

HILLER HIGHLIGHTS

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



September 2023-2024



Message from the Superintendent



Greetings,

I cannot believe it's already October! School has been in session for a few weeks now, and all is going well thanks to the hard work of our staff members, students, and parents. When I visit school buildings, I am always pleased to see students and teachers working together in classrooms designed specifically for learning. And, of course, I enjoy listening to the lively conversations as students interact with each other to make sense of new information. Everyone is collaborating to explore and innovate, and I am delighted to lead our school community as we begin Trinity Area's 99th school year with much success.

As you may know, the TASD is in the midst of major change. Some changes involve a fresh approach to teaching and learning, and other changes are physical in nature. For example, a number of renovations to Trinity Middle School have already been completed or are nearing completion. The eSports room, music rooms, technology wing, library media center, and selected restrooms have been built or overhauled to meet students' needs. Along with the new tennis courts, the brand new, state-of-the-art Trinity Athletic Complex has been unveiled for use, district-wide. Students engaging in the career and technology programs at Trinity High School look forward to working in a newly constructed garage and greenhouse. To ensure that the infrastructure is sound, the District has: expanded parking at TMS and West Elementary; paved parking lots, driveways, and emergency exits; remodeled kitchens to include HVAC updates; and begun to replace ceiling tiles and lighting.

We are thankful for our students, staff members, and parents, who have been so cooperative and understanding throughout this time when they have been inconvenienced. And, of course, we are incredibly grateful for the numerous donations from supporters and alumni, who have provided us with funding to build a graduation stage and design signage for around campus. Our goal is to have Trinity Area renovated and beautified by the fall of 2024 to commemorate the District's centennial anniversary. As renovations will continue throughout the school year until the new intermediate building is constructed for Grades 4 and 5, we look forward to the continued design of beautiful, flexible spaces for teaching and learning.

Trinity Area's future is so bright! Thank you very much for your continued support of what we do every day, and for everything you do at home to help our students come to school ready to learn. I wish all of you a wonderful 2023-2024 school year.

It's a Great Day to Be a Hiller!

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael P. Lucas, Superintendent



Follow Dr. Lucas on
twitter
@TRINITY_MLUCAS

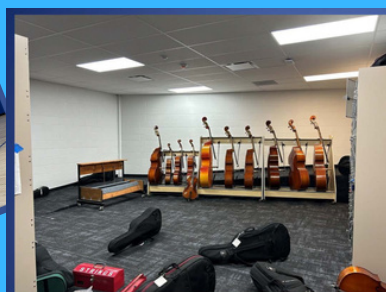
Coming in Fall 2024!

We take this opportunity to share information about significant, upcoming changes to the TASD's leadership. Trinity's Board of Directors approved Assistant Superintendent Dr. Donald Snoke's resignation, effective November, 2024. The Board also approved a motion for Mr. Craig Uram, Principal of Trinity High School, to assume the role of assistant superintendent upon Dr. Snoke's retirement. Finally, the Board approved a motion for Mr. Zachary Zebrasky, Assistant Principal of Trinity High School, to serve as principal of THS once Mr. Uram begins to fulfill his responsibilities as assistant superintendent.

These exciting changes have been made possible due to the collective efforts of our board members and administrators, who work as a team to do their absolute best for students and staff members. Throughout the 23-24 school year, board members and administrators will continue to collaborate so those directly impacted will transition seamlessly into their new roles before the 24-25 school year begins. Congratulations to Dr. Snoke, Mr. Uram, and Mr. Zebrasky!



The Intermediate Center & TMS Renovation



Congratulations September Students of the Month!



**Isabella Hull
High School**



Erica Evans



Noah Jahn

Middle School

#izzystrong

Trinity supports their own!



Trinity Athletic Complex Ribbon Cutting Ceremony!

