

HILLER HIGHLIGHTS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
HOME OF THE HILLERS!



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020-2021

Thank You! Trinity Area Board of Directors

Each year the Pennsylvania School Boards Association designates January as School Director Recognition Month.

Trinity Area would like to extend gratitude to our Board of Directors for all of their hard work, commitment, and always putting our students first!

Jennifer Morgan, President
Frances Eates, Vice President
Penelope Caleffe, Treasurer

Sean Dobich
Thomas Durbin
James Knapp
Daniel Piatt
Greg Rudman
J.R. Slagle

Trinity Area Receives LSA Grant for 7th year!

For seven consecutive years, the Trinity Area School District has earned a competitive grant from the LSA committee. We would like to thank our partners who have supported our special career programs for almost a decade - the LSA Committee, Washington County Commissioners, Jeff Kotula, Senator Bartolotta, Representative O'Neal, and IU1. This year, Trinity Area was awarded \$107,000 to create a drone certification program and add additional equipment to our fabrication labs.

We ♥ Our Counselors!

**NATIONAL
SCHOOL
COUNSELING
WEEK**

FEBRUARY 1-5, 2021

*School Counselors:
All In for All Students*



Trinity Area is fortunate to have compassionate counselors that go above and beyond to help our children. Thank your Guidance Counselor today!



A message from the Superintendent

The Trinity Area School District remains proud of the education our students have received during this pandemic. Teaching and learning have evolved at Trinity Area. Education has changed. The 2020-2021 school year remains productive and students are still making great academic progress. Kudos to our teachers for maintaining high-quality instructional experiences. The recent positive feedback from our school community has been tremendous. The parent feedback and the growth of our students have remained our gauge for success this year. We have received many calls and emails from parents sharing their appreciation of our staff providing engaging lessons online and in-person. Our Rock Star students and staff have made incredible strides this school year and we remain excited for additional gains in the spring.

January was School Board Appreciation Month. The Trinity Area School Board Directors continue to be tremendous advocates for our children and families to ensure our students receive the best educational experiences possible. During this unprecedented pandemic, the Trinity Area School Board Directors prioritized the following:

1. Maintaining a safe learning and working environment that provides in-person instruction and a quality remote instruction option for all Trinity families.
2. Creating a dynamic K-12 Trinity Area Cyber School that offers students live instruction and interaction.
3. Providing extensive remote instructional teacher training and practice.
4. Allocating two million dollars for cleaning and preventative equipment/supplies, professional training, and technology.
5. Hiring an additional six teachers to ensure smaller class sizes for social distancing and remote learning.
6. Offering free lunches and breakfasts for every Trinity Area student.

The board directors' unwavering persistence has enabled Trinity Area students to continue learning and growing during this pandemic. Student and staff safety has remained their focus and the mitigation efforts have been effective.

The administration would like to thank the Hiller Nation for doing all they can to keep us safe this school year as well. It should be noted that our strong partnership with the PA Department of Health has provided consistent guidance and specific recommendations. They keep our administration and school nurses well informed. This partnership has made our responses to positive cases manageable and ultimately helps us to maintain in-person instruction in a safe environment. The district needs your help to keep our schools open. If your child is sick or displays any symptoms, they should stay home. Staff and students will continue to wash their hands, wear a mask, and stay social distanced.

However, parents, students, and staff must remain prepared to transition to remote instruction with little notice. The PA Department of Health may direct a school to return to remote learning for a few days to:

1. Observe any additional spread
2. Contact trace
3. Clean

Trinity Area may also move to remote learning when the road conditions are poor. Unfortunately, the weather has been quite a challenge this month. Trinity will revert to remote learning when there is a need to close the schools.

In closing, Trinity Area families will once again have the option to select in-person instruction or remote instruction next year. A survey will be distributed in May to begin to plan for the 2021-2022 school year. Please begin to think about the instructional option that will best meet the needs of your child.

#trinitystrong

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael P. Lucas". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing "M" and a long, horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr. Michael P. Lucas

Congratulations!

January

Students of the Month



Angelina King
HIGH SCHOOL



Jacob Dunkle

MIDDLE SCHOOL



Alana Forkl

Congratulations!

