



Executive Summary

Trinity Christian Academy

International Christian Accrediting Association

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Introduction

Every school has its own story to tell. The context in which teaching and learning takes place influences the processes and procedures by which the school makes decisions around curriculum, instruction, and assessment. The context also impacts the way a school stays faithful to its vision. Many factors contribute to the overall narrative such as an identification of stakeholders, a description of stakeholder engagement, the trends and issues affecting the school, and the kinds of programs and services that a school implements to support student learning.

The purpose of the Executive Summary (ES) is to provide a school with an opportunity to describe in narrative form the strengths and challenges it encounters. By doing so, the public and members of the school community will have a more complete picture of how the school perceives itself and the process of self-reflection for continuous improvement. This summary is structured for the school to reflect on how it provides teaching and learning on a day to day basis.

Description of the School

Describe the school's size, community/communities, location, and changes it has experienced in the last three years. Include demographic information about the students, staff, and community at large. What unique features and challenges are associated with the community/communities the school serves?

Amos 3:3 "Can two walk together except they be agreed."

Romans 12:18 "If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all."

Hebrews 12:14 "Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord."

Trinity Christian Academy is a partnership with the parents of the students at Trinity. It exists to develop Godly leaders while helping those leaders to discover their God-given abilities by training them to use those gifts and talents to serve and honor God while transforming the lives of others. The school began in 1987 due to the vision of Pastor Jerry Haynes who knew he was supposed to start a Christian school. It began with 55 students, and in its 28th year as a school, Trinity now has 135 students enrolled in the Infants-12th grade. The current student body represents over 30 church congregations in communities throughout the greater Branson area such as: Branson, Ozark, Hollister, Blue Eye, Kirbyville, Branson West, Reed Spring as well as others. Trinity has a reputation for Godly character, excellent academics, and a competitive extra-curricular programs. With its campus located in Hollister, Trinity draws from both the metro and surrounding areas. It's been said that Branson is the buckle on the Bible belt.

Trinity has graduated many students. A challenge faced by the school involves maintaining contact with students who graduate as our TCA community is so widespread. Unlike a small community where everyone knows one another, Trinity encompasses many locations; therefore, more effort is required to maintain contact with alumni. Administration would like to develop, create and launch a social media alumni page. This continues to be an area in need of improvement, but the administrative team in focusing on maintaining relationships with the graduates to determine how effective the next generation will be in fulfilling the vision of Trinity Christian Academy. Annually we use our Trinity Christian Academy Facebook page to invite all Alumni to our basketball homecoming game.

Over the last three years, Trinity has grown its staff to over 20 full-time employees. All employees sign a statement of faith as well as write their personal testimonies to be included in their permanent files. All faculty and staff members go through several days of in-service training before the school year begins. These in-service days include but are not limited to professional, spiritual and physical development.

In the past 3 years we've had an unusual amount of turnover, due to the vacancies we've had the following changes:

Science teacher moved to Math - He is highly qualified in science as well as math so we made the change. It's been an amazing transition. We've seen our scores rise and the students understanding and comprehension increase.

Our kindergarten teacher of 17 years took an indefinite leave to take care of her ill father therefore we replaced her with a new teacher who came out of retirement to teach. This transition has went very well. Ms. Lawson did return after the passing of her father she now holds the position of Administrative secretary.

Our 3rd grade teacher left to teach at a local public school therefore she was replaced. Our new 3rd grade teacher has been a good fit due to the fact that she has taught ABEKA curriculum in the past as well as used RENWEB and technology in her pervious school.

Our 5th grade teacher decided to work with older middle school high school students at Trinity due to the loss of our music and electives teacher moving to Texas.

Also due to the teacher moving to Texas we had to hire a girl's volleyball coach as well as a girls basketball coach.

We've also added an events coordinator to organize and communicate our events.

The decision was made to hire an Academic and Social worker councilor to help with college paperwork/duties, dual credit and general councilor duties. This allows them to effectively be counseled due to our absence of a Principal. Due to the absence of a school principal the administrator's duties are very heavy. Hiring a principal should be considered very soon.

We live in an area that is based upon a tourist schedule that runs from the middle of March to the middle of December every year. Therefore

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our area has a high unemployment rate from late December to early March making hard to pay tuition for anyone who's affected by layoff. We also felt the effects from College of the Ozarks starting a lab school for kindergarten through 12th grade. The last challenge to address is the absence of state funding because we are a private Christian school not a public school. This limits our resources in areas but the Lord continues to provide.

Even though preparing for this visit has been stressful at times, leadership is confident that the impact on Trinity will be positive, and the quality of education will excel even more. During this accreditation year under the new ICAA/AdvancED protocol, Trinity welcomes the opportunity to better the school through this continuous improvement process by bettering its governing body, administrators, teachers, staff, students, and parents.

School's Purpose

Provide the school's purpose statement and ancillary content such as mission, vision, values, and/or beliefs. Describe how the school embodies its purpose through its program offerings and expectations for students.

OUR VISION

...is to be a school of learning where students, parents, and teachers are followers of Christ and are Fully committed to keep Him preeminent in every aspect of the learning program.

