

# HILLER HIGHLIGHTS

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



November 2023-2024

## Trinity is “Growing” and Expanding Their Career Programs to the Next Level!

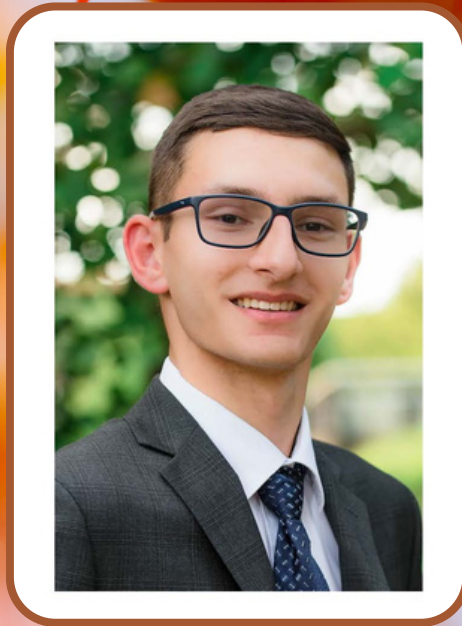


Trapuzzano Greenhouse, Power Motorsports Garage, and Vet  
Tech Lab Ribbon Cutting Event!





# **Congratulations November Students of the Month**



**Anthony Rosati  
High School**



**Gianni James**



**Gillian Bissett  
Middle School**



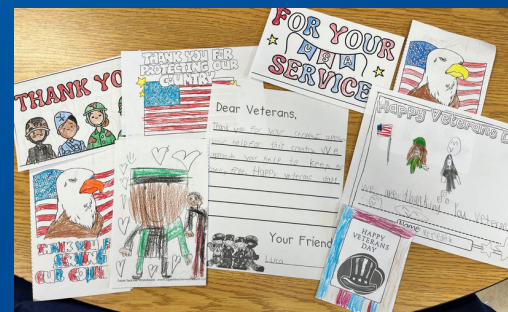
# Trinity Proud!

Trinity graduate, Private Blake Bedillion, surprised his little sister, Miley, after graduating from the Marines basic training camp in South Carolina. The kindergarten students had so many questions for him. They were excited to finally meet him and loved the story he read to them.



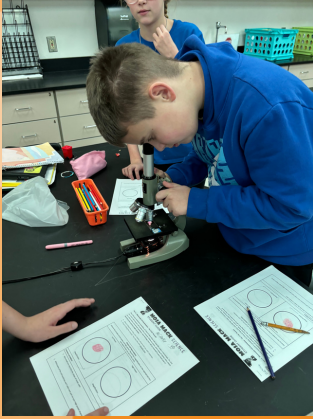
## VETERANS DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED





# Trinity is Taking Pride in... ACADEMICS, Arts, & Athletics!



Students in Ms. Spadaro's class have been observing samples from an Amazon jungle cave to discover if there is life there. They are doing this by comparing the cave samples to known samples of cells such as cheek cells, onion skin cells and elodea cells.

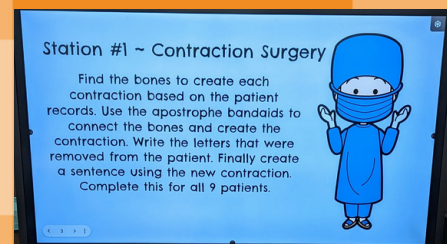
Trinity North hosted a Harry Potter themed Title 1 Family Literacy Night. Students and their families enjoyed a magical evening participating in various reading activities. Through the use of federal funds, families received games and take-home resources, to use with their children.



