

the Knight's Herald

Issue 1 | August 26, 2022



Back to School Night: Rivers Strong (CCA 2nd Grader) with his dad, Isaac (CCA Class of 2004). The picture on the screen is his grandmother, Becky Owens Strong (CCA Class of 1980).

Academy Turns 51!

"...that you may tell the next generation that this is God, our God forever and ever. He will guide us forever." (PS 48:13b-14 ESV)

As Calvary Christian Academy begins its 51st year of "telling" the next generation about our God, let us always remember that He is the reason for CCA's existence and the focus of all we do.

God has been faithful to CCA over the past 50 years and the Administration and Faculty are excited to see how He directs and guides us through another year.

This year, we have a few new faces bringing a Christ-focused education to the CCA students and a few familiar faces with new roles. Read on to meet the new faculty and to hear about the role-changes for the 2022-23 school year.



Meet the Staff

Mrs. Amy Freeze



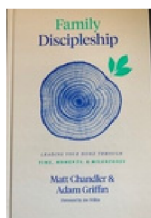
Amy has had the privilege of serving as a 4th, 5th, and 2nd grade teacher at Calvary since the 2002-2003 school year. This year, she will be serving as Elementary Principal. Amy has a teaching degree from Pensacola Christian College (home of Abeka Books). Her desire and goal is to see the students that she serves at Calvary understand their value as God sees them and to grow in their faith as they learn the importance of academics. Amy and her husband, Mark, and their three sons, Kyle, Karson, and Kasey have been blessed to be a part of the ministry at Calvary Baptist Church. Her oldest son, Kyle and his wife Kirsten (both from CCA Class of 2013), live in the area and welcomed their first child, Blakely, this past September. Mark & Amy are enjoying being grandparents and no doubt would be happy to show you a sweet picture of their beautiful granddaughter.

Aaron Whisler

Aaron is excited to be entering his eighth year at Calvary and serving in the role of Spiritual Life Director. He looks forward to partnering with parents, faculty, and students in the discipleship efforts of the Academy. Among his responsibilities will be overseeing our chapel and small-group programs as well as meeting with students and families to foster spiritual growth. Mr. Whisler will also continue to teach Jr/Sr Bible and will be overseeing the scope and sequence of our Bible classes.

A 2000 graduate from Bob Jones University with a Bachelor's degree in Music Education, Aaron taught music and served as an elementary principal in Indiana before moving to Normal in 2015. Since joining the Academy, he has taught music, served as Head of School, and carried the title of Dean of Students for the past two years, a role that included oversight of the Elementary and Early Education departments.

Aaron and his wife, Brenda, have been married for 21 years and have three children, all of whom attend Calvary: Maddy (12th), Micah (10th), and Myles (7th). At Calvary Baptist Church, he leads the Missions Team, teaches in Calvary Kids, and regularly sings on the Worship Team. His desire is to bring glory to God in all that he does and to help others find joy in their relationship with God in Christ.



Did you get your gift copy of *Family Discipleship* at the Back to School Night? If not, please stop by the CCA Office to get your copy. About once a month, the CCA Superintendent will be sharing thoughts in this newsletter on different sections of the book.

Kera Tackett

Kera will be full time in the office this year as front desk receptionist and school bookkeeper. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Illinois Wesleyan University in Sociology and Business Administration as well as a Master of Science in Education from Illinois State, concentrating in College Student Personnel Administration. Before coming to Calvary, Kera was a stay-at-home mom. Prior to that, Kera served as an academic advisor at Illinois State, working mainly with students in complicated academic situations. Kera lives in Normal with her husband, Craig, and three kids, Annie, John, and Ross. She enjoys reading, exercising, spending quality time with family and friends, eating ice cream, and being mistaken for her twin sister, Lora.