February

Students of the Month



Kyle VonScio
HIGH SCHOOL



Rebekah Jones

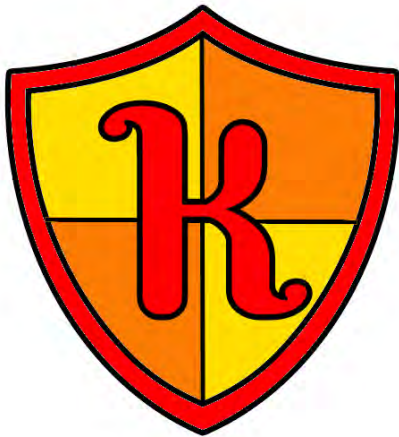


Collin Berry

MIDDLE SCHOOL



Artists of the Month



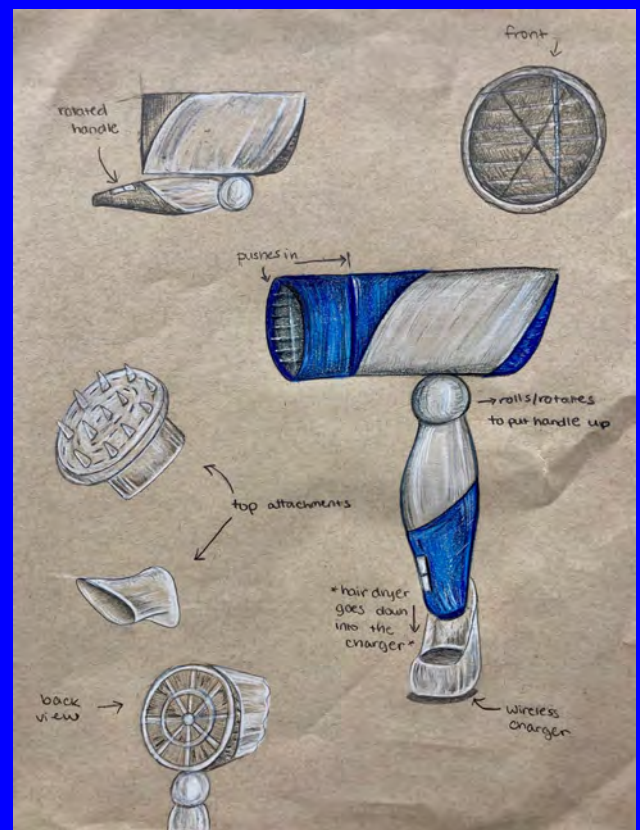
Braeden Knight
Grade 8
Digital Design



Jillian Sander
Grade 12, Girl Reading
Illustration I



Ryan Bockstoe
Grade 4, Trinity South
Radial Print Design



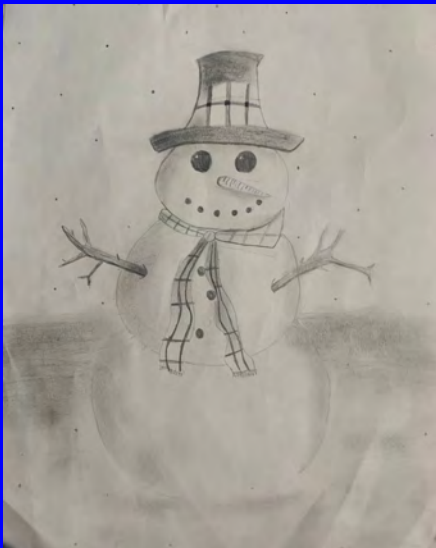
Selah Taggart
Grade 10, Hair Dryer
Design I



Cash Robinson
Grade 8, Portrait Drawing
Personal Collection



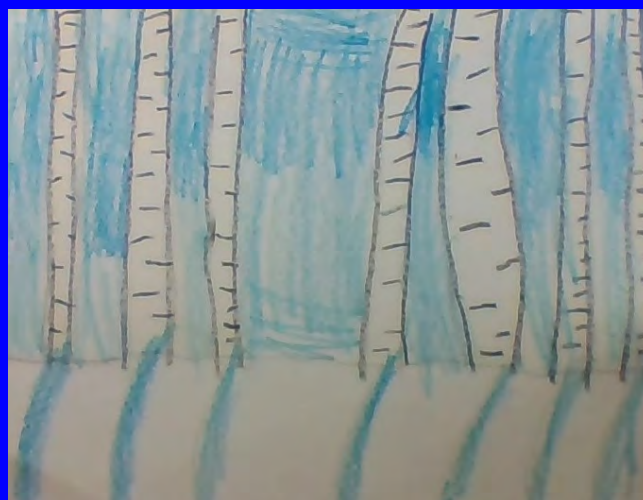
Evan Slagle
Grade 5, Cyber (Trinity South)
Kandinsky Concentric Circle Inspired Trees



Charlotte Hinkler
Grade 5, Trinity South
Snowman Sketch



Bryce Shuman
Grade 2, Trinity West
Self Portrait



Amelia Romestan
Kindergarten, Trinity North
Birch Tree Forrest

Congratulations!

