

HILLER HIGHLIGHTS



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

November 2024-2025

For decades, students, staff members, and community members have proudly identified “The Hiller” as the Trinity Area School District’s mascot. Yet, it seems as if everyone had their own idea of what a Hiller actually is. Some likened a Hiller to a cadet since Trinity Hall was once a military academy. Others thought that a Hiller was a gorilla because the “Hiller Gorilla” made an appearance at sporting events some time ago. Many considered the geography of Western PA and wondered if a Hiller is someone who lives or works on a hill. No matter, no one seemed to have a definitive response to the question, “What, exactly, is a Hiller?”

In celebration of the District’s 100th year, stakeholders collaborated to envision the school mascot in a way that bridged the District’s rich history and the modern community’s values and beliefs. After speaking with students, athletes, Board members, teachers, administrators, and community members, we are finally ready to answer the burning question, “What is a Hiller?” The following story, which will be displayed throughout campus for students and staff members to view, was unveiled in November, 2024. Now, when someone asks, “What is a Hiller?” we have an answer!



On September 1, 1879, Trinity Hall Boarding School was founded. Known locally as Trinity Hall Academy, the school was situated on a hill overlooking the town of Washington, PA. Between 1879 and 1906, young cadets, dressed in military uniforms and eager to experience life, spent their days at the Academy learning academics and leadership skills. When, in 1925, Trinity Hall and the surrounding property were purchased by the Joint High School Board of Education, Trinity High School was established as a public school to serve youth in Washington County. The Academy’s original bell tower still remains as a part of Trinity High School.



Given the school district’s history, as well as the Academy’s location on a hill, it is unsurprising that Trinity Area’s students and staff members have been nicknamed the “Hillers” by members of our community and neighboring districts. The last 100 years have been a time of positive change and exponential growth for both the school district and community, yet the name, Hillers, has remained constant.



Although they may not spend their days in uniform, modern Trinity Hillers continue to embody the outstanding personal qualities and characteristics demonstrated by the earnest cadets who roamed the Academy. As leaders and innovators, Hillers of all ages continue to inspire others with their unwavering commitment to academics, the arts, and athletics. A Hiller possesses a powerful intellect, mighty work ethic, and deep appreciation for community. Hillers hold themselves and others to the highest standards, continually striving to exceed expectations. Always, a Hiller defends what is right and good.



To celebrate the legacy of our history, School Directors have adopted “the cadet” as Trinity Area School District’s official mascot. Cadets lived on the hill a century ago, and Trinity Hillers continue to serve in their memory.

Congratulations November Students of the Month



Rogan Cavanaugh
High School



Lucas Price

Addy Burt

Middle School



Neeva Momplaisir



Korylenn Salansky

Intermediate School

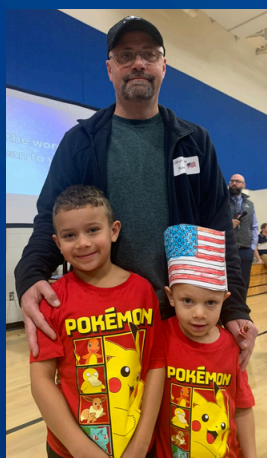
Trinity is Taking Pride in Our Veterans!



Learning About Veterans Day!

Mrs. Richey's and Mrs. Bristor's 8th Grade social studies classes once again participated in sending holiday greeting cards to area Veterans. The 8th grade students learned about Veterans Day, and then spent a class period penning holiday wishes to those who sacrificed so much.

The students wrote thoughtful messages of appreciation. The cards will be sent to area Veteran homes with the help of Trinity High School TLC students and their advisors, Mrs. JoMarie Giorgi and Mrs. Mary Ann Berty.

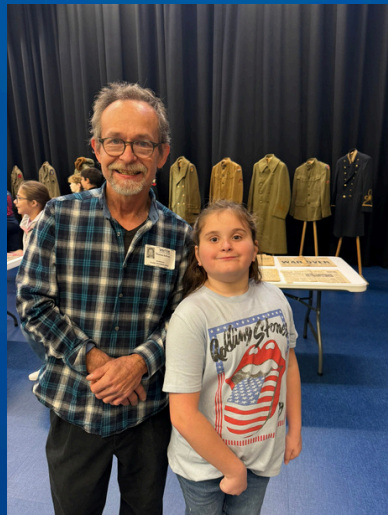


★ ★ ★ ★ ★
VETERANS DAY
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED





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VETERANS DAY
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



