



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Recently, leaders from different Dominican schools across the country have been getting together (virtually, of course) to talk. Specifically one discussion focused on what it means to have a Dominican education. Each leader was contemplative about the commonalities, as well as the differences, in each of our schools. One member of the group challenged: Does your community know your mission statement?

This made me reflective. When I was hired I requested that each teaching space post a copy of the mission statement clearly visible for students and faculty alike. You may not realize that each meeting of the Board of Directors opens with prayer, and then a recitation of the Trinity Mission Statement. But it had been a while since I truly considered the words in that statement. I reread it today - and already I am seeing and reading things that had never stood out to me before. So today I want to share my own personal thoughts on our mission statement. After all, it is our mission that makes Trinity High School so special.

Trinity High School, in the Sinsinawa Dominican tradition, challenges young women to seek faith, knowledge and truth. *At Trinity High School a student is not handed answers, but challenged to go find answers. The process of seeking is never finished. We challenge students to look in many different places to find their faith. Not all will take the same path as they seek, and the mission of Trinity High School does not dictate that they will all have the same faith - or the same knowledge, just that they will be always seeking, and we will teach them to desire to seek the truth always.*

The school community guides young women in developing skills for lifelong learning, an ethic of care and the desire for excellence. *Lifelong learning requires the continual process of being challenged to question what you think you know. To develop the skills for lifelong learning means our students are secure enough to question the status quo, challenge trendy ideas, and recognize that respectful debate is imperative to continue to learn. As they learn, we guide Blazers to remember to care for all of God's creation, especially themselves, and to recognize and nurture the abilities and talents God has given them as they strive for excellence and encourage their classmates to do the same.*

Each student is recognized as unique. *Stereotypes of any kind are contrary to the mission of Trinity High School. Whether based on race, gender, religion, ethnicity, neighborhood, family make-up, personal beliefs or occupation, none are valid. Trinity has proudly been a diverse school for decades. We strive to see one another through a Christian lens and never paint "the others" with a broad brush. **In a nurturing, Catholic, college preparatory environment,** The adult community at Trinity is always available to assist students who struggle with seeking faith, knowledge and truth. As a Catholic school we teach that we are all made in the image and likeness of God and are to be seen and treated as His children. The most important thing Trinity High School can do to ensure the achievement of the mission is to provide the best academic opportunities for all Blazers, and thoroughly prepare them for the next step in their educational journey. When it comes right down to it, a path to college is likely why you chose Trinity. **she is encouraged to become self-directed toward responsible participation in the global community** We encourage students to find what it is inside each of them that*

*impels them to become active members of society. Some students find their voices much later than others, and are seeking truth long beyond their high school years. We continue to encourage them. Being thorough, thoughtful and introspective helps to ensure that their participation in the global community is responsible. **in order to impact society, Church and family in the twenty-first century.** Since 1918 Trinity High School graduates have gone on to do great things. They are teachers and doctors, engineers and artists, wives and mothers. They are having an impact as lawyers and judges, politicians and activists. We strive to continue this stellar tradition by offering the very best college preparatory education for young women in Chicagoland.*

Do note the number of times I refer to learning and seeking as an ongoing endeavor. In no way do I think that this is the final word on or the final definition of our mission statement. Many of you may read the same words and have very different thoughts. A year from today I may have entirely different thoughts on these same words. I share my thoughts with you today because I really hope that each of you takes the time to read the mission statement every so often. It never fails that when I do, each time I stop to consider the selection of words, I am increasingly impressed with the very unique and special school that we have all come to love.

Warmly,
Laura