

On behalf of the Board of Directors:

Greetings and congratulations to all of you as we complete our first year as Sound Christian Academy.

God has certainly blessed our community and we want to take a moment to pause and reflect to give thanks for His abundance in addition to looking ahead with anticipation for more good things to come.

With Profound Gratitude

We acknowledge the significant contributions of the following faculty and staff members:

Sue Ellen Rush, former *Director of Advancement*, moved with her family to North Carolina this spring. Although missed on campus, Mrs. Rush remains retained as a consultant to continue the good work she established the past three years. Sue Ellen understood, embraced, and executed on the vision as an *Administrative Team Leader*.

- We are grateful for the excellent work provided by our new *Director of Advancement*, Jody Matthews. Welcome to *Lions Country*!

Alyssa Baker, *Dean of Education*, began as a parent volunteer before moving to part-time then full-time paid staff member. The past three years as an *Administrative Team Leader* she took on a critical role navigating the challenges of the COVID crisis. Mrs. Baker has made significant contributions to our classrooms, campus, and community. We are grateful for Alyssa's service.

- Interviews are being conducted with two excellent candidates for this important position.

Stephen Abeshima, *MS/HS Music & HS Math*, is going into full-time ministry at *Sunset Bible Church* in University Place. Mr. Abeshima has been an exceptional educational *Swiss Army knife* and will be difficult to replace. We appreciate and support Stephen's calling.

- In seeking a replacement, the primary point of emphasis will be to further develop our Music Department – vocal and instrumental, Worship Arts and musical theater.

Emily Ashcraft, *2nd Grade Teacher*, will be attending *Ethnos 360 Bible Institute* in Wisconsin. Ms. Ashcraft is pursuing studies in Bible and theology. Emily plans to go into full-time ministry.

- Hannah Davis, *3rd Grade Teacher*, is excited to be taking the 2nd grade class next year.

Johanna Weaver ('95), *Kindergarten*, is leaving the classroom and plans to remain a part of our community as a volunteer and parent. Mrs. Weaver has been an integral part of our elementary programming for seven years. Thank you, Johanna.

- Interviews for elementary teaching openings and new positions for growth are in process.

Alisha Brotherton, *Student Center Manager*, will be moving with her family to South Carolina. Mrs. Brotherton has been a part of our school community for seven years. Alisha did amazing work in developing the **Lions' Den** and providing delicious and nutritious meals, and snacks for our students.

- This position has been posted and is available. Please share with any qualified candidates.

Sarah Major ('93), *Parent Volunteer Network President*, will be relocating with her family to Arizona. Mrs. Major has been a blessing to the PVN in her leadership role. Sarah is a joyful spirit and she and her family will be missed.

- We are seeking a new *Parent Volunteer Network President* and to fill out the PVN officer's suite. Please contact [Jody Matthews](#) to join this dynamic team.

Professional and Departmental Development

Now to celebrate some exciting changes happening with personnel and programs.

Trisha Thornton, *4th Grade Teacher and Elementary Lead* will be moving into a broader leadership role as the part-time *Assistant Dean of Elementary* and part-time *4th Grade Teacher*. This will enable Mrs. Thornton to devote more time to educational programming, curriculum development and faculty coaching. Congratulations and thank you, Trisha!

- To accommodate growth, another significant change will be the addition of recess coordinator(s) and teaching aides to provide the teaching staff with breaks and assistance.

Matt Richey, *Bible Instructor, Bible Department Chair and Assistant Dean of Spiritual Life*, will be reducing his teaching load to permit more time for ministry at *Sunset Bible Church* in University Place. Mr. Richey has been working with the Bible Department to add new faces, voices, and perspectives in the classroom. Matt will continue teaching three classes and maintain a presence on campus in his role as *Assistant Dean of Spiritual Life and Bible Department Chair*.

- We look forward to sharing these additions and changes as they are presented.

Dwayne Beavers, *Interim Director of Athletics*, has been a blessing and we are pleased to name him permanent *Director of Athletics*. Mr. Beavers will be added to the *Administrative Leadership Team*, and we look forward to his continued contribution to our vision and direction in this position. Congratulations and thank you, Dwayne.

