

HILLER HIGHLIGHTS

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



September 2024-2025

Message from Dr. Michael P. Lucas



Dear Members of Our Hiller Family,

The Trinity Area School District is turning 100, and we cannot wait to celebrate 100 years of excellence in academics, the arts, and athletics! This milestone deserves fanfare, and we plan to mark the anniversary with events that honor Trinity's legacy and generate excitement for a very bright future.

First, I am thrilled to announce that Trinity Intermediate School opened on September 3, 2024 as scheduled! We are pleased to have welcomed the students and staff from North, South, East, and West Elementary Schools to create a unified community. Students in grades 4 and 5 are being provided with an outstanding education, delivered by staff members who have designed state-of-the-art spaces where teaching and learning can be reimaged for the 21st Century.

Another exciting event will be the District's unveiling of an answer to a specific question: What is a Hiller? Grounded in a plethora of rich history and tradition, the term, "Hiller," initially proved challenging to define because all of us envisioned a "Hiller" slightly differently. After extensive research on the District's history, and in collaboration with students, staff members, and alumni, we have crafted a definition that truly embodies the spirit of our community and the value of education. We look forward to sharing what it means to be a Trinity Hiller as we celebrate the District's 100th year.

Lastly, I am proud to announce that Trinity Area is the first school district in Pennsylvania to be named a Distinguished District by the International Society for Technology in Education, an organization that promotes and supports the use of digital tools to revolutionize teaching and learning. This global recognition is a testament to our commitment to innovation and excellence in education, and I am honored to share this accomplishment with you.

We look forward to celebrating these historic events with you as none of this is possible without your support. Thank you for appreciating the importance of education, helping to grow our Hiller community, and trusting us to implement change.

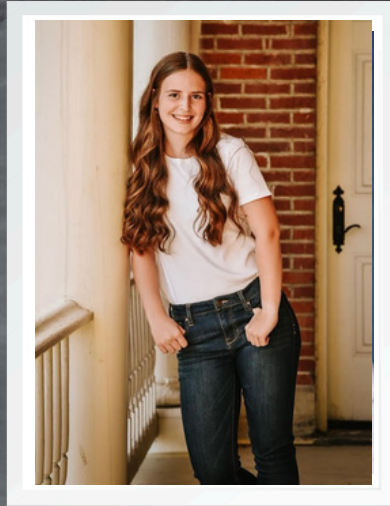
It's a Great Day to Be a Hiller!

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael P. Lucas, Superintendent



Congratulations September Students of the Month!



Abby Bodart
High School



Bianca Sunseri & Max Rosati
Middle School

Trinity Intermediate School Ribbon Cutting Ceremony!



“What 100 years of history has taught us is the importance of embracing change and looking to the future. Today, as we open these new spaces, we are not just cutting a ribbon—we are opening the doors to endless possibilities for the next generation of learners, problem solvers, and critical thinkers. Thank you to everyone who made this vision a reality, ensuring that Trinity remains a beautiful place to learn and grow.”

Dr. Michael P. Lucas, Superintendent



Click below to embark on a virtual tour of Trinity Intermediate School, the latest addition to the Trinity Area School District. Designed specifically for 4th and 5th graders, this cutting-edge facility features a state-of-the-art media center, an innovative makerspace, and a virtual reality lab. Additionally, the school houses three dedicated project rooms and numerous areas designed for collaborative learning. Discover how these fantastic resources are shaping the future of education at Trinity Area!

[Intermediate School Video](#)

"Oh the Projects We Will Do" and Complete!



We are excited and proud to share the successful completion of numerous district projects over the past two years. What makes this achievement even more remarkable is that all projects were finished ahead of schedule and under budget. This reflects our district's commitment to efficient planning, responsible use of resources, and ensuring the best for our schools and community. It's a testament to the hard work and dedication of everyone involved.

1. Trinity Intermediate School

2. Middle School Renovations (Built-in 1972)

- Special education restroom renovation
- Hallway ceiling replacement & lighting upgrades
- Infrastructure upgrades – HVAC/elec/plumbing
- Special education patio and ramp replacement
- Fire alarm upgrade
- Middle School gym upgrades (Sound, Floor, Lighting & Paint)
- Library media center renovation
- Music room renovations
- Esports Room
- Paving of entire campus
- Cafeteria and kitchen lighting and ceiling tile replacement
- Cafeteria flooring replacement
- Replacement of auditorium lights, new stage lights, and sound system
- New main entrance concrete and landscape
- Additional handicapped and visitor parking spaces
- New walk-in cooler and freezers at both the High and Middle School locations
- New traffic and parking signage
- Additional parking spaces were added for large events (Total of 576)
- New technology wing and classrooms



