

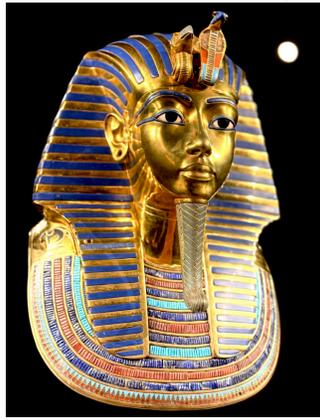
A group of five young people are posing in a rocky crevice. From left to right: a young man in a black long-sleeved shirt and shorts, a young man in a green hoodie and light-colored pants wearing sunglasses, a young man in a grey t-shirt and denim shorts, a young man in a blue jacket and light-colored shorts, and a young woman in a white hoodie and black pants wearing a grey cap. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a textured, layered rock wall.

# *the* talon

Volume VI, Issue XXIII

TENNESSEE CHRISTIAN  
February 17, 2026

# from the Head



Tutankhamun  
18th Dynasty  
c. 1341-1323 B.C

This past weekend, Victoria and I had the chance to step back and relax at the breathtaking Biltmore Estate. If you have never walked its halls and grounds, imagine craftsmanship on a scale that is hard to believe. Fredrick Law Olmsted, landscape architect, and Richard Morris Hunt, Biltmore architect, worked together to create a masterpiece. Stone, wood, tapestry, and light are all carefully orchestrated into something grand and deliberate. The conservatory, walkway, pond, and blossom are meticulously planned and arranged to create beauty.

After viewing the grounds and the home, we had the opportunity to view the traveling Tutankhamun exhibit at Biltmore. Standing face to face with artifacts from the tomb of Tutankhamun, especially the three golden coffins and his famous mask, was remarkable. The detail, precision, and patience it took craftsmen to achieve 3,300 years ago was hard to fathom. Layer upon layer of gold, symbolism, and artistry devoted to preparing a young pharaoh for what the ancient Egyptians believed was his ascension to the afterlife. The ancient craftsmen believed their work mattered eternally. They laboured extensively, pouring all their excellence into what they built because it reflected their beliefs.

As followers of Christ, we know something even more profound than the artisans of ancient Egypt ever could: our ascension has already been secured; not through gold, monuments, or merits, but through the blood of Christ.

What should our craftsmanship look like?

It should look like lawyers who pursue justice with integrity.

It should look like real estate agents who treat families with honesty and care.

It should look like educators who shape minds with patience and purpose.

It should look like business owners who lead with humility and conviction.

Artistry is not the currency of painters and poets alone; it is the natural overflow of serving a creative God. Every vocation should be a true act of worship.

The gold coffin of a pharaoh was meant to point toward the Egyptians' understanding of eternal life. But we do not work toward eternity; we work from it. Our eternity is secure in Christ. That reality should free us to pursue excellence not for our glory, but for His. For this reason, the teachers at Tennessee Christian teach students that their future trades, professions, and callings are sacred spaces where they can be the hands and feet of Christ. Assumptions are being made, but that is why many of you partnered with Tennessee Christian.

The artisans who crafted Tutankhamun's burial treasures worked with eternity in mind. We should do no less. But unlike them, we know the King who conquered death, and I can assure you, Tutankhamun is still dead and surrounded by beautiful gold.

In Christ,

Handwritten signature of Jared D. Tilley.

Jared D. Tilley

# HIGH POINT

## 4th/5th Field Trip



On Thursday, February 13, the fourth and fifth-grade students enjoyed their own Winterim as they embarked on a much anticipated field trip to High Point Climbing in downtown Chattanooga! They tackled various climbing walls and cheered one another on while attempting new challenges.



Afterward, the group headed to Mellow Mushroom to enjoy a pizza buffet. The trip offered a perfect balance of adventure and fun, as the kids bonded over their climbing achievements and enjoyed lunch together.

-Sarah Van Dyke & Donna McKee

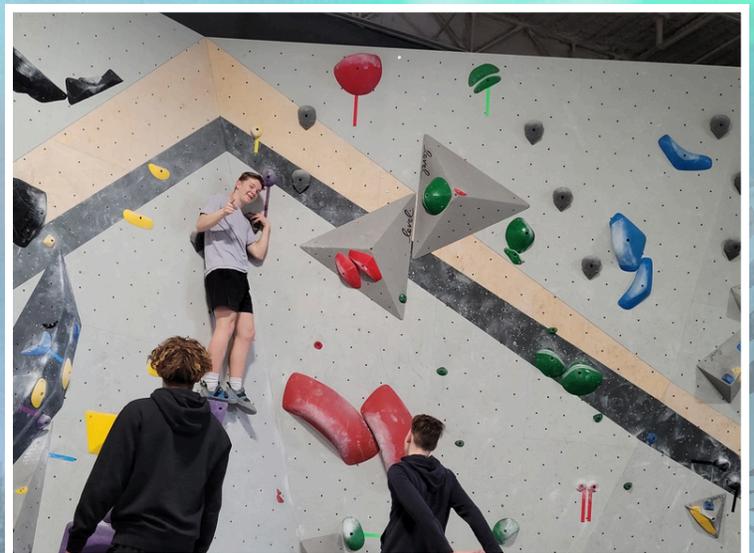


# WINTERIM

## 2026

### Adventure Seekers: Rock Climbing & Bowling

This adventure with Ms. Kesley and Ms. Kelton began on day one with rock climbing. Students enjoyed strategizing different techniques for climbing as well as racing each other to the top. On day 2, the adventure continues with bowling. The games were competitive with close scoring and a few gutter balls. The day ended with bonding over a great lunch of Pizza at Gabriel's.



