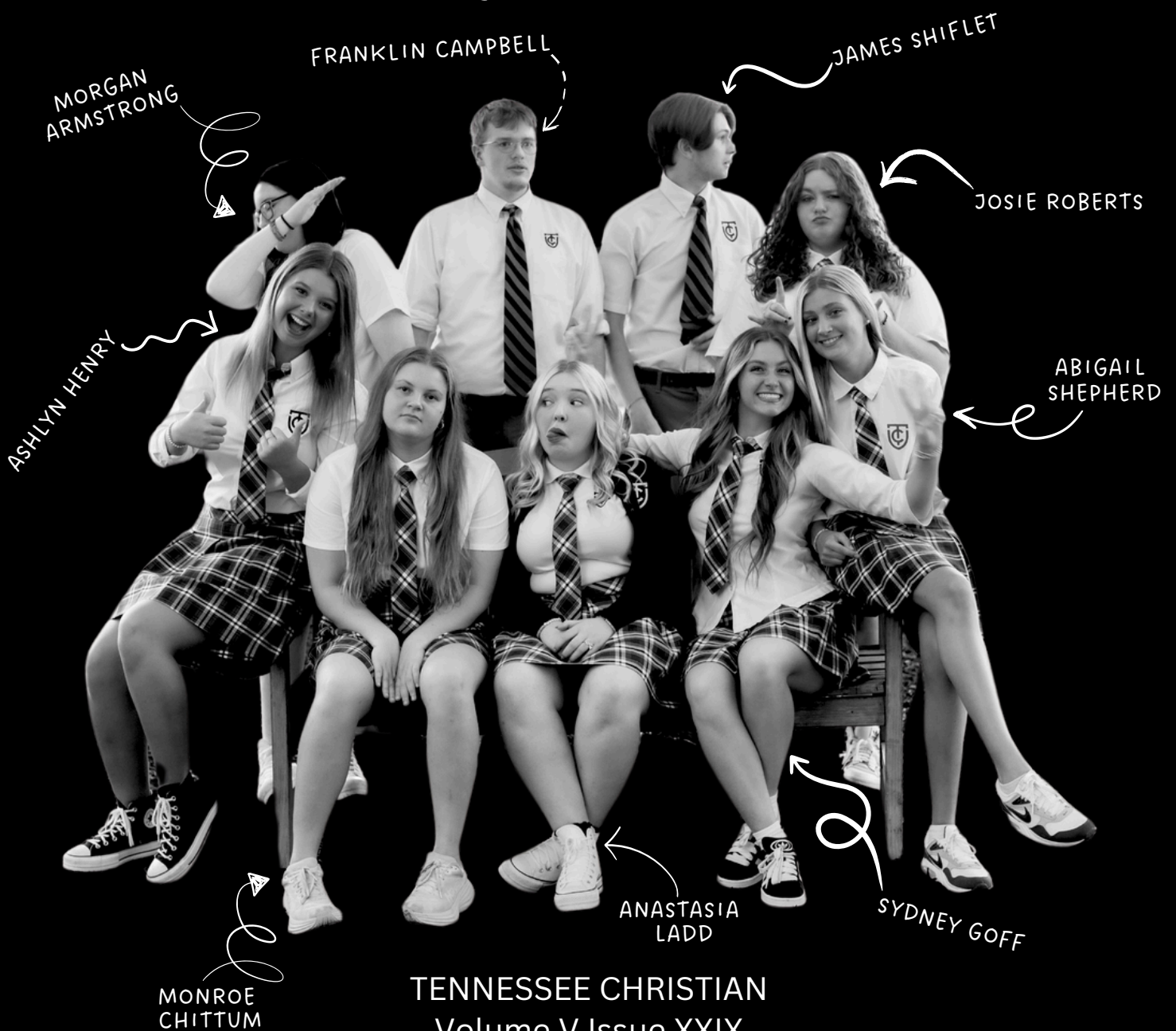


~~the Talon~~

April 15, 2025

SENIOR TALON TAKEOVER

STARRING...