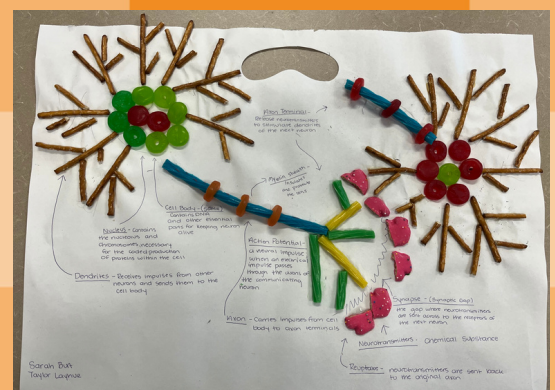
Trinity High School Rocket League team defeated South Fayette, Baldwin, and North Catholic at the CCAC/RMU Rocket League Tournament held in November at the CCAC North Campus. The team went undefeated and will be getting a trophy to celebrate their victory! The team members were Sheldan Arroyo, Jake Phillips, and Bobby Ballentyne.



Second graders in Mrs. Fartini's and Mrs. Hatcher's classes are in "contraction" surgery! Awesome project based activity making learning fun!



Mrs. McCarthy's AP Psychology students created a neuron out of candy to review the location and function of the different parts.







Fifth grade math students in Mrs. Daloia's and Mrs. Walker's math classes at West participated in their annual Thanksgiving dinner project. Students worked in teams to browse through local grocery store ads to plan their own Thanksgiving dinner. Comparing prices, rounding, adding, learning about quantity, and multiplication are just a few of the skills these students have mastered to prepare for their dinner party. Students have the traditional spread, but also thought outside the box with some fun surprises for their Thanksgiving guests. It was definitely turkey time at West!

**ESTIMATED COST OF THANKSGIVING MEAL**  
Math Activity

Project Description: Students are to estimate the cost of a Thanksgiving dinner. Directions: First, browse your advertisement and find the best prices for your Thanksgiving feast. List the price of each item or category on the list. Then, round the price of each item to the nearest half-dollar or dollar. Multiply the amount of the item by the rounded price and write it in the column labeled "Total". To get the total cost of your Thanksgiving feast, add the numbers in the "Total" column to determine your total bill.

Item	Cost per item or lb.	Round	Quantity	Total
Cap of Cranberries	\$2.95	\$3	5	\$15.00

Item	Cost per item or lb.	Round	Quantity	Total
Lettuce	\$1.99	\$2	15	\$15.00
Turkey drumsticks	\$1.49	\$2	10	\$20.00
Pumpkin pie	\$1.99	\$2	2	\$4.00
Chocolate eggs	\$5.49	\$6	2	\$12.00
Milk & cheese	\$2.95	\$3	4	\$12.00
Carrots	\$1.96	\$2	6	\$12.00
Macaroni	\$2.99	\$3	2 dozen	\$6.00
Roast potatoes	\$6	\$6	2 a can	\$12.00
Chips and dip	\$5	\$5	2 a can	\$10.00
Gravy cube	\$2.49	\$3	2 packs	\$6.00
Cappuccino	\$5.99	\$6	2 boxes	\$12.00
Cranberry relish	\$2	\$2	2 a can	\$4.00
Walnuts	\$5	\$5	2 a pack	\$10.00
Sausage	\$19.99	\$20	2 a pack	\$40.00
Turkey Gravy	\$5	\$5	2 a can	\$10.00
<b>END TOTAL</b>				<b>\$188</b>



Range Resources requested student volunteers to assist with their 2000 Turkeys campaign again this year. Mrs. Gojmerac and Mr. Walsh had several students who were interested in helping out. They headed to Main Street in downtown Washington to help raise money. Students had a lot of fun and collected over \$1,000 during their volunteer shift!



Spanish classes at the high school celebrated Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) on November 1 and 2. Students viewed films that showed wonderful aspects of Mexican culture representing this holiday. Students also participated in activities where they created their own tributes to loved ones who are no longer with us.

The Spanish club will also be running a fundraiser called The Pulsera Project during December 4-15. Anyone can purchase handmade bracelets and handbags. These items are handmade by Guatemalan and Nicaraguan artisans, and the Pulsera Project invests proceeds to create lasting change in their communities.



Our Vo-Ag students had some quality career experiences and opportunities in various areas. Whether it was evaluating livestock, practicing tractor driving, learning about dairy farming practices, visiting local businesses, or judging floral arrangements, learning was in abundance.





