

# HILLER HIGHLIGHTS

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



Welcome Back! 2022-2023



## Message from the Superintendent



**FIRST STUDENT DAY**  
**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2022**

Dear Trinity Area Families,

I hope you are enjoying a wonderful, relaxing summer break. As the new school year approaches, I want to provide you with information so you know what your child(ren) can expect upon returning to campus, and why changes lay ahead as our community grows. I am excited to share this information with you!

Throughout the last five years, Trinity Area has expanded significantly and students' learning, social, and emotional needs have become increasingly more complex. Additionally, as in districts across the nation, our special education population has skyrocketed. Between 2018 and 2022, we have found space for three preschools, eight emotional support classrooms, four autistic support classrooms, three classrooms for English language learners, two additional guidance counselors, four licensed therapists, five social workers, 10 career programs, six police officers, and a myriad of other classrooms and personnel. Since Trinity Middle School (TMS) was built in the 70's, the outdated infrastructure does not always accommodate such additions. Thus, we have been forced to get creative. We've renovated storage closets and teachers' work areas to provide additional space for instruction. We've combined classrooms and required teachers to share space. Teachers have conducted classes on stages and in cafeterias, hallways, and even unrenovated storage rooms. While we are thrilled with the community's growth and incredibly grateful for the additional personnel, we recognize that, to do our best for students, we must address the issues of overcrowding and old infrastructure. Moreover, to keep all special education students in their home schools and provide them with the resource they need to be successful, we must expand.

You may have learned that our school directors recently approved a large construction project to address the issues noted above. By fall of 2024, renovations will be made to TMS and a new wing will be built to serve as an intermediate school for students in grades 4 and 5. For our current Hillers, as well as for those who moved into the district, we will continue to provide outstanding educational programming in a safe, healthy environment that invites 21st Century teaching and learning. We sincerely thank our school directors for securing a promising future for our students.



As work is scheduled to begin at the TMS campus, we have made provisions to ensure that our students and staff will remain safe and secure during construction. For example, we have identified new routes for driving and walking to campus, and we will arrange for shuttle buses to transport fans to and from sporting events held at the stadium. As a result, new traffic patterns will emerge and routines will undoubtedly be disturbed. Please keep in mind, that, throughout the next two years, changes to drop-off procedures, limited parking, the relocation of events, and other necessary inconveniences will become the norm. This is because we will need to make room for construction vehicles and to store building materials safely.

Parents/guardians of middle school students are strongly encouraged to send children to school by way of busses whenever possible. Busses will be given priority access during the busy drop-off and pickup times, and there will be delays if numerous other vehicles are located on campus for the arrival and dismissal of students. We will send more detailed information about parking once the school year begins. For now, we ask for your support and cooperation because we believe that these inconveniences will prove worthy once the project is completed.

Trinity West will also see safety renovations to the drop-off and pick-up areas. Stay tuned for more information.