Ashley Litwiller



Ashley (a 2002 CCA Graduate) is looking forward to returning to teaching after taking time to stay home with her children. She has a BS in Elementary Education from Southwest Baptist University. After college she taught second grade for four years, then has recently spent her time homeschooling her children and working at her small town public library. Her desire is to point her students to Jesus and help them understand that His grace is sufficient as His power is made perfect in their weakness. Ashley, her husband Ryan (a 2003 CCA Graduate), and their four children, Mearah, Lucas, Bennett and Adelyn are looking forward to joining the CCA family. Ashley lives in Carlock and loves children's literature, baking, and spending time outside with her family.

Nicole Sniff

Nicole is excited about her new role as teacher's aide to the 1st-5th grade classes. After subbing for the past 2 years, she found out that being at the school full time is pretty great and is ready to take on the role of Elementary aide. Her passion is loving Jesus, and loving others with His love, and now she gets to do that everyday at CCA. Nicole loves the mission of Calvary Christian Academy, and shares her school spirit everywhere she goes. She is truly looking forward to being a part of the staff family at CCA. Nicole graduated from Judson University with a Bachelors in Youth Ministry and Adolescent Studies. She has been married to her husband Jason for 21 years, and they have 6 kids (Damion, KJ, Drake, Lucas, Hanna Joy, and Jennavieve), who have all been blessed by their opportunity to attend this amazing school. She would encourage everyone to come to Calvary and watch the Lord provide.



Car Line: Car line has run smoothly this year! Thank you for your patience as you pick up your students each afternoon. Please let us know if you see anything that is not running as smoothly as we think it is. Remember to drive carefully and slowly with all our little ones coming and going.

Watch your email next week for the 2022-23 Major Events Calendar.



Laura Reddington

Laura grew up in Bloomington/Normal and is a 2004 Graduate of Illinois Wesleyan University with a degree in Math with a secondary education certificate. She has taught high school math (everything from Pre-algebra to Calculus) in Chicago, West Palm Beach, and at Normal West. She has been married to her husband, Drew, for 15 years and has four children. Laura loves to read, take walks with the family, and crochet.

Mary Beth Brown

I am looking forward to joining CCA, teaching English 11 & 12 and French. This will be my 8th year teaching, but first in Illinois.

I was an Air Force Brat, growing up in Florida, Ohio, the Philippines, and Virginia. I earned my Bachelor's degree in French Secondary Education from James Madison University (Go Dukes!), where I met my husband, Tom. Together we have three adult children: Lydia, Thomas, and Madeline, and a chocolate lab Emmy.

Tom and I moved to Bloomington three years ago from Virginia with State Farm, where Tom works as a Section Manager. When not teaching, I love to spend time with my family and to travel. I also enjoy watching sports, reading, crafting, and baking.

I believe in inspiring students to find boldness in their academic and individual identities in Christ within a compassionate and warm environment. I am eager to start the school year, and I am excited to watch the growth that occurs from each student!



Catherine Beatty

Catherine is excited to be rejoining the staff at Calvary to teach algebra. She has previously taught for 9 years including a year on the high school science staff at CCA before taking time off for the birth of her 4th child. Catherine studied biology secondary education at Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville. Her studies included classes hosted in Costa Rica and Panama where she participated in red macaw research and sea turtle rescue. Her goal as an educator is to inspire students to question the world around them and create memorable learning experiences. Catherine lives in Normal with her husband and four children, Arianna, Emilia, Micah, and Sam. Catherine enjoys home remodeling tv shows, traveling, trying new foods, and running.

Paul Swanson

Paul is rejoining the CCA staff for his 13th year, where he has previously served as Administrator, history teacher, coach, and athletic director. He brings over 50 years of experience in education with him and has always been a student favorite!

Paul will be serving this year as Athletic Director and working in the high school history faculty. His love for the students and athletics will be a great asset to the CCA family.

Paul and his wife Phyliss have three children (all serving in education--two in Unit 5 and one in Colorado) and eight grandchildren. Paul enjoys fishing and taking rides in the country.

