



TRINITY FORWARD

*The Campaign for Excellence
in Teaching and Learning*





Our Mission
The mission of Trinity School is to educate students in transitional kindergarten to grade twelve within the framework of Christian faith and conviction – teaching the classical tools of learning; providing a rich yet unhurried curriculum; and communicating truth, goodness, and beauty.



Dear Trinity Families and Friends,

It is an honor and privilege to invite you to partner with our school in the Trinity Forward campaign.

Trinity School has been moving forward for nearly a quarter century! From our small beginnings in rented space with 39 students to this, our 24th year, in fine facilities on a beautiful campus serving over 530 students, there has not been a year when Trinity has stood still or moved backwards.

This momentum has always been impelled by our mission. We love that about Trinity – we are a mission-driven school.

And now our mission drives us forward again, in support of our excellent faculty and more mission-designed spaces, especially for STEM and the arts. On the one hand, Trinity

Forward is about continuing to do what we have always done well: teachers teaching students how to learn for themselves in a Christian tradition of truth, goodness, and beauty. On the other hand, this campaign deepens our capacity to support the people and places that empower students to design, make, imagine, and create.

Will you join us as we move forward? Imagine what Trinity can be – for our own children, for the next generation of students, and for our community – if generous people step up to make this learning possible just as our founders stepped up to make today's Trinity possible for us.

Sincerely,

CHIP DENTON
Head of School

CHARLES MERRITT
Chair, Board of Trustees



 TRINITY
FORWARD



EVERYONE FULLY TRAINED WILL BE
LIKE THEIR TEACHER. *Luke 6:40*

Trinity School is in the business of human formation. It's really good work that takes a lot of time, but when done right, it's a beautiful thing.

Out in the community and across the world even, when you meet Trinity alums, you'll probably notice thoughtful conversation partners, courteous strangers, well-spoken citizens, Christians who are invested in the common good. And you'll ask yourself, "What manner of school makes young women and men like these?"

The answer is really simple, but hard: a school with good teachers and good learning. Students are shaped by teachers. Teachers not only communicate the content of their subjects, but also model rare intangibles like curiosity, kindness, courageous faith, and selflessness. They are mentors and guides, parents' trusted partners in the shaping of their children.

At a Christian school like Trinity, teachers show as much as they tell what it means to follow Jesus in one's vocation in the world. This kind of mentoring is powerful in the lives of young people.

Such teachers are hard to find. And when we find them, we want to keep them, and we want to support their thriving in every way. For as the teachers go, so goes the learning. And as the learning goes, so go our students. Everyone fully trained will be like their teacher.

Trinity Forward is a capital campaign designed to support and advance Trinity's distinctive way of forming young people. By supporting teachers and by creating new spaces for learning, we will strengthen Trinity to further flourish as a unique community where young women and men become like their gifted teachers.

“Art, music, learning by making things – these were part of Trinity from the start. We are all called to glorify God by imitating his truth, goodness, and beauty in what we think, do, and make. This new Arts and Engineering Building is just the latest and biggest foray into that grand calling.”

CHIP DENTON
Head of School



FROM FOUNDING TO FLOURISHING

Twenty-three years ago, Trinity's founders established a school where robust faith and serious learning meet. Over its first two decades, a truly remarkable group of faculty have gathered at Trinity, and the school's impact has grown – from rented teaching space with 3 teachers and 39 students to our current permanent campus, where more than 75 teachers shape the lives of over 500 students every year. All of this has been made possible by the generous philanthropic support of founding partners and many parents who have supported the school. God has done us great good.

On the eve of Trinity's 25th anniversary we all, as Trinity's stewards, now have the opportunity to advance the school and enable it to excel even more for the next generation of students. Trinity Forward is our first comprehensive campaign in over a decade, and we are inviting longtime stakeholders to join hands with new investors to secure Trinity's future as a school where God's name is honored and young people are formed in life-changing ways – to know how to learn, to possess a lifelong passion for learning, and to give all the best of themselves in service to others, all for the glory of Christ.

By raising \$6.8 million, the Trinity Forward campaign will strengthen Trinity's capacity to form our students in powerful ways. The campaign will

- Reward faculty excellence among our best teachers.
- Attract new faculty talent in the next decade.
- Shape Trinity's faculty culture so that our excellent faculty can make a career out of the work that they love.
- Build new facilities where students can become like their teachers – in music, the arts, robotics, engineering, and more.
- Build additional classroom space so that our faculty and the Trinity community of learning can impact more lives, through increasing enrollment to 600 students.
- Improve our capacity to serve parents who need after-school care to make a Trinity education possible.