OUR MISSION

...is to glorify God:

- By providing a Christ centered education,
- By influencing each for salvation in Christ,
- By instructing in values for Godly living, and
- By providing a program of academic excellence.

ACCREDITATION AND AFFILIATIONS:

Trinity Christian Academy is dually accredited Advanced Ed AKA the North Central Association (NCA) and the International Christian Accrediting Association (ICAA), and is a member of the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI).

STATEMENT OF FAITH:

God is triune (one God in three persons); namely, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

God is the Creator of heaven and earth. Man is the direct act of creation by God. Jesus Christ, God's incarnate, Son born of the Virgin Mary, took on human flesh to shed His blood on Calvary's cross for the salvation of mankind from sin. He was buried and rose bodily on the third day. He ascended into heaven and will return one day to rapture all believers into heaven. The Holy Spirit indwells all believers and guides and instructs them through the Word of God. There is a literal heaven to gain and a literal hell to shun. Salvation is based on a personal recognition of sin and complete faith (reliance) upon the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ for the salvation of the soul.

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION:

The school's highest priority is spiritual training. After receiving Christ as a personal Savior, it is vital that a child be taught the Bible and the claims of Jesus Christ on the life of each individual. Conformity to Christ's image (Romans 8:29) is the ultimate goal of spiritual training. Proper Christian character and a right view of life begin with a proper relationship with God through Jesus Christ and a view of life based on the Word of God. Rigorous academics are stressed at every level. Not only are cognitive skills strengthened through standard and honors courses, but students are taught to think within the boundaries of the Bible. All truth is recognized as God's truth and is not in conflict with the Scriptures. Proper social relations are Bible based in a Christian school. What some would call "old fashioned" decency and morality is what is believed to be the proper stance for the Christian. In a day when it is accepted to "do as you please" the Christian school stresses self-control, respect for law and order, patriotism, and Bible morality. In order to provide a well-rounded education, art, music, sports, and computer training are included in a wholesome Christian atmosphere.

The main focus is to help students discover God's gifting and plan for their lives. We have students go through a thorough process of spiritual

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gifting's surveys, love language surveys, gifts and talents surveys as well as a likes survey. After they compile all of the information we then have them write a mission and vision for themselves. The faculty and families of TCA work diligently to enable students in the development of their God-given talents and to prepare them for a lifetime of learning, serving and honoring God. The school firmly believes that only through the discovery of one's vision can an individual find true meaning (Proverbs 29:18). The TCA vision embraces the responsibility of providing students with an education that will give them an equitable academic opportunity with peers beyond its doors. In order for students to thrive without distraction, Trinity emphasizes good communication between teachers and parents, mutual respect, and skillful conflict resolution. The goal is to raise the next generation of Christian leaders so that the Christian heritage may be passed on to future generations. Trinity wants to make sure the students embody godly character and believe the decisions each student makes in life determine who and what he/she will become. Life's tough decisions are made so much easier when students are led by a guiding philosophy. Decisions are best made by establishing priorities during training - not waiting until the pressures of the battlefield. At Trinity Christian Academy, godly character is number one. Trinity is not an outreach or rehabilitation program for students who have repeatedly displayed character issues. The mission is to partner with parents who are developing strong character in their children. Trinity truly believes it is more important for kids to value Christ-like character than anything else. Secondly, a strong commitment to academic excellence exists. By limiting the size of the classes, following a curriculum that challenges students, and hiring teachers who know how to communicate effectively, the students consistently score well on achievement tests. Trinity aims to prepare students for the college they desire to attend and/or prepare students for the workplace. Every child needs involvement in an extracurricular discipline. Trinity urges parents to steer their children toward one or more of its many programs and events.

Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement

Describe the school's notable achievements and areas of improvement in the last three years. Additionally, describe areas for improvement that the school is striving to achieve in the next three years.

Since the last accreditation visit we have made several improvement to our programs and buildings. We've added a fully functioning library, we've added a computer lab that can accommodate any class we currently have enrolled. We also have laptops that can be checked out and used in each classroom as well. Overhead projectors were bought for those teachers who were ready and willing to incorporate technology use in the classroom. This change helped guide the school in the continuous improvement process whereby also incorporating technology into the curriculum. We have installed a new sound system in the gym after we raised the money to do so through two successful fundraisers. We also refinished our chapel pews. We added 2 new play structures to the playground as well as repairs to the swing set. We also have begun catering food into our school to improve our lunch program. The catering business is through an alumni of Trinity Christian Academy. We've added uppercase living art work to the walls and gym floor to help cosmetically with our outdated building. We've done a lot of cosmetic upgrades to our school building inside and out.