# Trinity is Taking Pride in... Academics, ARTS, & Athletics!

## Trinity has been selected as an Outstanding Visual Arts Community!



Districts receiving this endorsement demonstrate the importance of their visual arts programs with:

- **Rigorous and inclusive programs:** Arts programs demonstrate rigor using standards-based curricula taught at every level by highly qualified and certified art educators.
- **Highly accessible programs:** Art programs are offered to all students at every level of education with a sustainable budget for the visual arts.
- \* **Highly visible programs:** Schools and districts identify their programmatic accomplishments, curriculum for all levels, art staff, mission statements, and arts events using their school websites and social media.

These opportunities prepare students for robust futures in the creative industries as well as prepare them with skills needed across all aspects of life: problem-solving, flexible mindsets, team and collaboration skills, creativity, and more. These are the cognitive skills young people will need to find their place in a globally competitive workforce. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that the arts and culture sector is a \$699 billion industry, which represents 4.3% of the nation's GDP—a larger share of the economy than transportation and agriculture.

The Pennsylvania Art Education Association commends Trinity School District for its active role in providing arts education opportunities for students and receiving the endorsement of **Outstanding Visual Arts Community 2023**. **Congratulations to Trinity arts teachers and students.**



Trinity National Art Honor society students attended the Vendor Fair at Trinity North to support the Inclusive Playground Project. Pictured are (L to R): Samarra Charles, Kaitlin Bockstoe, and Tristan Osko, who took time out of their weekend to sell student made art and ornaments. Teaching students about the business side of marketing and selling their own artwork is one of the goals of the National Art Honor Society Charter at the High School. NAHS students are also integral to the yearly District Art Show, volunteering to assist with sales, activities, and set up. In addition, NAHS students are busy throughout the year with projects to beautify the campus and also to submit to national competitions like the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards.





# Something New Coming Soon to the Arts!



The high school art department is proud to announce the beginning of a new course for Trinity's most elite visual artists- Advanced Art! This full-year course gives students who have completed at least two levels of a visual arts class the special opportunity to continue their studies and develop a portfolio for higher education and preparation for career-readiness. Here, each student gets to focus exclusively on their unique creative interests and assignments are individually tailored to the artist. In its first semester, Advanced Art has 9 amazing student artists who are overflowing with talent and producing stunning pieces of art! We look forward to showcasing their work in the 2024 spring district art show.

## Be Kind... It Matters!



This year the third grade at Trinity West again participated in the annual door decorating hosted by the Prevention at Washington Drug and Alcohol Commission. Not only did Mrs. Layhue, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Flowers win 1st-3rd prize awards, but Mrs. Layhue's class won Grand Champion when competing against other local 3rd grade classrooms from various school districts. With over 1.2k votes on Facebook, they were awarded an additional \$250 in Amazon gift cards for school supplies! The third grade team plans on using this money for extra headphones, pencils and materials/prizes for their end of the year escape room and more.



## World Kindness Day

The THS Friends of Rachel Club kicked off its year of service by wearing cardigans and displaying friendship bracelets in the cafeteria to promote positivity on World Kindness Day, Nov. 13th. Members have many projects planned to recognize the amazing efforts of our student body, faculty, and staff to create a more positive school climate and culture.





## *Trinity's Own...Serving With Their Hearts*



# V!NG

**Congratulations to Olivia Angelo, another V!ng recipient who was able to present \$1,000 to a Washington County woman that inspired her!**



For the past two years, Gage Nalepka has held food drives as community service projects to help replenish the Food Pantry for Trinity families during the holidays. Last year he collected over 500 nonperishable food items, and his goal this year was to surpass that total with at least 1000 or more. Gage reached out to his Sycamore Community, Mt. Pines Campground, Arctic Foxes Ice Hockey teammates and Facebook friends to help him achieve his goal with more than 1100 food items. Gage is a senior this year and a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, Trinity Ice Hockey Team, and Concert Band.



