



Dear Lower School Families,

There have been some exciting and positive changes in our lower school in recent months. As we begin the new school year, I would like to update you on some of these changes that have been put into place to ensure a strong academic year that truly prepares students for success at Cape Cod Academy.

This year, our third-grade teacher, Cheri Ervin, is also taking on the role of Lower School Coordinator for Professional Development and Curriculum Support, and Lauren Gonnella, second-grade teacher, is serving as the Coordinator for Assessments and Instructional Support. In their roles, Cheri and Lauren are able to assist me with supporting teachers, students, and their families to make sure that everyone's needs are being met.

Last year, the fourth-grade team pioneered a new method of teaching to better prepare our students for their transition to middle school where they change teachers for different content areas. Mr. Galligan taught math and humanities to both sections of fourth grade, and Mrs. Berbine taught reading and writing. This year, the fourth-grade faculty will continue to teach content in this manner, and the fifth grade will also follow this model, preparing the students for the increasing expectations that accompany the transition to middle school.

I am especially pleased with the team that is providing a broad range of experience to our students in the fifth grade this year. Mr. Winkler, who has a background in English, is teaching reading and writing to all of the fifth-grade students. Mrs. Brown is teaching math, and our fifth-graders have hit the ground running because of her experience with them last year. Mrs. Atwater's experience as a CCA fifth-grade teacher allows us to reestablish some of the hallmark activities, such as the pizza business and the implementation of leadership roles that fifth-graders typically undertake. Additionally, Mrs. Atwater's passion for humanities and history position her perfectly to teach this content area. Finally, Giovanna Diminico will be assisting Mrs. Atwater's class. Miss Diminico joined CCA as a teaching assistant last year and has proven to be a compassionate and reliable leader. She will close the day with 5A students and shepherd them through their activities on Fridays.

The lower school language curriculum has been expanded to include languages and cultures other than simply Spanish-speaking ones. The curriculum now offers students one that is focused on Spanish, French, Latin, and Chinese languages and culture. It is focused on basic language instruction that provides vocabulary and interpersonal exchanges, along with broad cultural concepts that encourage and guide students as they develop a global perspective and understanding of global citizenship.

Everyone is looking forward to an exciting and productive year with the lower school team and our students. We look forward to talking with you next week during Parents' Night.

Sincerely,

Lisa Kowaleski  
Associate Head of School