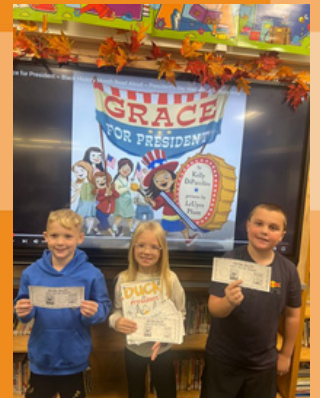
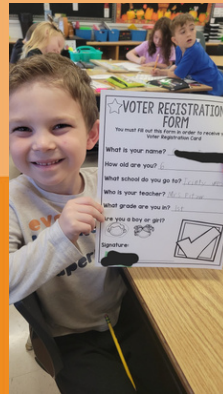
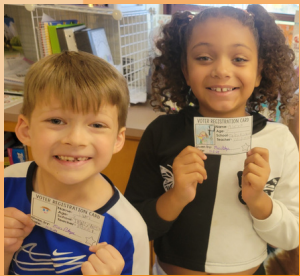
Trinity is Taking Pride in... ACADEMICS, Arts, & Athletics!

Second grade classrooms at Trinity South were transformed into a hospital. These “surgeons” were hard at work, performing “surgeries” that included calculating “pharmacy math” and sorting parts of speech.



First graders at Trinity West learned about election day and the voting process after reading "Duck for President." Duck-13. Farmer Brown-6.

Trinity East held their own election!



Ms. Perry and Mr. Walsh brought VR into their reading class. Students were able to tour Ford's theater in virtual reality as an extension of the "Chasing Lincoln's Killer" unit. Thanks to Mrs. Shinsky for helping us to arrange for this experience, which students really enjoyed.



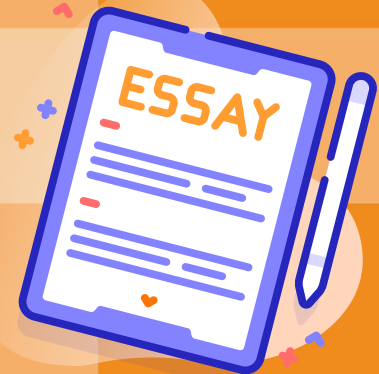
Trinity is Taking Pride in... ACADEMICS, Arts, & Athletics!



Middle school students traveled to Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall on November 13 to participate in the 37th annual Faraday Lecture. This lecture honors the legacy of scientist Michael Faraday. Faraday was well known in the 1800s for giving lively science demonstrations to help others learn about scientific principles. This lecture is held annually to inspire the next generation of scientists.



Several of our 4th and 5th graders traveled to Allison Park Elementary School to participate in a Quiz Bowl trivia-style competition. Students worked as part of a team to answer challenging trivia questions. Congratulations to Emma, Kasen, and Brice for coming in 1st place, and to Nicholas, Madison, and Guy for coming in 2nd place!



Students in Mrs. Vorum's and Mr. Sherry's 8th grade English classes studied short stories. One of the highlighted authors was Edgar Allen Poe. Students were offered to enter "The Tell-Tales Short Story Contest", presented by The Poe Museum, located in Richmond, Virginia. This contest requires students to write a minimum of 500 words, and to write in one of Poe's genres. Students in middle school and high schools from around the country entered the contest. We are thrilled to announce that Mrs. Vorum's student, Payton Wamsley, was named the middle school winner! She will receive a prize package from the museum and will be published on their website.

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

The Trinity Middle School Musical program put on a beautiful rendition of the holiday classic, "Elf the Musical, Jr." on November 21-23, 2024. Over 100 middle school students came together to spread Christmas cheer by sharing the story of Buddy the Elf. This production was largely student run with students managing stage crew, running the light board, choreographing some of the dance numbers, and designing props and scenery. The production reached thousands of community members and we are so proud of our students' work! Thank you to the TMS musical staff and Hiller community for supporting this production.



Congratulations!



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



This month, the Pittsburgh Glass Center visited third grade classrooms at Trinity South to teach students about the incredible art of mosaics.

Third graders had a hands-on experience, learning the techniques of mosaic-making and exploring this fascinating art form. Thanks to the expertise of the Pittsburgh Glass Center, our students were given a unique opportunity to create their own mosaic pieces, sparking their creativity and love for this beautiful medium. We are so grateful for our enduring partnership with Pittsburgh Glass Center!



Kaden Loughman, a senior, was working on the tire machine at Budd Baer, where he is in WACTC Auto Mechanics program.

Aidan Szygenda, a senior, was quite busy on the tire machine at Washington Chevrolet, where he is in WACTC Auto Mechanics program.



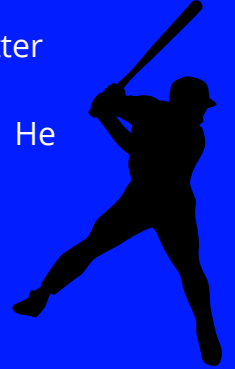
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Western Area CTC

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



Jacob Rieg - Seton Hill University - Baseball

Trinity High School Senior Jacob (JR) Rieg signed a Letter of Intent on November 13, 2024, to continue his academic and athletic career at Seton Hill University. He plans to major in psychology.