Overall, Trinity believes the 87% re-enrollment in 2015 speaks volumes about the notable achievements and improvements made to Trinity over the last three years. Many of these notable achievements and areas of improvement can be seen in the Trinity's purpose: Godly Character, Academic Excellence, and Extra-Curricular Activities. In the area of Godly Character, Trinity developed Spiritual Formation Goals that aligned with Trinity's vision. The school also is starting a Mentoring Program in August of 2016 to help build students spiritually and help them stay on the right path. With increased focus on helping students discover their gifts, develop their gifts, and devote those gifts to a lifetime of honoring and serving God and others. These students continually speak about the character placed within them by Trinity staff and how they wish to make the same impact on others. Furthermore, Yearly Service Projects were added across the campus to instill service and giving into Trinity students. We do a school supply drive for those in need in our school district. We have a fall Festival for the Hollister public school special needs students. We are involved with Operation Christmas child. We have a food drive during the winter months because our area has many laid off during the off season. We have helped a student with moving into her home this year because her mother was diagnosed with cancer and she wasn't well enough to move her family. We have an Honor America night annually to bring in veteran to show our students the importance of honoring the men and women of our military.

In regards to Academic Excellence, three years ago Trinity noticed a great need to place more focus on curriculum alignment and overall continuous improvement and for the first time in the school's history we viewed and analyzed our ABEKA curriculum and the DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Educations) scope and sequences. This allowed our teachers to not only understand the expectations but also to see the gaps and to supplement where they pin pointed a need. We continue to be above state and national levels on Stanford 10's but we still need to improve our Social Science scores. Our ACT scores are highest in reading, language and writing and even though math has been an issue in the past we've seen drastic improvements in the past 3 years.

In Extra-Curricular Activities, Trinity offers boys/girls track, boys/girls basketball, boys/girls cheerleading, boys/girls pep squad, boys/girls choir, boy's/girl's band, boys/girls student council, 4H and boys/girls speech.

Many areas have experienced improvement over the last three years. In Godly Character, Trinity implemented a New Teacher Hiring Process involving current faculty and staff being placed in pods so that if the new hires have questions or concerns there pod mates can assist them.

For the first time in Trinity's history, Trinity surveyed the parents. This is quite a notable achievement, but because the school understands the importance of this and realizes more efforts need to be made in this area, it is listed as one of the areas improved. The feedback provided in the surveys helped Trinity leadership make some improvements and gain a fresh perspective from some of their stakeholders. By revising our written pledge of cooperation as well as our guardian, teacher and parent contract it's helping the flow of communication and the understanding of what is expected from everyone.

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In the realm of Academic Excellence, Trinity has made many improvements such as implementing on-line A Beka (Monarch) classes for juniors and seniors to give them more options as well as to get them used to the ever changing secondary technology world of education. Trinity also has reintroduced the juniors and seniors to dual credit classes through a local college, Ozarks Technical College. A computer lab has been built and launched to make sure students are excelling in the ever increasing world of technology. An ACT prep class has been added to the high school schedule and it's been very helpful to all enrolled.

In Extra-Curricular Activities, Trinity has witnessed a rise in participation for our male population.

Looking forward to what lies ahead in the next three years, Trinity is excited to experience even greater gains in the three core areas. In Godly Character, Generation Z offers Trinity an opportunity to teach more purposefully, learn more deeply, and as Tim Elmore says we want to "prepare them to solve problems and serve people," ultimately preparing students to be confident and successful when they leave TCA and to give back to the ministry of God. Also, Trinity works hard to keep tuition levels affordable and will continue to do so in order to be able to provide an excellent education at an affordable rate for Christian families.

For Academic Excellence, the focus will be on vertical alignment in the elementary and horizontal alignment in the middle school/high school. An emphasis will be placed on filling the gaps in social studies. More focus is also being given to helping all students meet ACT college-readiness benchmarks by graduation. Additional efforts are being made to hire and retain qualified staff as TCA works to evaluate and revise hiring policies and evaluation tools. Lastly, concerning Extra Curricular Activities, the focus will be on making sure TCA students contribute to the school in some capacity. Greater strides will also be taken to further the arts as many talented students exists at TCA.

Additional Information

Provide any additional information you would like to share with the public and community that were not prompted in the previous sections.

One of the areas all surveys revealed to be one of Trinity's greatest strengths is in the area of safety and security. Over the last few years and in the wake of many devastating campus attacks, Trinity considers safety a very high priority. Many measures are in place or currently being implemented to ensure similar attacks will never occur here, including secured inner and outer doors, window coverings, locked hallway doors, visitor ID badges, walkie talkies for continued communication, crisis management plans, etc. All stakeholders follow safety protocol policies and procedures implemented and understand it is for the safety and well-being of all involved.

Another area of interest is in regards to the students who have left Trinity and over the last few years Trinity became old enough to begin to see the graduates start to return to the school, not just as alumni, but rather as alumni pursuing a passion to teach at their Alma mater. This type of compliment means so much to the school as it makes a statement that Trinity achieved its vision once again. Other students continue to make contact and speak about the legacies they are leaving behind and the preparation they received to pursue their goals due to this incredible place. Trinity is truly unique, unlike any other school of its kind. The stakeholders love to say, "We are Trinity" because it means we are Christ-followers, and we are family. Many of the stakeholders have commented about the family feel of Trinity. It truly does feel like a family unit at Trinity Christian Academy.