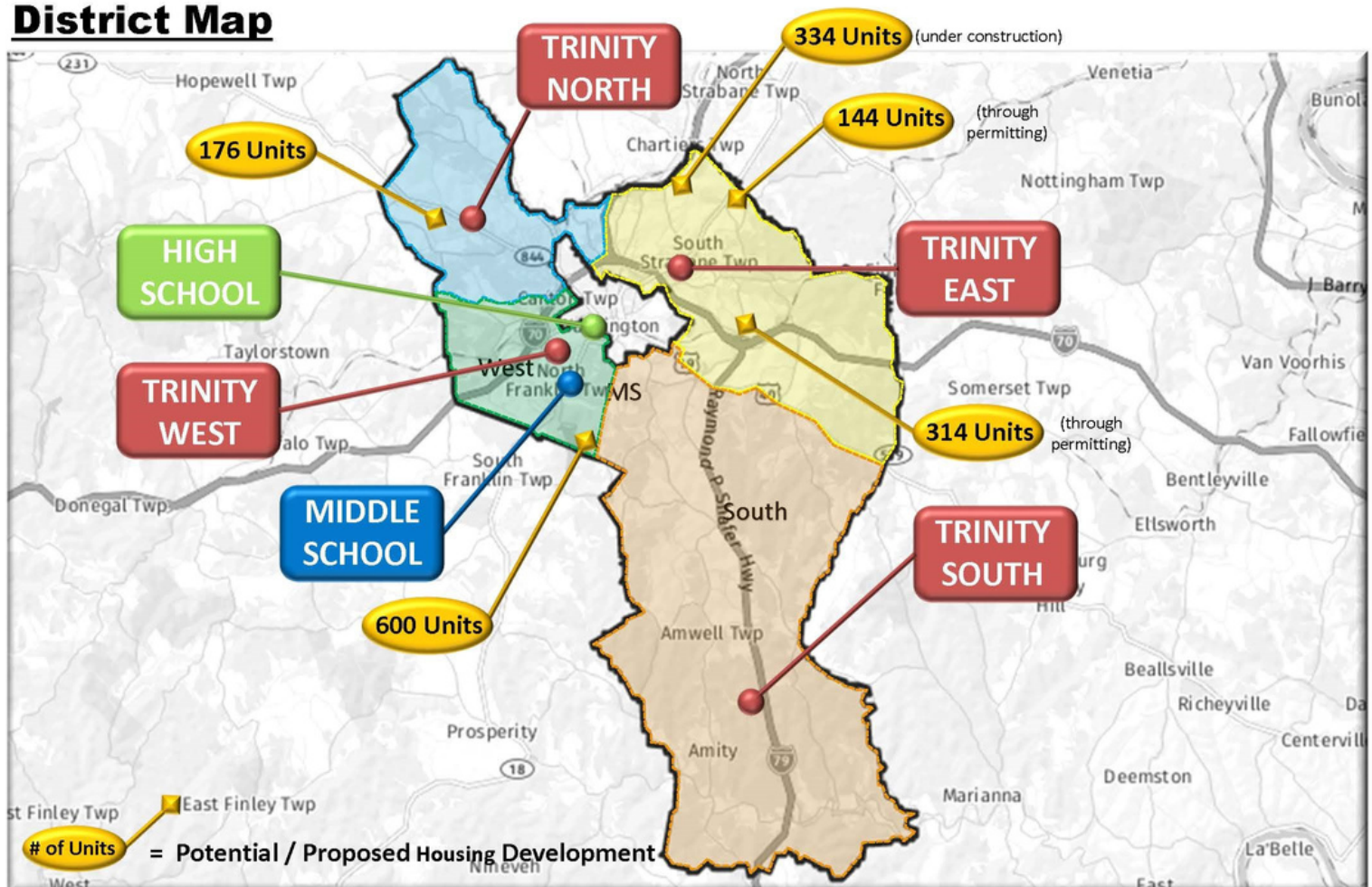
**Coming Soon:** A Trinity webpage is being built to display daily construction work, drone videos, and construction progress.

It's a Great Day to Be a Hiller!

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael P. Lucas, Superintendent

