



Trinity Academy

W225 N3131 DuPlainville Road, Pewaukee, WI 53072

Telephone 262-695-2933
Fax: 262-695-2934

Web www.trinityacademy.edu
Email info@trinityacademy.net

Trinity Academy Case Statement

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Dear Friend of Trinity Academy,

Thank you so much for your interest in Trinity Academy and for your willingness to learn more about the mission and vision of our school. I offer you here an overview of the value of Trinity Academy, its focus on academic excellence, and its timely contribution both to our city and to our country in the face of the increasing erosion of academic standards.

On behalf of Trinity Academy, I would also like to address interested potential donors in the mission of our school, and encourage them to understand the significant academic accomplishments of Trinity Academy. All of our grammar school students master the fundamentals of reading and math skills, and our high school students routinely win scholarship money to the colleges of their choice. At graduation, Trinity Academy students are competitive, and ready to succeed in college and serve their respective communities. Businesses are eager to hire our graduates. We also develop a culture at Trinity Academy where students are kind and respectful to one another, and develop love and admiration for their faculty. Trinity Academy believes our young people deserve challenging and respectful academic environments where their personalities are free to develop into generous and confident young adults.

The present crisis in educational standards across our nation is immense. Poor reading scores, falling math achievements on national tests, insufficient knowledge of spelling, grammar, history, and geography, crowded classrooms, inferior teaching techniques especially in the mastering of early reading skills, and violence on many grammar school playgrounds are only some of the problems routinely facing parents with school aged children today. It is no longer uncommon for children as old as fifth grade to be unable to read with any degree of fluency, even children from suburban communities. Routinely children even in high grades in grammar school cannot solve basic math problems without a calculator. They are often streetwise and media informed, but may never read any of the great books of Western literature, and may not know who America's Founding Fathers were. Schools are slowly forced to lower their standards, soften curriculums and mask the problems our students have developed with concentration skills, and the ability to master challenging material.

Trinity Academy is particularly proud of our **unmatched reading scores** for all students in grades K-8. In the past year we have scored in the 99% on the *Iowa Basics Exam* in all reading and math scores for our students in grades K-8. Our youngest students consistently score **two years ahead of their grade level** in these tests, **four to five years ahead of their grade level** in third and fourth grade, and then **six years ahead of their grade level** by sixth, seventh and eighth grade. These scores are not the product of gifted students. *They are the product of finely taught students offered a focused and challenging curriculum which guarantees success in the fundamentals of learning.* Our children deserve this kind of academic mastery of reading, spelling and math. Any school can achieve this competence with the correct curriculum and carefully prepared teachers. We are eager to train other schools in how to implement our outstanding curriculum.

Our Middle School students master Latin and French, study American history and important documents on the founding of our great nation. They master Algebra in grade eight, and learn to read and write with competence on worthwhile pieces of literature like Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, or *Antigone* by Sophocles, or *The Diary of Anne Frank*, or Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. They spell with facility, and learn fifteen rules for the correct use of the comma. Such knowledge and mastery is their right, but how many schools today would consider such a curriculum too rigorous? Students who carefully learn such mastery are happy.

For the past five years our **Middle School Forensics Public Speaking** team has won first place at **State**, in the large school category. This past spring Trinity Academy beat 97 competing schools in forensics at State, *and we literally swept the tournament*. Our students had simply been carefully prepared, and challenged to compete with poise, confidence and joy. Coaches from other schools say they recognize our students as soon as competition begins. Our students exhibit careful preparation, and their competence makes them truly "fun" to watch in competition. Last fall Governor Walker watched our first in state eighth grade student perform Thomas Paine's difficult essay entitled "*Common Sense*." Washington had ordered this piece read to all his discouraged and weakened troops in Valley Forge to encourage and strengthen them. Governor Walker gave this student a standing ovation as he finished his masterful and articulate presentation of *Common Sense*. All present in the room for this performance were literally stunned by our student's excellence.