# WINTERIM

2026

## Ponyo & Pan-Asian Plates: A Winterim Food Journey



This Winterim, with Ms. Weaver and Mr. Mullins, explored Asian cuisine and was a fun, hands-on experience for everyone involved. On Thursday, we left campus and traveled to Rice Boxx, where students purchased their own lunch. After lunch, we visited the Asian Food Market, where we bought groceries to prepare for Friday. We then returned to campus for pick-up.

On Friday, students were dropped off to enjoy ramen and side dishes from the Asian Food Market. We also watched Ponyo, a wonderful G-rated Japanese movie created by Oscar-winning Hayao Miyazaki.

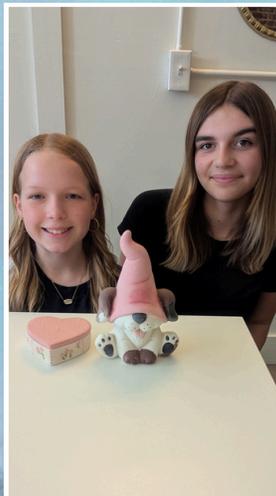
# WINTERIM

2026

## Canvas to Kiln: Community Arts Winterim

Students who were artsy and ready to party found the perfect fit in Community Arts Winterim with Ms. Hinchcliff and Mrs. Machachek. At the studio, students painted their own pottery—ranging from mugs and plates to small trinkets and vases—which was later kiln-fired for a professional finish.

The fun continued with a Bob Ross-inspired canvas painting party led by Miss H, complete with snacks and plenty of creativity.



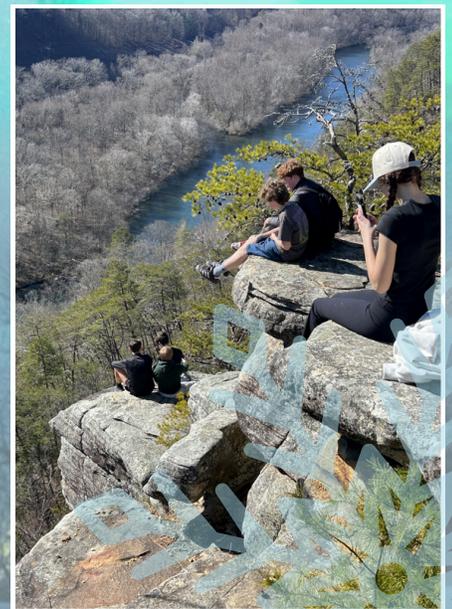
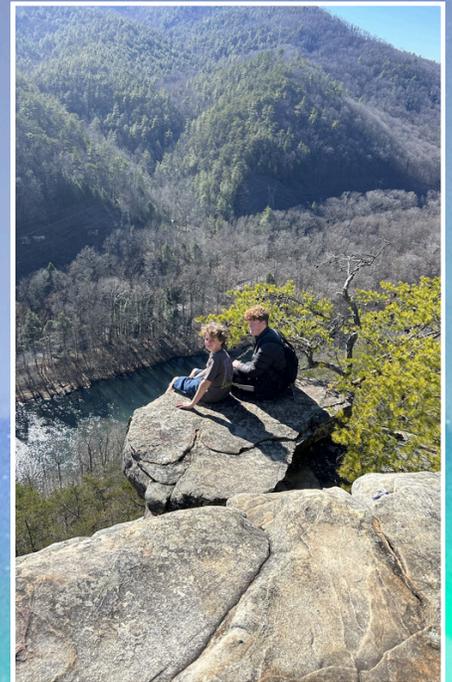
# WINTERIM

2026

## Pedals & Peaks: AMP Karting & Hiking

Students who had a need for speed and enjoyed a challenge found plenty to love in this exciting Winterim with Mrs. Nelson. They raced friends on a challenging karting circuit, experiencing the thrill of speed and friendly competition.

The adventure continued with a hike up Starr Mountain, where students pushed themselves and encouraged one another along the steep trail. Reaching the top rewarded them with beautiful panoramic views of the Hiwassee River and surrounding mountains. It was a fun and energizing experience that combined adventure, teamwork, and time outdoors.



