

the talon

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TENNESSEE CHRISTIAN
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from the **Head**

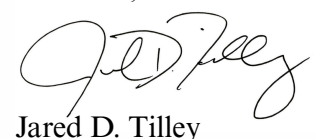
Distance running was never my strong suit. I could hustle enough over short distances, such as on a basketball court, to stay competitive, but longer distances were challenging. I found myself competing against my previous mile or two-mile time, only to see a disappointing result. What I know about distance running is simple: it is not easy. It takes mental toughness, a focused mind, and proper conditioning and training. Our students displayed all of these characteristics yesterday at the ISC Cross Country Finals.

Coach Ahlers leads our Hawks with distinction. She teaches and guides the students, developing their mental toughness and grit. From Lower School students to Upper School, all students are working hard to improve their course performance.

Yesterday, our Lower School and Middle School teams competed in the ISC small school division at their final cross-country meet of the year. Our 4th-grade, 6th-grade, and 8th-grade boys had finishers in 3rd place, while the Middler School Boy Hawks took 1st overall! Our lady runners all set personal records, contributing to the continued growth and improvement of each individual.

I am incredibly proud of the efforts of our Hawks and the determination they all showed through their efforts. Thank you to Kelly Ahlers for her dedication and hard work with all of our Hawks!

In Christ,



Jared D. Tilley

✦ ALL ABOARD ✦

5TH-GRADE FIELD TRIP



On Thursday, September 25, Mrs. Van Dyke's fifth grade class traveled to the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum for an educational train ride. The trip allowed the class to learn about the history of railroads in Chattanooga, including the pivotal role they played during the Civil War. Students were able to read about various train cars and railway systems and see examples of how train cars were set up as they toured the exhibition hall. The class then boarded the train and traveled from west Chattanooga to east Chattanooga while listening to local railroad history. Once at the depot in east Chattanooga, the class was able to watch how a train engine turned around on a turntable. The field trip aided in fifth grade's study of the Industrial Revolution and what that time period looked like in Chattanooga.

-Sarah Van Dyke

4TH-GRADE RED CLAY



There is nothing quite like learning outside of the classroom! The weather held for us on Thursday, September 25 as fourth grade traveled to Red Clay State Historic Park. An interesting film gave us information on the important people of that time, including President Andrew Jackson, John Ridge, and Chief John Ross. We learned how the Cherokees met at Red Clay for their council meetings before they were forced to walk westward to Oklahoma on the Trail of Tears. In the museum, students met Rebecca Ketcher, a young 9-year-old Cherokee girl (she is AI-generated) who walked the Trail of Tears as a child. In the center of the park stands the Eternal Flame, a memorial to all those who lost their lives, which was about 4,000.

Our tour guide, Ranger Taylor, kept our students engaged from beginning to end, sharing interesting historical facts, explaining why the “Blue Hole” is blue, demonstrating the different weapons used by the Cherokees, and patiently answering all of our questions! The end of our tour included a weapons demonstration, which is always a highlight of the trip. Parents, as well as students, got a chance to practice their aim with a blow gun! Students received beaded necklaces with an arrow head, which were made by a local veteran. Ranger Taylor complimented our group for their excellent listening skills and behavior and told us that she always looks forward to having students from TCPS!

-Donna McKee





humility.

John the Baptist Award

“He must become greater; I must become less.” – John 3:30

Bowen Spencer (Prek)

“Bowen Spencer shows humility in his school work, always doing his best, without comparing his work to others. In play, Bowen likes to focus on creative games, leading many friends to work together towards a common goal. He is a humble leader in our classroom and a great friend to us all.”

-Jen Roe



Indie Green (Kindergarten)

“Indie is a kind friend and actively seeks out ways to build others up without expecting it in return. Indie is an excellent example of showing a Christ-like love and humbleness even at the young age of 5. We are so very proud of all his hard work so far this year!”

-Ashley Dodson and Phyllis Hope



Bryson Smith (3rd Grade)

“Bryson is always respectful and listens to others. He works hard, stays kind, and shows what it really looks like to be humble in our class.” -Abby Runion





humility.

John the Baptist Award

“He must become greater; I must become less.” – John 3:30



Reid Campbell (4th Grade)

“Reid Campbell is the student who consistently shows humility. Reid does not wait for anyone to tell him to be helpful; he just sees the need and jumps in with a willing, humble heart! I have seen him ready to help with a math problem, serving others by cleaning up, and some know him as one to help in basketball drills. Reid was chosen by his classmates, as well as myself!”

-Donna McKee



Martin Tilley (6th Grade)

“Martin is always putting others above himself. He truly cares for his neighbor before himself. He is very empathetic, kind, and compassionate.”

-Kelly Owens



Bryn Corley (12th Grade)

“Bryn is talented, intelligent, and beautiful; however, she is not, in any sense of the word, vain. Instead, she uses her talent and intelligence to help people, jumping in wherever she can to give assistance, and she uses her beautiful smile to raise others' spirits, encourage them, and make them feel included. She is an incredible star who shines her light for Jesus rather than her own glory.”

-April Sopczak



HAWK HIGHLIGHTS

It was a historic and unforgettable Friday night for TCPS **Flag Football**, as our coed Hawks closed the regular season with two dramatic come-from-behind victories on our very own field. In the opener TCPS edged Rhea Academy 31-30, then followed it with a 13-12 thriller over Paideia that ended in the dark.

Quarterback Thomas Nicolaus led the offense with several key completions and touchdown passes, connecting with Elijah Smith, Eli Ahlers, Caleb Cigliano, Esther Van Dyke, Aaron Roberts, and Evan Hatfield in a balanced attack. One of the plays of the season came late in the second game, when Nicolaus launched a 60 - yard strike to Cigliano, giving the Hawks the lead for good. Defensively, Enrique Bernabe once again stood tall with multiple sacks.

