

108th Annual Diocesan Council, February 16-18, 2012

Report from TMI made by TMI Chaplain, The Rev. Nathan Bostian

Audio text from the 2012 report:

Right Reverend Sir, Delegates of the Diocese of West Texas, I bring you a warm Howdy from TMI - The Episcopal School of Texas, from our interim headmaster Walter Spencer, and from our incoming headmaster Doctor John Cooper, who will be here in July. My name is Nate Bostian, and I have had the privilege of serving as chaplain at TMI for the last 2 years. As many of us know, TMI has been part of the Diocesan family since 1893. Over the last 118 years, TMI has touched countless lives here in West Texas. Now, being a relative newby to the wonders of West Texas, I want to ask you to do something to help me figure the place of TMI in our common life together.

If you attended TMI, please stand up.

OK, remain standing.

If you have served TMI on staff or on our board of trustees or board of governors, please stand.

If someone in your family has attended TMI- spouse, children, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews- please stand.

If someone in your parish family has attended TMI, please stand.

Wow. Thank you. You may be seated.

As it is clear by now, the common life and common hope of TMI and the Diocese of West Texas is inextricably bound together. And I want you to know that at TMI we are striving to be faithful to our mission of becoming an excellent educational community, that raises up servant leaders, for Texas and for the world, based on the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This last year we started with 433 students, a record-high enrollment. This includes 111 new students. About 10% of our student body lives on campus as part of our boarding community, and they come to San Antonio from places as diverse as Mexico, Panama, Korea, China, and even Dallas.

I make it my habit to constantly exhort our 433 students- even when some are sleeping during chapel- to live out Jesus' Great Commands to Love God with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength, so that they may truly love their neighbors as themselves. So our students can live into this mission, TMI intentionally forms our young men and women in heart, mind, soul, and strength, through our four pillars of spirituality, academics, military, and athletics. We practice our spirituality on a daily basis, as our entire campus stops for chapel, so that our community can be immersed in prayer, scripture, and Biblical teaching. Nearly 70 of our students are involved as lay readers and chapel servers, and each of our seniors will address TMI this year with a senior chapel talk.

Not only that, but our students logged over 7,500 volunteer service hours last year, at places such as: The Ronald McDonald House, the Alzheimer's Association, Community Assistance Ministries, Blood Donation drives, and several nursing homes. Spirituality is the center, the heart, the hub of TMI. From this hub radiates, like spokes in a wheel, our academics, our arts, our corps of cadets, and our athletics.

Our commitment to academic excellence can be demonstrated many ways this year:

We have Two National Merit Scholars and Five National Merit semifinalists;

Our upper schoolers have a pass rate of 83 percent on Advanced Placement Exams, compared with national rate of just 17 percent

One-fifth of Our Middle Schoolers qualified for Duke University's Gifted and Talented Program.

Not only are we pursuing excellence in the classroom, but also our Corps of Cadets is as strong in 2012 as it was in 1893.

This year the Corps welcomed 31 new cadets, and earned the Army's "Honor Unit with Distinction" designation after last spring's Formal Inspection

In addition, our Cadets competed for the first time in the nation's premier high-school computer defense competition, called "Cyber Patriot".

And just as you find excellence in chapel, in the classroom, in the art room, and on the rifle range, you also find excellence on the TMI athletic field. The TMI Panthers started this year with new athletic facilities, thanks to nearly 150 donors who

contributed to fund a new multi-purpose field, track, weight training gym, baseball lights, and renovated tennis courts. Several of our athletic teams, both our ladies and gentlemen, have had winning seasons this year, and have gone on to playoffs, including soccer and basketball. And TMI has done all of this with a balanced budget, finances in the black, and an endowment that has increased over 40 percent. And that, ladies and gentlemen, is TMI, your Upper School for this Diocese, and your partner in striving toward our hope in Christ, as we say together "Go! go! go!"

STATS

ADMISSION

- Started the year with 433 students, a record-high enrollment
- 111 new students
- Admission inquiries up 20 percent
- Campus visits up 103 percent

ACADEMICS

- 12 new courses in 2011-2012, several with intensive training in computer skills
- Two National Merit Scholars in 2011
- Five National Merit semifinalists in 2012
- One Outstanding Participant in the National Achievement Scholarship competition for African American students
- 2011 AP pass rate 83 percent, compared with national rate of 16.9 percent
- One-fifth of TMI Middle School students qualified for Duke University's Talent Identification Program

COLLEGE PLACEMENT

- Class of 2011 offered more than \$4.5 million in college scholarships

- Class of 2011 attend UT-Austin, A&M, Duke, University of Pennsylvania, Vassar College, West Point and many other fine schools
- Some members of the class of 2012 have received early-admission acceptances to colleges including The Citadel, Duke, NYU, Princeton, Rice and Trinity.
- An officer in the Corps of Cadets has received an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.
- New co-director of college placement will enable college counseling team to give even more personal attention to each student

FINANCES

- TMI had another balanced budget in 2010-11, as it has for the last seven years.
- TMI finished the past fiscal year (June 1, 2010-May 31, 2011) substantially in the black.
- Overall debt/liabilities were reduced by \$158,000.
- Overall endowment amounts increased by 40.9 percent.
- Thanks to a 67 percent increase in parent participation, the 2011 Annual Fund exceeded its \$400,000 goal last year with more than \$403,000 raised.

SPIRITUALITY

- This year, 65 students volunteered to serve in chapel. For each Eucharist, 20 students are involved in the liturgy, serving in a six-week rotation.
- 7,667 volunteer hours performed last year – many more than the 10 hours required for Upper School students
- New community-service projects introduced this year, benefiting Alzheimer's Association, Community Assistance Ministries and nursing homes

TECHNOLOGY

- WiFi access has been installed in the library, students can check out or bring own laptops
- Kindle Fire tablets have been introduced for classroom use, starting with a math class

ATHLETICS

- Panthers started the year with new athletic facilities, thanks to 135 donors who contributed \$671,665 toward the Campaign for TMI Athletics, which funded a new multi-purpose field, track, and baseball lights.
- Renovated tennis courts funded by TMI parent donors
- Refurbished gym funded by other TMI parent donors
- New, enlarged weight room with state-of-the art equipment funded by TMI parent donors

MILITARY

- Texas Military Institute Corps of Cadets earned the Army's highest Honor Unit with Distinction designation after last spring's Annual Formal Inspection
- Corps has 31 new cadets this year.
- The Corps has a retention rate of 95.4 percent, with all returning Upper School cadets back in the Corps.
- Cadets fielded their first team last fall in Cyber Patriot, the nation's premier high-school cyber defense competition.