## District Map



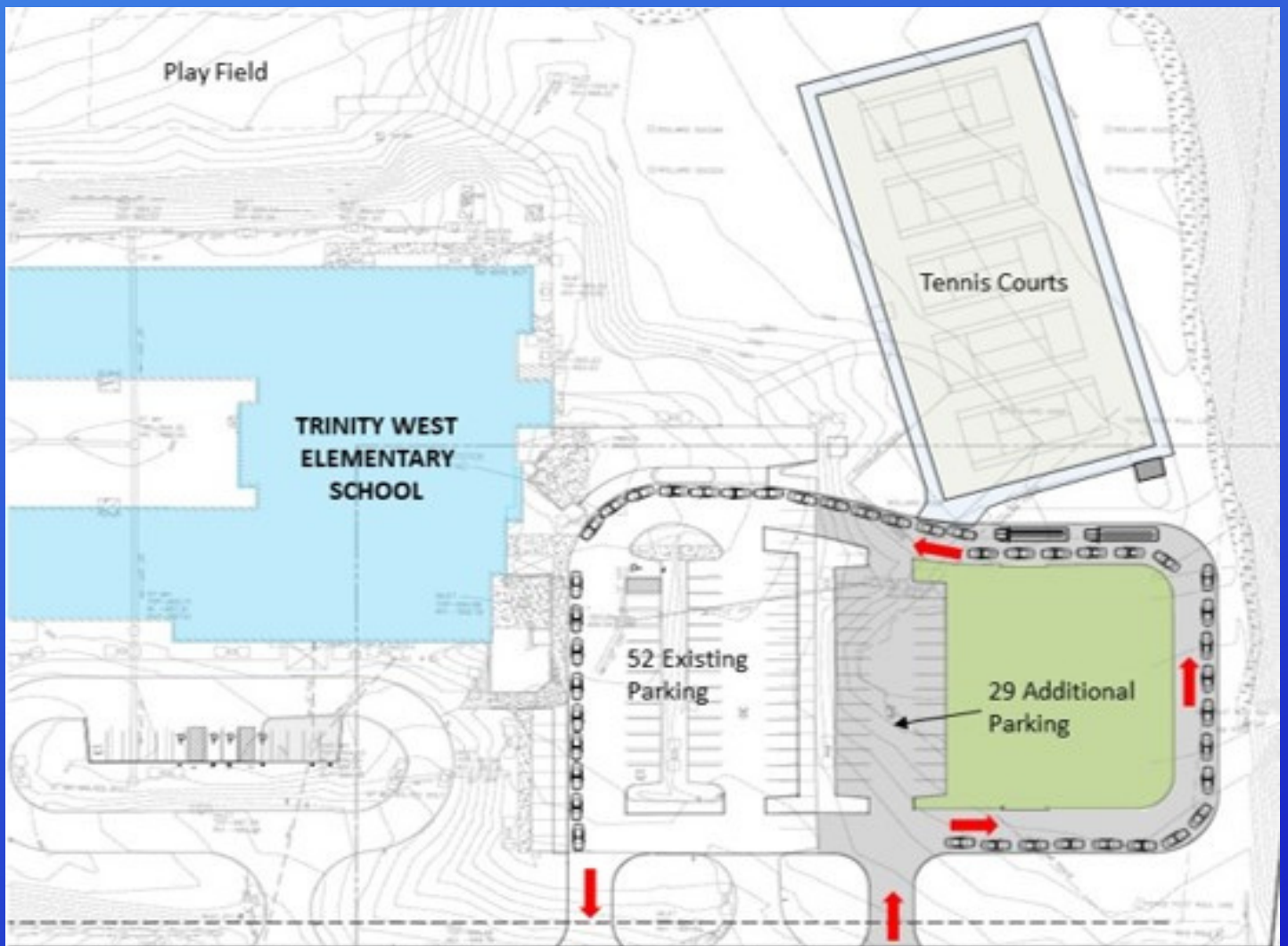
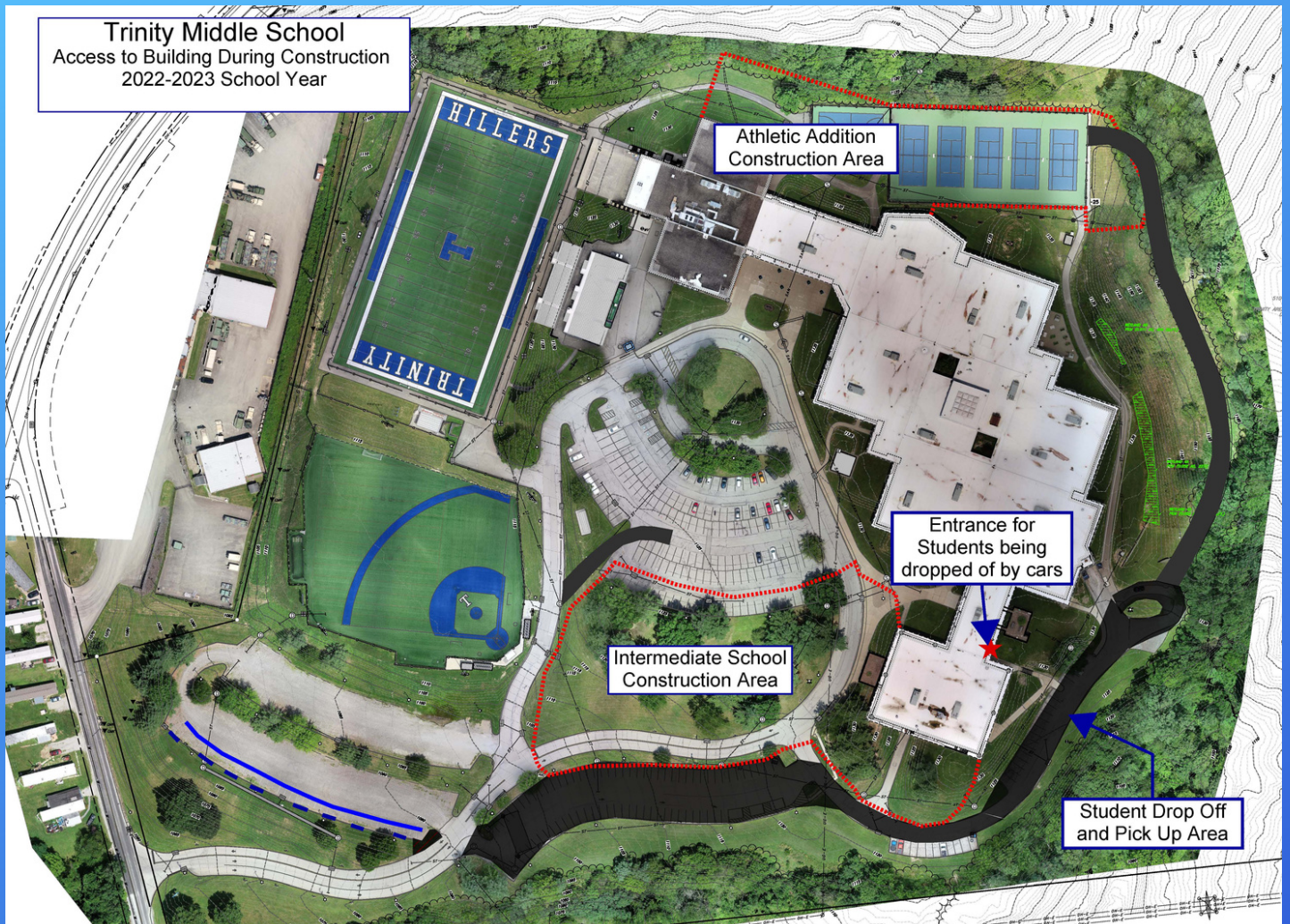
Potential Home Development Sites



