



2021 Departure Announcements

5-27-2021

Dear GCS Family,

This is our final announcement for those who will not be returning next year. We will be celebrating the faithful service of these employees and saying our farewells at a celebration lunch on the last day of this school year. We appreciate and are thankful that they have served our LORD here at Grace Christian School. We pray for their success in all future endeavors.

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Donald M. Larson", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Donald M. Larson, PhD
Head of School



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Jessie Uργο Hickin

Jessie did a wonderful job teaching English, Grammar, and Spanish, making it seem implausible that this was her first year of teaching. Being married in April, Jessie looks forward to having more time to develop her relationship with her husband, ministering to college-aged individuals, and pouring more time and energy into her writing.

Donna Kocka

Donna Kocka returned to GCS just when it seemed we would not be able to offer art in our HS. Then she graciously stayed on when we could not find another teacher for both classes. She is looking forward to continuing her other art pursuits as well as taking care of her family.

(Picture with her daughter, GCS alum, Esther Kocka)





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Kyle Byrd



Kyle brought his extensive Biblical knowledge and Christian Worldview to our Middle School as he taught our 8th Grade Boys Bible Class. He has a humorous way of making the Bible relevant to whatever issue our boys discussed. He will be missed but is embracing parenthood with his sweet wife, Abby Byrd (4th Grade Teacher), and taking on new responsibilities as a Youth Pastor at Sherlynd Baptist Church.

Anna Kirkpatrick

Anna is an exceptional Science Teacher who taught 8th Grade Earth Science last year for GCS and transitioned this year to become our Online Instructor. Her ability to navigate different technical platforms and teach a variety of students online was a tremendous asset to our school. Anna is taking time away from teaching to focus on her family. We certainly hope to get her back once her boys are old enough to attend Grace!





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Deborah Ballew

Mrs. Ballew came to our rescue this year by coming out of retirement to teach 7th Grade Grammar. An experienced English Teacher, Mrs. Ballew did not miss a beat in keeping our students on track in Grammar. While she is returning to her retired status, she has agreed to be a substitute teacher for us next year. We are grateful for her servant's heart!