**The TMS Girls on the Run team trained for 10 weeks by learning about their mind, body and spirit with an end goal to run 3.1 miles. They completed their end of season 5K at North Park last Saturday. We are so proud of all the girls' hard work and commitment.**



# Congratulations!

## U.S. News & World Report

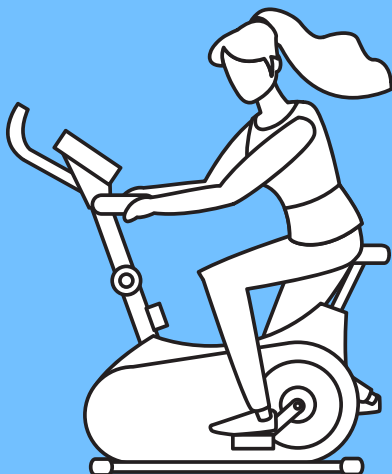
2023-2024

**TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL  
TRINITY EAST  
TRINITY SOUTH  
TOP SCHOOLS IN THE NATION  
AWARD**

Congratulations to Trinity High School, Trinity East and Trinity South! U.S. News and World Report published their 2024 Best Schools rankings for 2024. The high school along with both elementary schools were recognized nationally as being among the best schools in the state of Pennsylvania!

# Congratulations!

**R**RANGE  
RESOURCES®



"Congratulations" goes to Mrs. Benz, who received a \$5,000.00 grant from Range Resources to purchase student spin bikes for the new intermediate school. Thank you Range Resources!





# Join in on the "Non"-Silent Night!

*"Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent."*

## Winter Concert Schedule

December 4 - Elementary Chorus - 6:00 PM/Middle School Chorus - 7:00 PM

December 6 - Middle School Band & Orchestra - 6:30 PM

December 11 - Elementary Orchestra - 6:00 PM/ Elementary Band - 7:00 PM

December 13 - High School Band, Chorus, & Orchestra - 6:30 PM

December 18 - High School Jazz Band & Percussion Ensemble - 6:30 PM

All concerts are at Trinity High School in the auditorium.



**Congratulations to Sydney Klick for her successful audition into PMEA District I Chorus. She will represent Trinity in January at the festival to be held at Canon-McMillan High School.**



**Congratulations to all the cast and crew of "The Music Man Jr." on a job well done!**



# Trinity's HOSA "Wraps" it up!



Hosa students raised money to help offset costs for their Student Leadership Conference in Lancaster, PA later this year. Students donated money to vote for the teacher or administrator they wanted to be taped to a pillar. The big winner was...Mr. Zebrasky!

## MSHA Drone Presentation

Mrs. Gojmerac and Mr. Walsh were very excited to welcome professionals from the Mine Safety & Health Administration (MSHA) to TMS for a drone presentation. Prior to this, the students learned about the history of drones and some of the current debatable issues related to drones. In addition, students built and flew their own drones in the new athletic facility. Thank you to Wesley and his team for helping our students learn more about the real-life application of drones!



## 2023-2024 Student Representatives for the School Board



**Maria Giorgi**



**Tucker Proudfit**

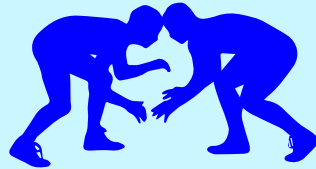


# Trinity is Taking Pride in... Academics, Arts, & ATHLETICS!

## National Letter of Intent Day!

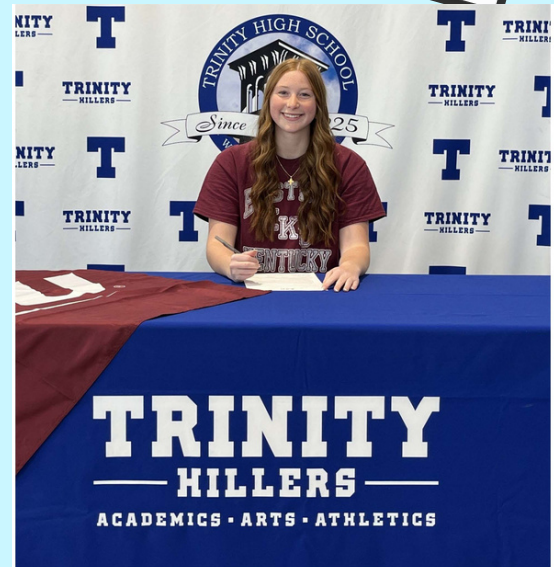
### Bodie Morgan - Davidson College - Wrestling

Trinity High School senior, Bodie Morgan, signed a National Letter of Intent on November 8 to continue his academic and athletic career at Davidson College. He plans to major in Environmental Science.



