

A photograph of three young women in rain ponchos standing under a canopy of colorful umbrellas. The woman on the left is wearing a red poncho, the woman in the center is wearing a grey poncho with an orange stripe, and the woman on the right is wearing a grey poncho. They are all smiling. The background is filled with many colorful umbrellas in shades of yellow, orange, pink, blue, and green, hanging from above. The scene appears to be outdoors on a rainy day.

the talon

May 20, 2025

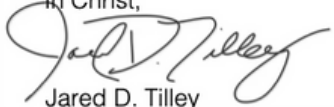
TENNESSEE CHRISTIAN
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from the Head

As we reach the end of the school year, I wanted to reflect on the work of our school. Reflecting on our Awards Chapel for middle and upper schools and Graduation, our mission as a school is resolute, determined, and essential. As teachers, we view what we do daily as a missional calling from our Father. Our work is not just teaching standards, preparing students for testing, or supplying homework, but our work is to honor the deeper calling--a calling to give our all in everything we do. Scripture commands this of us. In Colossians 3:23, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters." This scripture is the foundation of true excellence. When we evaluate God's character, mediocrity is not found. Nor should it be found in us, as Christians. Our God is a God of purpose, precision, and excellence--and we reflect Him best when we pursue our work, studies, and callings with the same wholehearted commitment. To be clear, excellence is not perfection. It is not about outperforming others. It is about dedicating your work and studies to Him, weaving them with integrity, focus, and a heart set on honoring Christ. I have often mentioned St. Patrick's Breastplate prayer in my Talon articles, speeches, and Bible classes. The prayer creates a tapestry of the calling on our lives that will be exhibited through excellence. Remembering those words can realign, refocus, and adjust where we tend to stray.

*Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.*

When we act these words out as a calling, we pursue excellence through Him. Tennessee Christian is set on honoring our Father through the pursuit of excellence. While we will soon break for summer, the work and preparation for next school year are well underway, and the pursuit of excellence for our school will continue.

In Christ,

Jared D. Tilley

The Lower School Talent Show



The Lower School Talent Show



Dollywood

PARKS & RESORTS



Our Upper School trip to Dollywood may have been soaked in buckets of rain for nearly 80% of the day, but it didn't dampen our fun one bit. With ponchos on and spirits high, students made the most of every moment riding all the rides, shopping through the drizzle, and, of course, savoring the park's famous cinnamon bread. The weather may not have been ideal, but the real highlight was simply being together laughing, exploring, and building memories in true Tennessee Christian fashion.

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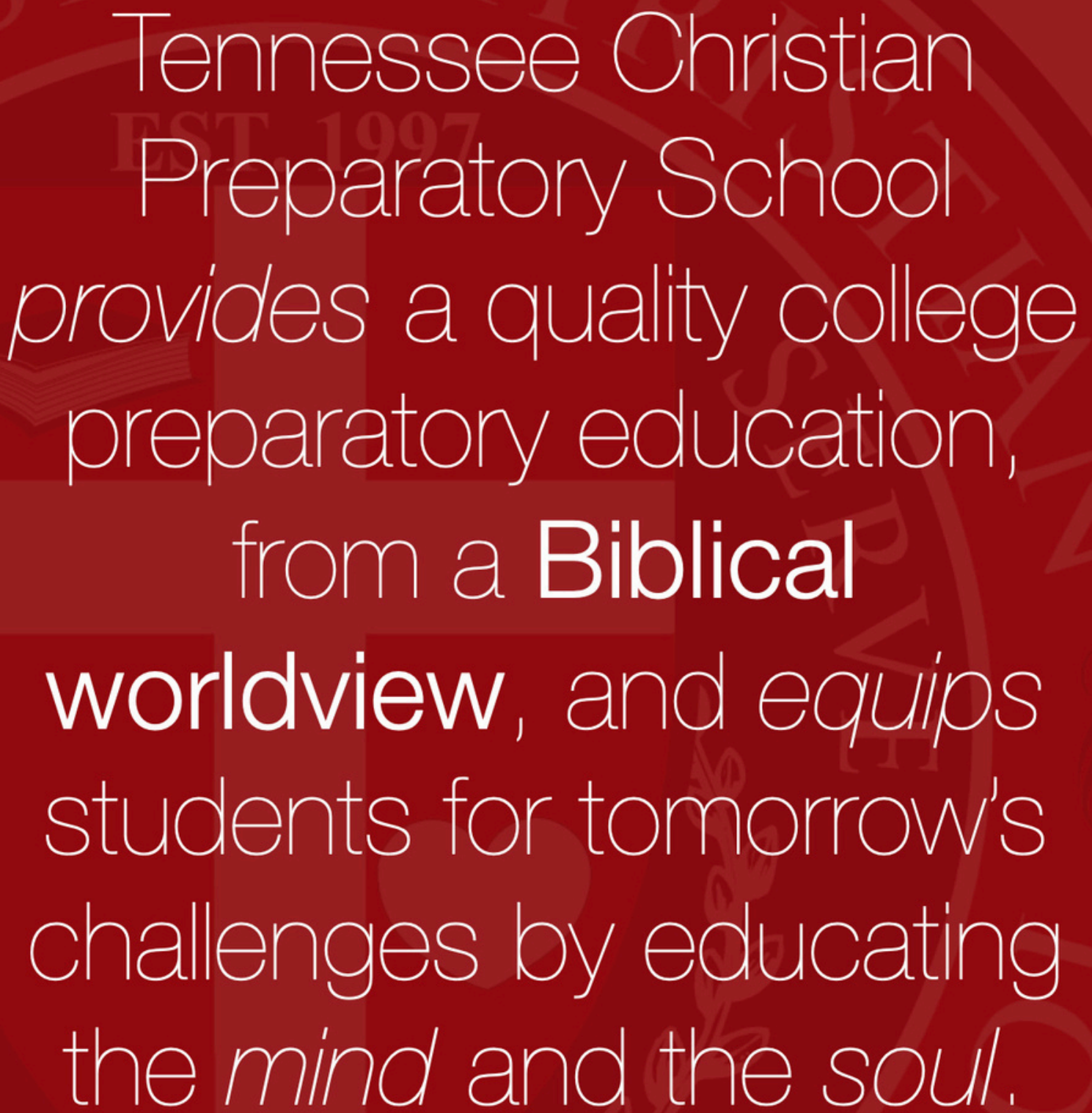
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