- There is good reason for **Lions** pride! Athletics ended the year with state finishes in *Boys and Girls Golf, and Track and Field*. This is in addition to the Cheer team being named *WIAA 1B Academic State Champions! Go Lions!*

We are additionally blessed to have athletic alumni help strengthen our programs:

- Caleb Timmer ('01) is *Booster Club President* – the **Lions Pride**. We are seeking parent team captains for each sport. If you have an interest, please contact [Caleb Timmer](#).
- Keith Beasinger ('85) is the *Director of Soccer*. We are excited about the direction of the soccer program as we create distinct boys and girls programs in the years ahead.

Unfortunately, Rico Tipton, will be extending his hiatus for another year. Although he will not be back on campus for 2022, we look forward to his return in 2023.

Michael Menchaca, *Facilities and Maintenance*, has been helping remodel, renovate and restore the campus for over two years. With Mr. Beavers' transition into the Athletic Department, Mr. Menchaca will be assuming the role of *Facilities and Maintenance Manager*. Thanks for keeping us up and running and looking good, Michael.

Calice Black, *Performing and Fine Arts Department Chair and HS English Instructor*, had the SCA thespians back in fine form for the spring drama presentation of *A Midsummer's Night Dream*. Mrs. Black has had performances put on hold for the past few years. However, from the looks of things, she and the student troupe haven't missed a beat. Brava, Calice, and welcome back to the stage.

We can't leave this section without giving props to Mrs. Kelli Soyring, *MS Lead and History Instructor*. Mrs. Soyring was named as [South Sound Magazine, 2022 The Best of South Sound, Teacher of the Year](#). Way to go, Kelli!

We appreciate all the parents and alumni associated with SCA participating in *South Sound Magazine's* The Best of the South Sound survey. We are humbled to be named The Best of the South Sound for the third year in a row and garnering recognition for both [the Middle School and the High School](#). Shout out to all the **Lions!**

A Look Ahead

The campus has gone through extensive renovations the past two years and there is still more work to do. None more important than enhancing campus security and safety. This summer, cameras and lights will be added throughout the campus externally and internally to provide more comprehensive 24-hour surveillance.

We are exploring ways to add an interior perimeter with gates and fencing. Along with recently installed keyless/passcode doors at our two primary entrances (elementary building and gymnasium), this will help ensure that students, faculty and staff are more safe and secure than ever before.

We are expanding [concurrent credit](#) through *Northwest University* (Kirkland) and look to add Biology and History to our current English and Bible offerings. This is an excellent way for students to enhance their transcript for their college selection process, or simply edify their educational experience. It also is a great way to get a jump start on college by gaining credits at a fraction of the cost!

Our [Digital Learning Initiative](#) kicks off with all high school students being required to have a laptop or approved personal device to bring to class as a technological school supply and educational tool. Please have your students prepared to embrace their future on day one of high school in 2022.

Other campus enhancements will include:

- Courtyard music to start and end each school day
- We look forward to resuming our regular programming – including on-campus events and off-campus field trip activities – and adding more new, fun and educational offerings.
- We will take fewer single school days off throughout the year and consolidate them into a longer Thanksgiving Break (full week) and introduce a new winter break (Feb. 16-21).
- In 2023 we plan to (re)introduce domestic travel trips for 7th and 8th grades and international trips for Juniors and Seniors and introduce Service Learning for the rest of the campus.
- Extended [Before and After School Care](#) (BASC) for working families – starting at 7 AM and ending at 6 PM.
- Participation and leadership opportunities for Elementary, Middle and High School students.

We look forward to celebrating the end of the school year as a community on Friday, June 3, at the End of School Bash.

- Don't forget to take advantage of the end of year 50% off swag sale.

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2022, the first class of SCA Lions.

We are grateful to all our families for all your prayers and support.

Join us as we praise God from Whom all blessings flow.

Have a blessed summer!