TENNESSEE CHRISTIAN
Volume V Issue XXIX



SYDNEY GOFF



This past weekend, I brought one of my friends to TCPS to give her a tour of the school. Although it started with me talking about all the classes I take, homework I have yet to finish, and tests I need to study for, the simple tour turned into a pretty emotional one. When we walked into the gym so much emotion came over me. I began to talk about all the games I've cheered for, all the musical practices full of singing and dancing around, PE classes I've struggled through, and chapels I've been forever impacted by. I got to see an outside perspective that I'd never seen before. Instead of it being another school day, it felt as though I was talking in the past tense, as if it was all already over. This was a harsh reality due to how I've never known a life outside of TCPS, and before I know it, my time will be over. Seeing TCPS from this outside perspective made me realize just how grateful I am to have been at this school for the last 15 years. Our small school has become more than a family to me, and undeniably, some of my fondest memories have been in my TCPS uniform. Thank you to my class for being the best friends I could have asked for and to my teachers who have prepared me for each new stage and next step. Even when the future is full of unknowns, I am forever grateful that I attended a school like TCPS that I can truly call home.

-Sydney Goff



MORGAN ARMSTRONG

I have been attending TCPS since the start of my freshman year of high school, so 2021. I wasn't completely new to the school as I had been playing basketball with TCPS since the 7th grade, playing for both the high school and middle school team. I had never imagined myself going to a private school as that just wasn't the type of person I felt like I was. I couldn't imagine myself being, "A preppy girl in a plaid skirt," as I said to my parents many, many times. Once I began my freshman year at TCPS, I knew there was no other place for me. Over the years I have gained friends, lost friends, cried, laughed, and laughed some more while going to TCPS. I have played my heart out every single year for TCPS, being named captain of my team many times. I have learned so much while here, some lessons easier than others. I have grown in ways I never thought possible. Although I have had some difficult times while attending TCPS, I always knew I could count on people like Nurse Conar and Mrs. Blaylock to talk with me. Although most of my time at TCPS has been mostly laughter and joy, there were times that it was the complete opposite. I am thankful that I was able to overcome those hard times with the help of my friends, mentors, and parents. I am grateful for the time I have spent at TCPS and I know I will look back on these memories 10 years down the road and reminisce on all the fun I had. My advice to everyone would be to never give up. No matter what you are going through, it will always get better!

- Morgan Armstrong



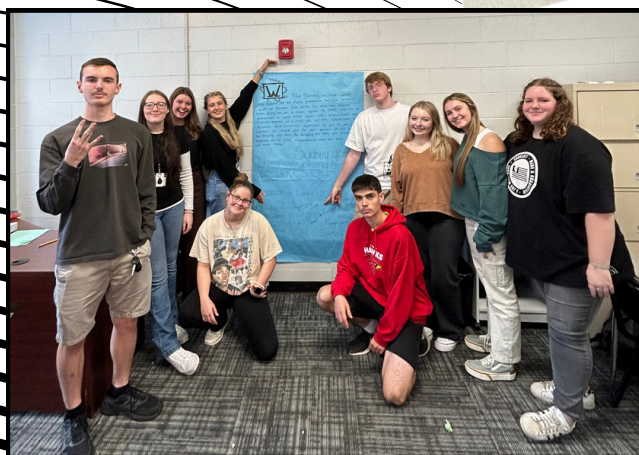
ANASTASIA LADD



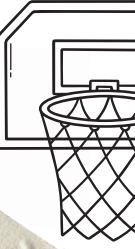
There are no words to truly express what my time at TCPS has meant to me and how it has impacted me without turning this into an entire book. Without this school and all of the people involved in it, I would not be the person I am today. When I first came to TCPS as a freshman, I was extremely nervous because I was so used to being in a public school setting. That being said, one of the best things about TCPS is the welcoming community. I immediately felt at home, and my classmates immediately felt like my siblings. When I look back at the past four years, I can say that although I have gone through so many ups and downs within my personal life, I have been extremely thankful for my classmates, who are my best friends, and the faculty at this school, who have prayed with me and for me.