# WINTERIM

2026

## Creative & Caffeinated: Crafts & Coffee

Students grabbed their friends and enjoyed two days packed with creativity, conversation, and plenty of caffeine. In this hands-on workshop with Mrs. DeBusk, they let their creativity shine while sipping their favorite brews in a relaxed, social atmosphere.

They came for the crafts, stayed for the coffee, and left with full hearts and a renewed creative spark.



# WINTERIM

2026

## The Finer Things: A Day at the Museum & Afternoon Tea

Students joined Ms. Owens, Mrs. Henry, and Mrs. Shepherd for The Finer Things, a delightful two-day experience centered on the arts and tea. The group enjoyed exploring a beautiful art museum in Chattanooga, taking time to view and appreciate the exhibits together. They also shared a special meal that encouraged conversation and connection.

The experience continued with tea and lunch in a charming setting, where students were able to slow down, enjoy meaningful fellowship, and practice gracious manners. It was a lovely opportunity to appreciate the arts, spend time together, and enjoy the simple elegance of good food, conversation, and community.



# WINTERIM

## 2026

Mr. Hammond joined students who were looking for a free, fun, and competitive Winterim found it in Snowlympics! Throughout the experience, students competed in a variety of sporting events and challenges, all while working hard to earn the gold medal.

The atmosphere was full of energy, teamwork, and friendly competition as students cheered one another on and celebrated their efforts. Snowlympics provided a great opportunity to stay active, build camaraderie, and enjoy the excitement of competition together.





# HAWK HIGHLIGHTS

The Middle School Hawks delivered an exciting postseason run in the SCAA Tournament last week. In a hard-fought and physical semifinal battle, the Hawks edged Rhea Academy 27-25 to advance to the championship game. They faced Christ Legacy in the finals and came up short, 55-25, finishing as tournament runner-up. The Hawks finished the season with a 7-6 record.

Elliot Tilley capped an outstanding season by earning All-SCAA Tournament Team honors following a strong regular season and impressive tournament performance. Ben Phiropoulos also made the All SCAA Tournament Team after a solid two game performance.

The High School Hawks also competed in the eight-team high school SCAA Tournament. After securing a quarterfinal victory, the Hawks battled eventual champion Knoxville Apostolic in the semifinals. The game remained within single digits late into the fourth quarter before Knoxville Apostolic pulled away for a 47-35 win. Thomas Nicolaus led the Hawks with 17 points, while Caleb Cigliano added 11. The team concluded its season with a strong 12-8 record. Nicolaus earned All-SCAA Tournament Team recognition for his outstanding regular season and solid tournament play.

Our 4th/5th grade Hawks traveled to Chattanooga to compete in the ISC Basketball Tournament against Grace Baptist. Although they came up short, they represented TCPS well and completed a solid season. Ben Locklear was selected to the ISC All-Tournament Team following an excellent regular season and strong tournament performance.

We also want to recognize our Upper School Cheerleaders, who did an outstanding job all season supporting our teams. From regular season games to conference tournament play, their energy, spirit, and commitment helped create a strong home-court atmosphere and encouraged our athletes throughout the winter. A special thank you goes to Hannah Sanders for her excellent leadership of the Cheer squad this year.

We are proud of all of our Hawks for their hard work, perseverance, and Christ-like representation throughout the winter season.

TENNESSEE CHRISTIAN PREPARATORY SCHOOL

# LEGACY

DINNER • MUSIC • AUCTION



March 27, 2026 | 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Attire: Elevated Western

Ties, bolo ties, cowboy hats,  
and elevated western flair





TENNESSEE CHRISTIAN  
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

# ENROLLMENT

2026-2027

## RE-ENROLLMENT

**LIVE ON JANUARY 20, 2026**

**FOR ALL STUDENTS CURRENTLY  
ENROLLED:**

Take advantage of our early bird special with a discount! This special offer is only available from January 20 through January 31, 2026.

## PRIORITY ENROLLMENT

**BEGINNING FEBRUARY 2, 2026**

**FOR WAITLISTED STUDENTS OR SIBLINGS  
NOT CURRENTLY ENROLLED:** This offer is subject to our availability and pre-screening for admission.

## OPEN ENROLLMENT

**OPENING FEBRUARY 16, 2026**

**FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS SEEKING  
ENROLLMENT:** This offer is subject to our availability and admission eligibility.



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1 week Camp  
**\$225**

Summer Bundle  
**\$200**

Monday-Friday  
8AM-3PM  
Aftercare Available  
Lunch Provided

## 2026 SUMMER SCHEDULE

JUNE 1-5: THEATER CAMP

JULY 6-10: DANCE CAMP

JUNE 8-12: TENNIS CAMP

JULY 13-17: VOLLEYBALL CAMP

JUNE 15-19: CHEER CAMP

JULY 20-24: BASKETBALL CAMP

JUNE 22-26: SOCCER CAMP

JULY 27-31: S.T.E.A.M. CAMP





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students for tomorrow's  
challenges by educating  
the *mind* and the *soul*.*