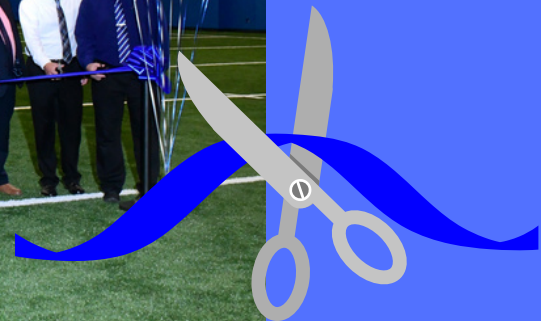
To continue the dedication and commitment to the health and wellness of our Trinity Area students, the Board Directors and Administration unveiled the Trinity Athletic Complex on September 25, 2023. This 28,000-square-foot facility was designed to provide students, teachers, and coaches with state-of-the-art equipment and large spaces to train, practice, teach, and exercise during all four seasons. Western Pennsylvania weather should no longer prevent workouts and practices. This facility will invite and include all Trinity students and student-athletes to meet and exceed their exercise goals. Additionally, the space will enhance the academic curriculum by providing teachers with a larger group instructional space and enhanced physical education opportunities. The Sports Complex will promote student-athletes to excel, strengthen, and compete at a collegiate level. Athletic teams can train together under optimal conditions to maximize their abilities and skills to compete.

Quick Facts

- Total: 26,300 square feet
- Height 36' tall (to bottom of trusses/netting)
- Sports Performance Center (Weight Room) 3,600 square feet
- Synthetic sports turf (approximately 40 yards) 22,700 square feet
- Hash marks
- Soccer goal box
- Baseball/Softball diamond
- Two drop down batting cages
- Twelve state-of-the-art racks and workout stations
- Cardio equipment
- Walk-Draw netting
- Sound system
- Security surveillance and video
- Technology screens
- Restrooms
- Water bottle filler station
- Athlete equipment storage
- Equipment storage room
- Portable bleachers
- Translucent building panels for daylighting



Photo courtesy of the Observer-Reporter



Open House

Join us at the Trinity Athletic Complex Open House on Saturday, October 7, 2023 from 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM



Beautification Projects Are Everywhere



We hope everyone visiting the Trinity High School campus takes time to notice the myriad of beautification and renovation projects either recently completed or currently taking place. The new signage, branding, and graduation stage were made possible through generous donations from our business partners and alumni, and we are so thankful for their contributions to our school community. To prepare for Trinity's centennial anniversary, we are paving, landscaping, replacing windows, painting, and constructing a new greenhouse and garage to support career and technology programs. While this year's graduation will be the 100th, this is the school district's 99th year - something worth celebrating!

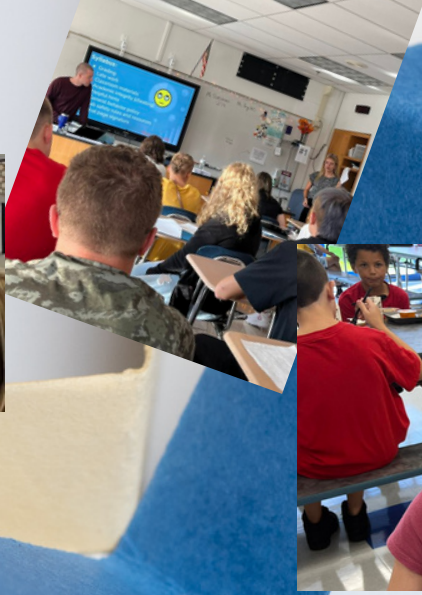
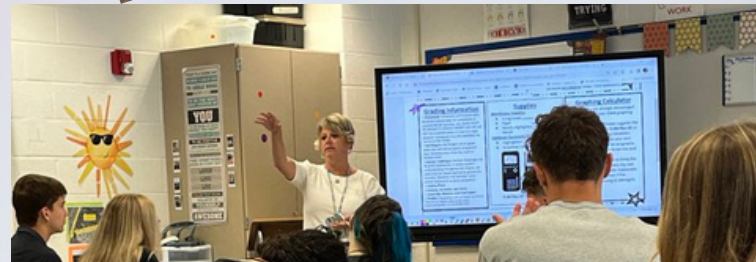
We sincerely thank our maintenance staff for their hard work and dedication to our district, for their efforts have resulted in the creation of beautiful spaces.



Welcome Back Students!