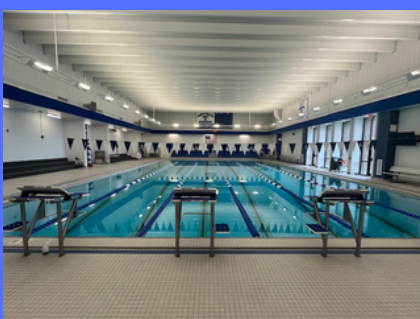
3. Swimming Pool Renovations

- New outside roof and indoor ceiling repair and or replacement
- New exhaust system installation to help remove chlorinates in the natatorium space
- New lighting throughout
- Replacement of deck tile throughout the entire space
- New bleachers
- Painting of the entrance and inside perimeter of the natatorium
- Installation of new starting blocks and removal of prior diving blocks
- Repaired shower hardware and refinishing of the swim locker room floors



4. Additional Projects

- Athletic Complex
- New stadium press box
- Addition and upgrades to the stadium concession stand
- Complete redesign and replacement of the graduation stage
- New tennis courts moved to Trinity West
- Expansion of the Trinity West drop-off zone and additional parking
- Addition of pass-thru road at the Middle School for bus parking at sporting events etc.
- Power-motor sports garage with concrete and paved area surrounding
- New green house



**Trinity Welcomes Back Former Staff Who
Have Been Instrumental in Shaping the
History of Our District!**



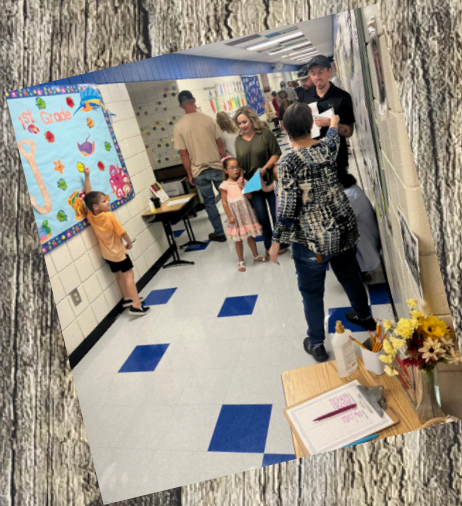
Trinity Administration's Support is Amazing!

Welcome Back Students!



BACK
TO
SCHOOL



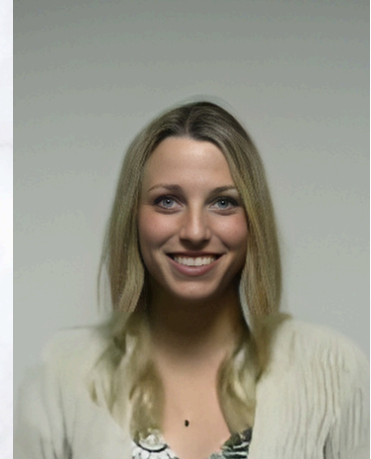


Elementary Open House

Welcome TO HILLER NATION! New Teachers



Brandi Ankrom
IS – Special Ed.



Maria Erny
MS – Reading



Elijah Frazier
West – Kindergarten



Alyssa Goodman
East – Kindergarten



Chelsea Naser
South – Nurse



Kelli Shuba
HS – English



Tracy Skariot
HS – Nurse

Trinity is Taking Pride in... ACADEMICS, Arts, and Athletics



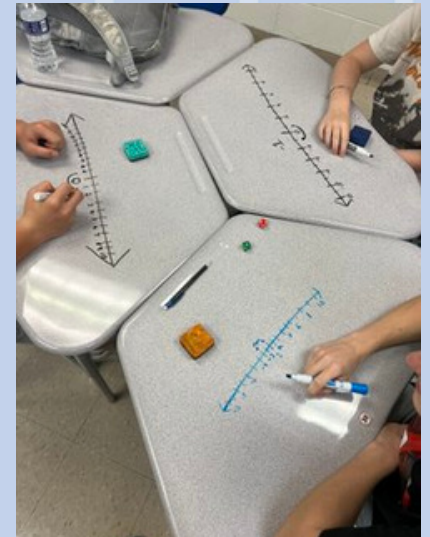
Mrs. Husk's Accounting V students are excited for the opportunity to take a college class in high school and earn 3 credits from the University of Pittsburgh!



