



THE KING'S CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



ANNUAL REPORT

2024






TABLE OF

CONTENTS

Letter from the Head of School	04
Board of Directors	05
TKCS Strategic Plan	06
Finances	08
Demographics	09
Preschool and Elementary	10
Middle School and High School	12
School Libraries and Technology	14
Parent Teacher Fellowship	15
Golf Classic	16
Athletics	18
Fine and Performing Arts	20
Visual Arts	21
Theater	22
Why Do I Serve?	23



THE KING'S CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

OUR MISSION

In partnership with Christian parents, The King's Christian School equips and strengthens students through education and example to stand firmly on God's Word, to become servant-leaders who impact the world through a Christ-centered life.



CORE VALUES



Christ-Centered



Biblical Foundation



Academic Excellence



Parent Partnership



Character Development



Servant Leadership



A Letter from the Head of School



Dear Friend of King's,

I continue to be very grateful for the opportunity to serve the Lord as part of The King's Christian School community. It is a joy to work with over 80 men and women who are called to serve on King's faculty and staff. King's is blessed with a group of 12 men and women who serve faithfully on the Board of Directors. There is a deep commitment to the mission of King's from both groups. The Board of Directors recently approved a slight revision to the mission statement of King's that maintains the core elements but simplifies the language:

In partnership with Christian parents, The King's Christian School equips and strengthens students through education and example to stand firmly on God's Word, to become servant-leaders who impact the world through a Christ-centered life.

A comprehensive, multi-year strategic plan is the best way to implement this mission, and over the past six months, faculty, administration, and board members have been engaged in a strategic planning process. The Board of Directors approved the new five-year strategic plan at the September 2024 board meeting. The purpose of the strategic plan is to address the multiple components King's will need to implement over the next five years.

The TKCS Strategic Plan has five major components, including (1) the Strategic Academic Plan, (2) the Strategic Operations Plan, (3) the Board Strategic Plan, (4) the Strategic Financial Management Plan, and (5) the Campus Master Plan. On pages #6-7 you will find a summary of each of these key elements of the plan.

King's has been blessed in recent years with significant growth in enrollment, academic programs, and financial resources, along with strong leadership from the Board of Directors and the Leadership Team. I have been blessed to be a part of this team for two years. As many know, this is my 53rd year in Christian schooling, and retirement is beckoning. The TKCS Board of Directors has launched a search for the next Head of School, who will begin July 1, 2025. Please pray that the Lord will make it clear to the search committee and the Board of Directors as to whom He is calling to lead King's in the coming years.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen P. Dill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephen P. Dill, EdD
Head of School



Board of Directors

JORGE ARROYO, PRESIDENT

Length of Service: 4+ years

JOHN FORT

Length of Service: 20+ years

MATT HOWARD

Length of Service: 1+ years

**KIMBERLY LAWLOR,
VICE PRESIDENT**

Length of Service: 4+ years

MELINDA HEPPARD

Length of Service: 7+ years

CHRIS KASSAY

Length of Service: 1+ years

DAN REMENTOV, TREASURER

Length of Service: 7+ years
TKCS Alumnus

WARREN BOETTCHER

Length of Service: 2+ years

SAM MUNOZ

Length of Service: 1+ years

ALLYSON DONATO, SECRETARY

Length of Service: 3+ years
TKCS Alumnus

KAREN KATULKA

Length of Service: 1+ years

PASCAL TULEY

Length of Service: 1+ years
TKCS Alumnus

The 2024-2029 TKCS Strategic Plan

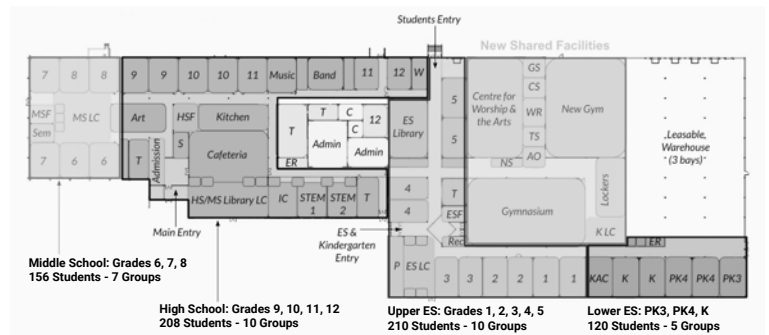
As mentioned on earlier pages, the TKCS Board of Directors adopted the 2024-29 TKCS Strategic Plan at the September board meeting. The plan addresses five major categories:

The Strategic Academic Plan has three components: (1) the elementary plan, (2) the MS/HS plan, and (3) faculty professional growth. The elementary plan addresses scheduling, curriculum, discipline, and culture. The MS/HS plan has similar components, including spiritual formation plans, laid out in a three-year sequence. Professional growth includes increased funding over four years for conferences, accreditation renewal, spiritual renewal, and graduate school studies for faculty.

The Strategic Operations Plan has four components: (1) building a culture of philanthropy, (2) continuing to (slowly) grow enrollment, (3) a five-year facilities renewal plan, and (4) improving the collection and use of data.