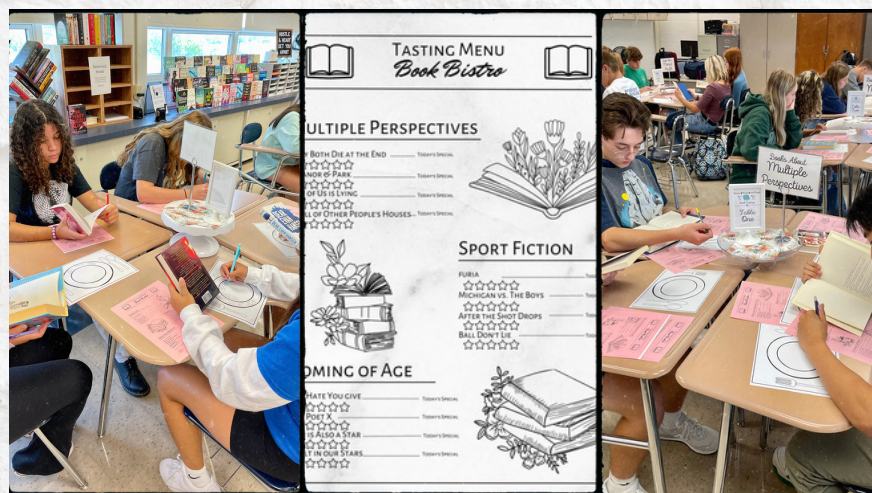
BACK
TO
SCHOOL



Amazing
Teacher's
Enter Here



School's In Session for Open House!



Ms. Kristen Shaw's English 10 Honors students participated in a book tasting event this month to explore new genres and find potential book titles for independent reading. Rotating through six stations, students had the opportunity to review 24 books over the course of one class period. They were encouraged to rank their interest in each title using a five-star scale listed on the provided book menu. At the end of that day, many students were enthusiastically reserving books and requesting another book tasting event. Ms. Shaw has worked hard to build her personal library of over 300 titles to engage even the most reluctant reader; a passion for lifelong literacy is certainly being promoted in her classroom!

Hiller Pride!

Numerous local schools in PA have fallen victim to “swatting”: the action or practice of making prank threats or reports through calls/emails to emergency services or schools. This action causes panic and dispatches armed police officers to a particular address.

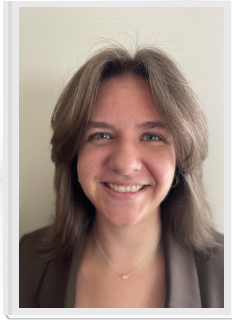
Fortunately, Trinity Area students and staff are safe and protected by our nine, experienced police officers assigned to each building. Our schools are secured and inspected daily. Unique to Trinity, we also have a K-9 Officer, Ken Ranalli, and K-9 Hiller to keep our students and staff safe. We appreciate having these specially trained officers throughout the school community.

On September 18, 2023, Officers Ranalli and Hiller traveled to Fort Cherry and Avella School Districts to assist the State Police in their search for alleged “bombs.” This dynamic duo also responded to a distress call and traveled to Frazier School District last week. We were thrilled to help our neighboring schools investigate, search, and clear their buildings to reopen their schools. Please thank Officers Ranalli and Hiller when you see them in your school!



Trinity Middle School
Open House
October 10, 2023
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

