

Trinity Christian Academy of Cape Cod

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Junior High School Overview *2015-2016*

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Welcome to Trinity Christian Academy's Junior High School!

Trinity Christian Academy utilizes a Junior High School model, which consists of entry at grade seven, and commencement at grade eight. The academic focus in Junior High is not only on continued content mastery, but study skill acquisition prior to entry into our college preparatory High School program.

Students move from class to class, and have teachers who specialize in their area of instruction. Science courses include a lab component, and foreign language study consists of Latin I and II, which is an excellent precursor for further study of Romance languages such as Spanish and French in High School. Core courses are enhanced by enrichment courses which include: Art, Music, and Physical Education and Discipleship classes. As with our High School curriculum, the Junior High curriculum is presented from a biblical worldview, and Bible study is presented as an academic course based on an accredited text.

In keeping with developmentally appropriate best practice guidelines, Trinity's Junior High School program includes many varied opportunities for social interaction such as team athletic sports and extracurricular activities, which range from Drama Club, Band or Choir, to lunch clubs such as chess club, flag football, or foreign language club. Leadership skills are fostered in Upper-Level Student Council and Campus Ministry teams, and academic support is available Monday through Thursday after school from 3:15 to 4:30 PM.

It is our desire to present a Christ-centered, Bible-based program which fosters pursuit of academic excellence as well as personal social-emotional growth and ongoing spiritual maturation, while acknowledging each student's unique God-given abilities and talents.

7th Grade Program

English: English 7

Text(s): Elements of Literature, BJU Press; Wordly Wise, School Specialty, Inc.; assorted novels (refer to list in Curriculum Guide)

Science: Life Science

Texts(s): Life Science, BJU Press; Life Science Laboratory Manual, BJU Press

Language: Latin I (Introduction to Latin)

Text: Latin, Prentice-Hall

History: World History: Ancient Civilizations

Text(s): Ancient Civilizations, McDougall-Littell

Mathematics: Pre-Algebra

Text(s): Pre-Algebra, Math-U-See

Bible: ACSI Bible 7

Text(s): Wisdom and Proverbs, Positive Action Bible Curriculum

Junior High Outreach Retreat

National Seashore Trip: *Life science comes alive for 7th graders during an annual four-day trip to the Cape Cod National Seashore.*

Enrichment Courses:

Art

Music

Physical Education

Discipleship/Campus Ministries

8th Grade Program

English: English 8

Text(s): Fundamentals of Literature, BJU Press; Wordly Wise, School Specialty, Inc., assorted novels (refer to list in Curriculum Guide)

Science: Physical Science

Text(s): Physical Science for Christian Schools. BJU Press; Physical Science Laboratory Manual, BJU Press

Language: Latin II

Text(s): Latin II, Prentice-Hall

History:

Text(s):

Mathematics: Algebra I

Text(s): Algebra I, Math-U-See

Bible: The Life of Christ, Positive Action Bible Curriculum

Junior High Retreat

Washington, D.C. Trip: A week long visit to explore the rich history of our nation's Capital

Enrichment Courses:

Art

Music

Physical Education

Discipleship/Campus Ministries

GRADING SYSTEM

GRADING SCALE

97-100 = A+ (4.33)

93-97 = A (4.00)

90-92 = A- (3.67)

87-89 = B+ (3.33)

83-86 = B (3.00)

80-82 = B- (2.67)

77-79 = C+ (2.33)

73-76 = C (2.00)

70-72 = C- (1.67)

67-69 = D+ (1.33)

63-67 = D (1.00)

60-62 = D- (0.67)

Below 60 = F (no course credit given)

I = Incomplete (grade becomes final after 4 weeks)

A final grade of 70% or lower signifies a failure to satisfactorily complete course requirements of the curriculum, and will result in mandatory after school tutoring sessions during the year and mandatory summer school sessions for math and language.

HONORS

Academic honors for students will be announced after each grading period. Honors are awarded for grades in all subjects including electives. Honors will not be awarded to any student with an incomplete in any subject.