The Master Plan - Overlay Diagram

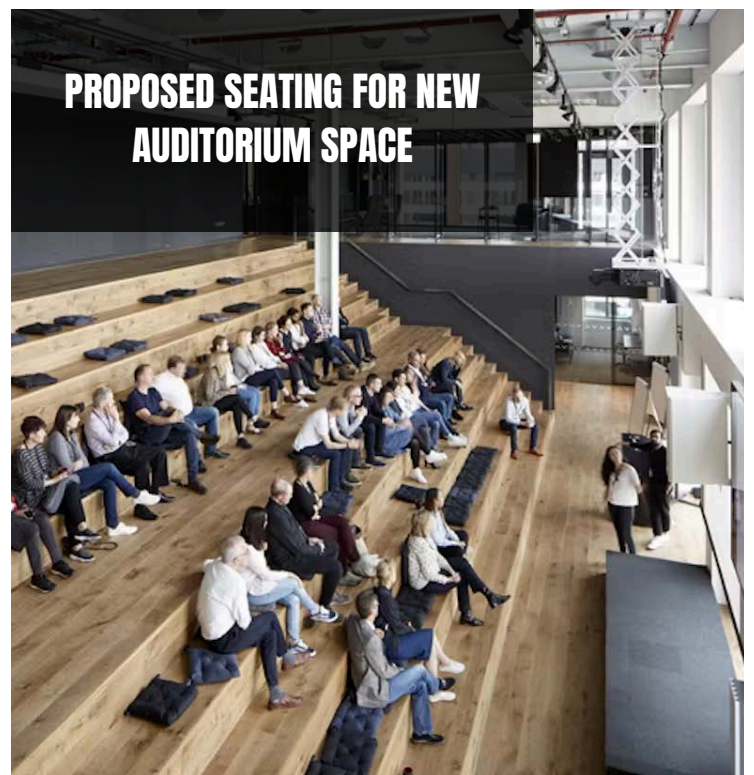




PROPOSED NEW ENTRANCE TO THE MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL SIDE

The Board Strategic Plan includes three components: (1) embed the strategic process and hire the new Head of School; (2) board committees, their tasks, their development, and their excellence; and (3) building a culture of philanthropy and the Capital Campaign.

The Strategic Financial Management Plan is designed to fund the expenditures required to fulfill our mission with excellence, and then to plan for multiple sources of revenue to fund that mission. The primary expense will be increased faculty and staff compensation, which continues to lag our targeted benchmark of 65% of Cherry Hill public school salaries. The plan includes eliminating extra required fees (security fee, field trips, retreats, etc.) by rolling those fees into monthly tuition payments. After school programs (athletics, after-care, theater) will continue to require participation fees. The plan calls for ongoing growth to the Knight's Fund (annual operating gift support) and increased revenue from leases and rentals, as well as reasonable tuition increases.



PROPOSED SEATING FOR NEW AUDITORIUM SPACE



PROPOSED LARGER LUNCHROOM SPACE

The Campus Master Plan is a ten-year plan to expand and renew the entire campus. The first project is to build an auditorium and worship center in our existing warehouse space, which will require a capital fundraising campaign sometime in the next few years. The second project is to turn the existing APR into a larger lunchroom and learning commons. Future projects include learning commons for early education, upper elementary grades, and middle school. It is helpful to have a long-term plan that guides each project so that all improvements fit into a thoughtful campus master plan.