Over the past four years, I have grown not only emotionally, but spiritually as well. As I have grown up, I am learning more and more every day that my faith is the foundation of who I want to be. I am thankful to have been surrounded by so many people at this school who also center their lives around their faith. Growing up in a public school setting and switching to TCPS, I have been so thankful for all that I have been able to learn about God and my faith in my school. If I could give the grades below me any advice, the main thing I would say is never take high school for granted. It goes by so fast (much too fast) so cherish every moment and memory you have. Another thing I would say, is say yes to as much as you can! The more connected you are, the more fun you will have and you will create deep relationships you might never have gotten if you said no. Even if it is scary, push yourself out of your comfort zone because you can do much more than you think and you will create some of the best memories just from saying the word yes! If I said no to everything that ever scared me in my time in high school, I never would have made the friendships I have now or received the opportunities I have been blessed to have. Overall, enjoy high school and do not wish it away!

➔ -Anastasia Ladd



ABIGAIL SHEPHERD



I've been a student at TCPS since kindergarten! After I graduate, I am attending Lee University and majoring in Business Marketing. I am rooming with my best friend, Ashlyn Henry. I can't wait for this new chapter in my life. I've loved my time at TCPS, and all the opportunities it's given me. Through the years, I have enjoyed playing sports including tennis, cheer, volleyball, softball, golf, and basketball, and I've made so many wonderful friends! I'm going to miss my time here at TCPS. Some words of advice that I have for students. Kindness is always free. You never know what a person is going through, we all suffer silent battles daily. You may never know how much a smile, a hug, or even just a hello can impact a person and their day. Make sure you live life to the fullest and cherish every moment. You never know when your life may change in an instant. You don't want to look back and have regrets. Lastly be fearless, and live for God!

-Abigail Shepherd



ASHLYN HENRY



2020, otherwise known as "Covid year" was my eighth grade year. I had attended Ocoee Middle for the two years prior, but was homeschooled for my eighth grade year. It was during this year my TCPS journey began. Coach Locklear invited me to join the high school volleyball team, middle school basketball team - and high school basketball team at TCPS. I could not be more thankful for this unexpected change. This was a welcomed contrast to being "locked up" in my house for months on end. In hindsight, this was God pushing me to experience what TCPS truly was and the community around the school. The following (freshman) year, I enrolled at TCPS. It has exceeded every expectation of what I had dreamed high school would be.

I have enjoyed success inside and outside the classroom. I have played golf since I was seven years old. To continue through high school was incredible. Playing alongside friends made the victories even sweeter! This also goes for basketball, a sport I have played since I was in second grade. I have made so many friends through the sport. I will never forget these amazing times with my teammates.

One of my favorite pastimes is travel. After exploring Rome last summer, I emailed my previous history teacher, Mr. Spears. Pretty much, every time I turned a corner in the city, I saw something that we talked about from his World History I class of my freshman year. Just a few weeks ago, I was at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. I saw multiple pieces that Mr. Tilley discussed in class, but one in particular was "Washington Crossing the Delaware" by Emanuel Leutze. Seeing this brought me back to his lesson from my junior year of high school when he discussed the importance behind this painting. There are countless other examples, but these were first to mind.

For future students, enjoy high school and do not be too hard on yourself or others. You are trying to find your direction in life - along with everybody else. Do not spend all weekend studying for a test, like I have done too many times. Go do something fun with others and get your mind off of your work for a little bit. Study and work hard until you have done your best, then move on. In the end, everything will work out if you believe in yourself and in God. Trust in Him and His plan for you and your life.