“I love bringing a classical approach to science. Trinity goes against the grain of traditional education because we give our students more. They learn from those who came before them and develop a love of discovery and creation.”

LORI STEPP
*Middle School
Science Teacher*

CAMPAIGN PRIORITY ONE

INVEST IN FACULTY EXCELLENCE

From the first day of her son's kindergarten orientation, Lori Stepp knew Trinity was different. She had taught in other schools for years but had never felt the warmth of a school family – a place where every child is known and loved – until she experienced Trinity.

Four years ago, drawn by the warm community and rich classical education, Lori came back to the classroom and joined the Trinity faculty. As a seasoned middle school science teacher, she had seen plenty of distracted and disinterested students over the years. What she found at Trinity still amazes her: classrooms full of engaged and eager learners.

Lori has a gift for teaching. Like her fellow teachers, she combines skill, love for students, Christian faith, and a passion for learning. The students soak up her lessons, actively delving deeper into subjects with an enthusiasm she hadn't before experienced.

Teachers are Trinity's most treasured resources. They are thoughtful and devoted followers of Christ who are really good at what they do: teaching and forming young men and women who are created in God's image.

It's not easy to find these teachers, and their compensation does not match their value. Trinity competes with other independent and public schools, as well as the private sector, when recruiting top talent.



“I want my students to shine however and wherever God has created them to be. I want to help them foster those gifts he’s given them.”