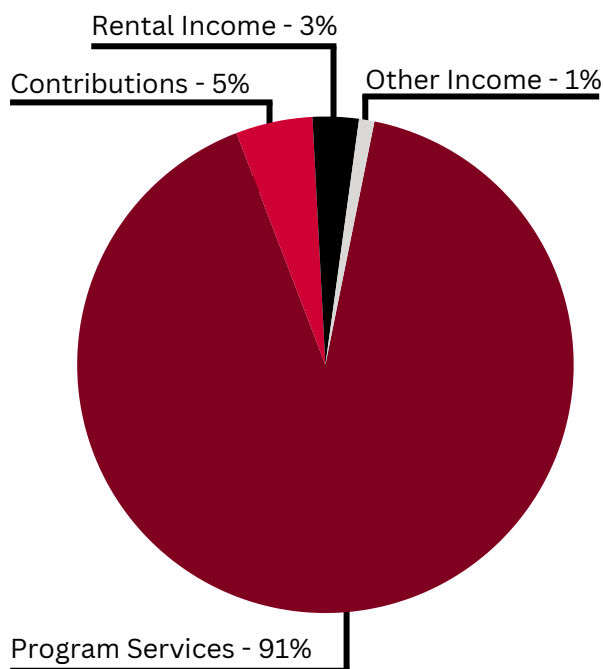
Stephen P. Dill, EdD
Head of School

Financial Report

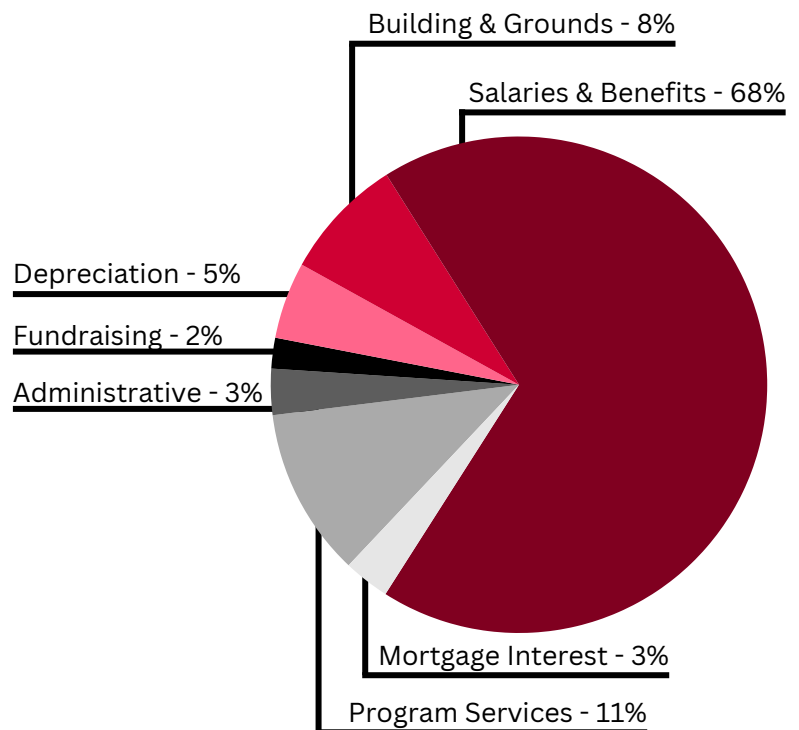
2023-24 Fiscal Year Summary

Continued enrollment growth was the primary factor resulting in large increases in both revenue and expenses as compared to the prior year of 2022-23. Our enrollment increase required additional financial assistance for families. Accounting principles apply financial aid amounts as a discount from tuition revenue, not an expense, with the same net result. The following pie charts summarize our revenue and expenses for last year. Note that tuition and fees provide nearly 91% of our revenue, while our primary expense is providing salary and benefits for our employees, representing over two thirds 68% of our expenditures.

2023-24 Revenue: \$5,592,517



2023-24 Expenses: \$5,616,097



Note: Tuition and fee revenue is net of (\$1,491,447) of student financial assistance

The bottom line of these charts is that God is blessing King's with significant growth, which has continued into the current 2024-25 school year with an enrollment of 574. We are grateful that the Lord is providing the resources needed to provide Christ-centered education to a growing number of students. Psalm 20:7 says, "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God."

Mr. Walter G. Kunz, MBA
Director of Business and Facilities

Thank You Knight's Fund Donors!

A special thank you to the King's parents, alumni, grandparents, employees, and friends who participated in providing \$174,754 in gifts last year. (This does not include Golf Tournament or PTF revenue through the Running of the Knights.) For the 2024-25 school year, the Knight's Fund goals are (1) increased donor participation and (2) \$200,000 in total gifts. Thank you for your investments in the Lord's work at King's!

AT A GLANCE...