-Ashlyn Henry



FRANKLIN CAMPBELL

One way I have felt like I have grown closer to God is through our bible class with Mr. Tilley. His class inspired me to start reading my bible all of the way through for the first time. Some of my accomplishments include being able to keep my grades up while doing 2 plays (Almost Maine and Aladdin) and doing 3 sports (basketball, soccer, and baseball). I have also done leadership opportunities, including Rotary Youth Leadership Association, and being a part of the student council for almost my whole high school life. My success has not fully come into reality yet, but coming to this school has helped me gain a lot of different scholarship opportunities, as well as getting a high enough ACT score to get into engineering. Some obstacles I have faced are not having enough free time to myself with all of the extra things I do after school. This has led me to become extremely stressed, getting sick from stress, and not having enough time to have a relaxing day, leaving me burnt out. Some ways I have started to fix my schedule are by finishing my homework while in school, leaving me with just some afternoon activities, and then being home to rest and relax. Some things I have learned from mistakes and failures are that it is ok, and to just come back from it with new knowledge. Some words of wisdom I have for upcoming seniors and students are to not listen to anyone when they say it will either be the hardest/easiest year of your life. It is different for everyone and you need to go into the year believing you will do well and go in with a positive attitude.

-Franklin Campbell



MONROE CHITTUM



High school has been a long journey that has been filled with both challenges and experiences that shape the person who I am today. I see how God used many different moments to teach me valuable lessons about Himself and myself. Even if the moments were bad I had the encouragement of my friends and mentor to help me understand my faith and trust in God's plan for my life. There have been times when I felt overwhelmed by pressure to succeed, but through prayer, reflection, and the support of my family, I learned how to overcome those moments. I learned that failure is not a setback but an opportunity for growth and learning. As for the people below my grade, one of the most important things I've learned is the power of speaking your mind. While it is important to express yourself and stand by your beliefs, it is important to always tell the truth. If you have something important to say, don't hold back but speak the truth, even if it's unpopular or different. People may criticize you, but no one's thoughts matter but yourself. Take pride in speaking up, and never let the fear of judgment keep you from sharing your thought and passion with the world.

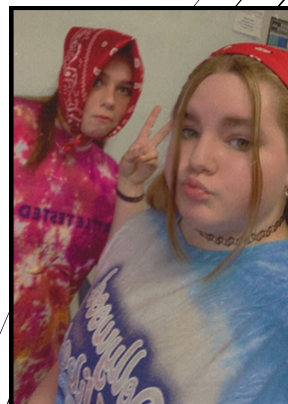
-Monroe Chittum



JOSIE ROBERTS

I never thought that my first and last days at TCPS would feel so similar. When I think back to my first day at TCPS, I felt scared. Scared of the future, scared of all the people looking at me, and scared of what was to come. However, there was a sense of excitement for the new journey ahead and new friends I had hoped to make. When I think of my last day at TCPS, the familiar feeling of fear and excitement return, but in a different manner. I am scared for my future because the decisions I make now will change the course of my life. The all-too-familiar feeling of people looking at me has shifted to expectations placed on me to perform to the best of my ability and to make the right decisions. However, I'm excited for the new chapters ahead and what they hold for me. Though feelings of fear are present, the overwhelming peace and excitement will always overpower them. I can confidently say that even though life gets crazy, I can and will always find peace in God. Even when everything seems to be moving at the speed of light and impossible to find balance or peace, God will offer his peace and rest to you.

