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from the Head

Our annual Grandparents' Day is a special occasion each year. While we celebrate them, the gifts, lessons, and wisdom they give us outweigh what we can offer. This lesson is what I pray our younger generation, the students of Tennessee Christian, understand. Generational relationships are essential, life-giving, and transformational for the budding adult.

Reflecting on the time I had with my grandparents, sitting and listening to the decades of change, challenge, and triumph they faced has a profound impact and it is also a roadmap for my life. Their stories remind us of where we have come from, help shape where we are going, and provide a sense of belonging that can't be engineered any other way.

At Tennessee Christian, we believe that faith and family are the foundation of a meaningful life. Grandparents embody both! They model perseverance, offer unconditional love, and reflect the timeless values we seek to instill in our students. Thank you to all our grandparents for attending Grandparents' Day!



In Christ,

Jared D. Tilley

Grandparents' DAY





As I reflect on RYLA, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, I can't help but be taken back 10 years to the first time I accompanied 4 TC juniors to Camp Nakanawa. This beautiful 1,000+ acre camp hosts RYLA, a 1-day leadership training event where students are challenged to use their talents and conquer their fears to become better leaders! From moving a giant, wooden A-frame across a field to moving a tiny marble through pieces of pvc pipe across that same field, Adventureworks team members encourage students to use their minds, working together to accomplish a goal. Physical challenges also push students to climb rock walls, zip-line over lakes, and heave teammates using a pulley system to the tippy tops of the trees to ride perhaps the highest swing they've ever ridden! All the while being challenged to be a leader among leaders and ACT NOW in peace to bring positive change in our world. Over the years, the Bradley Sunrise Rotary Club has faithfully sponsored TC students to attend. This past Saturday, 8 TC leaders were given this amazing opportunity.

2025 Participants: Jonathan Adams, Graham Sluder, Thomas Nicolaus, Alice Tumlin, Laura Ratcliff, Aryah Eslinger, and Maggie Botts

Article by Jenn Blaylock



Winter is Coming

COAT DRIVE



The National Honor Society, along with the assistance of the National Junior Honor Society, conducted the Winter is Coming Coat Drive last week, and once again the heart of Tennessee Christian families has made this teacher's heart grow by at least three sizes! Through your loving generosity, NHS collected 12 pairs of gloves, 14 scarves, 28 hats/head warmers, 86 coats/snowsuits/onesies, and a cash donation. Many of the coat donations were even new with tags on them!

All of these items will be delivered to Heart4One who will distribute them to foster children in our area. Your gifts will help these children know the love of Christ and understand that they are never alone. Thank you so much for your support and participation!

-April Sopczak
NHS/NJHS Advisor



HAWK HIGHLIGHTS

It was a full week of Hawk athletics, with highlights across several sports. The volleyball team picked up key conference wins, the flag football team celebrated wins, the flag football team celebrated a big Friday victory, the golf team wrapped up an outstanding season, and cross-country runners continued to shine in both school meets and the Cleveland/Bradley County Junior Achievement 5K.

In **Lower School Cross Country**, Zoe Miller, Finn McRae, and Henry Sluder ran consistent races, while Graham Osborne set a personal record with a 7:07 mile.

In **High School Cross Country**, several athletes stood out. Audrey Lyles and Boston Morrow placed 12th and 13th in the JV division of varsity, while Sam Coner ran a season-best 25:44 in the 3 mile race. Eli Ahlers also set a season-best, finishing 7th in the ninth-grade division and 36th overall varsity with a time of 19:15.

On Saturday, TCPS runners participated in the Junior Achievement 5K, with 10 of 17 athletes competing. Eli Ahlers won both his age division and the overall race in 19:33, while Boston Morrow finished 7th overall with a personal best of 21:03. Audrey Lyles won her age division in 28:33, Zoe Bocanegra crushed her previous time by 3 minutes. Both the middle school and high school earning first place (and \$25 for TCPS) and the middle school placing second. Special recognition goes to the Osborne family for running the race together, and to Coach Osborne for inspiring our athletes to support Junior Achievement of Cleveland/Bradley County.



The **High School Volleyball team** had a strong week, earning an SCAA win over Knoxville Christian in five sets and then bouncing back from a loss to Christian Academy of the Smokies with a key Friday-night conference victory against Fairview Christian. The Lady Hawks now stand at 6-6 overall and 6-3 in SCAA play.





HAWK HIGHLIGHTS

The **High School Hawk Football** team improved its record to 2-2 with a 25-18 win against Knoxville Christian. Elijah Smith and Enrique Bernabe each scored touchdowns while Eli Ahlers got into the end zone twice. Significant contributions were made from each team member across the board. The Hawks turn their attention to the second half of the season with a big night this Friday, September 26, as they play Rhea Academy at 5:30 PM and Paideia Academy at 6:30, followed by the post-season tournament October 4th.