It's a great day to be a Hiller!



Varsity Rifle
Team
Second Place
WPIAL
Championship





FFA NEWS

Congratulations

FFA Keystone Degree Winners

Six members of the Trinity FFA Chapter earned their Keystone Degree this year at the Virtual Mid Winter Convention on January 11, 2021. More than four hundred FFA members from across the state received Keystone Degrees at the convention. Only high school seniors or graduates in their third year of membership are eligible to apply for the Keystone Degree. The candidates must have demonstrated leadership abilities and earned or productively invested at least \$1,000 and/or worked at least 300 hours in a supervised agricultural experience program. Just three percent of the more-than 8,000 Pennsylvania FFA members qualify each year for a Keystone Degree.



Ensley Clark



Rebecca Conkle



Sarah Holland



Brooke Locy



Delaney Slesh



Chloe Tamulinas

First Year FFA Members

Each year the Pennsylvania FFA Alumni Association sponsors a jacket campaign in an effort to put the FFA blue corduroy jacket on the backs of first year FFA students. This year, six Trinity FFA members received their jackets by successfully submitting an essay which was written in Mrs. Durila's Intro to Ag Science class. Their jacket may be worn proudly and will open many doors for these students.

We CAN'T WAIT to see where the FFA will take YOU!!



Owen Skariot



Charles (Bo) Schury



Isabella Hull



Isabella Jobes



Brandon Gray



Ethan Ashby



Scholastic Art & Writing Competition

Each year, the Alliance partners with more than 100 visual arts and literary arts organizations across the country to bring the Scholastic Awards to local communities. Teens in grades 7–12 apply in 29 categories of art and writing. Submissions are juried by luminaries in the visual and literary arts, some of whom are past award recipients. Panelists look for works that best exemplify originality, technical skill, and the emergence of a personal voice or vision. Trinity High School winners are:

Riley Dunn

Science Fiction/Fantasy: *The Girl at Ellory Lake*, Gold Key/American Voices Nomination

Emily Eubank

Poetry: *Love*, Honorable Mention

Emma Malinak

Poetry: *Drowning*, Silver Key

Poetry: *Dream*, Silver Key

Poetry: *Little Things*, Gold Key/American Voices Nomination

Poetry: *His*, Honorable Mention

Poetry: *The Twenty Second Century*, Honorable Mention

Rachel Chase

Honorable Mention, Photography: *Fresh*

Rayne Elling

Honorable Mention, Film & Animation: *The Ghost Next Door*

Alexandra Koffler

Honorable Mention, Photography: *Grace Way*

Gold Key, Photography: *The White of Her Eye*

Honorable Mention, Photography: *A Dancer in Her Unnatural Habitat*

Emma Riddell

Honorable Mention, Mixed Media: *Forgive me, They Were Delicious*

Nathan Sander

Silver Key, Photography: *Blooming*

Silver Key, Photography: *Good Night*

Honorable Mention Photography: *Crash Landing*

These students will be honored at the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards virtual ceremony on Sunday, March 21st at 2 PM. The Gold Key works will be judged nationally by an impressive panel of creative–industry experts to receive National Medals, including Gold, Silver, American Visions & Voices, Portfolio Silver with Distinction or Portfolio Gold Medals and Special Awards. National Medalists will be virtually recognized in part at the National Ceremony at Carnegie Hall in New York City. ***Congratulations on a job well done!***

MATHCOUNTS®



Six dedicated TMS students competed virtually at the annual MathCounts Competition on Friday, February 5, 2021. Representing Trinity was Stephen Bryant, Andrew Ciampa, Anthony Giorgi, Aaron Hunsberger, Nathan Jones, and Rebekah Jones. Due to the pandemic, the students had to practice on their own time using a remote platform. Mr. Phillips and Ms. Kovacicek were astonished by their commitment and drive. Nathan Jones qualified for the invitational round at the end of February. Our mathematicians made it a great day to be a Hiller!

Congrats!

