



2022 Arrival Announcements

8-25-2022

Dear GCS Family,

It is time to welcome our new faculty and staff to Grace Christian School. Some are well-seasoned with a lot of educational experience and some are new to education. They are all excited about being here and looking forward to a great school year. Please make them feel welcome to the GCS family.

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

Elementary / Middle School-(*) indicates staff members whose roles have changed



Kimberly Kennedy - PS Teacher / Aide

We are thrilled to announce Mrs. Kimberly Kennedy is our new Preschool Teacher. She has experience working with this age group that will be utilized in seeing our youngest students receive the best possible introduction to formalized education. She is a retired Air Force Captain with a Masters in National Securities: What more does a preschool teacher need?! We are excited to have Kimberly, her husband Ernie, and daughter Lia be a part of our GCS family.



Amy Cromer - K Teacher

Mrs. Amy Cromer is no stranger to the teaching profession. She comes to GCS with 18 years of teaching experience, 12 of which were in a Kindergarten classroom. God's calling of her to be one of our Kindergarten teachers is clear. Amy received her degree in education from VA Tech. Amy, her husband John, and their nephew Ben (a HS senior) reside in Churchville and are joining our GCS family. We couldn't be more thankful for it!



Wendy Weston - K Teacher

Mrs. Wendy Weston is used to an adventurous life, being married to a career Air Force soldier. She and her family have recently moved from Australia to Staunton, and we are grateful to have her teaching Kindergarten for us. Wendy graduated with a degree in Elementary Education and also has extensive experience in teaching. Wendy is a wonderful addition to our team!



Abigail Brown - 1st Grade Teacher

Abigail Brown is a graduate of Bridgewater College who will be utilizing her degree in Education to serve our 1st grade students. She brings a strong spiritual foundation, creative ideas, and positive energy into the classroom as she puts her degree into action at GCS. Abigail is a native of Virginia. We are thankful to have her be a part of our team and look forward to seeing the many ways God will use her here.



****Lynn Vogan - 1st Grade Teacher***

Mrs. Lynn Vogan is no stranger to GCS or to the 1st grade classroom. Having been an aide for many years, Lynn has stepped up to fill a critical role as one of our 1st grade teachers. She has a degree in Music from Bridgewater College and plays the piano proficiently. We are excited to see Lynn use her many gifts and talents in teaching 1st grade. Lynn and her husband Jeremy have four children and have been an essential part of our GCS family for years. We are thankful and excited to have Lynn teaching for us this year!



Carol Weatherman - Librarian

Mrs. Carol Weatherman is another wonderful example of an answered prayer. Carol has taken over the position of Librarian for GCS and we couldn't be happier about it. Carol brings to the position a degree in Accounting and a passion for books. Carol and her husband, Charles, have four sons. Their youngest, William, is a 9th grader at GCS this year.



Charissa Wines - MS Choir

Mrs. Charissa Wines is bringing her musical talent and gifts to bless our MS Choir. Charissa and her husband, Tyler, have two children and serve at the Bridge Church in their music ministry. Their oldest will be in Pre-Kindergarten this year. We are thrilled to have Charissa and her passion to minister to youth through music! Our students will be blessed by her abilities and her love for the Lord.

Patricia Martin- Computer & Girls P.E. - MS

Mrs. Martin is the newest addition to our GCS family, and we couldn't be happier. She comes to us with extensive experience in the technical field and will be leading our students as they also learn to navigate the digital world. Mrs. Martin and her husband Tracy will have a student, Jimmy, enrolled in 7th grade at Grace as well.

****Rebecca Mallory - Aide - PS***

Mrs. Rebecca Mallory has been a long-time parent and staff member at GCS who is now stepping into the role of Preschool Aide. We are blessed to have her working with our youngest population. Rebecca brings years of teaching experience and strong biblical knowledge into this position. Rebecca and her husband Mike have four sons who are graduates of GCS. Mike is also a long-time coach at GCS.

Adrienne Walker - Art Teacher - ES

Mrs. Walker, a GCS parent with an art background, has responded to our call as an Art instructor in the lower ES. She brings a joy for life and a joy for learning as she teaches our youngest students. Mrs. Walker and her husband Kristopher have three children at GCS. We are grateful for her and excited for her students!

****Debbie Ballew - Grammar Teacher - MS***

Mrs. Ballew is a familiar face at GCS. She is an experienced Language Arts teacher who was willing to come out of retirement, for the second time, to serve our 8th grade students. Mrs. Ballew has three grown daughters. We are exceedingly grateful to have her helping us again this year.

