

# HILLER HIGHLIGHTS

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



JANUARY 2024-2025

## School Board Appreciation Month Trinity Area Board of Directors



**This year, the Trinity Area School District proudly celebrates 100 years of tradition, excellence, and pride. Our century-long history reflects our community's commitment to education, innovation, and student success. As we honor this milestone, we extend our deepest gratitude to our dedicated School Board members, whose leadership and vision continue to uphold the values that have shaped our district for generations. Your efforts ensure that the Trinity tradition of excellence will thrive for years to come. Thank you for being an essential part of our journey!**

**The yearly tradition continues with each board member choosing a book to be donated to the elementary schools:**

Mr. Pete Cameron - *First Snow in the Woods*

Mr. Sean Dobich - *Johnny Tremain: A Story of Boston in Revolt*

Mrs. Frances Eates - *Each Kindness*

Mr. Chad Griffith - *The Phantom Tollbooth*

Mrs. Molly Hott - *Wish Tree*

Mr. Gordon Lowry - *The Boy Who Said Wow*

Mrs. Jennifer Morgan - *The Kissing Hand*

Mrs. Amy Neel - *Madeline*

Mr. Greg Rudman - *Finding Winnie*





# Congratulations!

## January

### Students of the Month



**Joey Cipoletti**  
**HIGH SCHOOL**

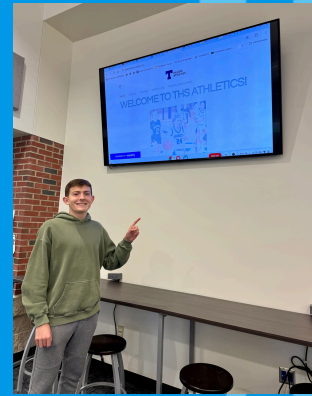
**MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**Avery Bryker & John Kengor**



**Della Barkand & Presley Rogers**  
**INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**



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



The senior English 20Time project is an experience that empowers students to explore their passions, take ownership of their learning, and apply critical thinking in a real-world context. Inspired by Google's initiative, this project challenges students to dedicate a portion of their time each week to pursue a personal or community-based endeavor of their choice. While the outcomes varied widely, the project provided valuable lessons about success, failure, and growth.

For some students, the 20Time project became a launching pad for exceptional creativity and achievement. One student with a love for baking, Elizabeth Engle, worked to hone her gourmet cupcake skills to ultimately cater the desserts for a wedding reception. Braeden Knight wanted to see more awareness of our athletic teams and their successes; therefore, he researched and created a website that focused on athlete highlights and reported team scores and rosters, all with a clean graphic design style. T.J. Allison, a senior athlete who was recovering from an injury, focused on his rehabilitation efforts to get ready for the new wrestling season; he documented his weekly progress and created a brochure to share tips with other athletes who face similar mental and physical challenges. Melina Vitale celebrated the diversity in our local community by reaching out to representatives from ten different cultures for recipes, trying them, and compiling a cookbook of her findings. Talan Gardner took his passion for fashion and applied sewing skills to redesign his clothes for a better fit. Matthew Callahan was intrigued by 3D printing capabilities and focused his efforts on learning the coding and design elements necessary to create a replica of our district's trademark bell tower. These students flourished in the self-directed format, demonstrating not only their talents but also their ability to set and achieve ambitious goals.

For others, the experience was less about tangible success and more about self-discovery and learning crucial life skills. Several students admitted to struggling with time management and procrastination, realizing for the first time how quickly deadlines can approach when research projects are self-paced. Others encountered challenges in collaboration, resilience, and maintaining motivation when their original plans didn't go as expected. Upon reflection, students addressed how they could have adapted, reevaluated their strategies, and persevered despite setbacks—skills that are invaluable for adulthood.

Ultimately, the 20Time project underscored that education is not solely about mastering content but about fostering a mindset of curiosity, initiative, and reflection. Whether students produced polished final products or encountered obstacles that forced them to recalibrate, each came away with lessons that will serve them well in the next chapter of their lives.