Our high school students are offered a most compelling curriculum over the course of four years in all subjects. We offer AP courses in math, history, literature, science, and foreign languages. Last year our average ACT score was 29; the State average is 22. Our students are accepted at all the colleges where they apply. *The Catholic University of America announced a few years ago that any student applying to them for admission from Trinity Academy would be immediately accepted.*

Throughout our school our students are setting the highest standards for academic excellence, personal maturity, and love of their faith. By high school students have studied Scripture deeply and also studied carefully the most difficult moral issues of our age. Faith is discussed maturely and deeply, and our students leave high school with a firm grasp of the dogmas and moral teachings of their faith. The fundamentals of faith have been well taught. We believe that being taught faith well is our duty and their right.

Trinity Academy students are also immersed in great literature from first grade onwards (*Winnie the Pooh*) and conclude high school with a sophisticated knowledge of Shakespeare and the *U.S. Constitution*. Reading great literature, now routinely withdrawn from many schools and colleges for being "politically incorrect," teaches students to think carefully, analyze language meticulously, and eventually become skilled writers. All of our high school graduates tell us that as they enter college they need no remediation, are often invited to transfer out of "basic" Freshman classes, and find their greatest strength is the ability to write better than other Freshmen. Our graduates arrive at college with mature preparation for challenging work, and many go on to graduate from college with distinction. Colleges compete to have our students accept their offers, knowing that our graduates will contribute significantly to the culture of their campus.

Trinity Academy was initially founded to respond directly to the impending crisis in the academic, moral and social milieu of the average American grammar school. More than ever, the need to develop schools determined to provide high-quality education, and ones that will bring about great results in their students is urgent. Children deserve to be offered challenging curriculums, the "best" resources education has to offer, within the context of a profoundly loving school community. Our school has outstandingly prepared teachers and of our 12 high school teachers, eleven hold advanced degrees and five hold doctorates. Our faculty has a great deal of personal integrity and they are prepared to serve youth unselfishly. They are deeply committed to the mission of the school even though they are only offered modest salaries.

Our Head of School and founding President, Dr. Robin Mitchell, was employed at Brookfield Academy for seventeen years, holding positions there as Head of the Lower School, Head of the High School, and Academic Dean of the entire curriculum. Prior to that position, he taught in the graduate school at Marquette University in the English department. With a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, a Master's degree from Marquette University, and an Undergraduate Degree from University of London, Queen Mary College, he brings immense wisdom and knowledge to the leading of a successful independent school.

Children respond generously when exposed to models of greatness. We place strong emphasis on the knowledge of the Old and New Testaments and on the lives of the saints. Both saints' lives and historical biography of great figures like St. Paul, Mother Teresa, Maria Goretti, Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Edison, and Harriet Tubman, Helen Keller and Louis Braille excite children's imaginations and inspire them to reach deep within themselves for what makes a person truly great. Virtues like fortitude, courage, perseverance, forgiveness, and humility are learned and absorbed by such reading.

For all of the above accomplishments and especially for our outstanding commitment to the teaching of our Catholic faith to high school students, Trinity Academy was named a *School of Excellence* by **The Cardinal Newman Society in 2014**. We are one of only two schools in the state of Wisconsin to be awarded this distinction. We are deeply honored by this award.

We know that Trinity Academy has a great deal to offer to the wider community in educational vision, learning achievement, and curriculum partnerships. *Educational excellence is achievable in our schools.* We pray that many in the community will see the true value of all that is offered and accomplished daily at Trinity Academy. May Our Lord continue enabling us to *offer parents the assistance which they often need* for enrollment of their children, help us *preserve and improve our campus yearly*, and eventually *assist us in our vision to offer our outstanding curriculum to other schools* throughout our city and beyond.

Sincerely,

Susan J. Mitchell

Dean of Curriculum
Trinity Academy