



June 5, 2023

Dear GSL Families,

We hope your summer is off to a great start! SummerFest 2023 opened today – we have lots of great activities your children will love this summer! You can [click here](#) to see our offerings and register. We've also compiled some important information for you regarding the coming school year; please take a few moments to read carefully below.

TEXTBOOKS

Purchase Lists

MBS Direct is our online school textbook vendor where families of students entering SK-8th grade can purchase textbooks. To view and purchase the textbooks needed for your child's grade, [click here to visit the MBS online textbook store](#). You can begin the order process now, and best of all **MBS is offering GSL free shipping this week, June 5-11, for orders of \$99 or more!**

Buyback Lists

MBS also offers a textbook buyback program. [Click here](#) to access the buyback section of the MBS site.

Note: We are accepting four used textbooks donations in Middle School this year:

- 8th grade Structure & Methods Algebra
- 8th grade History book
- 6th grade Math book
- 5th-8th grade Warriner's Handbook (English grammar hardback)

These can be dropped off outside Mrs. Hendry's office or in the Admin Office. Thank you! We are not accepting any other used textbook donations.

IMPORTANT DATES

Please [click here](#) to access the 2023-24 Important Dates for the coming school year.

IMMUNIZATION FORMS for Rising SK & 7th

Parents of rising SK and 7th grade students must have up-to-date immunization forms on file for their children to attend school. Be sure to check your email for a message from Angela Merideth after June 8 regarding this requirement. Updated forms are due back to the school office by Monday, August 7.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

GSL provides school supplies to students. No action is needed by parents.

STAFFING NEWS

At our Final Celebration, Honors Chapel, and Faculty Out-service events in May, we recognized faculty and staff who were retiring or tackling new challenges after this school year. We appreciate their service at GSL! They are listed again below, along with other teaching changes and new faculty hires to date that we are pleased to announce for 2023-24 at GSL. Go, Saints!

Farewell and Best Wishes

- **Marilyn Kidd**, GSL Bookkeeper since 1979, retired after 44 years at GSL. Former Senior

- Kindergarten Assistant Teacher **Cindy Sorrells** has been training in this role for the past two years and assumes Marilyn's responsibilities, effective immediately.
- Fourth Grade Teacher **Jane Williams** has retired after 23 years at GSL.
- Associate Director of Development **Sherry Emerson** retired after 19 years at GSL. **Mackay Lee** succeeds her as Advancement Specialist, effective immediately.
- First Grade Teacher **Shannon Benitone**, a member of the team since 2013, leaves GSL to accept a part-time teaching opportunity.
- Senior Kindergarten Teacher **Kirsten Horton**, a member of the team since 2016, leaves GSL to move with her family this summer to Raleigh, North Carolina.
- Senior Kindergarten Assistant Teacher **Kat Vinton**, appointed in 2022, leaves GSL to coach middle school volleyball at Lakeland Prep and work remotely for the University of Maryland's global campus.
- Little Lukers Teacher **Marlene Soto**, appointed in 2022, leaves GSL to complete an internship required for her master's degree.

Teaching Changes

- Little Lukers Assistant Teacher **Reece Chadwick** will move from substitute teaching to become a full-time Little Lukers Assistant Teacher.
- Little Lukers Assistant Teacher **Amanda Coile** will become a Little Luker Lead Teacher.
- Pre-Kindergarten Teacher **Piper Martin** will move to Lower School as a Senior Kindergarten Assistant Teacher.
- Senior Kindergarten Assistant Teacher **Abby Hensley** will become a First Grade Teacher.
- Senior Kindergarten Lead Teacher **Abigail Wright** will move to First Grade.
- Lyn Forsyth** will go from full-time to part-time, teaching Sixth Grade math.
- Juan Roncal** will teach both Sixth and Seventh Grade English.
- Morgan Slatery** will go from full-time to part-time and continue teaching Middle School science, with former GSL Math Teacher **Frances Williams** covering Morgan's maternity leave during the first three weeks of school.
- Lily Thompson** will teach both Sixth and Seventh Grade history.

Welcome (and Welcome Back!) to GSL

Former Junior & Senior Kindergarten Lead Teacher **Kelsey Beagle** returns to GSL as a Pre-Kindergarten Lead Teacher. Kelsey taught at GSL from 2011 to 2022 and continued to fill in as a regular and long-term substitute teacher when needed this past school year. She earned her B.S.Ed from the University of Memphis.

Jennifer Futrell joins GSL as a Learning Specialist for Lower and Middle School. Jennifer comes to us from Christ Methodist Day School, where she served as the learning specialist and as a 5th grade ELA teacher since 2019. She also taught at Hutchison and at Harding University Memphis. She earned her bachelor's degree in Education and master's degree in Reading at Harding University.

GSL alumna **Suzanne McGehee** (Class of 2011) joins the Preschool as a Little Lukers Assistant Teacher. She has most recently worked remotely as a business development representative at Ceros and for Spiro.AI. Prior to that, she worked as an early childhood English teacher and after school tutor for Carousel of Languages (in New York and China) and as a teaching assistant during her time at Eugene Lang College. She graduated from The New School, Eugene Lang College with a B.A. in Literary Studies.

Reem Rassoul joins the Lower School as a Senior Kindergarten Lead Teacher. She has worked as an early childhood assistant and after school teacher at Hutchison since 2021, and also has experience as an elementary school tutor. She earned her B.A. in Anthropology/Sociology and English Literature at Rhodes College, and her M.A. in Sociology at American University of Beirut.

Michika Stigger joins GSL as a Pre-Kindergarten Assistant Teacher. She has classroom experience as a teacher with KinderCare Learning Group, as an educational assistant at Belle Forest Elementary School, and as a teacher's aide at Memphis School of Excellence, and comes to us from Memphis Scholars where she has been an instructional aide. She earned her Associate of Applied Science degree in Early Childhood Education at Southwest Tennessee Community College.

Chunda Summerall joins GSL as a Little Lukers Assistant Teacher. She worked as a teacher and caregiver for the past 15 years at Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal Church's Parents' Day Out program and then at St. John's Episcopal Church, and has most recently served as a private caregiver for a family.

SUMMER WORK

Summer assignments for Preschool, Lower School, and Middle School will be emailed to families later this week.

As a final reminder, the Administrative Office's summer hours are 8 a.m. - 12 p.m., Monday-Friday. The office will be closed the week of July 4th.

We will continue to share updates throughout the summer, with information to come later on Piccadilly lunch registration, more details about our new Blackbaud system, and next year's class lists. So please be sure and check your email periodically, and happy summer!

Sincerely,

GSL Administration