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

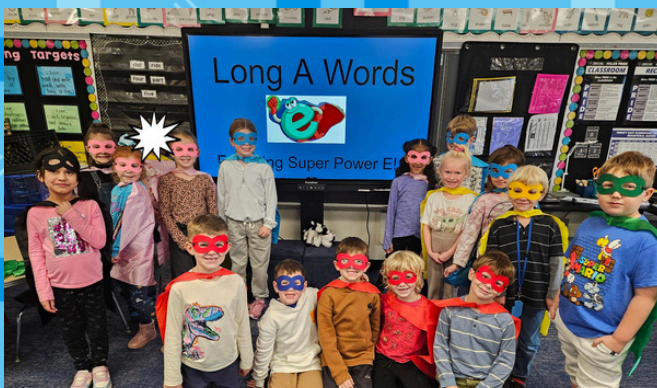


Trinity hosted the Math24 competition at Trinity Intermediate School. Students from Avella, Canon-Mac, Chartiers-Houston, Fort Cherry, and McGuffey competed against our Trinity students. Overall, Team Trinity came in 3rd place in the competition!

**1st Grade**  
**Lara Sharma - 1st place**

**2nd Grade**  
**Michael Houston - 2nd place**

**3rd Grade**  
**Paige Cortese - 1st place**  
**Dean Wolf - 3rd place**



Mrs. Lape's class learned how "Super Power E" can save the day and make short vowel sounds become long vowel sounds in words. So, of course, they had to become superheroes to help them practice building and reading new words.

## Intro to Ag Mechanics



Students in Mr. Prentice's Intro to Ag Mech class learn welding skills by creating their own horseshoe projects.



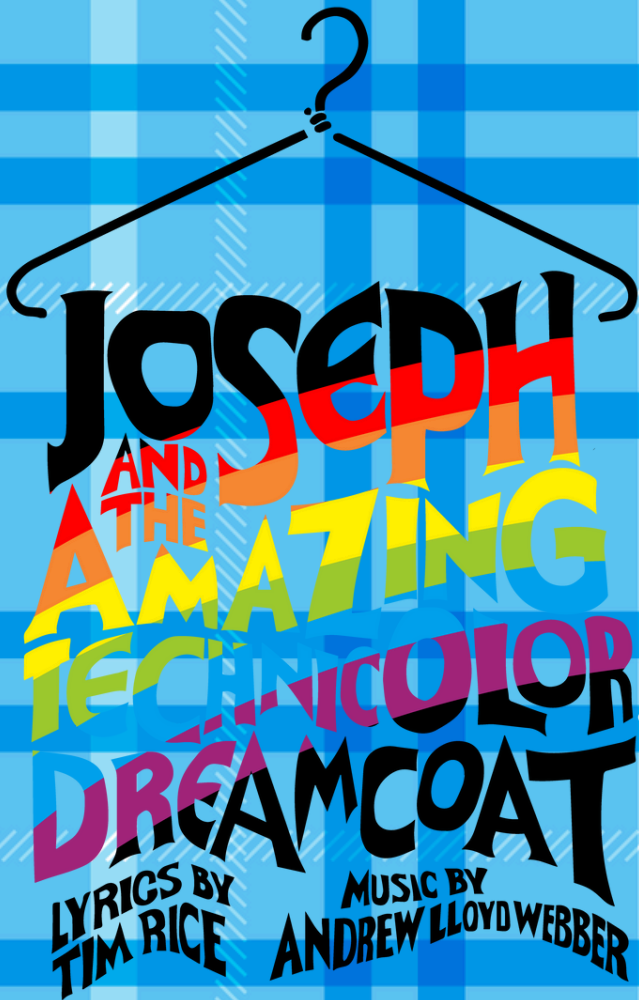
# Trinity is Taking Pride in... ACADEMICS, Arts, and Athletics

Trinity Area School District's Elementary Title I Reading Night, themed *Snowmen at Night*, provided an engaging literacy experience for students and families. The event featured interactive read-alouds, hands-on activities, and take-home resources to support reading development. Families enjoyed a fun-filled evening fostering a love for literacy.





