

the talon

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from the Head



Thursday and Friday of this past week, the junior class traveled to Chickamauga Battlefield for a camping adventure and a tour of the 1863 Civil War battle. After leaving campus Thursday evening following the soccer match, we didn't arrive until after dark. That, however, did not deter our adventurous students, some of whom were camping for the first time, from fully embracing the experience.

We cooked out as a group, enjoyed stargazing, and spent time playing cards together. Settling in for the night came with the usual unfamiliar sounds of the surrounding wilderness, but the students handled the cold temperatures and new environment with resilience.

The next morning, Victoria Tilley prepared a pancake feast, and Dr. Ian Lyles demonstrated how to make proper coffee while camping. We then toured the battlefield, following the events of September 19–20, 1863. It is remarkable to have such a significant historical site so close to home, where Union and Confederate forces, totaling more than 120,000 men, once clashed.

During the tour, students heard stories of heroic actions, leadership decisions, both good and poor, that still offer lessons today, and gained a deeper understanding of the scale and significance of the battle. While I hope they learned important historical insights, I also pray the experience strengthened their appreciation for the country we live in today.

I must commend our students. While their behavior was not surprising, they were truly outstanding. There were no issues, even as they camped in 40-degree weather and spent the next day touring a historic site over 150 years old. They were appreciative, enthusiastic, and a joy to be around.

A special thank you goes to Ashley Lyles, who spent her birthday camping with us. We are grateful that you chose to celebrate your special day with this group and for bringing the cupcakes!

We are blessed to have such amazing students at Tennessee Christian.



In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jared D. Tilley".

Jared D. Tilley

READ ACROSS

America



During the afternoon of March 5th, our Lower School came alive as students celebrated Read Across America Day. Preschool through fifth grade were invited to dress as beloved storybook characters, bringing imagination and creativity to life from classic favorites to familiar Dr. Seuss friends.

A highlight of the day was the opportunity for students in grades 6–12 to partner with our younger Hawks for one-on-one reading time. These moments created a sweet and encouraging environment where older students stepped into the role of mentors and modeling a love for reading.

The connection across grade levels is a unique and treasured part of our school culture to see students of all ages interacting in such a genuine and uplifting way. Experiences like this go beyond academics. They help shape students who are compassionate, confident, and connected.

At Tennessee Christian, we are intentional about creating opportunities that grow the whole child. By fostering relationships, encouraging mentorship, and celebrating shared experiences, we continue to build a community where students not only learn well, but love well.

-Lindsay Sluder

CHATTANOOGA REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR 2026

On Thursday, March 10th, the 74th Annual Chattanooga Regional Science and Engineering Fair was held at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. TCPS entered 29 science projects where we received 21 awards. Below is the list of all of the winners:

The Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge 2026

Addy Ratcliff

Junior Division Winners:

Animal Science

1st Place: Zoe Smith

2nd Place: Kenzie Smith

Behavioral and Social Sciences

1st Place: Eli Simonson

2nd Place: Greyson Laws

Chemistry

2nd Place: Martin Tilley

3rd Place: Zac Evans

Earth and Environmental Science

1st Place: Sammy Hensley

2nd Place: Ashlyn DeBusk

Energy: Sustainable Materials and Design

1st Place: Kai Ahlers

Environmental Engineering

2nd Place: Mason Phillips

Engineering Technology:

Statics and Dynamics

1st Place: Holden Hartline

2nd Place: Elliott Tilley

Materials Science

1st Place: Aubree Bishop

Microbiology

1st Place: Carolina Machacek

2nd Place: Scarlett Shelton

3rd Place: Josie Ford

Physics

1st Place: Ellie Adams

2nd Place: Henry Sluder

3rd Place: Elliot Murnik

Plant Sciences

1st Place: Addy Ratcliff

TCPS also won two awards as a school:

- Junior Division School Achievement Award
- Junior Division School Participation Award



perseverance.

Abraham Award

“After waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.” – Hebrews 6:15

Letti Taylor (PreK4)

“Whether it’s school work, art or personal self care Letti Taylor strives for success in every avenue. Letti completes all of her Abeka worksheets and Montessori lessons despite any obstacles that could arise. She is full of grit and determination. I love getting to witness her personal achievements daily.” -Jen Roe



Raylan Vaughan (1st Grade)

“Raylan has shown perseverance by not giving up, working diligently, and trusting God through challenges. He continues to push himself to reach personal goals set for himself academically and socially. He has done a good job of taking time to encourage others to make wise choices and to try and do their best. Raylan, your determination and faithful spirit reflect God’s strength at work in you!” -Rebecca Hake



Gaby Shippey (2nd Grade)

“Gaby consistently demonstrates perseverance both in the classroom and in her everyday life. She works hard to overcome challenges in her academics and continues to push forward with determination and a positive attitude. Watching Gaby grow, learn, and develop this year has truly been a blessing. Her resilience and willingness to keep trying make her very deserving.” -Rachel Arms





perseverance.

Abraham Award

“After waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.” – Hebrews 6:15



Madeleine Naquin (4th Grade)

“Madeleine Naquin is a student who shows perseverance by not giving up even when an assignment is difficult. She understands that learning takes time and patience, knowing that mistakes can help you get better. I love her positive attitude whenever she notices a mistake and either asks for clarification or simply says, "I made a careless mistake." She is determined to give her best and models this for her peers.” -Donna McKee



Claire McAfee (Middle School)

“Claire exhibits perseverance like Abraham in that she has a wonderful quality of "stick-to-itiveness" in math class. She holds firm to her purpose which is to do her best and most importantly to always want to correct her mistakes. She has the courage to admit she is wrong and fix it! The best thing from a teacher's standpoint is that she does this with a wonderful attitude. I have noticed that Claire approaches difficulty with strength and courage. She definitely has the tenacity and diligence like Abraham to wait patiently in hard times. I am very proud of her!” - Kelly Owens



Zoey Harris (Upper School)

“This girl is the most persistent person I know. She asks EVERY DAY if she can have my blueberries or m & m's or any number of things and everyday I say no, and yet here we are. The definition of perseverance is "persistence in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success." Perseverance is a valuable, commendable trait; and I see it in Zoey not just in my classroom, but everywhere she goes. No matter if she is having a bad day or good day or whatever else is going on, she perseveres and persists in bringing joy and often laughter wherever she goes. I am confident this trait will only continue to serve her well into the future.” -Corrie Nelson

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



TC SUMMERS

SUMMER DAY CAMP CLINICS
FOR BOYS AND GIRLS RISING
FIRST-SIXTH GRADE

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UNDER THE CAMPUS LIFE TAB
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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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CHRIST-CENTERED
EXPERIENCE**

Tennessee Christian
Preparatory School
*provides a quality college
preparatory education,
from a **Biblical
worldview**, and equips
students for tomorrow's
challenges by educating
the *mind* and the *soul*.*