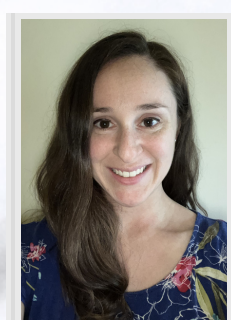
Welcome TO HILLER NATION! New Teachers



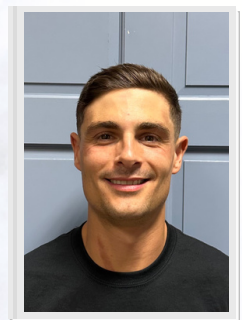
Chloe Brendle
Music 4-8



Sydney Bury
South - Kindergarten



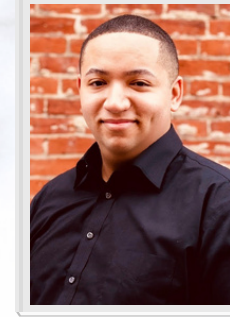
Laura Campus
District Orchestra



Alex Ferrari
High School - PE



Macy Gross
North - 5th Grade



Kaleb Kibble
MS Music



Hannah Kline
South/West - PE



Abigail Lake
South - Kindergarten



Kristina Mroz
South - Special Ed



Brittany Palfreyman
North - Special Ed



Jeanne Schroeder
East-Kindergarten



Kayla Smith
West - Speech/Language



Megan Spisso
West - 4th Grade



Jacquelyn Vanderloos
High School - Special Ed



Dana Vatakis
High School - Spec. Ed



Kelsee Wilttrout
District Speech



Spotlight on #TrinityFamily



Hannah Kline
South & West



Ms. Hannah Kline attended Frazier High School in the city of Perryopolis. Upon graduation, she attended Penn State University where she received a bachelor's degree in Accounting. After a year of experience in the business world, Hannah realized her heart was in Education and making a positive impact on our youth. She returned to Indiana University of Pennsylvania to pursue a Masters in Health in Physical Education (K-12), and Education (K-12). She currently serves as our Health and Physical Education teacher at Trinity West and Trinity South for students in Kindergarten through 5th grade. Ms. Kline previously held similar positions at Propel Schools and in the Monessen School District. The students have quickly adapted to her energy, passion, and youthful exuberance. She is committed to encouraging all of her students to be physically active.

Cool Facts: Hannah was a student-athlete at Penn State Fayette. She was a multi-sport athlete for the Nittany Lions in women's basketball and softball. She currently serves as the assistant coach for the Monessen Girls Varsity basketball team. She also volunteers her time coaching youth baseball and basketball for her niece and nephew. Coach Kline is a great example to her students, she loves being active and participating in many sports such as golf, competitive softball, and pickleball. If you don't see her on a court or on a field, you can find her in the gym working out!



We have a ringer for the THS students vs. staff basketball game this year. Our new PE teacher at the High School, Alec Ferrari, is game-ready! Alec is a graduate of Chartiers Houston where he excelled in football, basketball, and baseball. He holds school records in every sport. Alec was selected All-Conference in all 3 sports. As the quarterback, he totaled over 1,000 yards passing his senior year, was a 1,000-point scorer in basketball, as well as recorded the most strike-outs in a single game (15) as the pitcher for the Buccaneers. Mr. Ferrari graduated from Edinboro University with a degree in Health & Physical Education where he played basketball for the Fighting Scots. This is his second year teaching High School PE. He comes to us from Chartiers Houston Senior High School. He has created such a positive culture in the high school PE program.

Cool Facts: Alec can be seen on the sideline at Hiller Field. Coach Ferrari is an Assistant Varsity Football Coach for the Hillers. He coaches basketball at Ft. Cherry High School and volunteers his time coaching in the community. In his free time, he can be found on the golf course boasting a single-digit handicap or competing on his slow-pitch softball team. He enjoys hiking, lifting weights, and working out. He loves spending time with his family, friends, girlfriend Laura, and his Chocolate Lab, Gia.



Alec Ferrari
Trinity High School

CONGRATULATIONS!



Congratulations to Sydney Wahl for winning the Zonta International scholarship for Community Service! Great work Sydney!



Williamson

Congratulations to The Observer-Reporter Athlete of the Week, Trinity's own, Jonah Williamson



Trinity Area High School has been recognized as one of the best high schools in the nation and region by U.S. News & World Report. Congratulations to our hard working students and teachers!

It's a great day to be a Hiller!

Trinity - Serving With Their Hearts 2023-2024



V!NG



Avery O'Sullivan completed a V!ng for a deserving woman in our community that inspires her, and many others. Thanks to Avery and the Archwell Foundation. Congratulations, Avery!

Congratulations to Cicely Sunseri for receiving a V!ng grant for a deserving woman in our Trinity community!

Ving Partnership invites young individuals between the ages of 14 and 18 years old to nominate a woman in financial need who has inspired them and defied life's hardships. Recipients will receive up to \$1000.00!

Congratulations





SOPHIA MISNER

CONGRATULATIONS

SOPHIA MISNER

2023 RACHEL CARSON HEALTHY
PLANET AWARD!

A SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT
FOR HER COMMITMENT AND PASSION
TO IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT AND THEIR
COMMUNITY THROUGH SUSTAINABILITY.

