

A young man with short brown hair, wearing a teal polo shirt, is playing a banjo on a stage. He is looking down at his instrument. The background is dark with various stage lights, including a prominent red light and a blue light. A microphone on a stand is visible to the left of the man.

# *the* talon

January 28, 2025

TENNESSEE CHRISTIAN  
Volume V Issue XIX

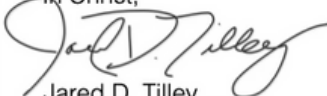
# from the Head

Music has always been a significant part of my life. During family Christmas gatherings, aunts and uncles would sing hymns, Christmas songs, and religious tunes in unison. My Uncle Donny on the guitar was a standout performer. The first time I watched him play, I was captivated by the way his fingers danced across the fretboard, creating mesmerizing sounds that complemented the melody. Music has a remarkable ability to inspire people. I find solace in jazz music, while bluegrass music of Appalachia (Apple-at-cha) stirs a sense of connection to my roots. Music has the power to unite people in celebration and provide comfort during times of mourning.

On January 17, Tennessee Christian celebrated community through music. Our very own Ashton Murray showcased his talent on Mix 104.1, playing the banjo with incredible speed and grace. I have been playing guitar since I was twelve and never have been able to play with the skill Ashton demonstrated. Despite being a young man, Ashton handled himself with poise and composure throughout his performance. He played three songs on the air, leaving the audience in awe. To top it off, that night, Ashton performed a set at Cepin's on Central with his band, Ashton and Friends. Through his music, Ashton fostered a sense of community.



We are incredibly proud of you, Ashton. Please continue to share your music with us, and we eagerly anticipate your next show!

In Christ,  
  
Jared D. Tilley

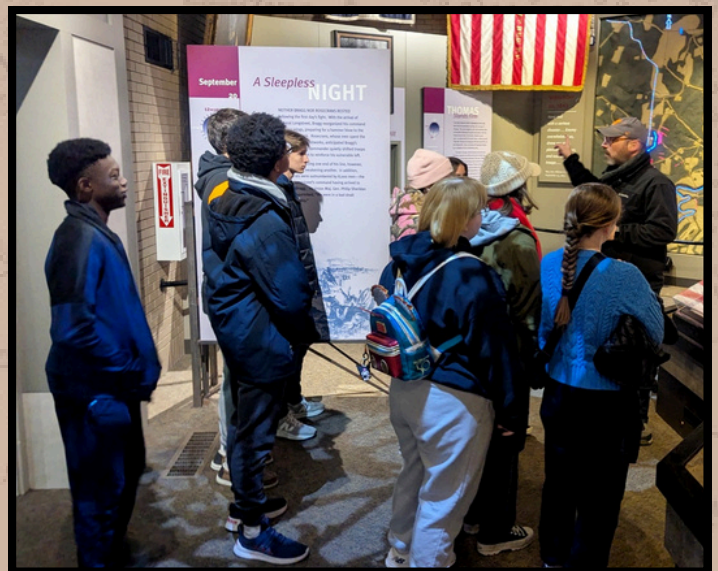
# CHICKAMAUGA BATTLEFIELD

On September 18, 1863, the Union and Confederate forces clashed at the Chickamauga Battlefield, a vast expanse of land south of Chattanooga. This past Friday, the Upper School American History students embarked on a journey to the battlefield, eager to immerse themselves in the events of the three-day battle that unfolded from September 18th to 20th.



During their visit, the students made numerous stops along the battlefield, each stop offering insights into the battle's unfolding. They learned about the diverse composition of the armies, the intricate military tactics employed, and the pivotal moments and individuals who shaped the course of the conflict.

Written by Jared D. Tilley







# ROARING TWENTIES



This past week, we hosted our 3rd Annual Murder Mystery 20's Night, a thrilling evening filled with fun, intrigue, and suspense. Our 8th graders got into the spirit, donning a variety of 1920s-inspired outfits as they worked together to solve the mystery of who 'bumped off' Cove Nelson. After plenty of twists and turns, it was revealed that Gracie Gilbert was the murderer. The students were able to incorporate many elements we've studied in class, from the history of the Roaring '20s to key social dynamics of the time. A special thank you to our 8th-grade parents for providing delicious food and making the event even more memorable.