With the two wins, the Hawks improved to 4-2 and secured third place in the conference standings - an incredible accomplishment for TCPS in its inaugural flag football season. The Hawks now advance to postseason play, facing Knoxville Christian on Saturday, October 4, at 10:00 AM. A victory would send TCPS into the semifinals against Mt. Pisgah.

***Cross Country** turned in another steady week. The team continues to train hard with strong showings in this week's meets.

***Lady Hawk Volleyball** faced two of the conference's stronger teams, falling to Apostolic Christian in a close battle. The Lady Hawks are now 6-8 overall, 6-5 in the SCAA, as they look to bounce this week.

***High School Boys Golf** wrapped up their season earlier this month, finishing with an impressive 10-3 overall record.

***Middle School Tennis** were in action as well. The boys fell to a talented McCallie squad, while both the boys and girls are competing in the ISC Tournament this week in the Small School Division.

It has been a week to remember for TCPS Athletics - especially for flag football, where history is being written in only the program's first year.



TCPS FTO PRESENTS - 5TH ANNUAL



FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Presenting:

***HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON
(LIVE ACTION)***

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2025

MOVIE STARTS AT 7:00PM

TCPS FRONT YARD

**Bring chairs & blankets
for a comfortable
viewing experience**

CASH ONLY

FOOD TRUCK AVAILABLE 5:00 - 6:30PM

CANDY

DRINKS

FREE POPCORN

THIS MURDER WAS STAGED

A COMEDY PRESENTED BY
TENNESSEE CHRISTIAN FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

24
OCTOBER
6 PM

+

25
OCTOBER
6 PM

DIXON CENTER
@ LEE UNIVERSITY

SCAN FOR TICKETS

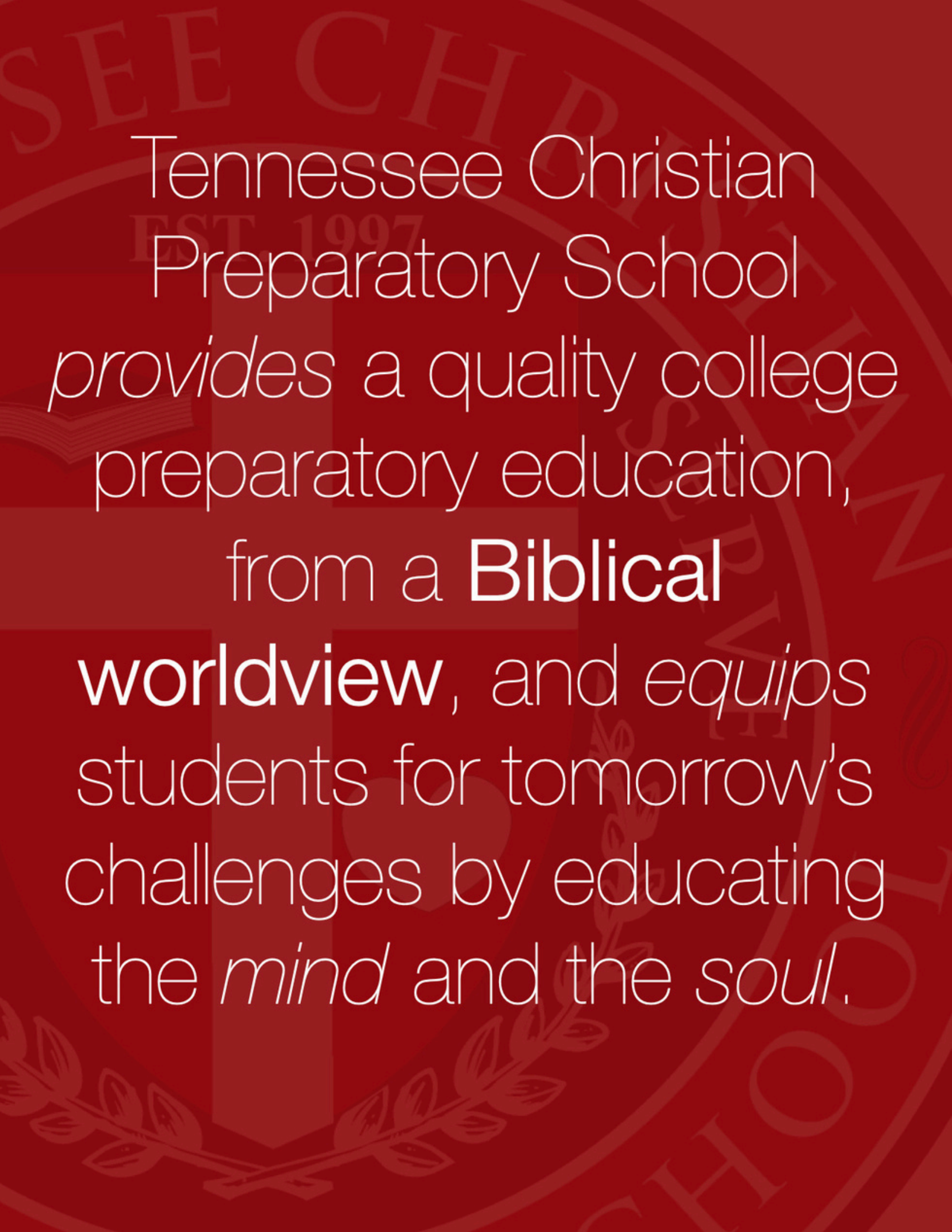


\$20 FOR ADULT
\$10 FOR STUDENT



LEE
UNIVERSITY

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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*.*