

OPEN FOR BUSINESS *in Hudson*



TRINITY ACADEMY: Teaching Lessons in Academics, Faith and Character

By Leah Noel

Love God, Love Others and Serve the World—that's the real lesson Trinity Academy, a private K-8 Lutheran school in Hudson, focuses on teaching its students. But the school—which serves about 160 school-age students, 100 preschoolers and another 100 kids ages six weeks to 6 years in Trinity Early Childhood Academy—also is committed to academic excellence and its small class sizes often make it easier for students to shine.

Katie Axel switched her son, a first grader, to Trinity Academy last December, looking for a smaller classroom environment, with less chaos, than he had in a traditional public school. “He was getting lost in the mix, and very quickly after he was at Trinity, we noticed a difference,” she says. “He was getting the attention he needed and the teachers had time to focus on retention—making sure students understood the material before moving ahead in the curriculum.”

The average class size at Trinity Academy for K-8 is 20, and many families have more than one child attending. “When you send your child here, you are not only investing in their education, but investing in a real community,” Principal Alison Johnson says. “People really care for each other here. You have a community of people who partner with you in the rearing of your children.”

That community reaches from teachers and staff to students to parents. And the fact that Trinity Academy is a Christian school makes the community bonds even stronger. “We love that we are in a school with so many like-minded parents, where Christian holidays are celebrated and faith is talked about,” Axel says. “Our faith has become stronger since being here.”

“The number one reason people choose to send their children to Trinity is because we are faith-based and have a strong academic focus,” Johnson says, noting that the school has children from many different Christian denominations represented.

Trinity Academy also has weekly chapel services, which middle school students often help lead, and spends a lot of time on character education. “We care about how kids are going to carry on in life, how they are going to be their best self—that’s as important to us as teaching academics,” Johnson says.



Darcy Vargas, who has three children attending Trinity Academy, adds, “Life skills and faith education are a part of every day and our children have had numerous opportunities to serve others. Trinity Academy is truly a special place where our children have grown and blossomed academically, socially and spiritually.”

Johnson has been the principal at Trinity Academy for 10 years and came from teaching and school administration in large public schools in California. One thing she loves about working in a small Christian K-8 school is that middle schoolers have the chance to grow up at their own pace. “They can still go out and play on the swings if they want,” she says. “That really softens kids that age. Plus, because we are a small school, they get a chance to be fully involved in the activities we offer. We really try to nurture students, but also get them to reach outside their comfort zone.”

Extracurricular activities at Trinity Academy include band and orchestra, school choir, student council, and competitive sports for grades 5-8 (co-ed cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls volleyball). “Our cross-country team recently placed first in a national competition with a lot of schools that were much larger, so although we are small, we are mighty,” Johnson says.

In addition to extra curricular activities, the school has physical education, music, art, Spanish and technology instruction at all grade levels. And Johnson says, for a private school, tuition is affordable.

For more information about the school, which enrolls students throughout the school year as long as space is available, visit www.trinityacademyofhudson.org or call 715-386-9349 for a tour.