

the talon

Volume VI Issue X



TENNESSEE CHRISTIAN
October 28, 2025

from the **Head**

Many elements shape a school's mission and motto. For the oldest university in America, Harvard, the original motto was *Veritas Christo et Ecclesiae*, meaning "Truth for Christ and the Church." This declaration of purpose was established nearly a century before our nation was founded. However, in 1880, Oliver Wendell Holmes, years before serving on the U.S. Supreme Court, simplified the motto to a single word: *Veritas*, or "Truth." The symbolic and philosophical implication of that change suggests that truth can exist apart from Christ, "Truth without Christ." As believers, we know that to be both impossible and empty, for without Christ, there is no *Veritas*, no truth at all.

At Tennessee Christian, our school's motto and mission should guide it toward growth, excellence, and purpose. Yet above all, they must remain steadfast and anchored in the institution's core beliefs. At Tennessee Christian, our foundation is clear: we are followers and believers in Christ. That conviction is woven throughout our mission statement, which calls us to prepare students, through a Biblical worldview, for the challenges of life. Our board of trustees, administration, faculty, and staff embrace this mission wholeheartedly, and by entrusting your child to Tennessee Christian, I believe you do as well.

Our mission is not merely words on the walls of each classroom or announcement center but lived out daily in every classroom, hallway, conversation, and chapel. We implement our mission by integrating Biblical truth into every subject, showing students that faith and learning are not separated but deeply connected. Please continue to pray for our community and the opportunity we have to partner as family and school to strengthen the foundation for each of our students. Let us continue to focus on the truth found in Christ.

In Christ,



Jared D. Tilley

THIS MURDER WAS STAGED



This past weekend, the Tennessee Christian Fine Arts Department delivered two unforgettable performances of *This Murder Was Staged!* at the Lee University Dixon Center. With shows on both Friday and Saturday evening, audiences were treated to a thrilling mix of laughter, mystery, and unexpected twists that made each night completely unique.

In a creative twist that kept everyone guessing, each performance featured a different ending, ensuring that even returning audience members experienced new surprises. On Friday night, the audience was stunned when Sinclair Hemmings faked his own death, while Saturday's crowd discovered that Uncle Headmaster Tilley was part of the mystery!

From the first line to the final bow, our talented cast and crew brought the story to life with professionalism, energy, and so much heart. Months of rehearsal paid off as the students delivered confident performances filled with humor, clever timing, and excellent stage presence.





THIS MURDER WAS STAGED

At Tennessee Christian, our students are encouraged to let their faith guide their creativity, using their gifts in the arts not just to entertain, but to uplift and inspire. Through storytelling, teamwork, and joy on stage, these students demonstrated how faith and the arts beautifully intertwine to reflect God's creativity and truth in all they do.



A special thank-you goes out to everyone who helped make this production possible. From our dedicated theatre director, Matthew Mullins, and the technical team to the parents, teachers, and volunteers who supported behind the scenes. Your hard work and encouragement continue to make Tennessee Christian Fine Arts shine.

Congratulations to our Upper School Theatre students on a fantastic weekend of performances. *This Murder Was Staged!* may have been full of mystery, but one thing's for sure, you guys were the real showstoppers!



THIS

MURDER WAS STAGED





HAWK HIGHLIGHTS



On Saturday, TCPS cross-country runners competed at the state meet in Knoxville, joining 2,200 runners from across the state.

With seven athletes, qualifying to race among Tennessee's best, the team faced a challenging course but gave it their all.

While no personal records were set, each runner remained consistent with their season times, showing incredible strength, perseverance, and sportsmanship. A special shoutout to Kai Ahlers, who, despite being sick for over a week, pushed through to race with determination. The camaraderie and Christlike kindness displayed by all our runners - from elementary through high school - was truly inspiring. Coach Kelly Ahlers couldn't be prouder of their growth, both physically and in character. What an amazing season!



(back) Kayden and Kanyon Swilley
(front) Greyson Laws, Kai Ahlers, Henry Sluder, Graham Osborne, Millie Canfield

National Honor Society

Annual Food Drive

Please support our Bradley County neighbors
by donating non-perishable food.

