school continues to grow, Praise the Lord! We have reached a maximum capacity in 5 grade levels with a school total of 140 students enrolled! This includes 19 new families and 31 new students! We have almost doubled the student enrollment numbers from when we first moved to Dubuque 2 ½ years ago. God is SO faithful! He continues to grow and stretch us for the students and families He continues to bless us with!

LIBRARY

Thanks to the help of many volunteers, including Jo Carter and Lisa Osworth, we were able to create our **first** library in the main building this past summer! Each elementary grade now has Library Class once a week, which provides a time for students to check out books from our extensive collection. During Library Class, students have learned about different genres, how books are cataloged, and how to search for specific titles using our online database. They have also been working on identifying story elements as we read many classic picture books. We are so thankful for the generous donations of excellent reading material we received over the past few months and praise the Lord for providing this new space to enrich student learning at TSCS.



SHED



We have had a shortage of storage space for quite some time, and our existing storage shed was so packed that it was hard to find anything in there! So this fall, a donor stepped forward to cover the cost of a 7'x10.5' Rubbermaid large storage shed from Menards! Praise God! But wait, then a different donor said they would cover the cost of the materials to build a solid base on which it would need to sit! Then, three wonderful men came to build the base and piece the shed together! Many thanks go to Dan Block, Nick Helgerson, and Marty Schiessl for taking the time to construct the base and build the shed. We have organized both sheds now so that we can actually walk in them and see what's there!

A donor also blessed the school with a durable resin lockable deck box to hold all the playground toys. Many thanks to our students Wes Vosberg and Jacob Schumacher who put it together for us!



TSCS ATHLETICS



Despite having to make unprecedented adjustments to our athletic procedures and maintain patience as the sports and game schedules often changed, the *High School girls volleyball and boys basketball teams* still experienced quality playing time on the court. We are thankful to our athletic director, Mr. Fransman, for the effort, determination and prayer he has poured into the



athletic programs to ensure our players have had opportunity to compete in the sports they love.

COMMUNITY GARDEN



At the beginning of May, after talking through possible ideas of what to do with the undeveloped plot of dirt in front of modular one, the ground was tilled to prepare the space for the very first TSCS community garden. Many hands helped move in dirt from the back of the playground, shovel in loads of mulch, plant seeds and veggies, weed, water and of course, pick the produce that came in. It was a productive use of space, and we are grateful for the lessons learned as we grew together during those summer months.

VIDEO

Thanks to a wonderful parent who volunteered many hours of his time, we finally have a new promotional video! Tom Eckermann put together a fantastic compilation of student comradery, fun, and some of the great experiences our students are able to be a part of! To view the video, visit us at www.tscs.org, scroll down and click on the image of the school (as seen here). It is an excellent visual reminder of the joy and Godly community Tri-State provides to all who attend!

[Please note that the video was filmed pre mask mandate.]



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