



May 24, 2022

Dear GSL Families,

The 2021-22 school year will soon come to an end! While all faculty transitions are not yet finalized for the coming school year, here are some of the staffing changes we can go ahead and share with you.

### Teaching Transitions

- Former Preschool Teacher **Deborah Lowe** is expected to return from medical leave as a Pre-Kindergarten Assistant Teacher.
- SK Assistant Teacher **Piper Martin** will move to Preschool as a Pre-Kindergarten Lead Teacher.
- Third Grade Teacher **Abigail Wright** will become a Lead Teacher in Senior Kindergarten.
- ACE Office Assistant **Amanda Hamilton** will become an Assistant Teacher working with Abigail Wright in Senior Kindergarten.
- Pre-Kindergarten Teacher **Christine Anes** will move to Senior Kindergarten as an Assistant Teacher with Kirsten Horton.
- Lower School Art Teacher **Carol Buchman** will transition from full-time to part-time; see new part-time co-teacher information below.
- Lower School Music Teacher **Braden Jensen** will begin teaching music to 5th and 6th grade students as part of their Arts Block rotation, in addition to his Lower School classes. We are delighted to have him extend the Orff Music program he's brought to Lower School to these older students.
- Middle School Substitute Teacher **Kevin Searle** will become ACE Associate Director for Lower & Middle School.
- Middle School Math Teacher **Ellyse Woolard** will go from part-time to full-time to extend her teaching responsibilities and serve as our Yearbook Advisor.

### Welcome to GSL!

**Jordan Carver** joins us in a part-time role to teach Preschool Fun & Fitness. She has worked most recently as a personal trainer and yoga teacher and has specialized training as an exercise physiologist. Jordan received her B.S. and M.S. degrees in kinesiology from Louisiana Tech University.

**Anna Chahal** joins the staff as a new part-time Art Teacher for Lower School. An art, non-profit, and teaching professional, she has worked most recently for Mid-South Sober Living and Southern Growth Studio. She received her B.F.A. from the University of New Mexico and completed a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Denver. Anna is also a GSL alumna (Class of 2000) and parent of Ayla '31 and Gene '33.

Former GSL Saint **Jessica Muller**, who taught here in Lower School from 2013-2016, rejoins our staff as a First Grade Teacher. She has B.F.A. and M.A.T. degrees from the University of Memphis and has specialized training from the Reader's/Writer's Workshop at Columbia University and Design Thinking at the Henry Ford Learning Institute. Jessica has most recently worked at Presbyterian Day School. We'll be welcoming her to GSL along with her children, Nate (SK) and Evie and Dex (Little Lukers).

**Katie Searle** will join us as a Fourth Grade Teacher. Katie has a bachelor's degree in English from Covenant College and a master's degree in Urban Education from Union University. She has worked at Kingsbury Middle School as an English Language Arts teacher and has also served as a mentor for the

Memphis Teacher Residency program. She subbed extensively at GSL this spring, and our fourth graders enjoyed getting to know her during Amanda Meyer's maternity leave early this year.

**Marlene Soto** joins the Preschool as a Little Lukers Lead Teacher. Marlene received her B.A. from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and is pursuing a master's degree in counseling psychology. She worked most recently as a distance learning teacher for Stevenson Middle School in Honolulu, and previously as a lead toddler teacher in the Early Enrichment Center at Idlewild.

### **Best Wishes & Thank You!**

We wish the best to the following Saints and are grateful for their time here. We will miss them!

- ACE Director **Amy Lee**
- ACE Associate Director **Isabelle Brown**
- Pre-Kindergarten Assistant Teacher **Beth Clark**
- Pre-Kindergarten Assistant Teacher **Kam Johnson**
- Pre-Kindergarten Assistant Teacher **Denise Robinson**
- Junior Kindergarten Lead Teacher **Kelsey Beagle**
- Junior Kindergarten Assistant Teacher **Jamie Bell**
- First Grade Teacher **Mallory Key**
- Middle School Bible Teacher **Amzie Williams**

And as you all know, our Head of School **Thor Kvande** will be moving on this summer to become the Interim Head at St. George Episcopal in San Antonio, while **Andy Surber** arrives in July to take the reins at GSL as his successor. Additional new hires will be shared later this summer, so be sure to check your email periodically for new announcements. And please be on the lookout soon for information regarding report cards and summer work packets. Best wishes for a safe and happy summer, and GO, SAINTS!

GSL Administration

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