Mrs. Lloyd's math class
and transitioning
classes



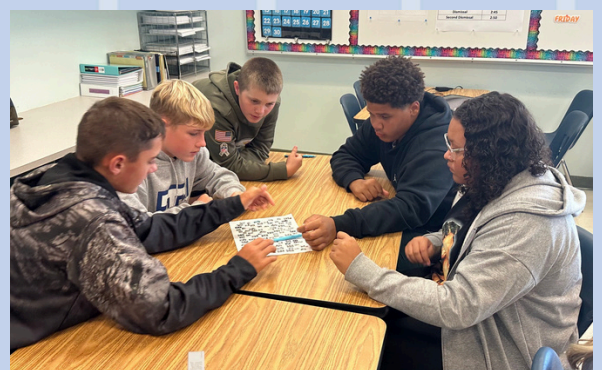
Mrs. Thornburg's
math class



Mrs. Gandy's science class



Mrs. Muschick's
math class



**Trinity is Taking Pride in...
Academics, ARTS, and Athletics**



We had a great first few weeks for music at TMS! Students learned class expectations, got set up with instrument and locker assignments, and began playing, singing, and performing.

Congratulations to the FIRST PLACE WINNERS of the West Alexander Fair Talent Show: Chamber Choir members Katherine Drezewski and Caden Miller!



Happening Now at Trinity South... 3rd graders do the morning announcements.

Trinity is Taking Pride in...
Academics, Arts, and ATHLETICS



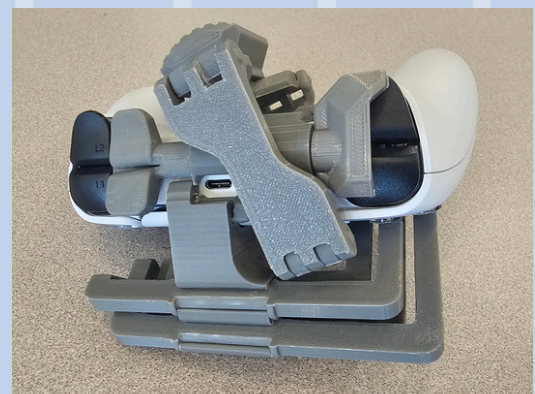
CONGRATULATIONS!



Trinity High School's Esports program, now entering its fourth year, remains dedicated to promoting inclusivity and skill development. Recently, a first-year student without mobility in one arm joined the Esports team, impressing coaches Matthew Christy and Justin Naser with his ability to play using a standard controller with just one hand. To further support the student, the coaches partnered with the school's Industrial Technology teacher, Cally Fleming, to 3D print a custom accessibility attachment for his controller. This initiative reflects the program's commitment to ensuring that every student can fully participate in Esports.



Way
to
GO



Homecoming 2024

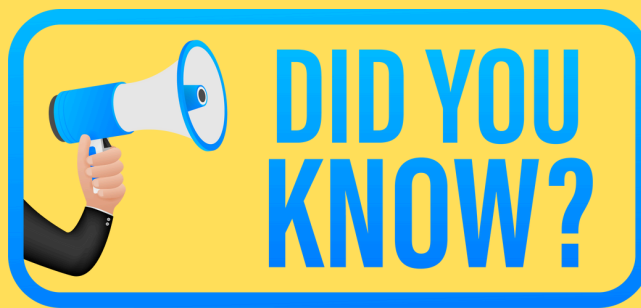
Congratulations to Abby Higgins!



*Former Queens
were invited back
to participate in
the 100th year
celebration!*



Gia Comfort, Katherine Drezewski, Micha Mariana, Kenzie Bailes, Lilly Batson,
Lizzy Koffler, Abby Higgins, Angela Pan, Addison McCoy, Sienna Heasley,
Taaliyah Wright, Rosalita Feriozzi



Our Food Service Department wants all students to have the option for a healthy breakfast and lunch. If your student has a food allergy/medical need for a special diet, we can accommodate with a completed medical statement from a doctor. For more information or to view our allergy menus, please check out the Food Service Department link on the webpage.



Police Trading Cards

Students in grades K - 5 will be able to collect all 10 Limited Edition 100 Year trading cards of the Trinity Area School District Police.



The Hiller Newspaper's first issue is officially published! This month, you can read all about starting the school year strong, getting into the fall spirit, and the boys' soccer team's impressive start to the season. To read these and more, go to thehillernewspaper.org, follow us on X @HillerNewspaper, and follow @hillernewspaper on Instagram!