574

PRESCHOOL-12TH
GRADE ENROLLMENT

6

AP COURSES
OFFERED

\$374,218

CLASS OF 2024
COLLEGE
SCHOLARSHIPS
RECEIVED

115

CHURCHES
REPRESENTED

100%

GRADUATION
RATE

8

ALUMNI
STAFF

10:1

STUDENT-TO-TEACHER
RATIO

9

DUAL CREDIT
COURSES OFFERED

DIVERSITY AT TKCS

56%

Caucasian

20%

African-
American

11%

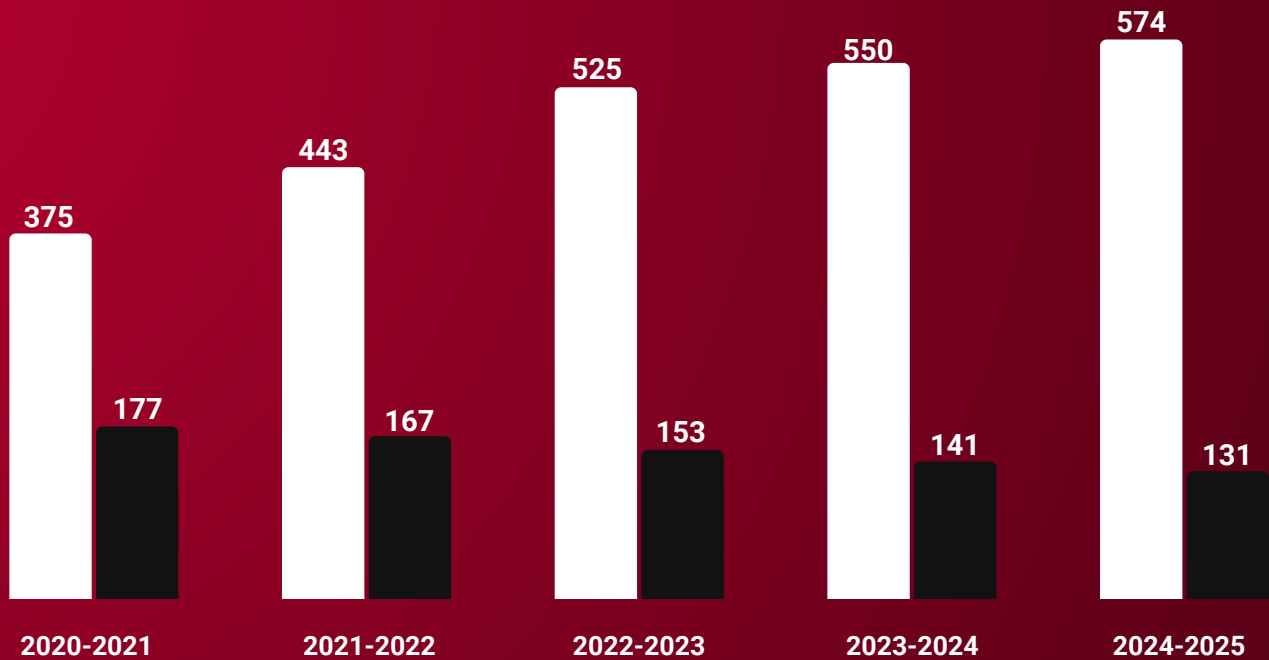
Hispanic
/Latino

6%

Asian

6%

Other



TOTAL ENROLLMENT



NEW STUDENTS

Preschool and Elementary

Mrs. Jessica Flanagan
Preschool and Elementary Principal



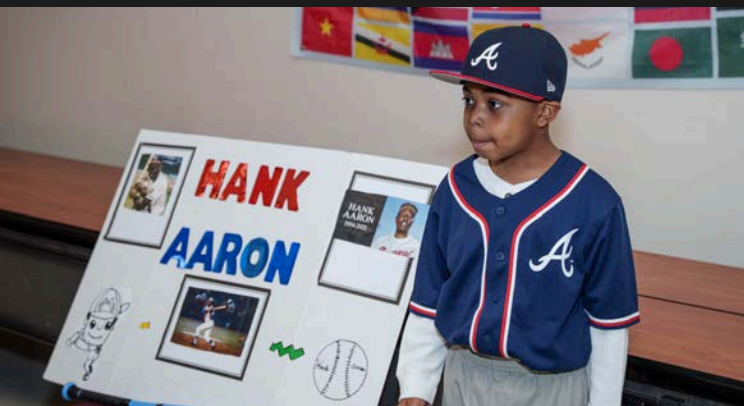
On September 25, 2024, students gathered around the flagpole to pray for our nation, our school, friends, and family. An elementary student noticed the group of students huddled around the flagpole and asked me what they were doing. I explained how they were praying, to which she quickly responded with, "Can we do that?" Ever since, students in grades 3-5 voluntarily meet every Thursday before recess to pray. I am astonished each week that 40-50 students willingly give up some of their recess time to kneel before the King.

It is such a blessing, honor, and privilege to watch the students who enter the school doors each day grow in their walk with the Lord. Their excitement and enthusiasm for the Gospel challenges me to think of my personal relationship with the Lord in a deeper, more meaningful way. These students actively participate in Bible class, sing praises to the Lord in music class, pray for one another throughout the day, and serve those in need in our new Servant Leaders' Club after school.

Our prayer is that the lessons our students learn while enrolled at King's during their formative years would not depart from them. Proverbs 22:6 says, "*Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.*" In his podcast, "Does Proverbs Promise My Child Will Not Stray?", John Piper shares these nine truths about the application of Proverbs 22:6:

1. In general, bringing up children God's way will lead them to eternal life. In general, that is true.
2. This reality would include putting our hope in God and praying earnestly for our wisdom and for their salvation all the way to the grave. Don't just pray until they get converted at age 6. Pray all the way to the grave for your children's conversions and for the perseverance of their apparent conversions.
3. Saturate them with the Word of God. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God (Romans 10:17).

4. Be radically consistent and authentic in your own faith — not just in behavior, but in affections. Kids need to see how precious Jesus is to mom and dad, not just how he is obeyed or how they get to church or how they read devotions or how they do duty, duty, duty. They need to see the joy and the satisfaction in mom and dad's heart that Jesus is the greatest friend in the world.
 5. Model the preciousness of the gospel. As we parents confess our own sins and depend on grace, our kids will say, "Oh, you don't have to be perfect. Mom and dad aren't perfect. They love grace. They love the gospel because Jesus forgives their sins. And I will know then he can forgive my sins."
 6. Be part of a Bible-saturated, loving church. Kids need to be surrounded by other believers and not just mom and dad.
 7. Require obedience. Do not be lazy. There are so many young parents today that appear so lazy. They are not willing to get up and do what needs to be done to bring this kid into line. So we should follow through on our punishments and follow through especially on all of our promises of good things that we say we are going to do for them.
 8. God saves children out of failed and unbelieving parenting. God is sovereign. We aren't the ones, finally, who save our kids. God saves kids and there would hardly be any Christians in the world if he didn't save them out of failed families.
 9. Rest in the sovereignty of God over your children. We cannot bear the weight of their eternity. That is God's business and we must roll all of that onto him.
- Praise God for the work He is doing in the lives of our students at King's!





Middle and High School

Mr. Craig Beatty
Middle and High School Principal



Expanding Academic and Cocurricular Opportunities

This year, we are excited to welcome over 260 students in grades 6 through 12, offering a wide range of academic courses and cocurricular activities. In addition to core subjects, students can choose from electives such as Art I & II, Handbells, Concert Choir, Jazz Band, Intro to Psychology, Economics, Computer Science, History Through Film, Media, and Theater. Our 11th and 12th graders can also participate in our Dual Enrollment Program with Cairn University, with 9 dual enrollment and several AP courses available.

Beyond academics, the middle school and high school promote holistic development. Our fine & performing arts programs continue to excel, highlighted by last year's production of *Rear Window* and outstanding art shows and concerts. In athletics, we offer baseball, softball, cross country, track and field, basketball, cheerleading, and soccer, with volleyball, golf, and wiffleball clubs launching this spring. We encourage all students to explore their interests through sports, arts, or clubs like Kingdom Culture, Chess, FCA, and Yearbook.