Three students' in Mrs. Huff's fifth grade Social Studies Class at Trinity South won in the George Washington Art Contest held by Fort Necessity National Park. Additionally, Trinity South won First Place School! Winning artwork is posted on the park's website:

<http://www.nps.gov/fone/learn/education/art-contest-winners.htm>

Student: Mia Magnotta
Picture: Untitled
Category: Special Merit
Prize: Picture of Fort Necessity
Award: Fort Necessity patch

Student: Jesse Humensky
Picture: Untitled
Category: Special Merit
Prize: Portrait of Washington
Award: Fort Necessity patch

Student: Liam Miller
Picture: Young George Washington Fired the Shot that Sparked French and Indian War
Category: Washington in the French and Indian War
Prize: Honorable Mention
Award: Fort Necessity patch

Category: 1st Place School
Prize: Trinity South Elementary
Award: Fort Necessity pin



Students in Mrs. Quinn's and Mrs. Crawford's classes at Trinity North Elementary are shown making cards to share with the residents at Premier Health Center and Strabane Woods Assisted Living in celebration of Valentine's Day.



Trinity's Pride!



Congratulations to senior Chamber Choir member Rachel Faust for qualifying to audition for the PMEA All-State festival. Rachel has qualified for the PMEA District 1 and PMEA Region 1 choirs the past two years. This year due to the pandemic the festivals are operating differently. Normally, over 400 students audition to get into the PMEA District 1 festival of 100-150 singers. At that festival the students audition again to move on to the Region festival. The PMEA District 1 and District 5 leadership decided to have a qualifying audition and give the students one shot to qualify for what would be the equivalent of the Region 1 festival. To qualify for this festival this year students were given two pieces of music and a four day window to upload a video of themselves singing an excerpt from that music. The excerpt was revealed at the beginning of the four day window. Only fourteen students per voice part were selected. Rachel had the second highest score in her voice part of Alto 1. This year the PMEA All-State festival will be a virtual festival. The next step in the process will be another virtual audition. Good luck Rachel!

Rachel plans to major in music composition and performance. She is an accomplished pianist, composer, and vocalist. Her schools of interest are WVU, Boston University, and Penn State University.

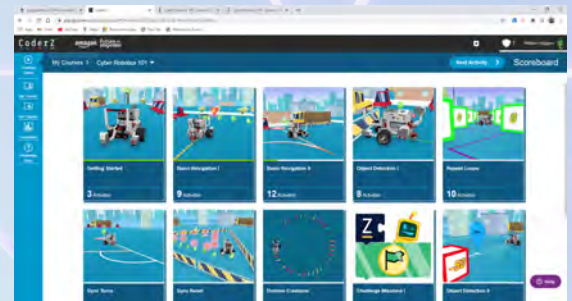
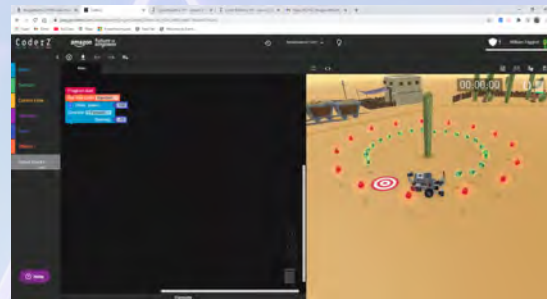
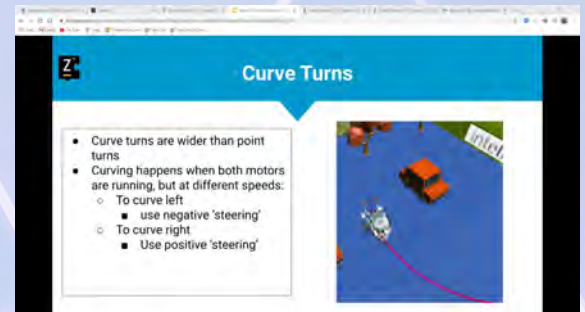
Congratulations
Courtney Dahlquist,
Observer - Reporter
Athlete of the Week!



Senior Brett Wrubleski participated virtually in the 8th Annual PA High School Model UN, Winds of Change. Model UN is a club in which students simulate United Nations committees and act as delegates from assigned countries. Students are given discussion topics, and must present their country's opinion on predetermined topics and come up with policy proposals based on their country's stance. Brett's topic was Anarchy: Warlords of Vietnam and his task was to find a way to create a central ruling power in Vietnam in the face of external conflicts, challenges to power, and uncontrollable circumstances. Brett received a 3rd place award and was commended for his excellent tactical role play. Congratulations Brett!

amazon CoderZ™

Trinity Middle School has recently been awarded a grant through Amazon for access to CoderZ. This interactive program allows students in Mr. Higgins IT 7 Robotics classroom to virtually interact with robotics since they are currently unable to be in the traditional classroom setting. CoderZ will remain accessible to Trinity cyber students for the remainder of the school year. We are incredibly thankful for Mr. Higgins, Mr. Randy Swartz (from Amazon CoderZ), and the MS administration for making this grant possible. Congratulations, TMS!