HIGH HONORS: Nothing lower than an A- in all subjects including electives

HONORS: Nothing lower than a B- in all subjects including electives

GPA will determine Honors (3.0) and High Honors (3.5) for high school students.

TRINITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY ENHANCES CURRICULUM WITH ONLINE COURSES

Trinity Christian Academy continues to strengthen its position as a leader in the delivery of excellent Christian education by adding online courses to our curriculum. We understand how online learning is transforming the landscape of education so we want to make sure we leverage this proven delivery method as we strive to meet the needs of our students.

Trinity supplements our current curriculum by offering online courses to meet a variety of needs, which include: providing a required course that does not fit into the student's schedule, providing summer school options, offering Advanced Placement courses and Dual Credit (college credit) courses to Juniors and Seniors who want to get a head start on college, and offering courses to home school families in the area. Trinity sees online courses providing solutions to scheduling challenges and other special situations that arise every year.

We are excited about our partnership with Sevenstar Academy to offer online courses that not only meet national education standards, but more importantly, present material from the Christian worldview. Courses are biblically integrated and include the help of Christian teachers. These aspects are central to our mission and important to the families we serve.

We believe that the school is also equipping students to become successful online learners, which, in this day and age, is advantageous for college students, business professionals and military personnel.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Trinity seeks to educate and equip our students to become productive citizens and strong Christian leaders who will have a positive impact in this world. Students have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the school's Leadership Training Program which offers the following:

- Personalized coaching and advising based upon scriptural principles
- Small group leadership training based upon scriptural principals
- Public speaking and training on how to share your faith
- Training in small group facilitating and conflict resolution based upon scriptural principles.
- Training in outreach and opportunities to utilize leadership skills through organized outreach experiences to the greater community
- Direct service experiences with those who are impacted by financial, relational and spiritual poverty

ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES/COMPETITIONS

In House:

National and International Language Exam(s)
Science Fair
Speech Meet
Math Olympics

Association of Christian Schools International Regional Events:

Science Fair
Math Olympics
Speech Meet
Music/Art Festivals

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Weekly Chapel
Retreats
Community Outreach

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Student Council
Student Newspaper
Band
Drama Club/Productions
All School Art Shows
Lunch Clubs: (per student interest) chess, foreign language clubs, etc.

SPORTS

Based on Student Interest, previous teams have included:

Volleyball
Cheerleading
Cross Country
Soccer
Basketball
Baseball
Softball
Tennis
Golf
Bowling
Swimming
Weight-Lifting

COLLEGE AND CAREER PLANNING

As TCA's Guidance Coordinator, I would like to highlight how TCA's academic program prepares students for life after high school graduation, how we assist you in college/career planning and information about the college acceptance of our students.

College Preparatory: Trinity's academic program is college-preparatory, with required courses in Math, Science, English, History, Bible, World Languages, Physical education/Health, and Creative Arts. As you can see from Trinity Christian Academy's High School Course Overview, in addition to core courses, a variety of electives are available.

Online/Dual Credit Options: Online classes are also available in virtually all disciplines through our affiliation with the Seven Star Online academic program. Our small student/teacher ratio enables us to provide more individualized guidance and planning with high school students than is typical in larger institutions, and students have direct input into which electives and online courses are presented each year.

Honors and Advanced Placement: Honors options, such as AP English or Language classes, are available, and AP exams are offered in the Spring. Additionally, all Seniors participate in a Senior Thesis research project. Trinity offers a dual-enrollment option for qualifying Juniors and Seniors in which students may enroll in courses at nearby Cape Cod Community College, and receive transferable college credit while still in High School.

College Guidance: Students are guided throughout their four years at TCA in planning for their futures through both individual and group meetings and workshops. They are also offered related resources on an ongoing basis, including college guides, financial aid information, and scholarship opportunities. Letters are sent home periodically to parents, as well, updating them on college/career planning activities, both at Trinity and in the community-at-large. (Please refer to Sample Guidance Letter, attached).