Additionally, we partner with the Center for Christian Counseling and Relationship Development (CCCRD) to provide essential counseling services, supporting students' mental and emotional well-being.

Service and Leadership Opportunities

Servant leadership is at the heart of our mission at TKCS. This year, students will have the chance to take part in a mission trip to Costa Rica, building on the success of last year's trip to Arizona. We encourage our students to grow as leaders through various opportunities, including mission work, athletics, the arts, and active involvement in clubs.

Every Friday, we come together for Chapel, a time to refocus on our relationship with Jesus Christ. Students lead worship, and guest speakers—including college presidents, pastors, missionaries, counselors, and church leaders—share God's Word.

Through these experiences, our students are nurtured into compassionate, Christ-centered leaders, equipped to serve both locally and globally.

Building a Stronger Community

This year, we are committed to strengthening our community by encouraging students to step outside their comfort zones, take on leadership roles, and engage in new activities. A key initiative is our new Advisory period, where students connect with peers and receive mentorship from teachers.





Libraries and Technology Program Update

Our school's libraries remain vital spaces for learning and exploration, encouraging a love for reading among students. Last year we added hundreds of new books to our elementary and middle/high school collections. This year, we continue to expand our collection to include diverse genres and formats, ensuring that every student can find materials that align with their interests and academic needs.

In the elementary library, we are excited to welcome Mrs. Alicia Hussey as our new elementary librarian, following the retirement of Mrs. Grace Richmond last year. Mrs. Richmond served the elementary library since 2010 and will be missed, especially for her wonderful storytelling sessions. Mrs. Hussey brings fresh enthusiasm and innovative ideas. On book checkout days, students can engage in STEM stations while they wait, making the experience both educational and fun. In the coming weeks, students can look forward to specialized activities that encourage exploration of different genres. Mrs. Hussey also aims to introduce projects like illustrating stories and writing letters to favorite authors.

Alongside our libraries, the growth of our Google Workspace program will continue to improve how students and staff access digital resources. In middle and high school, Mr. Craig Jacobs has led efforts to upgrade our Google Workspace program with the addition of ninety-four new Chromebooks, four additional Chromebook carts, upgraded network infrastructure, and a new classroom monitoring tool to help students stay focused. Our middle and high school classrooms now have access to twelve carts of Chromebooks with enough Chromebooks for each middle and high school student.

To improve student safety, we have integrated Securly Classroom into our existing security system. This tool allows teachers to monitor student screens, send messages to individual students or the entire class, filter content, and lock screens as needed. The upgraded Chromebook program complements our new policy restricting personal computing devices and smart phones in school.

Together, our libraries and technology programs are equipping students with the tools they need for success both academically and personally. We look forward to another year of fostering curiosity, creativity, and a lifelong love of learning.

Mrs. Lorraine Scaffidi, MLIS
Middle/High School Librarian, NJHS Advisor

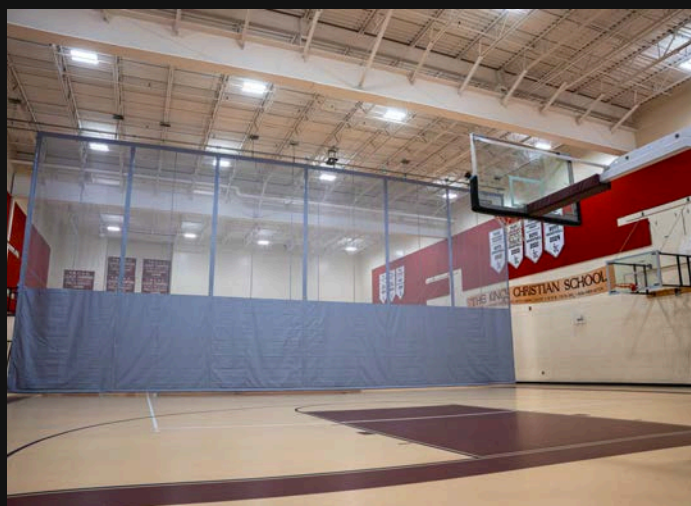


Parent Teacher Fellowship

Parents, church, and school are vital strands in the successful nurture of Christian children. The Parent Teacher Fellowship (PTF) is a strong and supportive base of parent volunteers who work with and on behalf of our parents to provide the vital bond with school and church. Guided by biblical principles, our PTF seeks our Lord's divine guidance for our students' spiritual, physical, mental, and social growth and well-being.

There are no applications and no membership dues required to be a part of the PTF. All TKCS parents are welcome and encouraged to join our monthly meetings where we discuss and plan events for students, such as the Butterfly Ball, Night with your Knight, the Pancakes & Pajamas Breakfast, and catered lunches at Thanksgiving and Easter.

For parents and families, we host the annual Boo-Hoo Breakfast and Family Skate Nights. For our teachers and staff, we host luncheons and provide treats throughout the year. We collect Box Tops for Education, organize fundraisers, and have a weekly moms-in-prayer group that meets at school and prays scripturally and specifically for the TKCS students, teachers/staff, and families.