### Ruby Morgan - Eastern Kentucky - Soccer

Trinity High School senior, Ruby Morgan, signed a National Letter of Intent on November 8 to continue her academic and athletic career at Eastern Kentucky. She plans to major in Physical Therapy.



### Blake Reihner - Davidson College - Wrestling

Trinity High School senior, Blake Reihner, signed a National Letter of Intent on November 8 to continue his academic and athletic career at Davidson College. He plans to major in Economics.



### Maddy Roberts - Coker University - Volleyball

Trinity High School senior, Maddy Roberts, signed a National Letter of Intent on November 8 to continue her academic and athletic career at Coker University. She plans to major in Exercise Science.







**BIG 7 CONFERENCE**

**OFFENSIVE  
PLAYER OF THE  
YEAR**

**2023**

**#2  
JONAH  
WILLIAMSON**

#MTC

**T**

CONGRATULATIONS

2023 AAAA BIG 7 OFFENSE






Jonah Williamson

Luke Lacock

Jase Banco

Braeden Helmkamp

**T 1ST TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE**

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA  
**WPIAL**  
INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC LEAGUE

2023 AAAA BIG 7 DEFENSE






Luke Lacock

Nico Mauro

Jase Banco

Semaj Fuse

**T 1ST TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE**

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA  
**WPIAL**  
INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC LEAGUE

