

HILLER HIGHLIGHTS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
HOME OF THE HILLERS!



End of Year 2020-2021

CONGRATULATIONS! CLASS OF 2021



We are proud to announce TAEA Teachers of the Year!

Jennifer Davis

Mrs. Jennifer Davis has been with the Trinity Area School District for seventeen years. Trinity North has been her forever home. She started as a Learning Support teacher before going to third grade. She has been inspiring third grade readers for the past 12 years. Mrs. Davis earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Education at Duquesne University and is dually certified in Elementary and Special Education. Mrs. Davis currently serves as the third-grade representative on the Elementary Language Arts Committee. She lives in Peters Township with her husband, two sons, and two miniature pinschers. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, spending time with friends and family, going to Chick-fil-A, and traveling to Cabo San Lucas.



Katie O'Lare

In her sixteen years at Trinity High School, Katie O'Lare has taught AP English 12, Journalism, English 9, and Freshman Writing. She is the faculty advisor for The Hiller newspaper and has dedicated her time over the years as class advisor and faculty advisor for the Olympus yearbook. A dedicated member of the THS English Department, her colleagues and students have truly benefited from her creativity, knowledge, and expertise

Heather Gojmerac

Mrs. Gojmerac is in her eleventh year as a Gifted Support Teacher. She is passionate about partnering with colleagues, parents, and students to help the individuals she works with to reach their full potential. A Trinity alumni, Mrs. Gojmerac is fortunate to both live and work in the Trinity community. A former youth fishing champion, she also reeled in a wonderful husband, TJ, and enjoys spending time boating, traveling, and being an Auntie. She is passionate about the Oxford comma, collaborative education, and helping her students grow year by year.



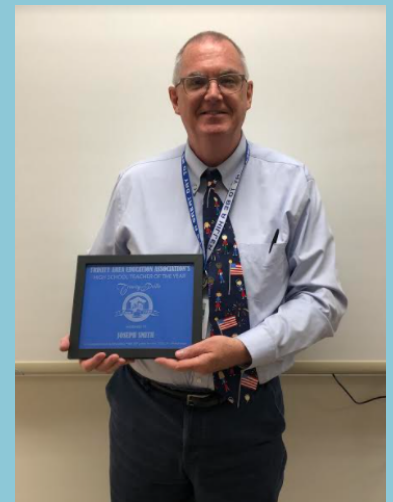
Kristian Damaska

Mr. Kristian Damaska is completing his twenty-first year here at Trinity Middle School. He is also completing his nineteenth year of marriage to his beautiful wife Amy and celebrating this along with his fourteen-year-old son Chase. He also shares his home with his Goldendoodle, Honey Bear and a Bernadoodle, Josie. Mr. Damaska states that he has a passion for teaching reading, and feels fortunate to be instructing the Eighth Grade Reading and Text Dependent Analysis classes. In his spare time, he enjoys golfing, coaching baseball, candlelight dinners and long walks on the beach. He appreciates this recognition, but truly believes individual awards in teaching are not possible without the distinguished colleagues, support staff, and administration that support them. He notes that he has always and will always do what is in the best interest of students, provide a role model, and encourage all children to grow in our wonderful community of learning here at T.M.S. It's a great day to be a Hiller.



Joe Smith

Mr. Joe Smith teaches ninth grade Honors Biology and AP Biology at the high school. He is a graduate of Westminster College where he met his wife Connie. They are the parents of three children and the grandparents of three. He has taught at THS since graduating from college and has served as a class advisor, track and cross country coach, and advisor for several academic groups, as well as being the former science department head. His hobbies include spending time outdoors, gardening, and entertaining his grandchildren.



Matt Fuchs

Matt Fuchs is in his second year with the Trinity Area School District as a seventh grade English teacher, and is in his eleventh year of teaching overall. A former newspaper sports writer, who wised-up and realized that nobody reads newspapers anymore, Matt previously taught at Washington Jr. High, and at the Propel Charter Schools high school in Braddock Hills. He lives in Canonsburg with his wife, two wonderful children, and a pair of maniac dogs who do their best each day to keep everyone on their toes. Matt also coaches the middle school track team. And, in whatever precious spare time he is able to scrounge together, Matt continues to pursue his life-long goal of taking the perfect nap.