Follow Dr. Lucas on  
twitter  
[@TRINITY\\_MLUCAS](https://twitter.com/TRINITY_MLUCAS)



**Trinity Middle School**  
Access to Building During Construction  
2022-2023 School Year





# Groundbreaking Event!!!





# *Welcome* **TO HILLER NATION!**



**Officer Ranalli & Hiller**

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## **New Teachers**



Christian Daviduk  
District Orchestra



Courtney Hrycko  
High School Biology



Kelly (Wagner) Siegman  
High School English

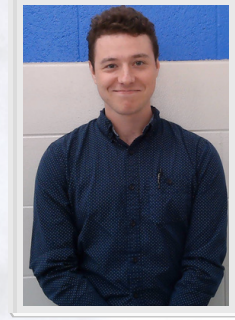




Kristi Lowden  
West Autistic Support



Ashley Kovel  
High School Learning Support



Brett Eckstrom  
High School Learning Support



Jay Murphy  
Middle School  
Business Computers  
Informational Technology



Alexa Harris  
Middle School  
Business Computers  
Informational Technology



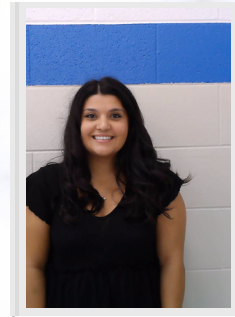
Cally Fleming  
High School Industrial Tech



