

Talsi Christian School's activity description.

Talsi Christian School (TCS) is located in the center of Talsi, on Grota street 1. The contact: 29256504 (headmistress Inguna Gruzina); email – [ingunatks@gmail.com](mailto:ingunatks@gmail.com); webpage: [www.talsichristianschool.com](http://www.talsichristianschool.com). TCS is a non-denominational private school, which was opened on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September in 1995. TCS started out as a primary school (grades 1-4) attended by 37 students. Every year TCS added a class and now it is a full high school that implements Latvia Republic's board of education licensed and accredited programs – elementary education program (code 21011111) and All-round high school education program (code 310111011). Studies at TCS are conducted in Latvian. 200 students attend TCS. For the 2009/10 school year TCS experienced a 25% increase in the student count which was the highest in the country. TCS considers each child to be unique and special, so the school work is gear towards each child's potential in line with God's given talents and the child's determination and motivation to improve and develop.

The success of our students in centralized and non-centralized exams on a national level speak towards the high quality of education received in TCS. Out of the 20 Talsi region schools in 2009/10 TCS students ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade Latvian language exams. The ABC levels received in the centralized high school exams were competitive: TCS results measured at 95.24% which was the highest percentage in comparison to all 11 Talsi, Dundaga's and Roja's high schools and high in comparison to the average percentage of Latvia which was 49.23%.

Teachers work individually with especially talented children. TCS students place in the scholastic Olympiads regionally and nationally. Students compete in contests and research work competitions: in a math competition "Tik vai Cik" TCS 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation; in the competition "Ko tu zini par Latviju?" organized by CREATIVUS TCS placed 5<sup>th</sup> out of 164 teams. TCS students actively participate in different projects and competitions throughout the year.

Teachers work individually with students who have problems understanding the material presented in class, they also communicate with the parents and spiritually encourage the child to believe in himself. In evaluating and grading the teachers take into consideration the students ability and the effort put forth in accordance to a child's aptitude. Student's efforts are noticed and adequately graded. TCS integrates handicap children into the environment of healthy kids. Students are taught to receive children with special needs among themselves, to treat them well, to respect them and to help those who are in a more difficult situation. TCS facilities are designed for people in wheelchairs. TCS kitchen staff also accommodates doctor's advised special nutrition diet for some children. The teachers and staff at TCS respect each child's special needs.

TCS has a busy out of class activity calendar – different events in which students talents and abilities are exposed. An emphasis is placed on Veteran's day, Independence Day and the Barricade Memorial Day – God has given us Latvia as a home and we are teaching the importance of that to the students. The out of activity calendar is in accordance to the church year calendar – Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter etc. Once a month TCS has a children's church service in one of the Talsi churches – TCS is a non-denominational school where Christianity is taught, no denomination's dogmas or

traditions are forced upon a child. TCS does not force anyone to believe but gives them an opportunity to learn about God. The choice – to believe and live in accordance with the faith is left to the individual. The children’s church services and morning devotionals are part of the school’s educational and upbringing process.

TCS has a student council which is actively involved in the Talsi, Dundagas and Rojas student council association’s /TAS.ES./ work. Students are participating in the “Red Cross” and “Jaunsargu” organizations. TCS choir has performed in the United States and in the 10<sup>th</sup> national Student Song festival in which it received the silver diploma. At the end of the school year the students that have maintained a grade of 7 or above are rewarded with a fully paid day at the waterpark. “TCS Pride” award is presented to a student at the end of the school year during a church service.

During the summers TCS students can serve in a Christian orphan camp. Those are organized together with American Christians. Our youth learn how to be leaders, to take on responsibility and recognize the blessing of growing up in a family. A new tradition at TCS is a Youth Camp for TCS students. During this camp students are educated through Christian lectures, they participate in church services and study the Bible. Since the teachers of this camp as well as some participants are Americans, it is a great opportunity to practice English. These camps for TCS students are free of cost.

If a student’ diploma does not contain grades lower than a 4, they are admitted to high school without entrance examinations. Students who have failing grades but want to study in high school are invited to interviews so the student can demonstrate their motivation and ability to be successful in high school. Uncensored words and cursing are considered an offensive violation of TCS rules. TCS students do not smoke, use drugs or alcohol – that cannot be united with TCS student’s stance.

The tuition is 10 lats per month. The school offers warm lunch meals which are prepared in the school kitchen. The school is equipped with the latest technology that provides for an excellent learning environment. TCS has a computer lab furnished with new computers, a chemistry lab, a new gym and exercise equipment.

The vision is to develop TCS into a diverse Christian education establishment, which implements the educational requirements while teaching the Biblical concept of: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Mathew 22:37-39).