Jennifer Paluda

Jennifer Paluda is the Librarian at Trinity South and Trinity West, and is also the Library Services Department Representative. She has been a member of the Trinity faculty since 2008 and is an alumnus of the University of Pittsburgh. Ms. Paluda got her start in libraries as a story-time regular, frequently visiting Citizen's Library with her parents. Later, she joined Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh to provide outreach to Pittsburgh Public Schools before returning to Trinity, her alma mater (Class of '90). During her tenure, she has sought and obtained grant funding to start the Lunch Bunch Book Club and Chill Out @ MyLibrary Summer Reading Club, and to boost Trinity South's collection of STEAM career books. Ms. Paluda views library services as supportive services, and loves to collaborate with faculty members on students' cross-curricular research projects. She also enjoys reinforcing students' literacy skills with hands-on projects in the library's Imagination Station Makerspace. Ms. Paluda believes that a top motivator in developing readers is to provide students access to a free choice of books.



Kimberly Parks

After graduating high school, Mrs. Parks decided to go into the medical profession getting a certificate as a medical assistant and lab technician, and then onto nursing. That didn't quite pan out because she realized certain sights and smells were not for her! She continued then to pursue her undergraduate degree at Duquesne University for Organization Leadership and Communication, graduating in 1996 and was honored to be one of the commencement speakers. During that time, she was also teaching medical technology procedures and business organization at one of Pittsburgh's post-secondary business schools. She taught for twelve years in that industry. During the latter years, she decided to go back for her Masters degree in Education. At the ripe old age of 40, she graduated again from Duquesne University with a 4.0 and Masters of Science in Education. In August of 2000, she was hired to teach 3rd grade at Trinity West, then moved into 4th, then 5th grade. From the very beginning, she served on the Language Arts Committee, and for a short time served as the Elementary Social Studies Chair. Mrs. Parks believes the last eleven years were spent at one of the best buildings in the District teaching 4th grade at Trinity South. Teaching was not something that she had set out to do, but is sure glad it found her! It truly is her passion.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Junior Daniel Lee placed 6th in Prose at the virtual PHSSL State Qualifier. He was also selected for the ALL STATE Cast of Trinity HS PHSSL One Act play which placed 6th in the state!

Daniel is the first Trinity HS student to receive this honor.



Trinity's Sergeant Major Harper was recognized as the Regional JROTC Instructor of the Year!

Trinity's Pride

Congrats

Spring 2021

Trinity FFA Keystone Degree Winner

Courtney Dahlquist, Trinity FFA Chapter, will receive her Keystone Degree at the 2021 PA FFA Summer Convention. Six members of the Trinity FFA Chapter earned their Keystone Degree this past winter at the Virtual Mid-Winter Convention on January 11, 2021. Courtney will receive her certificate and charm. The recognition will take place during the virtual summer convention session.

Candidates must have demonstrated leadership abilities and earned or productively invested at least \$1,000 and/or worked at least 300 hours in a supervised agricultural experience program. Just 3 percent of the more-than 8,000 Pennsylvania FFA members qualify each year for a Keystone Degree.

Courtney, Class of 2021, is the daughter of Eric and Carla Dahlquist of Washington. Projects that helped Courtney obtain the Keystone Degree include Market Lamb and Beef Herd.



Trinity's Drone Academy is expanding to include military drones. Thank you Mr. John Craig for working with our students and staff at the high school.



National Technical
Honor Society

TRINITY NTHS GOES 21 IN '21

It is with extreme pleasure that Trinity High School inaugurated their chapter of the National Technical Honor Society with twenty-one exceptional seniors as Class of 2021 completers of their respective CIP program. The NTHS is an honor organization that exists to honor, recognize, and empower students and teachers in Career & Technical Education. As part of the Career Pathways programs at THS, this organization strives to draw attention to the countless hours, rigorous courses, and professional dedication each student member has to their pathway. This year's inductees must have maintained a 3.0 GPA or higher within their pathway, a member of their pathway's professional group, a NOCTI exam taker, and a class of 2021 completer for their respective program. At Trinity High School, students have the opportunity to participate in Career and Technical Education courses through the Career Pathways program without having to leave the building, including programs of Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Therapy, Business and Accounting, Veterinary Technician, Child Care Development, Vocational Agriculture, Agriculture Mechanization, Horticulture, and Agricultural Construction. Partnerships with local businesses and industries create pathways to college credit, stackable credentials, and potential employment, using the skill sets obtained while a student at Trinity.

Students were inducted into the NTHS chapter in a brief morning ceremony on Awards Day, led by Mrs. Aliveto (co-advisor), Mr. Modrak (co-advisor), and High School Principal Uram, as well program teachers Mrs. Durila, Mrs. Husk, and Mr. Porterfield.