The **Middle School Boys and Girls Tennis** teams fell short in their team matches against Boyd Buchanan and St. Jude but Lexi Gilbert and Sammy Hensley won their individual matches.

The **High School Boys Golf** team finished their season last week splitting with Rhea County and McMinn Central moving their final regular season record to 10-3. Congratulations to senior golfer Andrew Ruckman who shot his career best during the final match. Throughout the season each golfer contributed towards this highly successful season. 2026 will see the return of seven golfers from this year's squad. Great things lie ahead for our golf team.



THIS

MURDER WAS STAGED

A COMEDY PRESENTED BY
TENNESSEE CHRISTIAN FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

COMING SOON

24

OCTOBER

+

25

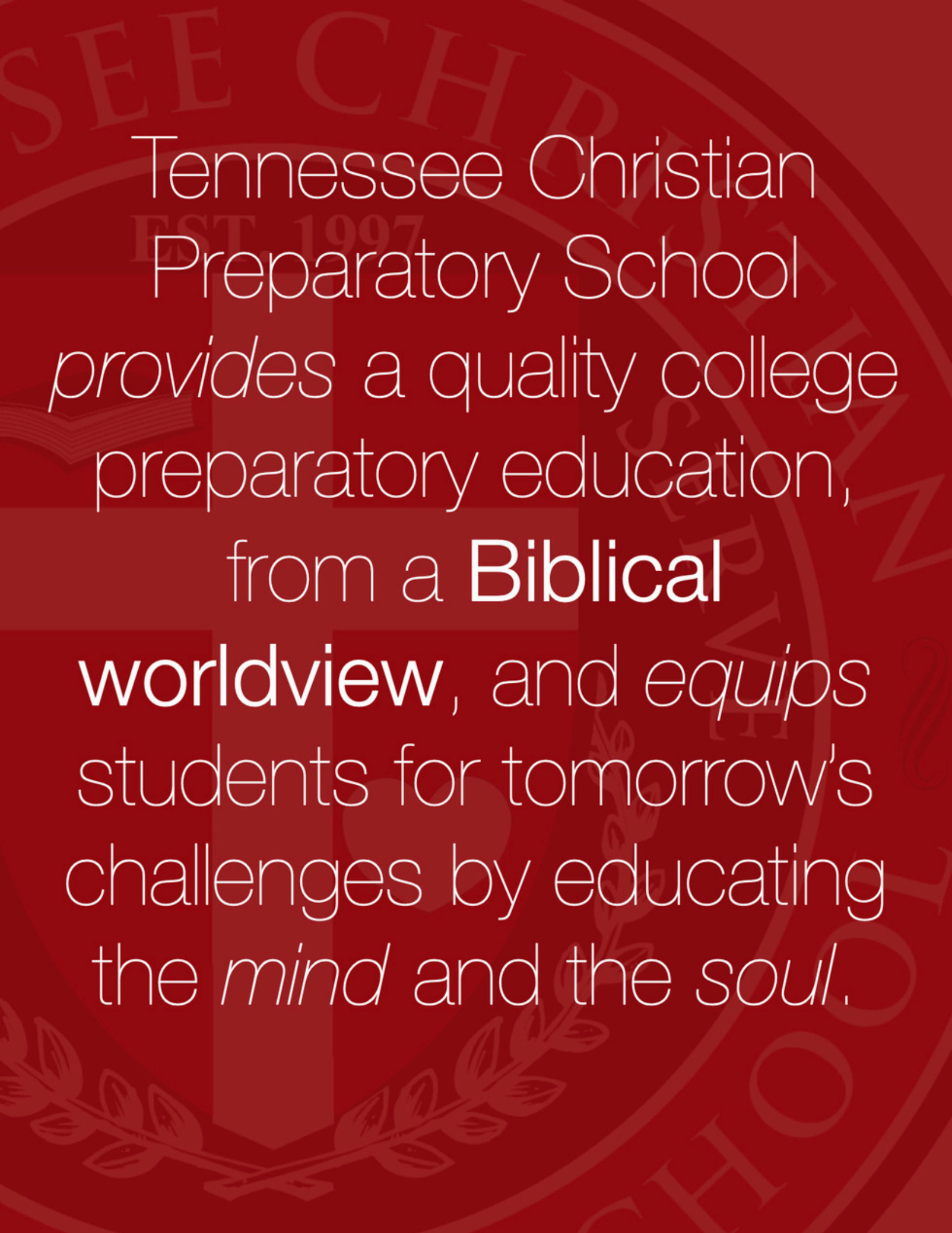
OCTOBER

DIXON CENTER
@ LEE UNIVERSITY



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*.*