Matthew Robaugh - West Virginia University - Baseball

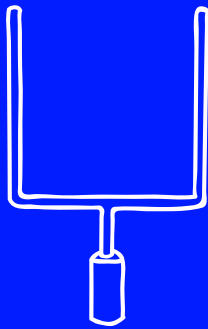
Trinity High School Senior Matthew Robaugh signed a Letter of Intent on November 13, 2024, to continue his academic and athletic career at West Virginia University. He plans to major in business.



Congratulations!



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



CONGRATULATIONS



Community Leaders Support Trinity!

Trinity Area School District is incredibly fortunate to have the steadfast support of our local community leaders, state legislators, and senators. Leaders like Representative Tim O'Neal, Representative Jason Ortity, and Senator Camera Bartolotta consistently visit our schools, bringing with them a deep commitment to education and the success of our students. Their partnership helps us to enhance programs, secure resources, and continue building Trinity into an exceptional school district. Their dedication inspires us to aim higher and ensure that every student thrives. Thank you to Stephanie Scialabba, a representative of the Pennsylvania Education Committee, who visited as well.



The students from Trinity High School's Autistic Support and Life Skills classrooms and friends, experienced a day in the life of a CMU student-athlete! Coach Kathy McConnel Miller graciously provided an exclusive tour of the new facility, which included a meet-and-greet with players and time on the court.



Child Hunger Hero Award!

The Trinity Area School District has been honored as a 2024 Child Hunger Hero Award Gold Winner by the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank in recognition of its significant contributions to enhancing food security for its students. Representatives Valerie Morgan and Oriyah Yoran Sandefur recently visited Trinity Middle School to commend the TMS Food Pantry for its vital role in providing food and support to the community. In addition to Reps. Morgan and Sandefur are TMS Principal Paul Kostelnik and pantry facilitators, Francesca Cortese, Nicole Vorum, and Michael Sherry, were present. The TMS Food Pantry is available to any TMS student or family in need of some extra assistance. Contact the school for more information or to make a donation.



**Trinity Police go above and beyond!
Officer Urbanic helping TIS students
study is just one example of their
commitment to our kids—proving their
dedication extends far beyond safety.**

2024-2025 Student Representatives for the School Board



Abby Bodart



Talan Gardner

Trinity Is Counting Their Blessings!

Yinzgiving!



This holiday season, Trinity Area is counting its blessings – and they come in the form of community, compassion, and a lot of delicious food! Thanks to the efforts of numerous sponsors and community members, 280 Trinity families in need will enjoy a beautiful Thanksgiving feast. A very special “thank you” goes out to Mrs. Kim Bruce, first grade teacher at East Elementary, who worked hard to keep the spirit of giving alive by bringing “Yinzgiving” to Trinity.

The Yinzgiving event is in its fifth year, sharing smiles and meals with families across Allegheny and Washington Counties. Initiated in 2002 by former Pittsburgh Steeler Juju Smith-Schuster, Yinzgiving continues to thrive with his support and the dedication of countless others, including Pittsburgh Pirate Andrew McCutchen. Soon, 180 volunteers will join in packaging and delivering more than 2000 meals to regional families. All meals will be lovingly prepared by the talented team at Dive Bar and Grille in the North Hills, as well as the Pittsburgh BBQ Company on Banksville Road. Meals will include all the Thanksgiving classics: turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, homemade gravy, freshly baked rolls, and, of course, pumpkin pie. Happy Thanksgiving to all!



Girls on the Run



Our Girls on the Run team at the Intermediate School and the Heart and Sole team at the Middle School have successfully completed their seasons, and we couldn't be prouder! These incredible groups of young women not only trained for a 5K but also embraced lessons about empowerment, self-love, and the importance of lifting one another up. Together, these girls also tackled a meaningful community impact project, showcasing the values of teamwork and compassion.

The season wrapped up with a 5K where each runner celebrated her achievements, cheered on by friends, family, and coaches. Congratulations to all participants for an inspiring season! Your hard work and positivity are shining examples of what we're capable of when we support one another!

Dr. Lucas Listens to Trinity's Students.



At Trinity Area, we put students' voices at the center of our progress. Superintendent Dr. Lucas regularly meets with students to gather valuable feedback, driving meaningful improvements across our programs. In a recent meeting, students embraced 100 years of Trinity pride with a unique journey through our history. They explored the evolution of the Hiller identity, toured the Trinity Hall Museum, and stepped back in time in an original Cadet Classroom. With the support of Mr. Scott and Mr. Rich, the tour sparked engaging discussions about school activities and traditions. These experiences highlight our dedication to honoring the past while empowering our students to shape an even brighter future for Trinity!