This past spring, we held our 2nd annual Running of the Knights fundraiser, where students in grades PreK through 12 had the opportunity to either run or walk with their classmates through four different bubble stations located around the school property. Friendly class competitions were a big incentive for our students to raise donations as well as earning weekly prizes. With the money raised this year, we were able to purchase a retractable drop-down divider curtain for the current gymnasium as well as specific floor tiles for the new activity center located in the warehouse. Both of these improvements benefit the entire student body, and the PTF is truly grateful for the generous donations and support from our TKCS families.



The Parent Teacher Fellowship

2024 Golf Classic

Monday, October 21, 2024, was an incredibly beautiful, sunny day to be on a golf course. This year's annual golf tournament was held at Little Mill Country Club in Marlton. The tournament set new records in attendance and funds raised and was a great day of fun and fellowship.

- Ninety-four golfers participated, including current parents, alumni, grandparents, and friends of King's.
- The event began at 9 a.m. with a Chick-fil-A breakfast and high-fives from the Chick-fil-A cow. Golfing began at 9:30 a.m. with a scramble format (the foursome uses the best shot of the group) and ended with a great lunch, a silent auction, a raffle of beautiful gift baskets put together by different King's classes, and more fun and fellowship.
- Multiple sponsors contributed to the event, including platinum sponsor Hardenbergh Insurance and gold sponsor B. Tait Builders.
- No one won the \$15,000 hole-in-one prize, but several golfers came close.
- There was an exciting live auction of tickets to an upcoming Eagles game.
- After paying expenses, The King's Christian School Knight's Fund received \$42,220 — a sum twice as much as our previous high total.
- A big thank you to all our sponsors, participants, and the many families who contributed to the class gift baskets!
- A special thanks to school parent, alumnus, and former TKCS board member Matt Baals for leading the organizing team and putting many hours into making this such a successful event!
- Mark your calendar for next year's tournament — also held at Little Mill — on Monday, October 20, 2025, when our goal will be 120 golfers!

The 2024 Golf Classic Committee



Thank You To Our Sponsors

PLATINUM SPONSOR

- Hardenbergh Insurance Group

15k Hole-in-One Sponsor

- NorthPoint Real Estate Group

Event Sponsor

- Thrivent

GOLD SPONSOR

- B. Tait Builders, LLC

Lunch Sponsor

- P&H Renovations

Donors

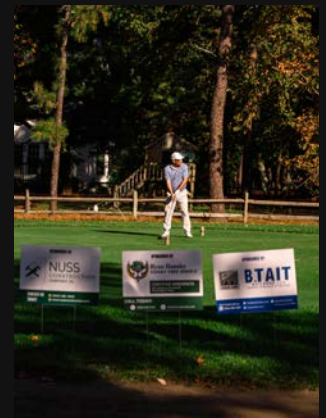
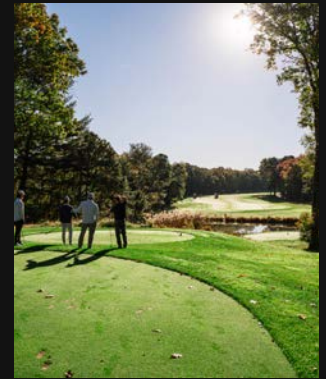
- Laborers' Local Union 57
- BDP Construction

BRONZE SPONSOR

- Nuss Construction
- Chick-fil-A
- Kiddie Junction Childcare and Preschools

Partner Sponsor

- CM3 Building Solutions, Inc.
- Ryan Bansky Expert Tree Service
- Kalos, Hutchings & Company, LLC.
- Semper Secure



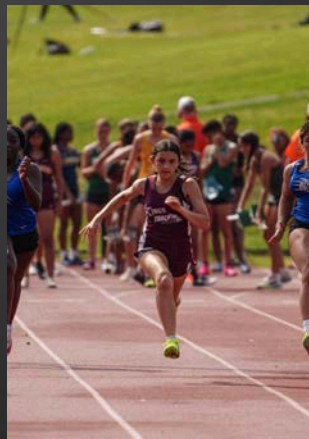
Athletics



Mr. Pat Harvey
Athletic Director

The increasingly popular phrase “Trending In the Right Direction” can appropriately describe the various sports programs presently at The King’s Christian School. Every athletic team that competes in the fall, winter, or spring season represents a unique opportunity for students, coaches, and the whole school community to come together and pursue a common goal, with a common attitude, for a common cause – the glory of God (1 Cor. 1:10, Acts 4:32, 1 Cor. 10:31).

The 2023-24 school year began with fall sports teams riding momentum from hard work put in during the summer, as our middle and high school soccer and x-country teams started their seasons. The girls varsity soccer team enjoyed a historic year, winning both the regular season and conference championships. Senior Arianna Brown was named the MVP of the league. Our boys varsity soccer and our middle school soccer teams had winning seasons as well. Varsity x-country was the top team in the Tri-State Christian Athletic Conference and has much to look forward to, as there were many excellent middle school runners coming up in the wings.