College Entrance Exams: Trinity Christian Academy is registered with the College Entrance Examination Board and authorized to offer PSAT exams on campus. Registration and test dates for both PSAT and SAT exams are posted on the college planning bulletin board in the Upper Level wing, as well as relayed directly to students, and PSAT/SAT review sessions are available on campus.

College Acceptance: As the college application process begins, students are assisted in procuring and submitting appropriate letters of recommendation and authorized transcripts. Trinity Christian Academy graduates to date have a 100% acceptance rate into the colleges/programs of their choice. These include:

Anna Maria College, Boston Baptist College, Brandeis, Cape Cod Community College, Crown College, Curry College, Emmanuel College, Emerson, Eastern Nazarene College, Framingham State University, Gordon College, Liberty University, Massachusetts Maritime Academy, Muskingum University, Nyack College, Regis, Stonehill College, Tufts University, Southern Adventist University, University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth, Wheaton (Norton), Wheelock College

Scholarship Opportunities: Trinity graduates have been awarded a variety of scholarships, including the TCA Faculty Scholarship, scholarships and grants from the institutions which they attend, and merit scholarships from organizations such as the Elks national foundation, and the United States Achievement Academy Scholarship Foundation.

In closing, again we welcome you to TCA and hope you enjoy your visit! Feel free to contact us at any time to arrange a follow-up appointment, or with any questions!

Lisa Williamson, Guidance Coordinator/Upper Level Lead Teacher

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL FACULTY

Mrs. Katherine Becrelis: 7th Grade History & 8th Grade Bible

Mrs. Katherine Becrelis joins the Upper Level faculty this fall (2015-2016). She earned a Master's in Education and Bachelor of Science from the University of Maine. She majored in Elementary and Secondary Education and minored in English. She holds a Rhode Island teaching certificate for Grades 7-12 in English. Mrs. Becrelis has over ten years of teaching experience; most recently she taught English and electives at East Greenwich High School in Rhode Island. She has coaching experience in Mock Trial and in Cheerleading.

Mr. Sheldon Clarkson: Bible, History

Mr. Clarkson received his Masters in Biblical Studies from Reformed Theological Seminary and his BA in Sociology from the University of Utah. Prior to joining Trinity's faculty in 2008, he taught English at North University of China and Jilin University, also in China. In addition to teaching Upper Math, Bible and History, Mr. Clarkson works in Trinity's Extended Day Program. He is the pastor of Outer Cape Christian Church in Truro.

Mrs. Anne Fargher: World Languages

Mrs. Fargher received her BA (*Major in French and a Minor in German*) from Durham University in the United Kingdom and did her post graduate studies at Salford University. Her experience includes being an E.S.L. instructor in Zurich, Switzerland and a French language assistant in France. Mrs. Fargher joined Trinity's faculty in 2006 and teaches Latin to 7th and 8th grades, and high school Spanish and French. She enjoys taking her high school foreign language students to Europe. She loves teaching teens and encouraging them in their faith.

Mrs. Karen Mackiewicz: Art

"Mrs. Mack", as her students affectionately call her, is a dynamic teacher with more than 10 years experience teaching grades K-12 in all aspects of 2-D and 3-D design with an emphasis in skill building. She developed a comprehensive skill based curriculum for grades 6, 7, and 8 for the Barnstable public school using project based assessment tools integrating art history, art discovery, art interpretation for all ability levels. She has a long and impressive resume that includes being nominated teacher of the year at Oak Ridge School in Sandwich. Mrs. Mack earned a BFA in Art Education from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and is certified to teach K-12 Art. Besides teaching at Trinity, Mrs. Mack is a practicing mural artist with work in New York, Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

Mr. Bruce Mushet: Math

Mr. Mushet graduated from Mass Maritime Academy with a BS in Marine Engineering. His previous teaching experience includes both private and public schools. Mr. Mushet has been teaching upper level math (Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Geometry, Advanced Math 1 and Advanced Math 2) at Trinity since 2006. He loves to focus his energy on helping his students succeed in the classroom.