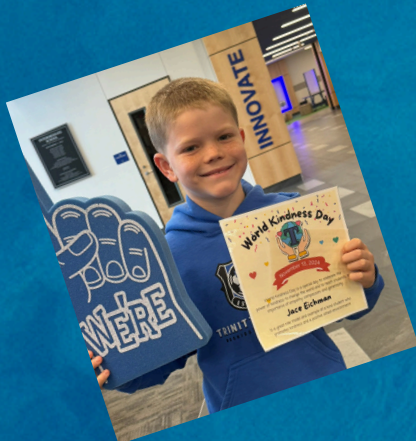
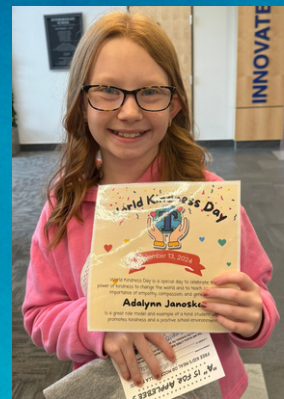


Trinity students from different clubs collected money for the 2000 Turkeys Campaign through Range Resources.



Trinity Area School District is proud to showcase the incredible talent of one of our own alumni, Steven Pascoe, Class of 2011. Now a professional photographer specializing in breathtaking aerial drone photography, Steven captured a stunning image of our brand-new campus. This remarkable shot highlights the new Intermediate School, the state-of-the-art sports complex, the beautifully upgraded middle school, and the enhanced press box—all set against the area's gorgeous landscape. To celebrate his artistry and connection to Trinity, we've proudly displayed his work as a large mural in the community room at Trinity Intermediate School. If you're looking for exceptional aerial photography, we highly recommend reaching out to Steven at steven@pascoemedia.com. His talent is truly unmatched!

PBIS - Be The Kind Kid!



Handwritten signature

Tracy Skariot - Trinity High School Nurse



Get to know Trinity High School's new nurse this year, Tracy Skariot! Mrs. Skariot attended Beth Center High School before attending Washington Hospital School of Nursing. To obtain her degree in nursing, Mrs. Skariot enrolled at the University of Pittsburgh. She worked in the trauma unit for several years before transitioning to a Clinical Nurse supervisor in Dialysis. For the past 18 years, she has been working as a certified school nurse. Her mantra is, "I am committed and strive to achieve health and wellness for all students I come into contact with."

Cool Facts: Mrs. Skariot is a homebody, enjoying spending time with her husband and children above all else. She also enjoys golfing and spending time outdoors. She even noted that she loves to do anything outside, so, if you cannot find Nurse Skariot in her office, check the front lawn!





Holiday Concerts Schedule

December 4 - High School Choir & Band

December 9 - Middle School Band

December 11 - Middle School Choir

**December 12* - High & Middle School
Orchestras**

**All concerts will be held in the High
School Auditorium at 6:30 p.m.**

***Please take note of the change of
date.**

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



Important Dates in December/January

December

2 - Fall Break/No School

**23-Jan. 1 - Winter Break/No
School**

January

2 - Students Return

**17 - 2 Hour Early Release/Teacher
Clerical**

20 - M.L. King Day/No School

23 - 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



TRINITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPECIAL HOLIDAY OFFER!

\$10

Benefits Trinity
Cares Club



Don't miss this opportunity to buy a limited time only 100 year ornament! These will make a great holiday gift. Get your commemorative ornament while supplies last.

More information coming on our website www.trinitypride.org



TRINITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

LIMITED EDITION!

100TH ANNIVERSARY WALKWAY BRICKS



MINI REPLICA BRICK
SIZE: 1 1/2" x 3"



*Mini Bricks must be picked up at THS, cannot be mailed
*Engraving will match your full size brick, brick color may vary

Trinity School District is excited to announce a special event in celebration of its 100th anniversary! To mark this historic milestone, we are offering personalized bricks for purchase, which will extend the graduation walkway on campus, originally established in 2000.

Each brick, available for a limited time only, can be engraved with a personal message or name, leaving a lasting legacy for future generations. The cost of each brick is \$100. Additionally, you have the option to purchase a mini replica of their personalized brick as a keepsake. Don't miss this opportunity to be a permanent part of Trinity's history!

Personalized bricks can have up to 3 lines of text with 20 characters per line. Bricks will make a great holiday gift, this limited opportunity will end in January. We can also provide a presentation card for anyone giving this as a gift.

Visit trinitypride.org or <https://donate.brickmarkers.com/thz> to purchase.

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 FIDs 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.



**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