

Putting Our Hearts into the Work

Dear Turlock Christian Families,

Some of you have walked with Turlock Christian through hard years. You've seen our struggles up close, and those experiences matter. We own that history and our responsibility to learn from it. We've come a long way in a year. We have a gifted Head of School, and together the Board has developed a Strategic Plan that Matt is now actively working through with his staff. We still have work to do. But the past is something we learn from, not a place we stay. Our students deserve to see what is possible here today, and what they can help shape next.

As parents and school leaders, our words and actions shape how students experience TC more than we may realize. Our children listen to how we talk about their school, and they carry that attitude into the classroom, onto the field, and into their friendships. When they hear hope, they look for reasons to get involved. When they mostly hear about what went wrong, they're less likely to try out, sign up, or show up, and they're the ones who miss out. We can address concerns honestly while still helping our children find reasons to participate, belong, and lead.

Friday night's gala showed us what that looks like. During the evening, someone asked me whether TC had hired an outside company to plan the event. I was ecstatic to tell them no: every bit of it came from parents who love TC and donated their time. They made the night special. They made it beautiful. They made it a picture of what they want to see happen at TC. You could feel the warmth of family, the joy of community, and the presence of the Lord as people gave generously and celebrated our students together. That is what I mean by school spirit. Thank you to every volunteer and donor who made that evening possible. I left grateful and hopeful.

Now let's bring that same spirit into an ordinary school day: into the classroom, onto the field, into chapel, and around the lunch table. It grows when a student cheers for a classmate, invites someone to sit with them, tries something new, or steps forward to lead. It grows when we, as adults, show up for one another in the same way. And to our older

students: your ideas, your enthusiasm, and your leadership have a place here. You can help create the school experience you want to have.

When Nehemiah led the rebuilding of Jerusalem's wall, families repaired the section right in front of their own homes (Nehemiah 3). By 4:6, the wall had reached half its height because the people put their hearts into the work. I love that the story pauses while the work is still unfinished. We, too, can give thanks for how far the Lord has brought us and put our hearts into what is in front of us, starting with the section closest to home.

Here's a simple place to start this week: ask your child about one good thing that happened at school. Come cheer at a game or performance. And when TC comes up at the dinner table, let your kids hear what you're hopeful about.

My hope is for a school guided by the Holy Spirit and alive with Eagle spirit, where students know they belong, take pride in their school, and encourage one another to contribute. That's Faith, Family, Future in practice. And the future we're building together isn't only TC's. It's our children's.

With Eagle spirit,

Johanna Fischer
Chairwoman
Turlock Christian School