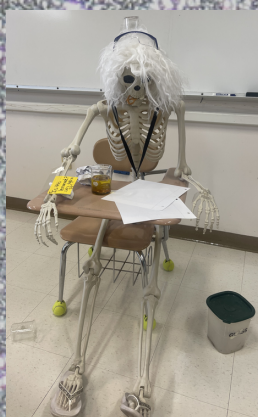


Nelson Pettigrew Jr. is a senior at THS and in the Carpentry program at Western Area CTC. Nelson is employed through the work co-op program by N&C Construction LLC of Washington.



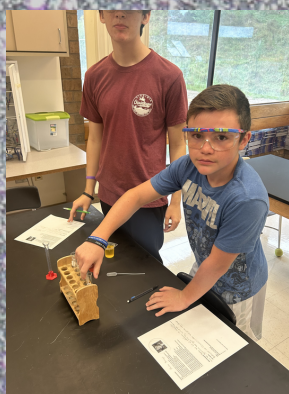
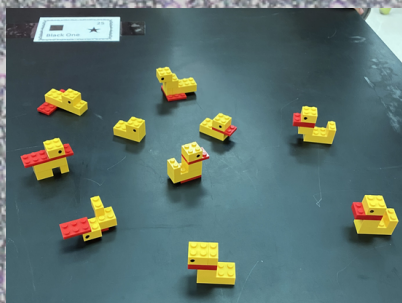
Chaz Norris, a senior at THS is in the Electrical Occupations program at Western Area CTC. Chaz is employed by PA Transformer in Canonsburg through the work co-op program.

TMS

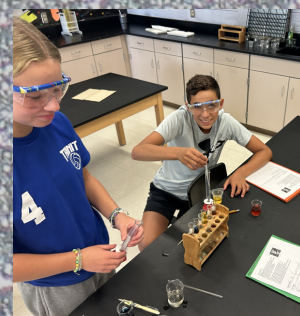


Mrs. Coyle's Lab Safety Skeleton does not know how to be safe in the lab! The students helped to identify his mistakes and taught him how to follow proper lab procedures.

Ms. Spadaro's students completed their first skill challenge by building a duck with certain constraints.



Ms. Hott's students performed their first lab on lab safety, lab tools, and measuring skills.



Trinity FFA "Shows" up at the Fairs!



Trinity FFA had many students who competed at both the Washington County and West Alexander Fairs. Congratulations to all who participated!



Happening at Trinity South: the annual Produce Contest. Students grew a variety of flowers and veggies over the summer. A big "shout out" to THS VoAg students for judging the harvest!





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

#trinitystrong

Shark in the Washington Park!!!

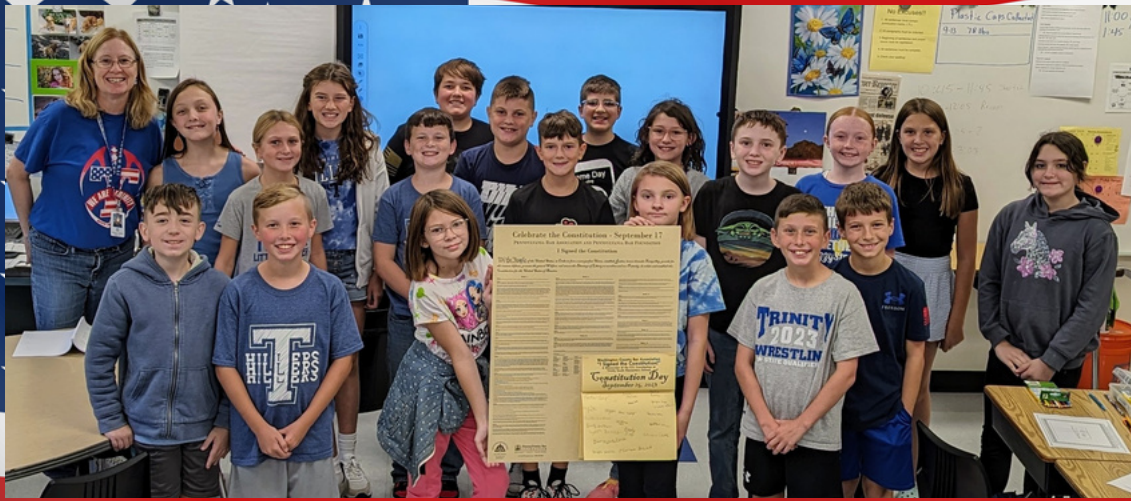


Elizabeth Engle and Cameron Street participated in Shark in the Park cardboard boat races.