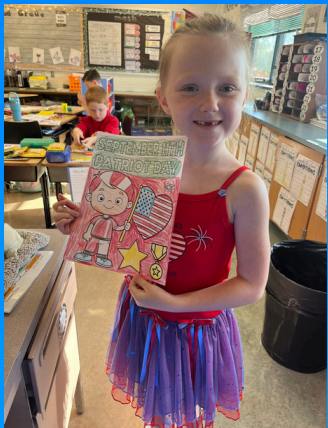


**ISTE 2024
Distinguished
District Award!**

It's a great day to be a Hiller!



Trinity Commemorates Patriots Day and Constitution Day!



High School Speech and Debate Club

2024
WASHINGTON COUNTY
PONY WORLD SERIES TEAM

A large baseball with the Washington County logo on a green field.

A collage of seven baseball players in Washington County uniforms, each with their number and name: 2 COEN PHASUPONG, 19 MACKSIM NONACK, 27 EASTON OULANEY, 13 OWEN SAMOGALA, 1 GARRETT STOY, 8 LANDON CROWE, and 6 LANDON CONN.

A large blue letter T with a white outline.

Congratulations



W

Western Area CTC

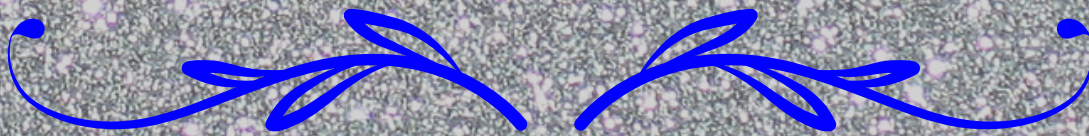


Aidan Szczenia is in the Auto Mechanics program and is employed by Washington Chevrolet.

Kaden Loughman is in the Auto Mechanics program and is employed by Budd Baer Subaru.



Cody Flowers is in the HVAC program and is employed by Metro Heating and Cooling/Climate Controlled Systems.



PTA Presidents

"Today, I had the pleasure of meeting with our amazing PTA presidents to learn about their plans for the upcoming school year. I'm incredibly grateful for their leadership and dedication to our school community. Together, we're working to make this year one to remember!" - Dr. Michael Lucas

Trinity High School
Open House
October 2, 2024
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM



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



Trinity's First Pep Assembly of the Year.



Trinity FFA was Well Represented at The Washington County Fair



Miranda Schury
Washington County
Dairy Princess



Corbin Likar
Senior Stockman
Winner



Miranda Schury (Junior) - Breeding & Dairy Goats
Dairy goats- 1st Place Junior Division, 1st Place Senior Division
Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Junior Show
Grand Champion and Reserve Senior Show



Caitlin McCullough (Junior) - Market Lamb
1st Place in Class



Jacob Wright (Sophomore) - Market Hog



William Beinlich (Sophomore) - Market Steer - Reserve GRAND Champion Steer
Champion and OVERALL Steer Showman



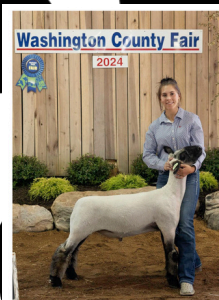
Madison McClure (Sophomore) - Market Lamb & Market Goat
Mk Lamb - 2nd in Class - Champion Div & Overall Lamb Showman
Mk Goat - 2nd in Class - Champion Division Showman



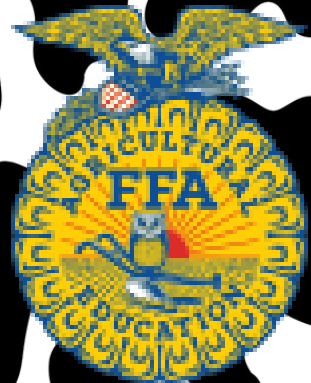
Matthew Hartley (Senior)
Market Lamb



Corbin Likar (Senior) - Market Hog, Market Lamb, Market Steer



Sydney Allen (Senior) - Market Rabbits, Market Lamb - 5th in Class & Market Steer - 2nd in Class



Important Contact Information

Trinity Area School District 724-223-2000

High School 724-225-6380

Principal - Mr. Zachary Zebrasky ext. 6501
zzebrasky@trinityhillers.net

Asst. Principal - Mrs. Michelle Ostrosky ext. 6505
mostrosky@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

Intermediate School 724-228-8305

Principal - Mrs. Lindsay Benzenhoefer ext. 8501
lbenz@trinityhillers.net

East Elementary 724-225-8140

Principal - Mrs. Courtney LeViere ext. 4501
cleviere@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 - Mr. Charles Chairge ext. 1501
cchairge@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 issues. When a FID is announced, teachers will teach from home and students will learn remotely from home. If it becomes necessary to cancel school, staff, parents, guardians, and students will receive notification via the Skylert System, local television, and radio sources. On a FID the students will log onto their Chromebooks and attend school remotely as they have done during closures in the past. 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.

