



Dear 4th Grade Parents and Students,

There are a million and one ways to behold beauty all year long. Summer, however, hopefully provides a different pace of life that allows you, and me, time to linger and tend to things that might get pushed aside during the school year. I hope you are enjoying a different sort of time with your children, away from school deadlines and tasks, soaking in the sun and opportunities for refreshment while beholding the season of life God has you in at this moment. I am praying that, once summer break is over, our time away will come to a sweet end and we will all be ready to jump into school life with a freshness of heart.

With all summer has to offer, *complete* lack of work should not be on the list. It is good for us to work, and I can attest that your BCA staff has been and will be doing just that- painting, moving, cleaning, reading, planning, learning, creating, attending in-house training, and enjoying the Memoria Press Teacher Training Conference.

Pertaining to 4th grade students, some topics and tasks we are focused on this summer include:

- developing procedures and routines that will care for our newly remodeled space
- diving into the benefits and best practices of multi-grade classes using research-based data, model schools, and field experts (*if you're interested in a glimpse [read this article- while candid, it's a great discussion starter and hopefully thought provoking and encouraging](#)*)
- integrating fine arts and physical education into our day-to-day
- creating special projects and workshops to have at various points within the year, taught by various BCA teachers
- developing consistent communication tools across grade levels

4th Grade Updates and What to Expect in 24-25

Teachers & Class Structure

Mrs. Holleran is the 4th Grade Homeroom Teacher. Like last year, your child will have a few different teachers and they will join with other grades for various subjects. Unlike last year, their homeroom teacher will not teach all of their core classes.

Mrs. Holleran's Maternity Substitute will be Kasey Brown. Kasey is a devoted follower of Christ and has already proven to be a vital addition to BCA as a substitute teacher and Feed the Hunger leader. Kasey will attend the Memoria Press Teacher Training. In this email, I've included an "About Me" from Kasey that will help you and your child get to know her a little better. Her email address is: kasey@bluegrasschristianacademy.org. (*Please copy Mrs. Holleran on anything pertaining to class, so she can stay in the loop while she is away and provide the best transition for our students when she returns.*)

Beginning in 4th grade, students branch out more from their homeroom teacher in order to take classes with teachers who are focused on being master teachers of fewer subjects rather than an entire curriculum. Taking these steps in 4th grade helps students learn how to adapt to different teachers slowly so that they are well prepared for highschool, and it affords our teachers greater time and attention to fewer subjects- which is helpful as difficulty and depth increases each year.

The classes are listed below alongside the teacher who will be leading the class.

4th Grade Classes for 24-25

Class	Teacher	Combined with
Latina Christiana	Mrs. Roberts-Nault	3rd
Christian Studies- Old Testament	Mrs. Holleran/Mrs. Brown	5th
Classical Studies- Romans	Mrs. Holleran/Mrs. Brown	5th
Geography- Middle East, North Africa, and Europe	Mrs. Jones	none
Science- The Book of Insects which focuses on observation and classification of insects in the tradition of the classical naturalists, enabling students to experience the order and beauty of creation through a deep study of it.	Mrs. Jones	none
English & Library- Institute for Excellence in Writing, Grammar, Spelling, Library	Mrs. Holleran/Mrs. Brown Library- Mrs. Kays	none
Literature- The Dangerous Journey; My Side of the Mountain; Lion, Witch, and Wardrobe; and Molly Pitcher (biography)	Mrs. Holleran/Mrs. Brown	none
Math- Continuing to focus on Arithmetic Mastery	Mrs. Hutchins	none
<p>Art, Music, PE This year, we will take an integrated approach to Art, Music, and PE. Students will still have recess, as well as workshops geared towards learning about Health and PE. Art and Music will be integrated with their other subjects and they will be treated to Art Workshops outside of the normal curriculum.</p>		

Current Class Roster
Current 3rd - 5th Grade Students

3rd Grade	4th Grade	5th Grade
Sadie Clark Liam Gibson Sydney Hedgespeth Kamden Kehl Izabel Kessel Norah LeMasters Eli McCord Lillian Murrell Clayton Palumbo	Eva Boggs Atlas Davenport Kirra Higdon Everly Jones Blaine Newcomb Hannah Sanders Rosaleigh Witt	Josiah Baker Sam Bunch Harper Douglas Mallory Palumbo

Class Communication

This summer, your child’s teachers are working together to create a communication protocol that will be consistent with one another and helpful for all of our students and parents. On July 9th, they will share ideas, struggles, strengths, and parent feedback. They will use that information to create a cohesive communication plan for announcing and scheduling homework, quizzes, tests, and class news.

The communication protocol will be fine tuned throughout the rest of the summer and then shared with you on the night of the Opening Ceremony during a “breakout session” for 4th-8th grade families. This will give you an opportunity to ask questions and will afford us the preparation needed to start the year with clarity and confidence. (Other topics of information and schedules will also be provided during the breakout session.)

Additionally, Devan (PTO president) and the PTO are working on recruiting and assigning volunteers to be “room moms” for each class. These individuals will not only help the teacher with certain tasks and special projects, they will also be positive and proactive additions to building the “4th Grade Class Team”. Let’s remember that the class team consists of students, teachers, administrators, volunteers, substitutes, and parents. Pray about the possibility of being a room mom or if another mom comes to mind, encourage her to sign up. We’re excited to take these next steps in growing our class community.

Conclusion and Prayer Request

Communication is an aspect of school life that we need to continually be growing in. We will never communicate perfectly, but we hope to continually grow. Sometimes that means setting aside some ways of communication that were not effective or served their purpose for a season and sometimes that means establishing new ways of communicating when a lack is noticed. Sometimes, you are a key player in determining areas for growth. Many of the things I’ve communicated in this letter are a result of someone asking me about them. If you ever find yourself thinking, “hmmm, I wish I knew this or that,” or, “I wish someone would explain why...” *please* don’t hesitate to ask.

Again, we are a team. We’re a team of imperfect people who exist to glorify God. Through the classes and life of our campus, we are working to foster graduates who are equipped to continually grow in their ability to navigate God’s Word and God’s world. It’s a serious and joyful work that requires labor all year long. Let’s be in prayer together- for the work taking place this summer, for us

all to cherish the summertime and extra moments with our families, for us to look fondly forward to the fall, and for us to each steward our roles well for the coming school year (students included) and that we would trust the Lord to ripen the fruit of our labor together.

Soli Deo Gloria,
Mrs. Hutchins