-Josie Roberts





JAMES SHIFLET



When I first came to TCPS, the start of my 9th grade year, I was completely terrified. I didn't know anyone, and was almost—if not entirely—too afraid to even try to make friends. Having just moved halfway across the country, I just wanted the friends that I was comfortable with, ones that I had known for years. But I was forced far out of my comfort zone, into something that I had never come close to experiencing before. With such a close knit group of students at this school, it should not have been very difficult for me to become friends with the people around me, but for a long time I resisted a change that I couldn't bring myself to accept. Although I was living here, and had no choice but to be here, I resisted going out of my comfort zone, and gave into fear that completely controlled me during my first year or two of high school. It was only when I realized how resisting such a large change—and ultimately an irresistible change—would hurt me. Instead of making new friends and finding enjoyment in an environment that I began uncomfortable in, choosing to isolate myself made this uncomfortable new situation into a vastly worse one. What I learned—and what I truly believe that God was teaching me through this experience—is that letting the fear of an unknown and uncomfortable possibility keep you in a far worse reality. If you allow fear to stop you from an experience that you don't understand—which making new friends in a new place was a completely foreign experience for me at that time—then you will inevitably make the situation worse, often making those very fears come true by allowing them to control you. Once I came to this understanding, I had an incredible time here at this school, and have had friends and experiences that I could have never imagined when I let fear rule my life. I have no doubt that this will not be the last time I struggle, but now I know that I don't have to give up; I can take strength from the experiences I've had at this school and they can push me forward into my future.

-James Shiflet



OLDIES BUT GOODIES



On April 14, the seniors showed up to campus fashionably late—by about 50 years! For their senior prank, they transformed into senior citizens, complete with gray wigs and wise expressions. One little old lady even came prepared with a purse full of mints to hand out, just like any sweet grandma would. Officer Rob gave them a ride on the golf cart as to not tire them out from the long walk up the driveway. These seniors brought a lot of joy as they visited classrooms offering words of wisdom like “eat your veggies” and “be respectful.” They might be old, but they’re a whole lot of fun!



HAWK HIGHLIGHTS

While it was a lighter week in Hawk athletics, it was filled with meaningful moments, strong efforts, and a celebration of the Hawk legacy.

Middle School Volleyball continues to make strides, showing improvement despite a two-set loss to Oakwood. With three matches remaining, the team is gaining valuable experience as they build toward the ISC Tournament on April 28-29.

High School Tennis (Boys and Girls) faced off against Cleveland High School last week, engaging in competitive singles and doubles play. Though the scoreboard didn't swing in our favor, our athletes played with heart and determination. The team remains in training, with a possible match still to come - stay tuned for updates.

High School Baseball saw its season come to an early close as the final scheduled game at East Hamilton was canceled due to weather. The team was able to wrap up on a high note with a special team picture day alongside Coach Cutler and his family, just before he begins his professional journey with the High Point Rockers of the Atlantic League.

The highlight of the week was the annual Alumni Game, where former Hawks returned for a fun, competitive showdown against our current players. In a spirited contest that stretched into a bonus fifth quarter, the alumni pulled away late - but the scoreboard didn't matter nearly as much as the shared joy and community spirit.

Alumni players included: Isaiah Munoz, Braxton Botts, Solomon Smith, Niko Daniels, Thomas Caines, Sam Coner, Carter Douglas, Cole Taylor, Hunter White, and Robbie Davis. Their return brought back great memories and showcased the lasting bond of Hawk athletics.

Third grader Reid Campbell was a fan favorite as the game's PA announcer and play-by-play commentator, entertaining the crowd with his enthusiasm and energy. The evening also included a special recognition of seniors Franklin Campbell and Abigail Shepherd, who missed Senior Night in February due to illness. Senior Tucker Myers, another leader from this season, was unable to attend because of a church commitment but was honored in spirit.

With baseball wrapped up, we now rally behind our middle school volleyball and high school tennis teams as they compete and train through the end of April.

Go Hawks!

TCPs

**FRIDAY 4.25
5-8 PM**



**2025 FINE ARTS
FESTIVAL**

ART

**FEATURING MIDDLE SCHOOL
POETRY, K-8 ART WORK, US ART
ELECTIVES, PRESCHOOL ARTWORK,
AND PERFORMANCES FROM OUR
MUSICAL ACADEMY, ALADDIN CAST,
AND US CHAPEL BAND**

TCPS GYM FRIDAY APRIL 25TH 5-8 PM

Thank you to the Cleveland/Bradley Chamber of Commerce Allied Arts Council for the grant that funded our Art Workshop and Theater Scripts



LOWER SCHOOL Class Auction Items

DURING THE FINE ARTS FESTIVAL
FRIDAY, APRIL 25TH 5-8 PM

SNEAK PEAK!