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



**“Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” opens March 13, 2025 and runs through March 16, 2025**



**Congratulations to Alisabeth Bushko and Sophie Zaragoza on their participation in PMEA, District 1 Orchestra.**

**Alisabeth will be moving on to PMEA State Region Orchestra!!**



## PMEA DISTRICT 1

ALLEGHENY | FAYETTE | GREENE | WASHINGTON | WESTMORELAND





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

2024 BOYS SOCCER



ANDY PALM

All-Section



RYAN TORBOLI

All-Section



BRAEDEN KNIGHT

All-Section



LUKE THORNBURG

Honorable Mention



## ALL SECTION HONORS



*Congratulations!*

TJ Allison is The  
Observer-Reporter  
Athlete of the Week



TJ ALLISON

O-R Athlete of the Week





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



1000

CONGRATULATIONS

CONGRATS



100<sup>th</sup>



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

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to our new indoor track record holders!! Ryan Johnson 55m high hurdles and Ella Sammel 55m and 60m hurdles. So proud of their hard work and dedication.



Dom Canali will finish as your 2025 TriCADA champion!

## Congrats!



TJ Allison is your 2025 TriCADA champion!





# Trinity Pride - Bocci Team



Trinity's Integrated Bocce Team will be having their Senior Night on Monday, February 3rd at 3:00 in the main gym. Come out and join the Trinity Cheerleaders and Drumline as they support this year's team, which is composed of returning seniors Emily Thompson, Jackson Knight, and Dominic Sacripanti. Also returning, are David Gill and Kody Kress. New to the team are senior Dylan Falvo, and Ella Ward, Derek Falvo and Brody Sheppard.



CENTER ON

**PBIS** Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports



The High School held its Winter Sports assembly along with its semester PBIS reward redemption. Students played Human Bocce and each class had representatives. Congratulations to the senior class on the big win. In addition to recognizing the winter sports members, the PBIS reward winners got to pie and duct tape teachers. Thank you to Mr. Porterfield, Mr. Komula, Mr. Smith, Mr. Majoris, Mr. Powell, Ms. Finley, Mr. Hilty and Mr. Ferrari for being willing participants. Students who earned these rewards were Kristine Davis, Else Bosnic, Faith Hartzog, Katie Miller, Dominic Canali, Madison Hughes, Brayden McKinney, and Deborah Oyedemi.



*Congratulations, Dr. Zebrasky!*



Trinity High School Principal, Zachary Zebrasky, earned his doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh's School of Education. Dr. Zebrasky's study, titled "Improving Student Performance by Increasing Teachers' Content Knowledge in Elementary Math," explored ways to bolster teachers' instruction through professional development. The Trinity Area teachers involved in the study genuinely enjoyed learning new ways to impart content knowledge and are looking forward to using the research-based best practices, proven to increase students' academic achievement.

# The Good Zoo Oglebay

**Kindergarten at Trinity  
East got to enjoy a  
hands on experience  
with the Good Zoo!**







## Esports



Trinity High School Esports Team participated in the Pittsburgh Esports Combine Tournament at the Rezzanine Esports in Bridgeville. The Combine consisted of four different Esports games with multiple local schools competing in each game. The combine also had multiple colleges that players could talk to as well as observe the players in action. Trinity was represented by Rocket League Team Thunder.

## Trinity Earns Purple Star School Designation!



Trinity Area School District is proud to announce its designation as a Purple Star School, recognizing its exceptional support for military-connected students and families. This honor highlights the school's commitment to fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment.

Key initiatives implemented and being reinforced include:

- Military Family Liaison: A staff member dedicated to assisting military families.
- Professional Development: Training for staff to support military-connected students.
- Student Programs: Peer mentoring, counseling, and extracurricular activities.
- Community Partnerships: Collaboration with local military bases and organizations.

This recognition underscores Trinity's dedication to helping military families thrive.

