



June 26, 2020

Dear TBS Community,

The TBS Board of Directors congratulates our families, faculty, and staff for completing one of the most challenging educational years in the nation's history. We celebrate our students' achievements and admire their grit and tenacity to finish the year well.

We trust that those who participated in the year end parades felt acknowledged and appreciated. Our faculty missed every one of you during this prolonged time away.

And a special recognition to our graduating senior class of 2020! We look forward to your commencement ceremony on Saturday, August 8th.

This time of year can be bittersweet as we say our goodbyes with appreciation and well wishes, share the excitement of welcoming new staff members, acknowledge transitions, and celebrate promotions throughout our community.

Board of Directors

A heartfelt thank you goes to Eric Von Barnau Sythoff for his tenure on the Board of 4 years and his leadership as *Board Chair* for two of those years. As his term expires, he and his family have their hearts and hands ready to serve more fully in their mission in Malawi, [Passion Center for Children](#).

In July, current BOD Chair, Dwane Henning, will be rotating into the *Ex-Officio Chair* position. We are pleased to announce that current *Vice Chair*, Pastor Craig Kessel, will become the new Chair. The vacated *Vice Chair* role will be appointed soon.

Pastor Craig has also been serving as the *TBS Board Development Committee Chair*. He is pleased to welcome two new members to the TBS BOD:

- Carri Jo Timmer
- Courtney Mcdaniel

We are blessed to have them serving on the Board for the next three years, with the option for three additional years. Learn more on our [Board of Directors webpage](#). We also anticipate adding four additional board members throughout this year.

The *TBS Advisory Council* is increasing its pool of talent and resources with the addition of Carbon Argo as an IT Consultant. Mr. Argo has been instrumental in building up our technology infrastructure and advising our strategic direction.



Administrative Leadership Team

We are excited to announce that Alyssa Baker has graciously accepted the new role of *Dean of Education*. Mrs. Baker will be responsible for overseeing all K-12 educational programming, managing the faculty and developing curriculum.

Alyssa has done exceptional work leading the entire heroic team of teachers through the transition to modified instruction and remote learning during the Coronavirus. She has done so well in fact, that we plan on incorporating many of the online program features as we continue integrating technology into the classroom as part of the school's *IT Roadmap* initiatives.

Beth Wing's role as *Associate Dean of Students* will be broadened to include elementary discipline processes and protocols, along with female mentorship in the middle and high school.

With sadness and profound gratitude, we announce that Jim Barnes, *Dean of Students and Spiritual Life*, is being called to pursue the pastorate on a full-time basis. Mr. Barnes has done tremendous work in creating the MOTUS mentorship program, leading chapel and worship arts, and enhancing the campus culture with his role in activities and discipline. [Please see Jim's video goodbye here](#). We look forward to his participation in graduation as an opportunity to say thanks and wish him and his family well.

We are blessed as a community to announce that [Karel Norman](#) ('93) will be assuming the role as *Dean of Students and Spiritual Life*, ensuring continuity of this important role. As a distinguished alumnus, Karel is a dynamic TBS team member, serving both in the classroom and in athletics. He and his wife, Myra, TBS Girls' Volleyball Head Coach and teacher, along with their three Crusader children, give TBS a strong and steady campus leadership presence.

Assisting Karel in his role with chapel and worship, we are excited that Stephen Abeshima will take on an expanded role in worship arts and music.

After four years serving in various roles, and most recently on the Administrative Leadership Team as *Director of Administration*, Nora Gass, has taken a position in the ministry at Our Savior Lutheran Church. She will remain an active and engaged community member as a parent and Crusader Squad member.

Staffing Changes

We are pleased to introduce Christa Bergquist as the *Director of Finance and Business Operations*. Mrs. Bergquist will help lead a restructuring of the business office with additional finance, accounting, and human resource expertise.

Debi Hayes has been promoted to *Business Manager* and will be working in the business office along with assisting *Director of Advancement*, Sue Ellen Rush. Alisha Brotherton, *Student Services Manager*, has also been promoted, and her new role includes Campus Events and Catering.

And after 15 years of service to TBS, primarily in the role of admissions, *Director of Enrollment Services*, Danette Taylor ('83), will be pursuing some other long-awaited opportunities outside of TBS. Ms. Taylor has been instrumental in her contribution to enrollment, retention and international student admissions. Although she will be missed in her role, she plans to remain close to her friends and colleagues in the TBS community. We are actively seeking Danette's replacement.

Sue Ellen Rush, *Director of Advancement*, will be expanding her role to include managing the *Admissions Department* and increasing the scope of the [Parent Volunteer Network](#) to include the Booster Club in support of the *Athletic Department*.

Academic Department Structure

We are extremely encouraged to be introducing a new academic department structure as we head into the new school year and celebrate our 60th anniversary. In this manner, TBS will be tapping into its strength and expanding the leadership roles of several key faculty members as follows:

Elementary Division Leads

- Jill Downey
- Trisha Thornton

Middle School Division Lead

- Kelli Soyring

High School Department Chairs

- Matt Richey – Bible
- Beth Wing – Exercise Science (Physical Education, Health, Nutrition and Wellness)
- Tom Omli – Humanities (English, History, et al)
- Calice (Jennings) Black – Performing and Visual Arts
- Mike Sandefur – Math, Science and Technology

This team of faculty leaders, in collaboration together and with Alyssa Baker, has been working to create a revamped, seamless curriculum and revitalized academic programming for the 2020-21 school year. This, along with new hires, new textbooks and delivery methods will ensure TBS remains an exceptional educational value and maintain its standard of biblically based academic excellence in a Christ-centered, grace-filled and loving environment. To keep track of these personnel and structural changes, [a revised organizational chart is provided](#).

God continues to work in miraculous ways. Due to the Coronavirus challenges, TBS went virtual – in the classroom and even with our auction! The results have been astounding.

The reviews from our remote learning efforts have been exceptional. Our enrollment numbers are currently ahead of last year, and the auction was one of the most profitable ever! God is good and to be praised.

Pardon the Dust

As a result of your contributions to the auction and your continued financial faithfulness through the years, we have begun several facility enhancements including landscaping, interior painting, repaving the parking lots and laying new carpet throughout the elementary and high school buildings. Classrooms are getting new whiteboards and other classroom amenities. The Student Center upgrades include ping-pong and foosball tables along with new dining tables. In addition to the physical remodeling, we are renovating our library with new books, increased services and resources.

We are blessed to be in His service as we develop disciples of Jesus and leaders in the community to engage our culture for the Kingdom.

Sincerely, The TBS Board of Directors