**Free breakfast and lunch
for all students in Trinity
Area School District**

**This is provided by the
Community Eligibility
Program (CEP)!**



**Dates to Remember
October 2024**

**11th – 2 Hour Early
Release**

**14th – No School – Staff
Development**

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 | 2024-2025 CALENDAR

AUGUST '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

19th-23rd New Teachers
21st & 22nd Kindercamp
26th-29th Staff Development
30th Clerical Day

Teacher Days: 5
Student Days: 0

FEBRUARY '25

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	

10th Staff Development/No School
17th President's Day/No School

Teacher Days: 19
Student Days: 18

SEPTEMBER '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					

2nd Labor Day
3rd – First Student Day

Teacher Days: 20
Student Days: 20

MARCH '25

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					

Teacher Days: 21
Student Days: 21

OCTOBER '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		

11th Two-Hour Student Early Dismissal/Staff Development
14th Staff Development/No School

Teacher Days: 23
Student Days: 22

APRIL '25

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 – End of 3rd 9 weeks
17th – Staff Development/No School
18th- 21st – Spring Break/No School

Teacher Days: 20
Student Days: 19

NOVEMBER '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

5th End of 1st 9 weeks
27th Two-Hour Student Early Dismissal/Staff Development
28th & 29th Fall Break

Teacher Days: 19
Student Days: 19

MAY '25

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 Two-Hour Student Early Release/Staff Development
26th Memorial Day

Teacher Days: 21
Student Days: 21

DECEMBER '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				

2nd – Fall Break
23rd-31st – Winter Break

Teacher Days: 14
Student Days: 14

JUNE '25

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					

6th Graduation/Last Student Day
9th Teacher Clerical

Teacher Days: 6
Student Days: 5

JANUARY '25

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
17th Two-Hour Student Early Release/Teacher Clerical
20th M.L. King Day/No School
24th End of 1st Semester

Teacher Days: 21
Student Days: 21

Teacher Days: 189
Student Days: 180

Board Approved:

TENTATIVE FIRST STUDENT DAY
FOR 2025-2026
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2025



TRINITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

CEP FAQ

TRINITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

What is the Community Eligibility Provision? (CEP)

CEP is a non-pricing meal service option for schools and school districts in low-income areas. CEP allows schools and districts to serve breakfast and lunch at no cost to all enrolled students without collecting household applications. Instead, schools that adopt CEP are reimbursed using a formula based on the percentage of students categorically eligible for free meals based on their participation in other specific means-tested programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

How does my student get a free meal?

For a student to receive a free meal, they must take a minimum 3 items at lunch and/or breakfast. Of these 3 items, one must be 1/2c. fruit/juice or vegetables. The food service department offers various entrees, fruits, and vegetables for maximum choice options.

Do I need to fill out an application to get the free meals?

No, you do not need to fill out a free/reduced application to receive the free meal. However, you can fill out an application to determine if you qualify for other reduced cost options, such as Chromebook insurance. Any family that is a direct certification through other specific means-tested programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, will be automatically received through the Compass website.

<https://www.compass.dhs.pa.gov/intake/#/applynow/gettingstarted>

My student already received free meals, anything different for them?

No, your student will follow the same meal patterns as all other students. The CEP program now allows all students to eat for free.

My student just wants a milk/fruit. Why isn't this free?

Student's must take the required 3 components, including fruit/vegetable for the milk/fruit to be free.

Can my student get a second/extra food for free?

Federal Child Nutrition guidelines only allow one breakfast and one lunch per student to be free per day. Any additional food will be available for purchase.

How can I add money on my student's account?

You can add money to your student's account three ways:

1. Send cash in an envelope with student's name on the front
2. Make check to Trinity Food Service with student's name in note section
3. Pay online at E-funds, which can be found on the Food Service page on the website

What if my student doesn't grab everything for a free meal?

If your student is missing something to make the meal complete, our kitchen staff will gladly help your student.

I have more questions. What should I do?

Email Ksmith5@trinityhillers.net

Nondiscrimination Statement:

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at:

<https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/document s/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD- 3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

fax:

(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

email:

Program.Intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



**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
HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT 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.