All donations will be distributed by
The Caring Place



Collections will take place:

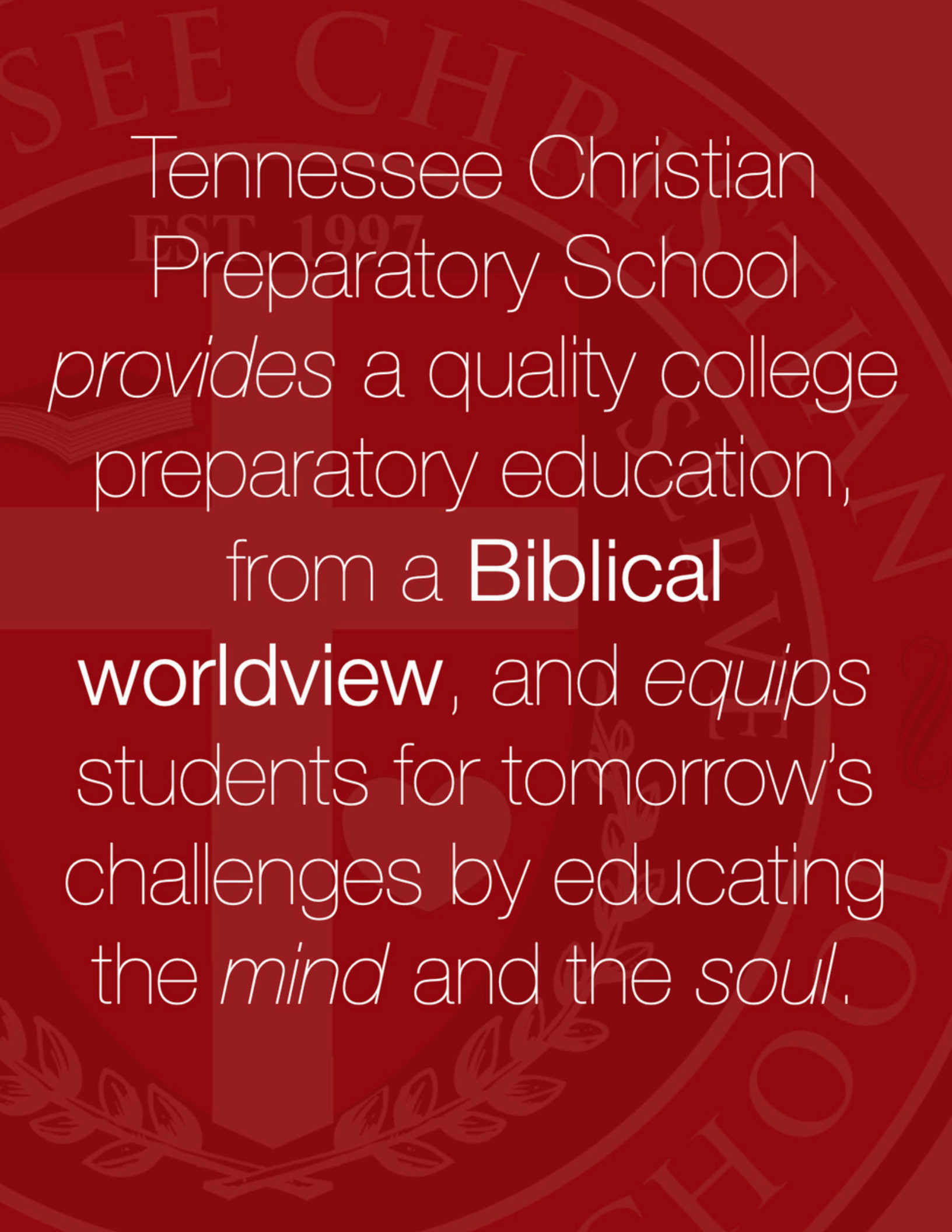
November 3 - 7

NHS & NJHS will be conducting the food
drive on campus.



LEE
UNIVERSITY

A TOP-TIER, 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*.*