**ALL CONFERENCE HONORS**

**C**

**TE**

**WR**

**RB**

**OT**

**AIDEN  
DAVIS**  
2ND TEAM

**CADEN  
VOGEL**  
2ND TEAM

**DANTE  
DERUBBO**  
2ND TEAM

**ANDREW  
DURIG**  
HONORABLE MENTION

**JIMMY  
LAFFERTY**  
HONORABLE MENTION

**T**

AAAA BIG 7

OFFENSE

**ALL CONFERENCE HONORS**

**DB**

**DL**

**LB**

**P**

**K**

**ANDREW  
DURIG**  
2ND TEAM

**BRAEDEN  
HELMKAMP**  
2ND TEAM

**CADEN  
VOGEL**  
2ND TEAM

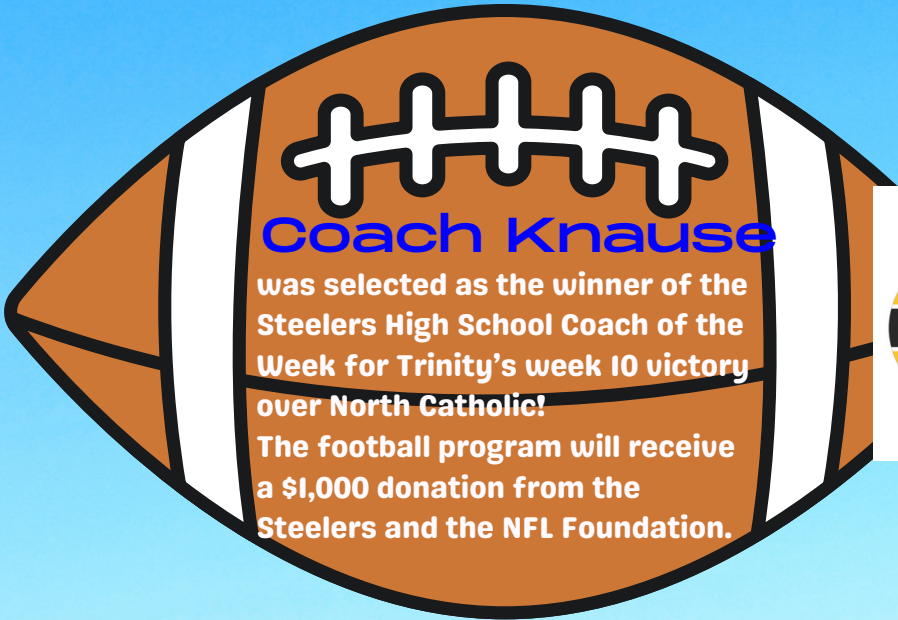
**ANDREW  
DURIG**  
2ND TEAM

**ANDY  
PALM**  
2ND TEAM

**T**

AAAA BIG 7

DEFENSE



**Coach Knause**

was selected as the winner of the Steelers High School Coach of the Week for Trinity's week 10 victory over North Catholic!

The football program will receive a \$1,000 donation from the Steelers and the NFL Foundation.





# WHO WE ARE

## #TRINITYFAMILY



**Megan Spisso**

**Trinity West**

Mrs. Megan Spisso attended Penn State University where she received her bachelor's degree in Human Resource Management & Employment Relations. At State College, Mrs. Spisso was the Philanthropy Chair and vice president for the Society of Human Resources Management. In her final semester of undergrad, she studied abroad in Limerick, Ireland and enjoyed traveling to different countries. Upon graduation, she accepted a position as a Corporate Human Resources Officer. After 5 years, Mrs. Spisso made the decision to return to school to pursue a career in education. She completed her post graduate work at Carlow University and began her student teaching in grade 4 for the Bethel Park School District while teaching pre-k in the Head Start Program. Her experience includes being a building substitute at the Intermediate School in the Chartiers Valley School District. Mrs. Spisso is currently our 4th grade ELA and social studies teacher at West. In addition to her mission of prioritizing the holistic development of our students, she is a tutor at West.

**Cool Facts:** Mrs. Spisso is newly married and lives in Pittsburgh with her husband, Marcus, and puppy, Major. She loves dance and has coached at many levels. She enjoys reading and walking with Major in her free time. Mr. and Mrs. Spisso enjoy traveling; they went to Switzerland on their honeymoon and were able to attend the Tour de France. She is a “Big” in the Pittsburgh Big Brothers and Big Sisters Chapter as well.

**#trinitypride**



**TRINITY AREA  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**



Are you a parent or guardian looking to play a more active role in your child's education? Discover the power of Skyward Family Access, a versatile tool designed to enhance your involvement in your child's learning journey.

- [Skyward Family Access Introductory Video](#)
- Skyward Family Access How-to Guides
  - [Skyward Attendance](#)
  - [Skyward Gradebook](#)
  - [Skyward Calendar](#)
  - [Skyward Menu](#)
  - [Skyward Family Access](#)

To submit an article to be considered for publication in *Hiller Highlights*, 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.



## Important Dates in December/January

### December

21 - 2 Hour Early Release/Staff Development

22-Jan. 1 - Winter Break/No School

### January

2 - Students Return

12 - 2 Hour Early Release/Teacher Clerical

15 - M.L. King Day/No School

24 - End of First Semester

### 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)



## **FLEXIBLE INSTRUCTION DAYS**

**The Trinity Area School District has been approved to utilize Flexible Instruction Days (FIDs). Trinity will move to remote instruction when schools are closed due to weather or other concerns. It is no longer a necessity to cancel instruction for weather or facility related issues. When a FID is announced, teachers will teach from home and students will learn remotely from home. If it becomes necessary to cancel in-person school, staff, parents, guardians, and students will receive notification via the Skylert System, local television, and radio sources. On FIDs the students will log onto their Chromebooks and attend school remotely as they have done during closures for the pandemic. Staff, parents/guardians, and students need to be prepared for short-term or sporadic closures due to weather related issues. Students should have their Chromebooks available daily at school and at home. Staff and students must be prepared to work from home at all times.**

**If you have any questions, please contact your respective 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**