## Law Enforcement Day!

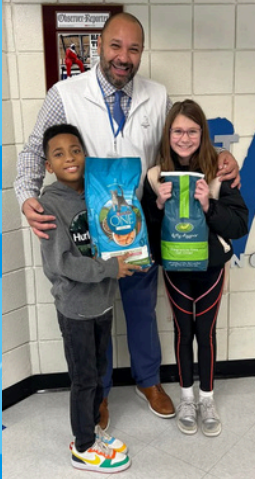


The safety of our students, staff, and community members in school is the #1 priority for our Trinity Area School District Police. Make sure to thank them next time you see them!





# Betty White Challenge



**Trinity North Elementary School held the Betty White Challenge in an effort to collect and donate supplies to local animal shelters. Our first graders came through and donated the most and have been awarded a special incentive. Thank you to all those who donated to the cause.**



## THS Friends of Rachel (F.O.R.) Club!

In celebration of our school district's 100th anniversary, members of the THS Friends of Rachel (F.O.R.) Club took to the halls with gratitude and purpose. The club organized a special initiative to honor the dedication and commitment of our incredible teachers by posting plaques on their door windows recognizing their years of service.

These plaques were personalized to highlight each teacher's tenure. Recognizing that our teachers are the heart of our building, the F.O.R. Club wanted to acknowledge their contributions in a meaningful way, especially during this milestone year. Most of the plaques are already on display, with the final postings happening at the end of the first semester.

The F.O.R. Club's initiative has celebrated our educators' remarkable achievements and fostered a sense of unity and pride within the school community. Here's to 100 years of excellence and many more to come, guided by the dedication of our exceptional teachers!

## Remote Learning!





# WHO WE ARE

Elijah Frazier - Trinity West Kindergarten



We are thrilled to welcome Washington High School alum, Elijah Frazier, as our new Trinity West Kindergarten teacher! Mr. Frazier graduated high school in 2015 and went to Slippery Rock University to obtain his undergraduate degree in Biochemistry. He went on to graduate school at PennWest University and received his Master's degree in Elementary Education. Prior to starting his new role, Mr. Frazier was a day-to-day substitute teacher since 2019 and a direct support professional for adults with disabilities. His mantra is a quote from Bo Jackson stating, "Set your goals high, and don't stop till you get there."

**Cool Facts:** Mr. Frazier comes from a large family, with six siblings and many other nieces and nephews. He noted that they are always hanging out and, "the group chat is always going off." He was involved in peer jury and key club in high school as extracurricular activities. In his free time, Mr. Frazier enjoys running, visiting new places, and reading. In fact, he was a cross country and track athlete while enrolled at school and finished his first marathon in May 2024!

#trinitypride



TRINITY AREA  
SCHOOL DISTRICT



# WACTC



**Senior, Cody  
Flowers  
participates in  
the WACTC HVAC  
Co-op program  
and works at  
Metro HVAC.**

## **INFORMATIONAL FLYERS:**

*All flyers are available on the district  
website under About*

*[https://www.trinitypride.org/Content2  
/district-flyers](https://www.trinitypride.org/Content2/district-flyers)*

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

## **Dates to Remember** **February**

**10 – Staff Development/ No School**  
**17 – President's Day/No School**



**Coming in March!**  
**Kindergarten Registration will  
be both in person and on-line  
this year!**  
**See flyer below.**

**To submit an article for publication in  
Hiller Highlights email:  
[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.**

**Articles are published pending  
review by the Superintendent.**





# Kindergarten



## Trinity Area School District Registration ENROLLMENT IS OPEN FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

Please go to our website, [www.TrinityPride.org](http://www.TrinityPride.org) where you will find many details about Kindergarten, the registration process and loads of useful information!

**In order to expedite your student's registration it is highly recommended that you start your On-Line Registration prior to attending our In-Person Registration event!**

### Enrollment:

If you currently have a Skyward Family Access Account you can access the online application from your account. If you do not have a Skyward account, click on the hyperlink below and complete the form. You will be emailed login credentials and a link to the Online Enrollment Application.