Greg Washburn - 8th Grade Boys Bible - MS

Mr. Washburn is our new 8th Grade Boys Bible teacher. He comes to Grace with a Masters in Social Work and in-depth knowledge of the Bible. Mr. Washburn and his wife April have two grown sons. His passion for the Lord and God's Word is contagious and will be a tremendous blessing to our next generation of leaders. We are thankful Mr. Washburn has taken on this high calling.

Crystal Bochette - Aide - PK

Mrs. Crystal Bochette, another gifted GCS parent, will be the aide in Pre-Kindergarten this year. Crystal and her husband Joey have three children and have been at GCS for six years. Joey is a mechanic who has kept our busses running for years. The Bochette family has served GCS faithfully in whatever capacity we needed. So when we approached Crystal to help us, she did not hesitate to say "yes"! We are grateful to have Crystal and her servant heart working alongside Mrs. Bailey in the Pre-K classroom.

Sarah Miller - Aide - K

Mrs. Sarah Miller is making the transition from homeschooling parent to GCS staff, and we are very happy about it! Sarah is the Kindergarten Aide this year. She has an Associates degree in Psychology and consistently exceeds expectations in any task given her. Sarah and her husband Clay have two children, Lilah and Wade, who are attending the ES this year.

Sharon Honeycutt - Aide - ES

Mrs. Honeycutt is an experienced homeschooling parent who, after graduating her own two children, has decided to bring her educational expertise to GCS. We are so pleased to have such an experienced educator working as an aide in 1st Grade. Mrs. Honeycutt has her degree in Education and will, no doubt, be able to serve at GCS in many capacities as the Lord leads. For now, we are thankful she decided to step back into the workforce with us. Mrs. Honeycutt and her husband Andy have served in the music ministry for years.

High School -(*) indicates staff members whose roles have changed

Kiperly Coley - Math

Kiperly has recently moved to the Valley from North Carolina along with her husband who has accepted the Worship Pastor position at Crossroads Baptist Church. After finalizing all of the transition, including moving her folks to the area, she will be in the classroom teaching on Monday, September 12. Kiperly comes to us with decades of experience in teaching math and other subjects and will be part-time teaching mostly freshmen and sophomore math.



Sam Riddle - Math/Science

Sam is joining our faculty even as he is finishing his Master Degree in Engineering. The older brother to Joe & Isaiah Riddle, he is looking forward to applying his teaching skills first begun as a TA in college. His education and expertise will be valuable assets in the classroom as he teaches Geometry, Algebra II, Physical Science, and Chemistry.

Jody Smith - Precalculus, Calculus

Jody is returning as a HS faculty member on a part-time basis and is teaching Pre-Calculus and Calculus. We are thrilled that God has enabled her to return, as her experience and expertise in teaching upper math will serve our students well.



Desi Harley - Bible, Logic, Advancement Event Coordinator

While most of her day will be spent serving as Event Coordinator for GCS, Desi will also be teaching our freshmen girls Bible, and all freshmen Logic. Her decades of teaching experience and working for nonprofits that focus upon youth will make her a welcome addition to our faculty.

****Susan Black - Health, Challenge Program, Receptionist***

Susan will continue to serve as one of our two receptionists but is adding hours to continue teaching freshmen Health, supervise many of our study halls, and assist the Challenge Program.



****Robert Placer - Latin, German, Personal Finance***

Robert came to us at the midpoint of the last school year to fill an unexpected vacancy, and we came to realize that his education and experience with language would make him a valuable member of our faculty. He will continue to teach Latin I, Latin II, and Conversational German, and he is our Personal Finance teacher this school year as well.

Administration

Beth Lum - Data Manager

Beth grew up in Jamestown, NY, and lived near Syracuse after graduating from SUNY Oswego with a degree in Mathematics. Beth has 50+ years experience in Information Systems, beginning as a computer programmer and retiring from consulting as a project manager who installed and upgraded health care and insurance systems, all while raising two sons, volunteering as PTA president and school board and library board member, teaching Sunday school, and coaching soccer. She and her husband Donald, a retired critical care nurse, moved to Fishersville to be near their son Jeffrey, his wife Kelly, and grandsons Sam (11th), Caleb (6th), and Jon (4th), who attend GCS, and Nate. She enjoys gardening, volunteering and reading. We are excited to have her experience here!



Mary Hendricks - Admissions and Head of School Admin Assistant

Mary moved to the Valley this summer to marry Jason Hendricks. She brings a valuable international Christian experience with her. While attending a small Christian college in NC, she worked with CRU (Campus Crusade for Christ), and after she graduated, Mary went to the mission field in South Africa. She returned to the U.S. to earn her Masters in Biblical Counseling from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and returned to the mission field for five years in Israel and London before joining the GCS family earlier this year. We are excited to welcome her as our Admissions Director and as the Head of School's Administrative Assistant.