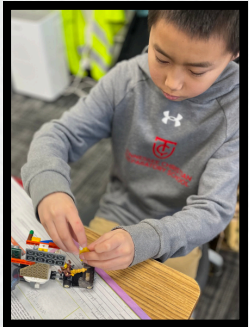


Written by Matthew Mullins



# STEAM FUN

SCIENCE. TECHNOLOGY. ENGINEERING. ARTS, MATHEMATICS



On Thursday, January 23rd, the 5th grade class participated in a science activity to help them learn about the Law of Conservation of Mass: that matter can not be created or destroyed. Students first weighed their individual group of Lego blocks using a digital scale. They were then tasked to build a structure using their Lego blocks. When they weighed their structure, they could see that there was little to no change in the total mass of the Lego blocks. This hands-on approach made the Law of Conservation of Mass more tangible and fun for the students. They were also able to connect math concepts with science by graphing the weights of the Lego blocks. Hopefully, the students will carry this lesson with them as they prepare to enter middle school science with Ms. Kesley next year!

Written by Sarah Van Dyke





# HAWK HIGHLIGHTS

It was a tough week for the TCPS Varsity Boys Basketball team as they dropped two games against strong Knoxville opponents. The Hawks fell at home to Apostolic Christian 57-35, struggling against the visitors' size and athleticism. On Friday, they traveled to Temple Baptist and battled through a close first half before the Crusaders pulled away, handling the Hawks a 47-25 loss. Senior Tucker Myers and Freshman Thomas Nicolaus led the team in scoring both games. The Hawks now sit at 9-5 overall (6-3 SCAA) and look to bounce back this week against Clayton Bradley, Fairview Christian, and Paideia.

The Lady Hawks picked up a big road win Friday against Temple Baptist, improving to 6-1 on the season. Ashlyn Henry, Morgan Armstrong, and Maggie Botts led the scoring effort. They will face the same three opponents as the boys this week.

The Middle School Boys team put up a strong fight at St. Jude on Thursday but came up short in a competitive game. The team continues to show growth and improvement each week.

The Lady Hawks defeated Temple Christian 54-23 on Friday January 24th. After a slow start, the Lady Hawks came to life with a 22 point second quarter and never looked back. All Hawks got into the scoring book with inside offense leading the way. Maggie Botts led scorers with 22 points. The Lady Hawks improved to 6-1 on the season. Great job ladies.

Both Lower School Basketball teams are continuing their strong season with 4 wins and 0 losses each. More important than their records, their hard work, teamwork, and commitment to improvement have made them stand out in their leagues, and fans are buzzing with excitement for what's to come. These teams have shown exceptional skill, discipline, and sportsmanship, making the most of every practice and game. Whether it's fast breaks, perfect passes, or tight defense, each team member has contributed to their squad's success.



Go Hawks!



4TH AND 5TH GRADE PRESENT

# NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

A COLLECTION OF  
OUR MOST INTERESTING  
HISTORICAL FIGURES

Thursday, February 6, 2025  
6:00-7:00 pm (drop in)



TENNESSEE  
CHRISTIAN  
PREPARATORY  
SCHOOL

LEARNING COTTAGE AND LOWER SCHOOL



MONDAY  
FEBRUARY 10, 2025



# SUMMERS

**ENROLLMENT OPENING  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 31**

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

**1 week Camp  
\$225**

**Summer Bundle  
\$200**

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

## 2025 SUMMER SCHEDULE

**JUNE 2-6:** VOLLEYBALL CAMP

**JUNE 9-13:** MUSICAL THEATER CAMP

**JUNE 16-20:** SOCCER CAMP

**JUNE 23-27:** CHEERLEADING & TUMBLING  
CAMP

**JULY 7-11:** PAINTING & DRAWING  
CAMP

**JULY 14-18:** BASKETBALL CAMP

**JULY 21-25:** STEAM CAMP

**JULY 28-AUG 1:** HAND SEWING/  
EMBROIDERY CAMP







## IT'S TIME TO RE-ENROLL!

**2025-2026  
SCHOOL YEAR**



- **RE-ENROLLMENT**

**NOW LIVE THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2025**

**FOR ALL STUDENTS CURRENTLY ENROLLED:** *Take advantage of our early bird special with a discount! This special offer is only available from January 21 through January 31, 2025.*

