

# 90 Years of Excellence

“Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire.” This quote from Saint Catherine of Siena speaks about the very mission of Blessed Trinity Catholic School. Each day we work to help students discover who God meant them to be and the gifts that they have been given, so that they can go out and share those gifts with others and in turn, set the world on fire. Our school provides a distinctly unique opportunity for students to grow and succeed not just academically and socially, but spiritually as well.

Blessed Trinity Catholic School opened in 1927, by the Sisters of Mercy from Louisville, Kentucky. In September 1933, Trinity Academy was re-staffed by the Sisters of Saint Benedict from San Antonio, FL. The school was located on Ft. King Street in Ocala and in February of 1961, a new facility was built here at 5 SE 17<sup>th</sup> Street. At that time the building was two stories, with nine classrooms on the bottom floor and the church on the top floor. Later, the Church moved to its own building and the upper floor became the Parish Hall.



In 1974, Mr. Jim Shaw became the first lay principal. He was principal here for eleven years and saw the school expand in 1976, when parts of the upper floor of the building were converted to a school library and Montessori classroom. In 1987, an additional first grade was added, and Blessed Trinity Angels in Arms Day Care and Pre-School was opened to serve children birth through 8<sup>th</sup> grade.



There was another expansion in 1989 under the direction of then principal, Fran Harwas and pastor, Father Pat Sheedy. The old Parish Hall space was converted into classrooms to accommodate the enrollment that was over 250 students at that time. As enrollment continued to increase in the early 1990's, a Middle School building was added. This was composed of eight classrooms, a science lab, fine arts room and multi-purpose gymnasium.

In 1993, Blessed Trinity Parish embarked on the Stewardship Way of Life. This was perhaps the greatest addition to the school, as it reached more than just physical buildings. By embracing the Stewardship Way of Life through the sharing of time, talent, and treasure by all parishioners, all families of the parish who are involved in Stewardship are

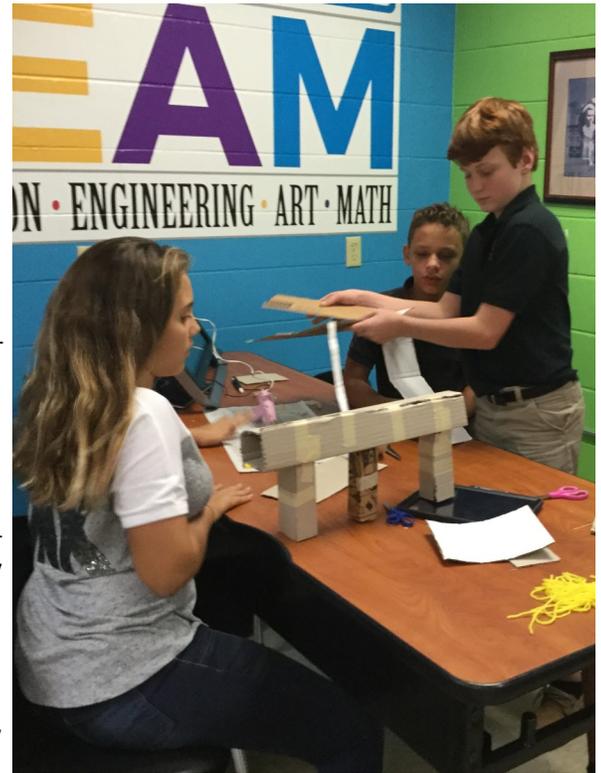
entitled to participate in the ministries of the church, including the school, at no cost. The Stewardship Way of Life is taught to our students embracing our total relationship with God. We celebrate Mass each week together and each week a different grade level leads us in worship. Students are shown that each one of us has unique and special gifts that have been given to us from God and it is our duty to give back to Him and share our talents with others. Students do this by singing in the choir, reading and leading prayers, serving as prayer partners, helping with the offertory, and even filling out their own offertory envelope each week, where they may offer up a picture to Jesus, a promise to be kind to their brother or sister, or anything else in their hearts.

Not only do students participate and learn





about the Stewardship Way of Life, but Blessed Trinity Catholic School offers the unique opportunity to nurture learning of the whole child: body, mind, and spirit. Our students experience rigorous academics, including the opportunity to leave Middle School with High School Algebra I Credit. They also participate in electives each day – including Spanish for Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, Music, Art, PE and recess each day for grades K-5.



In addition to all of this, we have a variety of sports and other activities for students to participate in including: Soccer, Flag Football, Volleyball, Basketball, Track, National Junior Honor Society, and Student Council. Blessed Trinity also boasts a state of the art STREAM Lab (Science, Technology, Religion, Arts, and Mathematics), where students complete hands-on activities with the latest scientific equipment. All students in grades 6 through 8, receive an iPad as part of their registration and all classrooms in grades K – 5 have student iPads to use as well. Recently, Blessed Trinity became a Leader In Me School, where students are taught The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People and every student is encouraged to take on a leadership role in some way on the campus.

Our students are nourished spiritually each day as well. This can be seen in prayer together throughout the day, but also in simple acts of love. The mission of Blessed Trinity Catholic School is: “To promote Christian leadership by living the Gospel message and embracing the stewardship way of life. We strive to build Catholic moral character and achieve academic excellence as we reach out to the community as Christ’s Disciples.” We strive to live this mission each day, through regular service at Brother’s Keeper and food drives throughout the year, visiting

Blessed Trinity Elder Care, and raising money for other causes throughout the year: Hurricane Relief and the Pro-Life Walk are just a few this year. As a school we talk about the amazing power of forgiveness and the grace of God, and we hope that each one of our students knows each day how much they are loved. It is this love – love of God, love for one another, love for our students and love for our community that has allowed Blessed Trinity Catholic School to be a leader in Catholic education for 90 years, and it is what will allow us to continue to grow and support students as they, “become who God meant them to become and set the world on fire.”