**COVID-19
VACCINE**

Trinity Area would like to thank our partners at Curtis Pharmacy for vaccinating our staff in the 1A category.

WHO WE ARE

#TRINITYFAMILY



Megan Recker

Trinity South Elementary

Miss Recker attended Brashear High School in the city of Pittsburgh. Upon graduation, she attended Washington and Jefferson College where she received her Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Development and Education. She holds certifications in grades Pre-K-4 and Special Education in grades Pre-K-8. Megan was awarded the James W. Hanna Prize in Education at W&J which is given to an outstanding Education student to encourage the successful completion of their teacher certification. During her undergraduate education she was selected as one of The President's to travel to Montverde, Costa Rica to teach ESL to 3rd and 4th graders at The Cloud Forest School. The district has been blessed with having Megan as our intern since 2017. Megan began her student teaching at Trinity South as a Kindergarten teacher. She clearly made an impression on the students and administration as she became the building sub this past year. Megan now serves as our K-2 Emotional Support Teacher at Trinity South Elementary.

Cool Facts: Megan has 2 adorable Yorkies. She spends most of her free time with Ralphie and Moe. When she is not hanging out at home or busy at work she spends time working out and staying fit. This city girl has lived in Pittsburgh her entire life. She waves that terrible towel and is a proud member of Steeler Nation. She's a staple at Heinz Field during the football season. She takes pride in her commitment to educate and mentor our youth. Throughout the summer she works as a camp counselor at The LeMoyne Community Center in Washington. Megan's desire to serve the underprivileged in our community was ignited during her freshman year at W&J.

Megan's Message to her students: "I am so proud of how you have adapted to the difficulties of this school year. Remember that you can do anything you set your mind to and I will always believe in you."



**TRINITY AREA
SCHOOL DISTRICT**



Would you like to give back to your school and earn some extra money at the same time? The HR Department is looking for “Emergency Status” substitute teachers. No teaching degree necessary. If you have a four-year degree and are interested in working with our students, Contact the Human Resources Department for more information
724-223-2000 ext. 7114

Attention all THS students & parents!
The final deadline for ordering a 2021 yearbook is fast approaching. You must place an order no later than March 5th. Go to yearbookordercenter.com, enter the code 4539, and place your order. The cost is \$75, payable online. Any questions or issues should be directed to Mr. Modrak via email- lmodrak@trinityhillers.net

Dates to Remember

March

29 End of 3rd 9 weeks
31 Two Hour Early Release/Staff Development

To submit an article for publication in

Hiller Highlights email:

jwalz@trinityhillers.net

Articles may be

submitted in the body of the email or attached as a Word document.

Documents in .pdf format will not be accepted.

Corresponding pictures must be attached to the same email in .jpg format.

The newsletter is released at the end of each month - September through June.

Articles are published pending review by the Superintendent.

INFORMATIONAL FLYERS:

All flyers are available on the district [website under About](#)

To request that a flyer be posted on the website, email:
jwalz@trinityhillers.net

FREE School Meals
for ALL Students





Notice of Rights Regarding Education Records

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), in addition to Pennsylvania Department of Education regulations and School Board policy, affords parents/guardians and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to students' education records.

These rights are:

1.The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 30 days of the date the district receives a request for access. Parents/guardians or eligible students should submit to the principal of the school where the student is enrolled or was previously enrolled a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal or his or her designee will make arrangements for access and notify the parent/guardian or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

2.The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that a parent or eligible student believes is inaccurate. In order to request such an amendment, the parent or eligible student should make the request in writing to the school principal and clearly identify the record they want changed. The request should also specify the reasons why the record is believed to be inaccurate. If the district decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent/guardian or eligible student, the district will notify the parent/guardian or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent/guardian or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3.The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One such exception is for a disclosure to school officials who possess a legitimate educational interest in the record. A school official is a person employed by the district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the school has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent/guardian or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. The district will also disclose education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, upon request of that school district.

A parent/guardian or eligible student may request that the district disclose educational records to a third party by submitting a written consent form to the district. Consent forms may be obtained from the building principal's office or the district's Administrative Office.

Parents/guardian and eligible students also have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the district to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA are as follows:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-5901