



The FALCON

ARBORBROOK CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Spring 2024

A ROOTS Perspective: Why We Do What We Do

Teaching Students the Love of Reading

At Arborbrook we teach students to read, write, speak and think. But wait, you ask, "Shouldn't those objectives be fundamental for all schools?"

Apparently, according to the results from the most recent National Report Card, they aren't. Especially as it concerns literacy, our nation is failing miserably.

The results from the 2022 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) show that two-thirds of 4th and 8th graders are unable to read proficiently. "The average reading score for 4th graders is the lowest it has been in over 20 years. For 8th and 12th graders, average scores are near a 30-year low. These numbers should concern us all," Louisiana Senator, Bill Cassidy said.¹



Ciel Quaranta, 6th grade, engages during reading time, raising her hand to ask a question that sparks further discussion

"We are now at risk of having an entire generation of children—who were in their prime learning years during the pandemic—fail to become productive adults if reading proficiency does not improve," said Senator Cassidy.²

Reading is the foundation of all other learning. According to an article from the Child Mind Institute, "Reading is the most important skill children need to

gain in the first few years of school. But how it's taught can have a big impact on how well they succeed.... The best way to teach reading is called systematic phonics-based instruction. It's based on decades of brain science."³



Mrs. Mumpower brings stories to life through a read aloud, captivating students in one of Arborbrook's outdoor classrooms

Arborbrook uses daily phonics instruction as a foundation for both reading and spelling skills, starting in kindergarten and continuing into third grade. By attending our school, children have a much stronger basis for learning to read, than if they attended a school that does not teach phonics.

What children read is also important. Arborbrook is committed to engage students in reading by using "living books" – that is, books that are well-written, have excellent character development and introduce children to big ideas. If you haven't taken a look at our curriculum, we invite you to do so. Go to the Academics tab on our website www.arborbrook.org and take a look at the literature listed in the curriculum guide for each grade level. You will be impressed! This is one of the reasons we say, "At Arborbrook children love to learn!" Book lists like these are not the norm at many schools. Students

find reading is a delight at Arborbrook.

Proficiency in reading is just one of many academic skills that Arborbrook instills, and we have results to prove it. Even after the COVID-19 lockdown, in the Fall of 2021, Arborbrook students scored an average of 603 on the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (ERW) section of the SAT, which is significantly higher than the national average of 541 on the ERW that year. Our graduates often tell us that they were well-prepared for college.

66 A CHILD WHO READS WILL BE AN ADULT WHO THINKS

Sasha Salmina, children's book illustrator

By investing in an Arborbrook education, you are helping students be prepared for life! Your investment in our ROOTS Campaign will allow the school to impact more young people – like your child or grandchild – to learn the love of reading. We take seriously the fact that we are preparing the next generation of thinkers who will become leaders. Please consider giving generously to help us create space for our students to thrive! Go to www.arborbrook.org/roots and make a contribution for the sake of literacy.

ROOTS

¹ <https://www.educationnext.org/one-senators-plan-to-improve-student-literacy-reading-proficiency-senator-bill-cassidy/>

² Ibid.

³ <https://childmind.org/article/whats-the-best-way-to-teach-kids-to-read/>

Student Life

Global Connections: Monarch Migration and International Pen Pals

Every year, Arborbrook's third graders participate in Journey North's Symbolic Migration program, learning about the incredible journey of monarch butterflies as they migrate to and from Michoacán, Mexico. In the fall, students create and mail life-sized paper butterflies to children in Mexico who live near the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve, mirroring the real monarchs' southward journey. During the winter, the Mexican students host our paper butterflies, caring for them as the real monarchs overwinter. When the monarchs' departure from Mexico is announced in March, the paper butterflies return to Arborbrook carrying special messages from their Mexican hosts.

Arborbrook's fifth graders are also making international connections through their collaboration with the 5th-grade English class at Käthe Kollwitz Gymnasium (KKG) in Zwickau, Germany. The students exchange letters, emails, and video messages, discussing their lives, schools, and the nature on their respective campuses and within their communities. Through this collaboration, Arborbrook students learn a few German words and phrases, while KKG students practice their English skills. Both classes are eager to share how they cultivate and harvest produce in their school gardens, fostering a unique cross-cultural experience.

Missions in Review: Guatemala

Arborbrook's Guatemala 2024 mission trip was a profound experience for 20 high school students and 8 adult chaperones, allowing them to serve others in the name of Jesus. The team visited Mimi's House, an orphanage partnering with Catalyst Resources International, where they spent time feeding, washing, and caring for infants and toddlers. At the CRI center, they worked to measure, bag, and pack meals for over 2,000 people. In Santa María de Jesús, a village near Antigua, the team built two wooden-frame houses for families in need, sharing God's love through work, prayer, and fellowship. Inspired by Isaiah 52:7, they embodied the spirit of those who bring good news and proclaim peace. Arborbrook is grateful to those who supported this mission with their prayers and donations, making this journey of service possible.

Scan this QR code with your phone's camera to watch a short video clip of team members sharing about the Guatemala Trip.



Celebrating Excellence: Arborbrook's Class of 2024

Arborbrook takes great pride in acknowledging the academic achievements of the Class of 2024. These students have demonstrated exceptional dedication and perseverance in earning these honors. It's evident that their hard work, resilience, willingness to seek assistance, and willingness to push their limits have played pivotal roles in their success. Arborbrook celebrates not only their accomplishments but also their commendable work ethic.