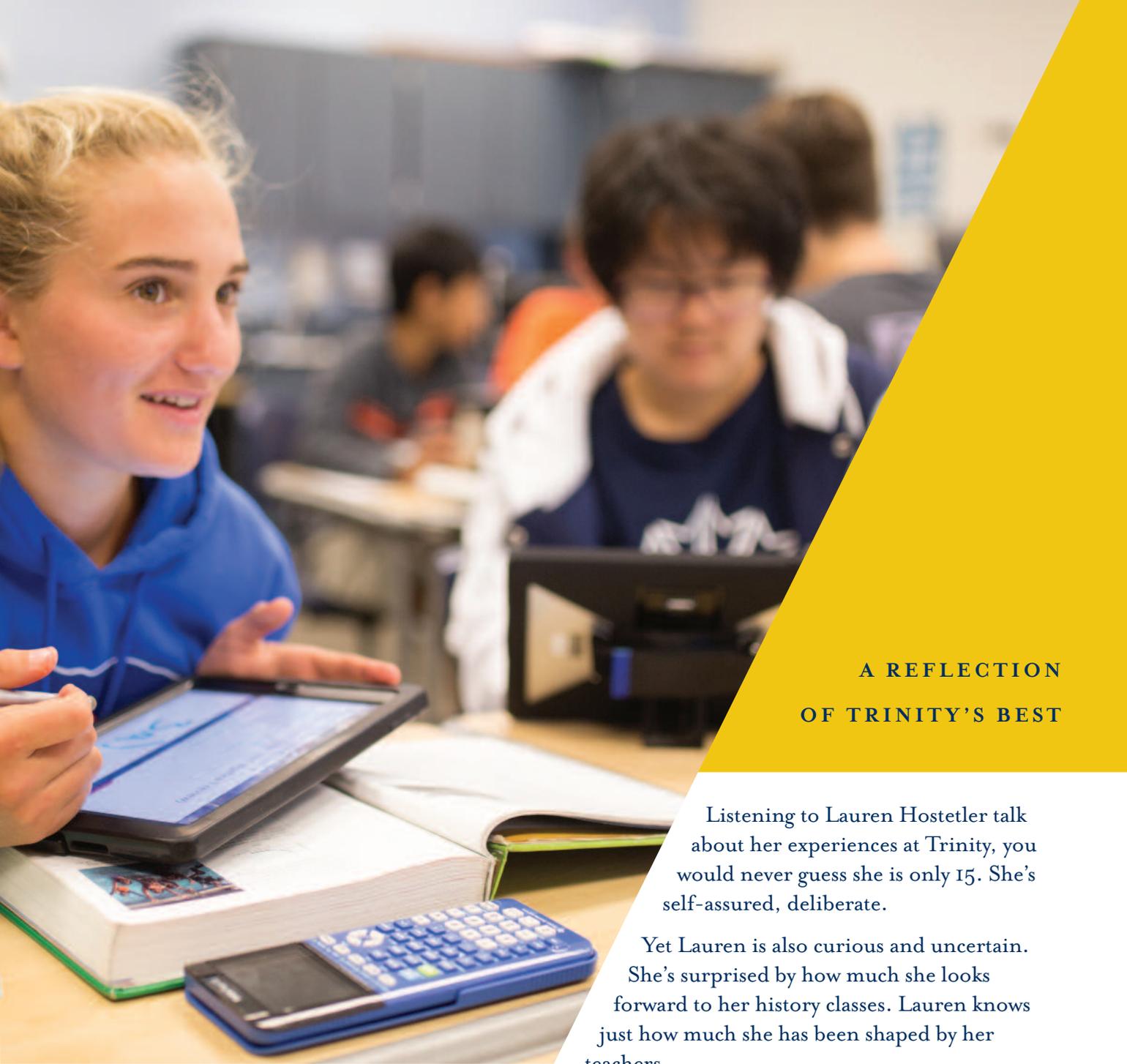
MELISSA HARTEMINK
Second Grade Teacher



Your support of the Trinity Forward campaign will ensure Trinity treats our teachers with the same generosity they bestow on our students every day. We want to support their ongoing professional development, and we aim to recruit the very best educators and role models we can find. Nothing matters more than this when it comes to forming our young students. The Trinity Forward campaign will

- Increase teacher salaries and benefit packages to match positions in comparable and competing schools.
- Provide more robust opportunities for professional development and coaching – good teachers are always getting better at their craft.
- Give department chairs time to make all of our teachers better by mentoring new teachers, developing rich curricula that embody our mission, and giving more feedback to seasoned faculty on their goals for professional development.

Throughout the campaign, we will encourage our community to increase their Trinity Fund giving levels even as we invite them to invest in the Trinity Forward campaign's capital priorities. These Trinity Fund increases will fund new faculty investments over the next three years. We can sustain these investments in teachers in perpetuity by growing the annual fund and by increases in enrollment made possible by this campaign. Through these combined strategies, Trinity's financial strength and viability will be stronger than ever as we move through our third decade, even as we continue to pay down the school's debt.



A REFLECTION
OF TRINITY'S BEST

Listening to Lauren Hostetler talk about her experiences at Trinity, you would never guess she is only 15. She's self-assured, deliberate.

Yet Lauren is also curious and uncertain. She's surprised by how much she looks forward to her history classes. Lauren knows just how much she has been shaped by her teachers.

"I had trouble with assignments," admits Lauren. "I wanted everything to be perfect; I couldn't finish anything. When Mr. Dicks taught me to just get something on paper, even if it wasn't good, things changed. I progressed." The freedom to think, express, and then edit became one of the lessons Lauren most values.

Mr. Dicks is just one of the many teachers Lauren considers a mentor. As role models and educators with a unique ability to partner with parents and form citizens like Lauren, Trinity's teachers are a gift we treasure.



“Living a Christian life is the patience of waiting for more meaning. I teach students to see problems in different ways – not to be afraid, but to pray through the moments of greatest trial.”

BANKS CLARK
*Visual Arts
Teacher*

CAMPAIGN PRIORITY TWO

TRANSFORM ARTS AND ENGINEERING PROGRAMS IN A NEW BUILDING

Trinity's arts and engineering programs have flourished far beyond the capacity of our current facilities. If you have been to a Trinity concert, play, or robotics tournament recently, you've seen how our faculty shape our students as these children pursue their gifts. "Every year it gets better and better!" is the kind of comment we hear again and again.

Imagine the heights our arts, design, and engineering programs will reach in new spaces.

Each spring, the Middle School science lab hums with the enterprise of the engineering class. Students are busy with one of their favorite projects – turning scraps of metal, conduit, and rubber into electric cars. Kids spend days dreaming up their designs and then getting them ready to come alive.

Students learn mechanics, circuitry, and aerodynamics as they build their creations. Hard lessons of patience and perseverance are learned through days of trial and error. The excitement builds as students get ready to run their masterpieces on the test track.



"Our arts and STEM programs compromise every day in our current facilities. These improvements to Trinity will be a blessing."

MATT HALL

Director of Middle School



The project showcases one of Trinity's strengths – mastering subjects through deep exploration. But it also highlights one of Trinity's greatest challenges: lack of space for complex engineering and other long-term research projects in the sciences. Near the end of every engineering class, students spend their final 10 minutes disassembling their cars and putting the test track back in its plastic bin because another class is coming in next period. The beginning of each class is spent in reverse: pulling out yesterday's projects and reassembling the pieces.