### [Online Enrollment Login Credential Request Form](#)

We will be holding In-Person Registration events from 10am-1pm and 5pm-7pm at each of the elementary schools where you will be able to complete registrations, provide required documents, and schedule your student's Dial 4 testing time. For your convenience, please schedule your registration time on our Sign Up Genius. [Kindergarten Registration Sign-Up](#).

Monday, March 3 <b>Trinity East</b> 252 Cameron Rd.	Tuesday, March 4 <b>Trinity West</b> 1041 Gabby Ave.	Wednesday, March 5 <b>Trinity South</b> 2500 S. Main St.	Thursday, March 6 <b>Trinity North</b> 225 Midland Dr.
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### REQUIREMENTS:

Any child who is five years old before September 1<sup>st</sup> may attend Kindergarten. The following documents are required for enrollment:

- Birth certificate
- Proof of residency
- Proof of immunizations or medical/religious exemption form
- Custody agreement, if applicable



SCAN ME!

### IMPORTANT TENTATIVE DATES TO KNOW:

**Kindergarten Parent Orientation**

August 19 6:00-7:00 PM

**Kindercamp**

August 20 & 21 10:00 - 1:00 PM

**First day of school**

September 2



# A Digital World: Youth, Social Media, Sexualized Content, & Mental Health

Shape the Sky's training is designed for adults and led by licensed counselor and founder of Shape the Sky, Ryan Klingensmith. The goal of this presentation is to help adults educate children about creating a responsible image in the digital world.

Adults have the wisdom and experience to be responsible online, but they may not be aware of the latest social media trends and the negative effects of social media. We'll provide you with the most up-to-date information regarding the current digital climate, so you know what to look for and how to ensure children are using smartphones and devices responsibly.



## Topics Include:

- \*TikTok, Snapchat & Instagram
- \*Cyberbullying resources
- \*Common mistakes made by youth
- \*Mental health concerns on popular social media app
- \*Prevention steps
- \*Monitoring services
- \*Drug content on popular apps
- \*Using a Technology Contract
- \*How to set expectations
- \*Access to online resources

New Date!

WHEN	TIME	LOCATION
February 18th	6:00 PM - 7:30 PM	TRINITY MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

## About Shape The Sky:

<https://shapethesky.org/>

Shape the Sky's Founder, Ryan Klingensmith, is a parent and licensed counselor who works regularly with K-12 kids. Through his work, he gains first-hand experience of how social media can impact kids' and teenagers' mental health. His expertise and experience allow Shape the Sky to provide relevant, reliable information.

"Kids have the knowledge to use the technology, but sometimes lack the wisdom to use it. Adults have the wisdom to use the technology, but sometimes lack the knowledge to use it. My goal is to connect knowledge with wisdom."

-Founder Ryan Klingensmith



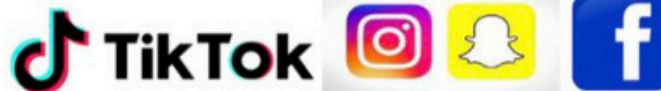
# A Digital World: Youth, Social Media, Sexualized Content, & Mental Health



The Trinity Middle School is pleased to offer a presentation by Ryan Klingensmith, founder of Shape the Sky. Ryan is a nationally certified counselor who has trained thousands of adults on ways to keep children safe in our digital world. Regarding the use of social media, Ryan comments,

“Our kids have the knowledge to use it, but not the wisdom to stay safe! Adults have the wisdom to handle it, but many lack the knowledge of how it can be used.”

Participants will walk away with the most up to date information and will know what to look for in today’s digital climate. They will learn how to use Ryan’s technology contract to set expectations for youth to help ensure they use technology safely and responsibly.



**Date:** February 18 , 2025

**Time:** 6:00-7:30

**Location:** Trinity Middle School Auditorium  
50 Scenic Drive  
Washington, Pa 15301

*New  
Date!*

**For Parents and/or Guardians of Students of  
Trinity Area School District Grades 4th -12th**





**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**