

# TWINNING *at* TRINITY

*Celebrating God's Unique Gifts*

by Nathan Clendenin



**WHEN YOU THINK OF TWINS,** you might imagine two people with a lot of similarities. As “wombmates,” twins share a birthday and have had laboratory-level exactness in the nurturing they’ve received. Yet God, in his vast creativity, has made each and every person—including twins—with unique gifts, personalities, and abilities. Let us celebrate God’s creativity as we get to know the 11 sets of twins at Trinity. Yes, that’s correct, there are 22 students at Trinity that share a birthday with their sibling!

When asked about being a twin during a pandemic, most mentioned it was good to have someone at home who was experiencing the same things and could relate. Abby Love ('21) says, “While we are still cut off from the majority of our friends, it is unbelievably nice to still have someone to have fun with.” Caleb Engel ('21) says, “Having a twin in life has meant I’ve never been alone in trying new things.”

“People usually ask which one of us is the dominant twin. I wish they would ask what it is like being a twin instead,” remarks Zoe Love ('21). Elise Benware ('21) finds it encouraging when people ask her what it’s like to be a twin: “It seems they want to know more about us and aren’t just cracking a joke.” Some of the more annoying questions twins at Trinity get are “Who’s older?”, “Are you upset your twin is taller?”, and “Can you read each others’ minds?” There’s a natural tendency for most of us to compare and contrast twins, which many psychologists warn against. Many parents intentionally ask for their twins



to be assigned to different classes so that they can form their own sense of identity apart from each other.

Kathy Booker, parent of Blaise and Ezra in the fifth grade, shared, “Parenting twins just sped up the awareness of how little control we have in making any of our children fit a particular mold. Setting the stage so that their differences aren’t comparisons is an ongoing effort.”

***“Having a twin in life has meant I’ve never been alone in trying new things.”***

— CALEB ENGEL ('21)

Karen Burgin, parent of sixth graders Dalton and Kailyn, says of her boy/girl twins, “They are involved in different activities, have different personalities and different friends, yet they have a built-in buddy system and support each other emotionally and academically.” Leslie Davis, parent of Elise and Ethan Benware ('21), remarks that “teachers may compare them, but that has not happened at Trinity. Each child is loved for who they are.”

Rebecca Thomas, mother of the only identical twins at Trinity, says of her seventh grade boys Ethan and Reid, “They have a deep bond as brothers and friends. The fact that they are identical, and yet each so uniquely made by the Lord, is a marvel—and such fun! They are so delightfully alike, and marvelously unique!”



*“Being a twin is kind of like the yin-yang symbol: two very different people learning how to balance and support each other.”*

– ALYSSA MORGAN (on left) ('21)



*“We are especially grateful this school year for in-person learning with such careful protocols to allow the children to learn in the classroom. We are grateful for teachers and administrators who know and love each of our three kids!”*

– KAREN BURGIN, parent of Dalton and Kailyn ('27) and Ryland ('24).





REID AND ETHAN THOMAS ('26)



NICK AND BEN GRIBNAU ('23)



DANIELLE ('22) AND ALYSSA ('21) MORGAN



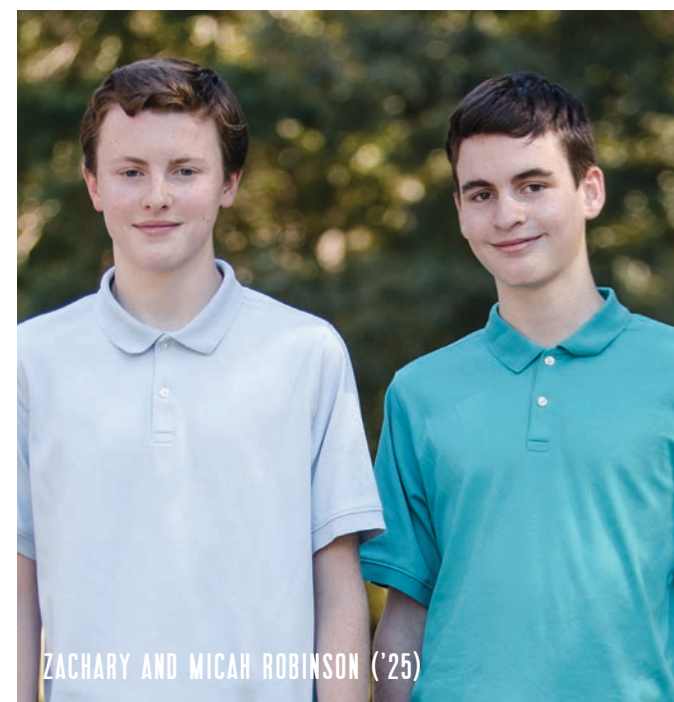
COLE AND GRIFFIN MATHESON ('25)

## FACULTY TWINS

Did you know that Trinity School has two faculty members who are identical twins? Upper School science teacher **Renato Laucas de Campos** (pictured below on the left) is twin with **Tito**. Middle School math teacher Nathan Scott has a twin named Daniel.



RYAN AND KELLY BARBOUR ('25)



ZACHARY AND MICAH ROBINSON ('25)



ELISE AND ETHAN BENWARE ('21)

The twins of Trinity and their parents could fill an entire book with notes of gratitude and compliments for their twins. Here are few of the highlights.

“Ethan’s best characteristic is his bubbly personality and the ability to laugh at anything. I am definitely the more serious twin. He can make any situation more upbeat and less dismal.”  
– ELISE BENWARE ('21)

“Elise’s best characteristic is her intelligence, because she is super smart and good with retaining lots of information at once.” – ETHAN BENWARE ('21)

“I think Abby’s best characteristic is her ability to make my sometimes confusing explanations more understandable to others.” – ZOE LOVE ('21)

“Zoe is so kind and understanding. I don’t think I have ever seen her be mean to anyone. She is extremely reliable and will help in any way she can.” – ABBY LOVE ('21)

“She’s really empathetic and good at picking up on emotions—some days I don’t even need to tell her what I’m

feeling, she just accommodates, which I really love about her.” – ALYSSA MORGAN ('21)

“Alyssa is naturally very extroverted, which contrasts with my more reserved nature. I’d have trouble expressing my needs, but Alyssa looks out for me. If I have trouble ordering food or asking a question in class, she finds a way to make it easier for me, even at her inconvenience. I’m really grateful for how much she cares about me.”  
– DANIELLE MORGAN ('22)