Similar compromises are made in the arts. Students paint canvases on the floor of a closet because there is no other space for them. In the Middle School, art is taught in a science lab. Oil painting – the medium used in the *Mona Lisa* and *Starry Night* – can be taught only with special permission because of the facility's shortcomings.



Likewise in music and drama: Our young musicians learn to play in a tired modular classroom with inadequate acoustics and tight floor space. Our drama students learn the art of acting in a gym basement locker room. They cannot create elaborate sets, block scenes correctly, or practice in spaces that allow them to move as on the stage.



**A REFLECTION
OF TRINITY'S BEST**

Hope Mutter feels a responsibility as an artist, but also an opportunity.

“Artists see the world differently than others do,” explains the Trinity senior. “It’s our role to help people change their perspective, because art can bring both joy and social justice.”

Hope knows firsthand how challenging it is to create art in Trinity’s current space. But she also knows it’s worth the effort. “The arts are

humanizing and bring people together as a community. Through the arts, kids can reveal their souls. There’s always room for art to speak on a spiritual level.”

Trinity has been instrumental to Hope’s growth. “I’m a private person,” she says. “In a larger environment I’d be choked out. Here, we know and care about every student.”

That extra attention has been important, even outside the art studio. “I usually struggle in math, so I was nervous about precalculus last year. But there were only five students in my class, so I could speak out, get help, and not be intimidated.”

TRINITY FORWARD WILL
TRANSFORM THE ARTS AND
ENGINEERING PROGRAMS:

This campaign will give Trinity students more time to invent and incubate new ideas, and more space to create. Trinity Forward will transform the arts and STEM programs at Trinity.

A new 12,000+-square-foot Arts and Engineering Building will serve as an anchor for three of Trinity's most important programs. This building will signal a bold commitment to the future. All classes and student programs currently meeting in the modulars will have their own new spaces.



The gym's existing lower level will be transformed into a new engineering lab and makerspace studio with 3-D printers, laser cutters, and other equipment students can use to invent and share ideas. We will be able to offer new STEM classes (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). Students will have the chance to explore engineering at an earlier age, beginning in the Lower School. The new spaces will also be available for innovative and creative projects in a variety of non-STEM fields as well, from the visual arts to humanities to theology.



New purpose-built facilities will provide acoustically fitted practice and rehearsal spaces for Lower School and Middle School curricular and cocurricular music; for strings programs across all divisions; for Lower, Middle, and Upper School instrumental music; and for the Upper School Jazz Ensemble and Vocal Ensemble.



Three new classrooms will enable us to grow enrollment by increasing capacity in the Upper School and maintaining capacity in the Middle School. These new spaces, along with Lower School growth in TK and first grade, will allow Trinity to reach an enrollment of 600 students.



New visual arts spaces will allow the Middle School art program to blossom and will enable the Upper School program to expand and explore new media.



A dedicated drama space will support and enhance our excellent programs in both the Middle School and Upper School.



The Arts and Engineering Building will become the new home for the Trinity Neighborhood program. This program is essential to Trinity's growth in the Lower School, and Trinity Forward will give our after-school students new, larger spaces, making an already strong program even stronger.



\$6.8 MILLION CAMPAIGN

- **\$5 million:**
Arts and Engineering Building
- **\$0.3 million:**
Faculty Excellence
- **\$1.5 million:**
Trinity Fund
Through our annual fund, we will sustain our investment in teachers in perpetuity.



HELP US WRITE

THE NEXT CHAPTER

It's an exciting time for Trinity. We look ahead with the same anticipation and the same optimism our founders felt 25 years ago. Much has changed in two decades, but the core of our mission remains the same: excellent Christian teachers form students into lifelong learners who want to follow Christ in their callings.

God has done Trinity great good in its first decades, and we are grateful. Yet we know that there is more for us ahead.

More for our school, our students, and our community. More for God's glory. Our sights are set high.

With your support, Trinity can equip our students to impact our culture in new and more significant ways. By investing in our talented teachers, transforming our arts and engineering programs, and building room for growth, we can cement Trinity's legacy while creating new opportunities for our students, now and for generations to come.

 TRINITY
FORWARD

In a new makerspace studio, Trinity students will use 3-D printers and laser cutters to design and create. They'll learn important 21st-century skills like collaboration, problem solving, and critical thinking.





**Trinity School of
Durham and Chapel Hill**
4011 Pickett Road, Durham, NC 27705
trinityschoolnc.org