Logan Spencer and Jason Engle made their shark boat out of cardboard and duct tape.



At Trinity North's K-2 Open House, the Title 1 reading teachers had a book and reading buddy stuffy raffle. These items were generously purchased with federal funds.



Fifth graders at Trinity South celebrated Constitution Day on Friday, September 15, 2023 by participating in a reading of the U.S. Constitution and signing a copy of the Declaration of Independence! A special thank you to the Washington County Bar Association for all the constitutional materials!



Magistrate, John Bruner visited with 5th grade students at Trinity South to present "Classrooms vs Courtrooms". We'd like to recognize Magistrate Bruner for visiting!



Trinity High School Speech & Debate Team is proud to have been part of the Washington County Courthouse's celebration of Constitution Day! Our students read Amendments 11-27, and a big thank you to Luke Webb (THS '24) for the preamble.



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 - Dr. Sandra Deems ext. 5501
sdeems@trinityhillers.net

East Elementary 724-225-8140

Principal - Mrs. Lindsay Benzenhoefer ext. 4501
lbenz@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 - Free

**Lunch for North & West - Free
(Qualified for the Community
Eligibility Program)**

Lunch (South & East/MS) - \$3.15

Lunch (HS) - \$3.40

**Those who qualify are highly
encouraged to fill out
the free and reduced application at
www.schoolcafe.com**

schoolcafé

To submit an article for consideration
please email:

*hillerhighlights@trinityhillers.net or
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*



TRINITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT | 2023-2024 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

AUGUST '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		

23rd – 24th Kindercamp
21st – 25th New Teachers
28th – 29th, 31st Staff Development
30th Clerical Day

Teacher Days: 4
 Student Days: 0

FEBRUARY '24						
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		

12th Staff Development/No School
19th Presidents' Day/No School

Teacher Days: 20
 Student Days: 19

SEPTEMBER '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

1st Staff Development
4th Labor Day
5th First Student Day
12th & 13th Elementary Open House
19th & 20th MS Open House
26th HS Open House

Teacher Days: 20
 Student Days: 19

MARCH '24						
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						

28th – 29th Spring Break/No School

Teacher Days: 19
 Student Days: 19

OCTOBER '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				

13th Two-Hour Student Early Dismissal/Staff Development
16th Staff Development/No School

Teacher Days: 22
 Student Days: 21

APRIL '24						
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				

1st Spring Break/No School
2nd Staff Development/No School
4th End of 3rd 9 weeks

Teacher Days: 21
 Student Days: 20

NOVEMBER '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		

7th End of 1st 9 weeks
22nd Two-Hour Student Early Dismissal/Staff Development
23rd - 27th Fall Break

Teacher Days: 19
 Student Days: 19

MAY '24						
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	

24th Two-Hour Student Early Dismissal/Staff Development
27th Memorial Day/No School

Teacher Days: 22
 Student Days: 22

DECEMBER '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						

21st Two-Hour Student Early Dismissal/Staff Development
22nd - 31st Winter Break

Teacher Days: 15
 Student Days: 15

JUNE '24						
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						

7th Graduation/Last Student Day
10th Teacher Clerical

Teacher Days: 6
 Student Days: 5

JANUARY '24						
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			

1st New Year's Day/No School
12th Two-Hour Student Early Dismissal/Teacher Clerical
15th M.L. King Day/No School
24th End of 1st Semester

Teacher Days: 21
 Students Days: 21

Teacher Days: 189
 Student Days: 180

Board Approved: 2-16-2023

TENTATIVE FIRST STUDENT DAY
 FOR 2024-2025
 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2024



**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



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.

**Families are encouraged to complete an
application for meal benefits
www.schoolcafe.com**

schoolcafé



© picture-alliance/Bildagentur-online/Begr

CAFETERIA PRICING 2023-24

**TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL \$3.40
TRINITY MIDDLE SCHOOL, TRINITY EAST &
TRINITY SOUTH \$3.15**

**TRINITY NORTH & TRINITY WEST RECEIVE FREE MEALS
FROM THE COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROGRAM
ALL STUDENTS RECEIVE FREE BREAKFAST IN
PENNSYLVANIA**