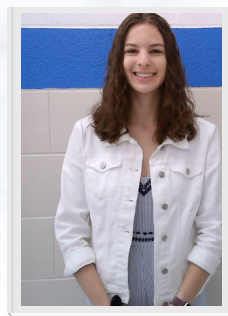
Sarah Finley  
High School Chemistry



Alex Nikolopoulos  
High School Guidance



Beatrice Kossel  
South Emotional Support



Chase Hoobler  
West Autistic Support



Dana Ewing  
Middle School Learning  
Support



Maci Caster  
East Learning Support

It's a great day to be a Hiller!



# Congratulations Dr. Deems!

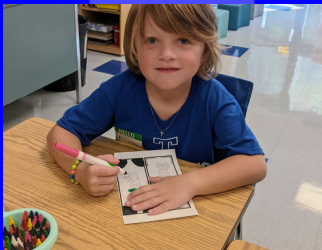


**Trinity Area congratulates Dr. Saundra Deems! Dr. Saundra Deems successfully defended her research: Perceptions of Parents and Educators on the Preschool Experience.**



# KinderCamp 2022

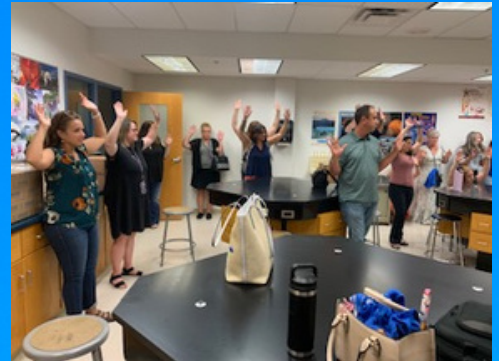
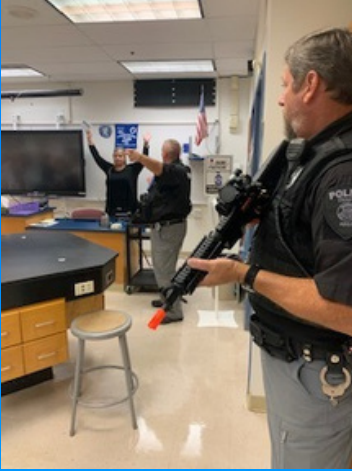
Trinity welcomed the Class of 2035 on August 25th and 26th for KinderCamp. The orientation for incoming kindergarten students is held each year in all four elementary schools.







## Active Shooter Training



On Monday, August 29, Trinity staff members participated in a simulation conducted by the Trinity Police Department. The purpose of the realistic scenario was to train staff on how to react appropriately during an active shooter situation. Chief Scott, Sergeant Thomas, and the team facilitated various live drills, and debriefed the experiences afterwards during breakout sessions when staff members were encouraged to ask questions. Following this event, staff will continue to participate in emergency drills and practices throughout the school year to remain sharp and stay prepared to keep our students safe.

*Congratulations*



Hillers Dominick Canali, L.J. Zidek, Hayden Stack, Anthony Giorgi, Zach Schrader, and Ian Migyanko represented Trinity in this year's Pony League World Series.