Accounting: students Julian Burchett, Emma Morgan, Koen Weichel; teachers Mrs. Husk., Mrs. Migyanko, and Mr. Modrak



Rehabilitation Aide: Courtney Dahlquist, Victoria Ealy, Jade Miller; teacher Mr. Porterfield



Child Care Development: students Alliyah Borchert, Joie Engle, Abigail Gottschall, Angelina King, Marissa McCracken, Shayla McConnell, Bayleigh McCullough, Cheyenne Walker; teachers Mrs. Aliveto and Mr. Modrak



Production Agriculture: students Angelina Cecchine, Ensley Clark, Rebecca Conkle, Sarah Holland, Brooke Locy, Delaney Slesh, Chloe Tamulinas; teacher Mrs. Durila



**We are pleased to announce
2021
Choir, Band, Orchestra, and Theatre Awards**

The Music Department Award

This award, given by the Trinity High School Music Department, recognizes individuals who have displayed exceptional dedication and excellence within the entire Music Department and is awarded to two graduating seniors. The award is decided by the Trinity High School music staff in conference.

Qualifications:

- Candidates must have distinguished themselves by outstanding musicianship and dedication to the vocal and instrumental divisions of the Trinity High School Music Department. Participation in two of the three ensembles, band, choir or orchestra is highly regarded (but not required) for consideration as a well-rounded musician.
- Candidates must have been members in one of the following organizations: Tri-M or NHS
- Candidates must have demonstrated loyalty by continued service and performance in Trinity High School's performing organizations throughout their years at Trinity High School, especially during the senior year.
- Candidates must have demonstrated a true Hiller spirit, support for Trinity High School's philosophy, and a desire to be a good ambassador for music education.

2021 Recipients:

*Rachel Faust
Maxwell Mollish*

National School Choral Award

Given in recognition of singular merit, ability, and achievement, of outstanding contributions to the success of the school vocal program, and of an unusual degree of loyalty, cooperation, and high qualities of conduct, by the general consent of the music faculty, school officials, and others, the National School Choral Award is conferred upon two graduating singers each year. The singers should be four-year members of the choir.

2021 Recipients:

*Rachel Faust
Jeffrey Reynolds*

Theatre Department Award

Each year the Trinity Area Theatre Department staff awards two seniors the Theatre Department Award. The following criteria are used for choosing the awardees.

- Professional demeanor and artistic integrity on stage and off
- Significant participation in the yearly productions
- Prepared on a daily basis for performances, assignments, auditions, etc
- Clearly demonstrate a passion for all aspects of the performing arts experience.
- Provides constructive, honest, and well thought out feedback and mentorship to underclass students

2021 Recipients:

Madison Thong

Jeffrey Reynolds

John Philip Sousa Band Award

In recognition of outstanding achievement and interest in instrumental music, for singular merit in loyalty and cooperation, and for displaying those high qualities of conduct that school instrumental music requires.

2021 Recipient:

Elle Rush

National School Orchestra Award

Presented in recognition of singular and outstanding contributions to the success of the school orchestra, for displaying an unusual degree of loyalty and cooperation, and for exemplifying that high standard of conduct that is the aim of the school instrumental program.

2021 Recipient:

Emma Malinak

Fred Waring Choral Award

The Fred Waring Award is given to the senior choir member whose dedication to the musicianship of the choir goes well above and beyond the call of duty. This student demonstrates joy in singing, extra effort, and willingness to be of service to the choir.

2021 Recipient:

Madison Meeks

The Leonard Bernstein Award

The Leonard Bernstein Musicianship Award is presented to the senior choir member demonstrating exemplary musicianship, dedication to the choir, and a willingness to become a better musician. In addition to musicianship, this student demonstrates the qualities of loyalty and leadership.

2021 Recipient:

Madison Thong

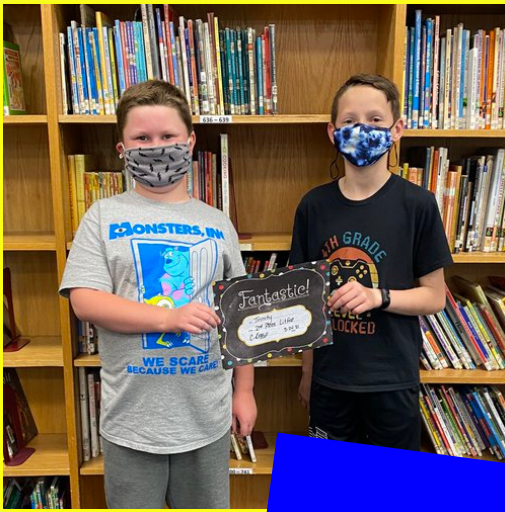
The Director's Award for Chorus

The Director's Award for Chorus honors the top leaders of the high school chorus. This student demonstrates leadership, loyalty and a willingness to work hard at any task given them by the director. This student is a four-year member of the choir.