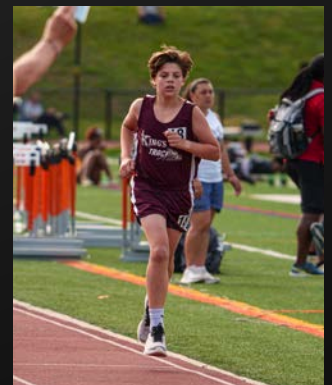
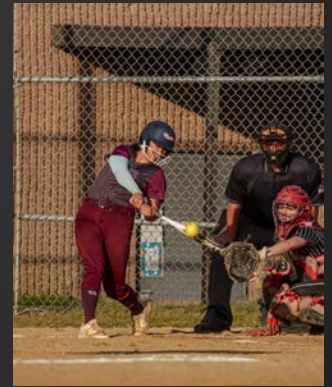




The winter season offers basketball and cheerleading at the high school and middle school levels. Last year's varsity boys basketball team won 20 games for the first time in decades and were conference co-champions for the regular season. The varsity girls team was also successful, posting a winning record for the first time in several years. Participation on the cheerleading squad increased, as school spirit and attendance at games went up. The varsity teams will benefit in the future from the skills and experience that players are currently developing in our middle school program, as these athletes look forward to advancing and contributing to varsity-level competition.

In the spring season, we had our baseball, softball, and track and field teams competing, and all distinguished themselves for their excellent accomplishments. The baseball team captured a second straight regular season championship after rejoining the TSCAC two years ago. Softball enjoyed their best season in a decade, reaching the league championship game. Both baseball and softball have a lot to be excited about for the upcoming season, as both return with a very strong nucleus of veteran players. The track and field program has exploded at King's, as last year over 70 boys and girls in middle and high school competed. TKCS track & field athletes participated in meets all over South Jersey alongside some of the top teams in the state. The season culminated in a TSCAC championship for our boys HS track team. Our MS/HS boys & girls also accumulated the most combined-score points at the annual TSCAC meet.

For the second year in a row, the grand finale of our athletics program was a banquet in June attended by over 200 people. The event celebrated our sports teams but, more importantly, God's grace, goodness, and faithfulness that were once again on display all year long in the various athletic events at TKCS.

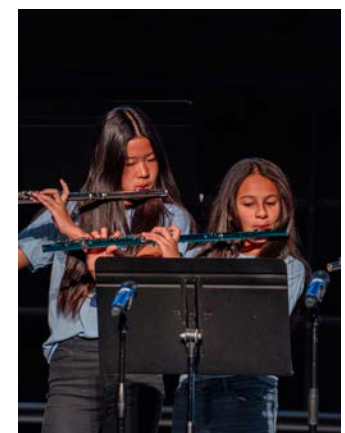
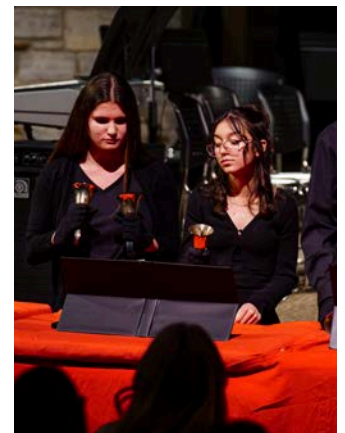


Fine and Performing Arts

Mrs. Jamie McHale
K-12 Vocal Music/Handbells

The King's Christian School is proud to offer a wide variety of music performance electives, including choir, band, handbells, and jazz band for all our 6th-12th grade students. We also offer a Music Theory course for students looking to build a better musical foundation and set them up for success in future music endeavors. For students in Preschool through 5th grade, we offer weekly general music classes which focus on developing their singing voices, music-reading skills, and instrument-playing. Woven throughout is the joy of doing these things unto the Lord, who is the Provider of such wonderful musical gifts. All K-12 music students perform in two concerts each year: the Christmas concert and the spring concert. We are blessed to have an ongoing partnership with Sovereign Grace Church and Fellowship Alliance Chapel, where we hold our concerts. These partnerships allow our growing student body to share their musical giftings to audiences of over 1,000 people.

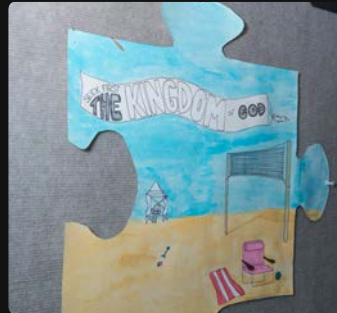
In addition to the concerts, many of our ensembles travel into the local area where they perform for community groups or compete in music festivals. Our middle school choir, band, handbells, and jazz band competed at the High Note Music Festival in May 2024 and received the top two ratings of "Excellent" and "Superior." Our high school handbells are highly requested in the nearby circuit of churches for senior luncheons and other events. This year, we performed for a group at Laurel Hill Bible Church in the spring and fellowshiped with the attendees over lunch. It was a special opportunity for the high school students to interact with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ who are nearly four times their age. We continue to expand in numbers and programming, but, most importantly, we continue to see God's blessing over our music department. What better way to proclaim the almighty power and unending love of Jesus than through our voices and with instruments!



Visual Arts



Our mission in the Visual Arts Department is to nurture the creative abilities of our students, providing them with the tools and opportunities to explore and develop their artistic skills in a Christ-centered environment. We believe that, through the arts, students can express their faith, reflect God's beauty, and engage with culture in meaningful ways.



The Visual Arts Department at The King's Christian School has always been a vibrant hub for creativity, expression, and exploration. This past year marked the beginning of a new chapter for us as we welcomed our new art teacher, Mrs. Camila Siegel, who has brought fresh inspiration and innovative ideas to our art program. Her enthusiasm for the arts and dedication to fostering students' individual creativity have already made a significant impact in our classrooms.