**Custodians  
Maintenance  
Computer Technicians  
Secretaries  
Food Service  
and all who helped us  
get ready for this school  
year!**

**#trinitystrong**

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## **Shark in the Park!!!**



**Trinity's own Logan Spencer and Jason Engle participated in Shark in the Park cardboard boat races held at Washington Park Pool.**



# Power Motorsports



**Trinity Area's Power Motorsports' newest partner... Washington PA's STEEL CITY HARLEY- DAVIDSON! Do you want to work on Harleys? Talk to your guidance counselor today! Only at Trinity Area!**





# **Important Contact Information**

## **Trinity Area School District 724-223-2000**

### **High School 724-225-6380**

Principal - Mr. Craig Uram ext. 6501  
curam@trinityhillers.net

Asst. Principal - Mr. Zachary Zebrasky ext. 6505  
zzebrasky@trinityhillers.net

Asst. Principal - Mr. Daniel Knause ext. 6503  
dknause@trinityhillers.net

### **Middle School 724-228-2112**

Principal - Mr. Paul Kostelnik ext. 5503  
pkostelnik@trinityhillers.net

Asst. Principal - Ms. Lindsay Benzenhoefer ext. 5501  
lbenz@trinityhillers.net

### **East Elementary 724-225-8140**

Principal - Mrs. Sandra Deems ext. 4501  
sdeems@trinityhillers.net

### **North Elementary 724-222-5064**

Principal - Dr. Sam Demian ext. 2501  
sdemian@trinityhillers.net

### **South Elementary 724-225-7490**

Principal - Mr. Peter Keruskin ext. 3501  
pkeruskin@trinityhillers.net

### **West Elementary 724-222-4730**

Principal - Mrs. Michelle Ostrosky ext. 1501  
mostrosky@trinityhillers.net



**The breakfast and lunch prices are listed below:**

**Breakfast - \$2.00**

**Lunch (Elem/MS) - \$3.15**

**Lunch (HS) - \$3.40**

**You are highly encouraged to fill out the free and reduced application at [www.schoolcafe.com](http://www.schoolcafe.com)**

**schoolcafé**

To submit an article for consideration please email:

*[hillerhighlights@trinityhillers.net](mailto:hillerhighlights@trinityhillers.net) or [tkrieger@trinityhillers.net](mailto:tkrieger@trinityhillers.net)*

Articles may be submitted in the body of the email or attached as a *Word* document. Documents in .pdf format will not be accepted. Corresponding pictures must be attached to the same email in .jpg format.

The newsletter is released at the end of each month -  
September through June.

**All articles are subject to final approval by the Superintendent.**



**INFORMATIONAL FLYERS:**

Flyers are available on the district website under **About**. To access, click on the link [DISTRICT FLYERS](#)

To request that a flyer be posted on the website, email: [tkrieger@trinityhillers.net](mailto:tkrieger@trinityhillers.net)





# TRINITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT | 2022-2023 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

## AUGUST '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			

24, 25 & 26 New Teachers  
25 & 26 Kindercamp  
29, 30 & 31 Staff  
Development

Teacher Days: 3  
Student Days: 0

13 Staff Development/No  
School  
20 Presidents' Day/No School

Teacher Days: 19  
Student Days: 18

## FEBRUARY '23

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				

## SEPTEMBER '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 Staff Development  
2 Clerical Day  
5 Labor Day  
6 First Student Day  
13 & 14 Elementary Open  
House  
20 MS Open House  
21 HS Open House

Teacher Days: 21  
Student Days: 19

17 Staff Development/No  
School

Teacher Days: 23  
Student Days: 22

## MARCH '23

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	

## OCTOBER '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					

28 Two Hour Student Early  
Release/Staff Development  
31 Staff Development/No  
School

Teacher Days: 21  
Student Days: 20

3 End 3<sup>rd</sup> 9 weeks  
6-10 Spring Break

Teacher Days: 17  
Student Days: 17

## APRIL '23

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						

## NOVEMBER '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			

8 End 1<sup>st</sup> 9 weeks  
24-28 Fall Break

Teacher Days: 19  
Student Days: 19

26 Two Hour Student Early  
Release/ Staff Development  
29 Memorial Day/No School

Teacher Days: 22  
Student Days: 22

## MAY '23

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			

## DECEMBER '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

23-30 Winter Break

Teacher Days: 16  
Student Days: 16

9 Graduation/Last Student Day  
12 Teacher Clerical

Teacher Days: 8  
Student Days: 7

## JUNE '23

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

## JANUARY '23

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				

2 Winter Break  
13 Two Hour Student Early  
Release  
16 M.L. King Day/No School  
25 End 1<sup>st</sup> Semester

Teacher Days: 20  
Student Days: 20

Teacher Days: 189  
Student Days: 180

BOARD APPROVED:  
Rev. 6-16-2022

TENTATIVE FIRST STUDENT DAY  
FOR 2023-24:  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2023



\*Flexible Instruction Days may be used when school is cancelled.





**TRINITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
231 Park Avenue, Washington, PA 15301  
Phone: 724.223.2000

Parent Right to Know Information as Required by The Elementary and Secondary Education Assistance (ESEA) [Section 1112(e)(1)(A)] and the Every Student Succeeds Act [Section 1112(e)(1)(A)]

Trinity Area School District receives Federal Title I funds to assist students in meeting state achievement standards. Throughout the school year, we will be providing you with important information about this law and your child's education. This letter lets you know about your right to request information about the qualifications of the classroom staff working with your child.

We are very proud of our teachers and feel they are prepared to give your child a high-quality education. Our Title I schools must meet federal regulations related to teacher qualifications as defined in ESEA. These regulations allow you to learn more about your child's teachers' training and credentials. We are happy to provide this information to you. At any time, you may ask:

- Whether the teacher met state qualifications and certification requirements for the grade level and subject he/she is teaching,
- Whether the teacher received an emergency or conditional certificate through which state qualifications were waived, and
- What undergraduate or graduate degrees the teacher holds, including graduate certificates and additional degrees, and major(s) or area(s) of concentration.

You may also ask whether your child receives help from a paraprofessional. If your child receives this assistance, we can provide you with information about the paraprofessional's qualifications.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) which was signed into law in December 2015 and reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1956 (ESEA) includes additional right to know requests. At any time, parents and family members can request:

- Information on policies regarding student participation in assessments and procedures for opting out, and
- Information on required assessments that include
  - subject matter tested,
  - purpose of the test,
  - source of the requirement (if applicable),
  - amount of time it takes students to complete the test, and
  - time and format of disseminating results.

Our staff is committed to helping your child develop the academic knowledge and critical thinking he/she needs to succeed in school and beyond. That commitment includes making sure that all of our teachers and paraprofessionals meet applicable Pennsylvania state requirements.

If you have any questions about your child's assignment to a teacher or paraprofessional, please contact your child's building principal.



**Do you have a bachelor's  
degree and want to  
work with kids?**



**THE HR DEPARTMENT IS LOOKING FOR SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS!**

**THOSE WITH A TEACHING DEGREE, AS WELL AS THOSE WITH  
"EMERGENCY STATUS", MAY APPLY  
(FOUR YEAR DEGREE REQUIRED/NO TEACHING DEGREE NECESSARY)**

**DAILY RATE IS \$125**

**IF YOU ARE QUALIFIED AND INTERESTED  
IN WORKING WITH OUR STUDENTS,  
CONTACT**

**MR. JACK MINNICK  
HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR  
FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**724-223-2000 EXT. 7121 OR 7114**





# Attention Parents

**Universal free meals are no longer available.**  
We have enjoyed serving all of our students meals at no-cost for the past 2 years, but Congress failed to provide free meals to all students for the 2022-23 SY.



## Application Information

You are highly encouraged to fill out the free and reduced application at [www.schoolcafe.com](http://www.schoolcafe.com). Applications are currently being accepted and pricing information is available. Families who receive benefits under the federal program are eligible for additional benefits including reduced college testing and possibly other pandemic related funding. This process also helps to fund Title programming that helps to support academic funding here at Trinity.



**Do not assume that your child is on the free program.** You will receive written notification from the school if you are approved for free or reduced meals. If you do not receive documentation then your child will be charged for school meals.

**Call the Food Service office at 724-223-2000 ext. 6504 for assistance**