Rev. Rick Porter: *Bible, English, History (On Leave of Absence)*

After 21 years as a Presbyterian pastor in Springfield, MA, Mr. Porter decided to focus exclusively on a ministry of teaching. Prior to joining TCA's faculty, he taught at Pioneer Valley Christian School for five years, an Association of Christian School International institution. Then in 2009, he and his wife, Cindy, moved to the Cape. Mr. Porter says, "I love the students, colleagues here, as well as the content that I get to teach." Here at Trinity, Rick teaches Bible, English, and World History in the Upper Level (Grades 7-12). Mr. Porter graduated from Amherst College and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. To enhance his teacher training in Education and English, he is currently enrolled in a Post-Baccalaureate program at Bridgewater State University.

Mr. Andrew Taylor: *Music, Computers, Yearbook*

Prior to joining the TCA staff in 2008, Mr. Taylor completed his undergraduate degree at Biola University in La Mirada, CA. There Mr. Taylor earned a BA in Music Composition, and a minor in Biblical Studies. Among his regular activities of enjoyment are participating in leading musical worship in church, popular music songwriting, recording and production, discovering valuable new music for his own and his students' enjoyment, increasing his knowledge about computer hardware & software, and discovering any occasion where technology can be used to enhance the musical process and our perception of the wonder of God's created universe. He is married to his wife, Inna, who is from Ukraine. Overall, his favorite aspect of teaching at Trinity is spending time with the students.

Mrs. Carla Tirrell: *Director of Campus Ministries*

Mrs. Tirrell earned her Masters in Theology/Pastoral Ministry from Saint Michael's College in Winooski, Vermont and brings twenty years of professional experience, 14 of those years as the Director of Campus Ministry at Bishop Feehan High School in Attleboro, MA. During her tenure at Bishop Feehan she developed a Peer Ministry Leadership Training Program which grew from 35 participants in 1997 to 500 participants in 2011 and developed and implemented a 70 student Campus Ministry Leadership Board. Students on the Leadership Board were trained to speak at student retreats, to facilitate discipleship training classes and to organize all-school outreach events. Mrs. Tirrell designed, organized and facilitated nine retreats each year and was instrumental in developing student outreach programs that helped the needy with goods and clothing. As Director of Student Ministries Mrs. Tirrell coordinates community service opportunities for Trinity's High School Students, coordinates Junior and Senior High School events, coordinates student retreats and serves as Student Council Co-Advisor.

Mrs. Michelle Willey: *English and History*

Mrs. Willey received her BA in English and Psychology with a minor in History from Franklin Pierce College. She joined Trinity's faculty in 2006. Mrs. Willey enjoys teaching from a Christian worldview and being able to integrate scriptural principles and relate how God is revealed in both literature and in history. She and her husband have five children and they enjoy attending the Evangelical Baptist Church in South Yarmouth.

Lisa Williamson: Lead Teacher, Science, Guidance Coordinator

Mrs. Williamson received a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy with a minor in Classical Studies from Tufts University, where she was involved with Intervarsity as a small group Bible study leader. She has worked as a pediatric Occupational Therapist for 31 years. Her experience includes working in specialized Children's Hospitals in San Francisco and St. Paul, and serving as Director of Therapy Services at St. David's School for Child Development in Minneapolis. Lisa is a certified Early Intervention Specialist through the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and has been a consultant to Cape Cod Child Development Program for 20 years. Mrs. Williamson has served on the faculty of Trinity Christian Academy for 17 years and is certified through the Association of Christian Schools International. She currently teaches Life Science, Physical Science, Biology, Anatomy/Physiology, Marine Biology, and Health Concepts. As Upper Level Lead Teacher, she is responsible for overseeing scheduling of Upper Level activities and classes, as well as college planning and guidance, and administration of PSAT exams. She enjoys directing TCA Drama productions and serving as Advisor of Student Council.

Mrs. Williamson lives with her husband Scott on the Lower Cape, where they have both been involved in Youth Ministry and short-term mission trips for over 15 years. Their sons Evan and Ryan are both Trinity Alumni, with fond memories of their exceptional teachers and experiences in Trinity athletics, bell choir, and regional ACSI events such as Speech Meet and Science Fair!