Reflecting on the legacy of our former art teacher, Mrs. Segner, we are reminded of the indelible mark she left on TKCS. Her passion, talent, and unwavering commitment to her students have enriched our school in countless ways. Through her guidance, she shaped and inspired generations of young artists, leaving a lasting influence that will continue to shape the Visual Arts Department for years to come. As Mrs. Segner enjoys her well-deserved retirement, we extend our deepest gratitude for her years of dedication and wish her a future filled with joy, relaxation, and exciting new adventures.



Theater

Mrs. Kirsten Sheetz
Theater Arts

Theater is a creative way to communicate the gospel of Christ in relatable ways. This past year, our King's Players produced the classic murder mystery *Rear Window* with great success. In 2023, our production of *Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat* was our first Broadway musical, and in 2022 we staged our first Shakespeare play, *Much Ado About Nothing*.

This year, we will be performing Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*, and we look forward to collaborating with our thriving music department to bring you another amazing experience. Our show dates are April 10-12, 2025.

We are a high school theater program comparable in quality and opportunities offered in public schools. Yet we are grounded in spiritual foundations and biblical truths. God has clearly been expanding our theater program since 2022.

This year we launched our new middle school theater classes taught by both Mrs. Nicole Zook and myself. With 40 students across both classes, it is clear our program into high school will be expanding as well. The middle school curriculum includes theater hierarchy, working as a team, improv acting, portraying emotions, and audition skills. Since we only have one production a year, we include our middle school students and offer them the opportunity to grow and audition for our productions. Many talented actors have sprung from our middle school students.



Our productions are entirely student-run. We have found that, when we give our students the opportunity to take ownership of their production, they greatly exceed our expectations in skill and performance. We also offer a high school theater elective. Students have the opportunity to take the course for four years and learn something different each year. The curriculum includes stage makeup, basic costume boards, concepts in staging, set design experience, prop building, and costume management. Leadership opportunities in stage management, costumes coordination, props management, hair/makeup coordination, and tech are also available.

We encourage all forms of participation in our school's production. The high school theater class as a whole has a vote on production decisions and actively participates in producing the show.

Our theater program is set up to enable students in both middle and high school who do not make the audition cut to still participate actively in the theater production either through a class or by joining one of our crew teams to still gain a full experience.



Why Do I Serve?

When Dr. Dill asked me to speak on Service at the September Dedication/Association Meeting, I hesitated. How could I graciously accept yet tell him how often this theme shifts from the statement “Why Do I Serve (**period**)” to “Why Do I Serve (**question mark**)”. I often think about this question after long board meetings and weighty discussions, but “Why do you serve?” is also asked by family and friends wondering why I spend so much time focused on my former elementary and high school.

I suspect many of you find yourself asking the same question. Parents, perhaps it's in the drop off line when you pull up to this renovated corporate office building and see its yet unrealized potential. Maybe it's while sitting down with your monthly budget and your family's financial sacrifice for tuition stares back in black and white. You might ask “why” as you sip coffee with friends after church, learning about the sports and extracurricular opportunities their children have at the local public school. Faculty and staff, perhaps you've asked the question standing at the copier or sitting quietly at your desk, praying you'll be led to serve elsewhere. And students who often appreciate the familiarity of a small school might also have days where they crave a little more anonymity or the chance to have a locker next to an unfamiliar face.

As a former student and teacher at King's, I can relate to these moments. But as the phrasing of the question evolved from “why am I here?” to “why do I serve?”, the answer became clear once I became a board member. It quickly narrowed into one specific statement: **I believe in the story of King's.**

A confession: I notice when The King's Christian School is spelled incorrectly on uniforms, emails or social media. Yes, I'm a former English teacher, but it's not just a grammar problem. The absence of that small wisp of an apostrophe completely changes the intent of the school's mission, these halls, your tuition, the teachers at the front of the classroom, and the name on your uniform. **K-i-n-g-'s** becomes **K-i-n-g-s**: a school serving the King becomes a school of kings and queens. His school becomes Their school.

I serve this school because I believe the story of The King's Christian School is the story of the King of Kings, and undoubtedly, being a King's student and teacher transformed my own story. This past summer, the board was reminded that our task is not to plan for our own children's tenure at King's but to look towards the education of our grandchildren. Isaiah 55:11 says: “So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.” How precious to think that for nearly 80 years, men and women have been praying for just this moment, for just these children, these teachers and just for you. Thank you for sending your children to King's, for serving as faculty and staff, and for praying for this school. Thank you for serving and believing in the story of The King's Christian School (**period**).

Allyson Donato, Class of '95
TKGS Board of Directors Secretary

DR. STEPHEN DILL

Head of School
sdill@tkcs.org

MR. CRAIG BEATTY

Middle/High School Principal
cbeatty@tkcs.org

MRS. JESSICA FLANAGAN

Preschool/Elementary Principal
jflanagan@tkcs.org

MR. CRAIG JACOBS

Middle School Director/Dean of Students
cjacobs@tkcs.org

MR. WALTER KUNZ

Director of Business & Facilities
wkunz@tkcs.org

MRS. MIMI MAGILL


Director of Advancement
mmagill@tkcs.org

MR. PAT HARVEY

Athletic Director
pharvey@tkcs.org



K I N G ' S
— CHRISTIAN —

 (856) 489-6720

 info@tkcs.org

 www.tkcs.org

SCAN HERE FOR
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OR TO GIVE TO TKCS



5 Carnegie Plaza
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003