TENNESSEE CHRISTIAN FINE ARTS

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Lee University Dixon Center

Tickets	\$15
Students/ TC Faculty	\$10

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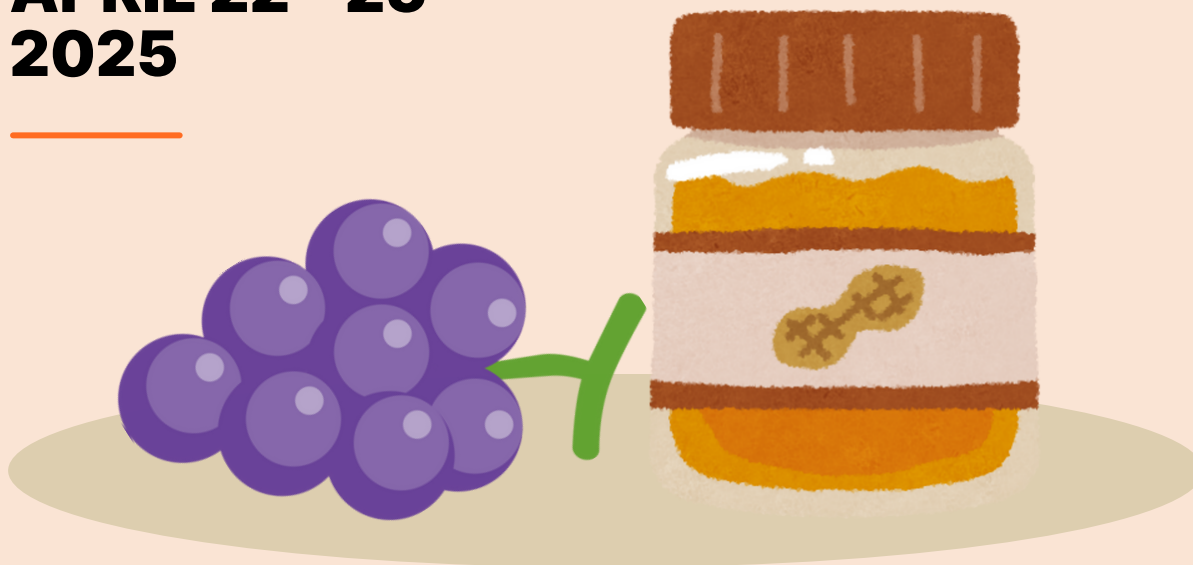




PB&J DRIVE



**APRIL 22 - 25
2025**



We are excited to announce our PB&J Drive, where we come together as a school to make a positive impact on our community.

DROP-OFF LOCATION



Outside School during
dismissal or arrival

ITEMS NEEDED

- ▶ Peanut Butter or other Spreads
- ▶ Jelly or Jam

For More Information : asopczak@tcpsk12.org

TC SUMMERS

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2025 SUMMER SCHEDULE

JUNE 2-6: VOLLEYBALL CAMP

JUNE 9-13: MUSICAL THEATER CAMP

JUNE 16-20: SOCCER CAMP

JUNE 23-27: CHEERLEADING & TUMBLING
CAMP

JULY 7-11:

**PAINTING & DRAWING
CAMP**

JULY 14-18:

BASKETBALL CAMP

JULY 21-25:

STEAM CAMP

JULY 28-AUG 1:

**HAND SEWING/
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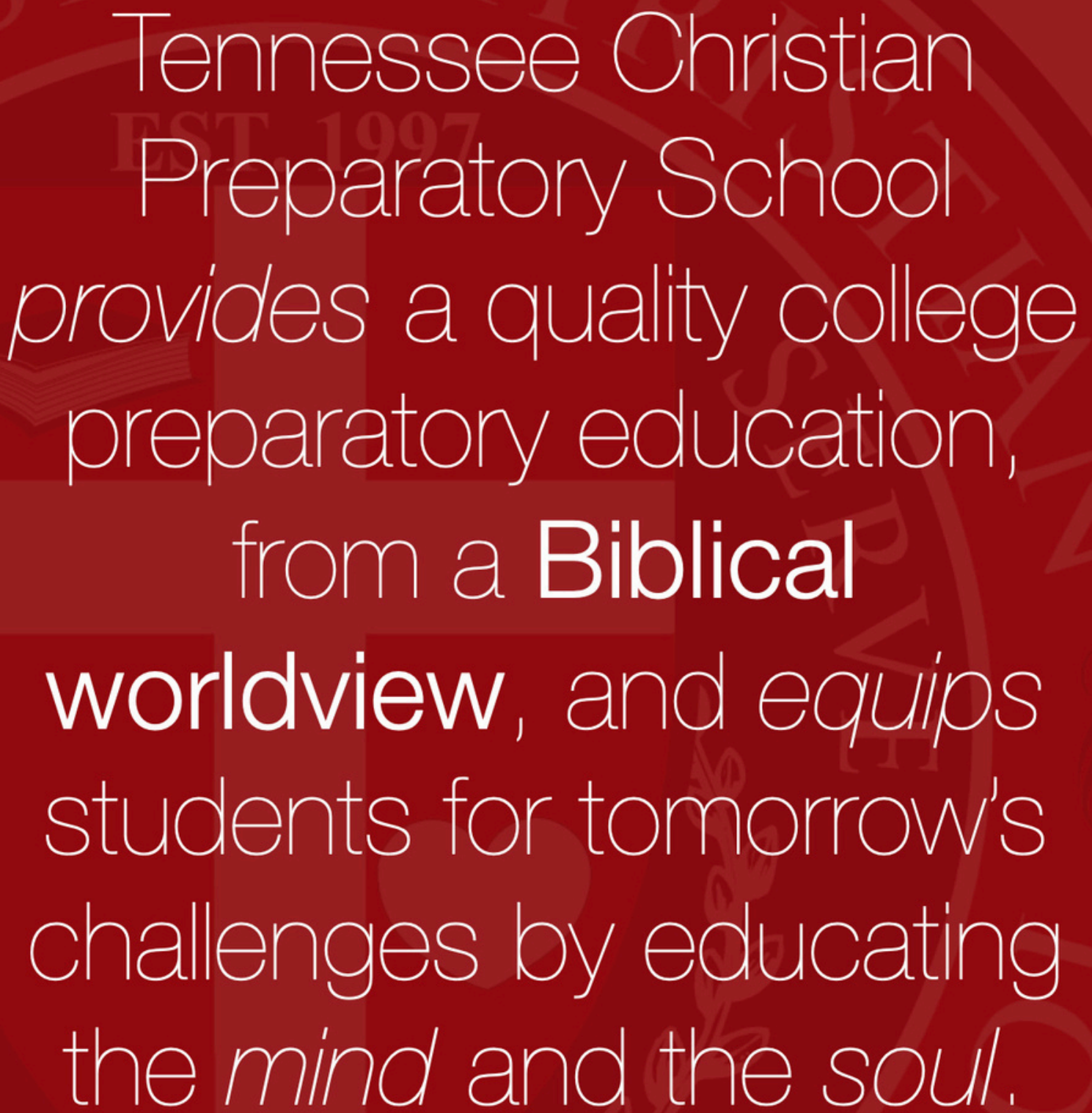
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worldview**, and equips
students for tomorrow's
challenges by educating
the *mind* and the *soul*.*