2021 Recipient:

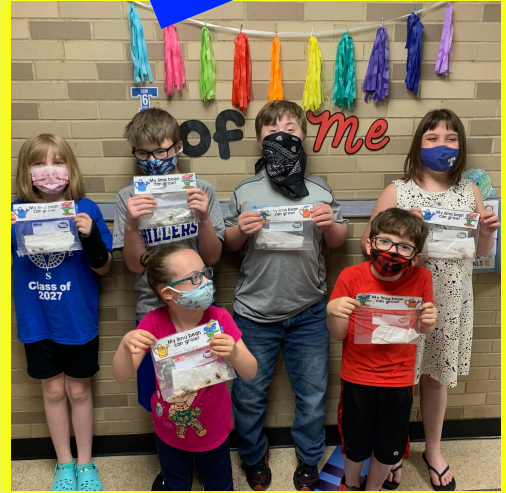
Jillian Sander

Congratulations!



Congratulations to Max Rosati and Cameron Rockwell. The pair came in 2nd place at the Literature Festival competition. Great job, boys!

Trinity East students learned about how plants grow by watching seeds grow roots.



Mr. Kelley's 5th grade math students at Trinity East created and played their own math games.



The wait was over, and not even the raindrops could stop the students from North to get the chance to silly string the staff members, and of course, Mr. Lauver. The three grand prize winners were: Maverick Mazurkiewicz, first grade; Brooke Borkowski, second grade; and Trystin Barry in fifth grade. These students also won a bag filled with Wild Things Tickets, a book, and another bag of Dr. Seuss items that the other winners received. Now that this challenge is over, we hope the students continue to read. Mr. Lauver decided to raise the book number for next year in order to win. That's okay, because the students at North are unstoppable!



Happy
SUMMER!

Would you like to give back to your school and earn some extra money at the same time? The HR Department is looking for “Emergency Status” substitute teachers. No teaching degree necessary. If you have a four-year degree and are interested in working with our students, Contact the Human Resources Department for more information
724-223-2000 ext. 7114



SUMMER HOURS

Trinity Area will operate on a summer schedule beginning Monday, June 7 through Thursday, August 12. The district will be closed on Fridays. Regular office hours will resume on Monday, August 16.

Have a great summer!
See you
August 26

INFORMATIONAL FLYERS:

All flyers are available on the district website:

<https://www.trinitypride.org/Content2/district-flyers>

To request that a flyer be posted on the website, email:
jwalz@trinityhillers.net

FREE School Meals
for ALL Students



To submit an article for consideration email:
jwalz@trinityhillers.net

All articles are subject to final approval by the Superintendent.

TRINITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2021-2022 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

AUGUST '21						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

19-20 New Teacher Orientation
 19-20 KinderCamp
 23-24 Staff Development
 25 Teacher Clerical Day
26 First Student Day

Teacher Days: 7
 Student Days: 4

FEBRUARY '22						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

7 In-Service/No School
 21 Presidents' Day/No School

Teacher Days: 19
 Student Days: 18

SEPTEMBER '21						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

6 Labor Day
 24 Two Hour Early Student Release/Staff Development

Teacher Days: 21
 Student Days: 21

MARCH '22						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

25 Two Hour Early Student Release/Staff Development

Teacher Days: 23
 Student Days: 23

OCTOBER '21						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

29 Two Hour Early Student Release/Staff Development

Teacher Days: 21
 Student Days: 21

APRIL '22						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

14-18 Spring Break/No School

Teacher Days: 18
 Student Days: 18

NOVEMBER '21						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

1 In-Service Day/No School
 25-29 Fall Break

Teacher Days: 19
 Student Days: 18

MAY '22						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

27 Two Hour Early Student Release/Staff Development
 30 Memorial Day/No School

Teacher Days: 21
 Student Days: 21

DECEMBER '21						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

23 In-Service Day
 24-31 Winter Break

Teacher Days: 17
 Student Days: 16

JUNE '22						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

1 Last Student Day
 2 Teacher Clerical Day
 3 Graduation
 Teacher In-Service Day

Teacher Days: 3
 Student Days: 1

JANUARY '22						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

3 In-Service Day/No School
 17 M.L. King Day/No School

Teacher Days: 20
 Student Days: 19

Teacher Days: 189
 Student Days: 180

BOARD APPROVED:
 February 18, 2021



End first 9 weeks -
 October 28, 2021
 End first semester -
 January 19, 2022
 End third 9 weeks -
 March 25, 2022