Many seniors have attained an honors distinction and were presented with cords on March 21, 2024, to be worn during the upcoming graduation ceremony. The criteria for honors distinction are based on students' cumulative GPA, requiring a minimum of 3.5 to graduate with Honors, 3.8 for High Honors, and 4.0 for Highest Honors.

The students achieving Highest Honors are Emma Alderman, Liam Boyd, Charlotte Depp, Trevor Hinson, Kinsley Lacina, Emma Moore, Ava Paez, Nathan Rushing, and Abigail Timberlake. Michayla Shepard is graduating with High Honors, while Colin Gill and Weston McIntosh are graduating with Honors.

In addition, Arborbrook is pleased to announce the Class of 2024 Valedictorian and Salutatorian. Eligibility for these titles necessitates a minimum of two years attendance at Arborbrook in high school. The Valedictorian, Abigail Timberlake, achieving the highest cumulative GPA, will deliver a speech at the graduation ceremony. Charlotte Depp, the Salutatorian with the second-highest cumulative GPA, will have the honor of selecting and reciting scripture. Being named Valedictorian or Salutatorian is a testament to their enduring commitment and perseverance throughout their high school journey, a fact of which Arborbrook is immensely proud.

Lastly, Arborbrook would like to express appreciation for the entire Class of 2024. These outstanding young individuals have been a delight to teach over the past four years. They embody the values of Arborbrook and will be sincerely missed as they embark on new endeavors.



Valedictorian, Abigail Timberlake



Salutatorian, Charlotte Depp

Athletics

Building a Legacy: Arborbrook's Basketball Season Triumphs from Court to Championship

This winter, Arborbrook Christian Academy's basketball season achieved remarkable success, with promising prospects for both the present and the future. The basketball program catered to students from as young as first grade, nurturing their passion for the sport from the start.

For the youngest athletes, the first and second graders took part in weekly clinics, learning and developing basic skills of the game. The third through sixth graders devoted themselves to regular practices during the week in preparation for league competitions on Saturdays.

Third and fourth graders, led by Coaches Jen Stretch and Justin Ennis, formed two teams, and competed in an in-house league with Legacy Sports.

Under Coach Dave Rackley, The fifth and sixth grade boys demonstrated skill and teamwork and their hard work paid off with a trip to the championship game in the local YMCA league.



Cairo Tineo, junior, showcases his exceptional ball-handling skills on the court

In similar fashion, middle school boys reaped the rewards for their hard work before and during the season, securing second place in their conference and reaching the semi-finals in the conference tournament.

Tim Bryant, the JV boys coach, completed his third season, leaving a significant mark and establishing a solid foundation for the future.

Additionally, under the leadership of first-year cheerleading coach, Jamie Murray, sixteen energetic young ladies rallied the crowds with their spirited performances at every home game.

Arborbrook's commitment to athletic excellence and sportsmanship is clearly evident, owing to the dedication of its students, coaches, and supporters. The school continues to uphold its reputation for fostering a positive sports culture, where athletes can thrive and build lasting memories.



Tyson Hall, freshman, tees off with precision during the spring golf season



Kinsley Lacina, senior, skillfully maneuvers the soccer ball downfield, outpacing her opponent

On the Rise: Arborbrook's Soccer and Golf Teams Forge Paths to Victory and Integrity

This spring, first year girls Varsity Soccer coach Lesslie Durst is paving the way for what she hopes will be a legacy of success in years to come. With 3 Seniors helping lead the way, the Lady Falcons have already notched 6 wins, are guaranteed a season above .500 and are on track for an undefeated run in the SPAA conference, which will soon be Arborbrook's conference home for high school athletics within the NCISAA.

First-year golf coach, Michael Aalmo, is setting a high standard for ACA golf, steering the middle school and high school boys toward growth on the golf course through dedicated range and course time.

As Arborbrook transitions from provisional status to full membership in the NCISAA, ACA is poised to make a notable impact in postseason play, thanks to the solid foundation built by dedicated coaches like Durst and Aalmo. Beyond the team's successes on the field and course, each coach has been key in fostering a culture of commitment and respect among the athletes. Their leadership not only reflects well on Arborbrook but also represents Christ, setting a standard worthy of the calling that guides the school's mission.

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Arborbrook Students Dazzle in "Million Dollar Meatballs" Production

When two bumbling jewel thieves, on the run from the cops, hid out in the kitchen of a failing restaurant, their problems were just beginning! The chef had just quit, and the city's most powerful restaurant critic was about to arrive. The desperate restaurant owner, mistaking the thieves for famous French chefs, insisted that they prepare their renowned million dollar meatballs for the tough critic.

Hilarity unfolded as the duo tried to keep up the act while frantically searching for the seven priceless diamonds they had lost. "Million Dollar Meatballs" provided a fun evening for families, full of memorable moments!



**Congratulations
to the Cast and
Crew!**



Back row, left to right: Andrew McPhaul, Lila Jones, Taylor Knight, Weston McIntosh, Emma Moore, Emma Alderman, Trevor Hinson, Front row, left to right: Riley Stuart, Michayla Shepard, Kinsley Lacina, Abigail Timberlake

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 2**
Field Day
- May 3**
Prom
- May 6**
Athletics Banquet
- May 7**
Faculty & Staff Appreciation Day
- May 9**
Spring Program & Art Show
- May 13-16**
Finals for High School
- May 17**
Baccalaureate
- May 18**
GRADUATION!
- May 20**
End of Year Ceremonies (7-12)
- May 21**
End of Year Ceremonies (K-6), Last Day of School (K-11)