

Welcome to 4th Grade!  
Grace Christian School  
Open House  
2020

**Meet Your Teachers:**

My name is Abby Byrd, and this is my 3rd year teaching at Grace. I graduated from Pensacola Christian College in 2018 and married my husband, Kyle, in August of 2018. My husband works for State Farm and pastors a small church in Afton. We are super excited to add our first baby to our family on January 1st! I am so excited to be partnering with you all this year!

My name is Sarah Shirley, and this is my first year teaching at Grace. I graduated from Carson Newman College in 2004 where I met and married my husband, Rob. My husband is a local State Farm agent. Previously, I taught 5th grade for seven years in Augusta County. After having my first child in 2011, I have been a stay at home mom. We have 3 children...John, Ann, and Kate. I am thrilled to be teaching again and look forward to all God has for us this school year!

**School Reminders:**

- Be sure to read the parent handbook found on the school website.
- No School Labor Day, September 7th

**Classroom Information:**

**Planners**

- Contains homework assignments & correspondence from teacher
- Please check nightly (even on weekends) and sign if homework is done
- Use it to correspond with us, if needed
- We will check daily for signature & homework
- No signature = consequence

**White GCS envelopes**

- Goes home every Monday
- Please check it, sign it, and return any needed correspondence from school
- The class/Bible letter will be sent by email every Friday

**Homework**

- No more than 40 minutes per night
- Not returned = consequences (5 points deducted). Please check over their homework and let your student make any corrections.
- Wednesdays will be light & little/no weekend work
- Please let us know if there were unforeseen circumstances that could excuse your student from consequences for not having homework done.

**Binders**

- Homework will be placed in the homework folder to complete and return
- Please encourage students to keep their binders organized

**Tardiness/Absentee Policy**

- If your child is absent due to illness, make-up work will be sent home when they return to school.
- If your child is absent due to a vacation, they will need to take all their books and check renweb for the assignments. Other missing work will be given to them when they return.

**Field Trips**

- None as of now

**Discipline/Manners/Behavior**

- Please read over the school discipline policy & Christian character traits found in your parent handbook.

**Lunches/Snacks**

- Please pack healthy snacks, no sweets/candy - **only water** in the classroom
- Students will have about 15 minutes at mid-morning to eat snack
- Microwave: lunch in our room; please try to use a thermal or bring a cold lunch

## **Birthdays/Holidays**

- Snacks can be brought in for each student. Be aware of allergies and each snack must be individually pre-packaged for students.
- Christmas, Thanksgiving, Valentine's Day, etc. - These will be put together by room moms

## **Tests**

- Please check planner for assignment of tests/dates as well as check Ren Web
- Study guides: Wordly Wise, Reading
- Tests assigned at least one week in advance
- Students are not allowed to leave their desks until all tests are turned in and testing is complete
- Wordly Wise Test: Fridays (2 weeks on 1 list)
- Bible Tests: Fridays

## **History**

- Taught by Mrs. Byrd
- The Virginia project is a big project for 4th grade. We will be doing it all in class. Supplies will be brought in to complete the project in groups.
- Information concerning this project will go out in the next two weeks.

## **Bible**

- Each Friday, we will take a Bible test. Bible verse will be oral, and catechism tests will be written.
- A weekly spelling grade will be taken on their catechism tests.

## **Wordly Wise**

- Tests will be given every Friday.
- We spend two weeks on one list. The first week is a spelling test, and the second week is a vocabulary test.
- **Please keep the study guide for two weeks.**

## **Reading**

- We will not be doing reading groups or Daily 5
- We will have a few book reports/projects that we do throughout the year.
- We do two novels in class (*With Wings as Eagles* and *Medallion*)
- We will be doing book clubs in October/November - details to come

## **Math**

- Please be practicing math facts with your student at home.
- We will do one chapter test and one fact test at the end of each chapter.

## **Science**

- Taught by Mrs. Shirley
- We will be doing STEM days/projects throughout the year that we may need help with. We will let you know as that comes up.

## **Specials (Mrs. Byrd):**

- Monday - Music
- Tuesday - Computer
- Wednesday - Library
- Thursday - Art

- Friday - P.E.

## **Specials (Mrs. Shirley):**

- Monday - P.E.
- Tuesday - Library
- Wednesday - Computer
- Thursday - Art
- Friday - Music

## **Dress Code**

- Tennis Shoes for P.E.

## **Parent Volunteer Program**

- There are many opportunities to enrich our school, please contact the office or myself for information.
- We will need room moms. If interested, please let us know.

## **Other Information:**

- Honors Reading Program - runs through May 1 - information available in the office
- Please label all jackets, lunch boxes and water bottles with your child's name
- History will be taught to both classes by Mrs. Byrd, and science will be taught by Mrs. Shirley to both classes. The teachers will move to the classrooms rather than the students moving.

## **Contact Information:**

- To contact Mrs. Byrd:  
School 886-0937 (before 4:00)  
Email [abyrd@gcswarriors.org](mailto:abyrd@gcswarriors.org)
- To contact Mrs. Shirley:  
School 886-0937 (before 3:30)  
Email [sshirley@gcswarriors.org](mailto:sshirley@gcswarriors.org)