- **PRIORITY ENROLLMENT**

**BEGINNING FEBRUARY 3, 2025**

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

- **OPEN ENROLLMENT**

**OPENING FEBRUARY 10, 2025**

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

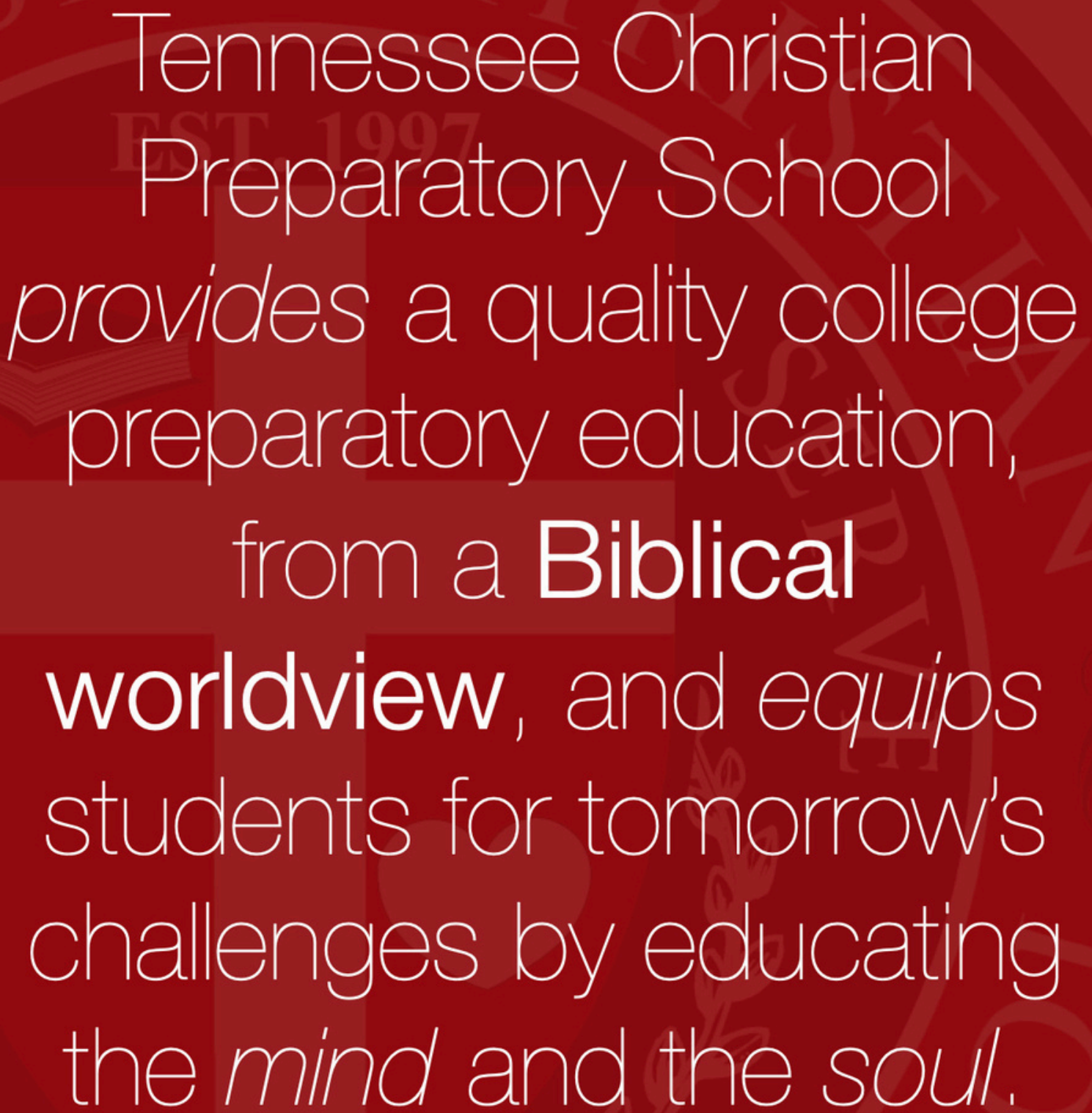






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preparatory education,  
from a **Biblical  
worldview**, and equips  
students for tomorrow's  
challenges by educating  
the *mind* and the *soul*.*