



NOBLE ACADEMY

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Dear Noble Academy Families,

The buzz is in the air! Noble Academy's expansion project is well on its way! The weekly progress this summer has been heartwarming to watch and has inspired us all to diligently plan for a year of mission-driven growth. It is with great pleasure and pride that the Board of Trustees and I share the new school structure that is in place, staff additions, and a special welcome to all our new families.

Several leadership positions will remain the same: Head of School, Assistant Head of School/Director of Admissions, Business Manager, Director of Technology, and Maintenance Supervisor. Class size, structure, and curriculum will always remain the same, based on the students' needs.

The School structure will be organized a little differently as Noble Academy's student population continues to grow. The school will have two main divisions: Lower and Upper. The Lower Division will consist of primary (grades K-3) and intermediate (grades 4-6). The Lower Division will be led by Mrs. Hallie Harding (Head of the Lower Division) and Mrs. Jennifer Aceves (Assistant Head of the Lower Division). The Lower Division staff will include the teaching staff, a master teacher (Mrs. Kay McMurphy), media specialist, counselor, and receptionist. The Upper Division will consist of junior high (grades 7-9) and senior high (grades 10-12). The Upper Division will be led by Mrs. Clare Abel (Head of the Upper Division) and Mr. Matt Zigler (Dean of Students). The Upper Division staff will include the teaching staff, a master teacher (Mrs. Susan Hughes), counselor, and receptionist (starting January 2012).

Along with a new school structure in place, we are pleased to welcome Mr. Eric Gal, Mrs. Debra Mitchell, Mrs. Jennifer Romero, Mrs. Samantha Stichter, and returning teacher, Mrs. Patty Kiley, to the 2011-2012 teaching staff.

Mr. Gal, a Guilford Day School graduate and a UNCG graduate, and a member of the Board of Trustees for the 2010-11 school year, will be a language arts instructor. Mr. Gal graduated from Guilford Day School in 2005 and from UNCG in 2009 with a degree in Theatre Education. Mr. Gal reenrolled in UNCG in August 2009 and completed a degree in English Education this past May.

Mrs. Mitchell taught two classes at Noble Academy (intermediate math and reading) during second semester of last year. She will be joining us full-time this fall. Mrs. Mitchell graduated from the University of Delaware in History Education and received her Masters of Education in Learning Disabilities from Virginia Commonwealth University. Before moving to Greensboro, Mrs. Mitchell taught in the Montgomery (Maryland) County Public Schools and the Chesterfield (Virginia) County Public Schools. Prior to that, she taught in the Richmond City Public Schools. It seems as though Mrs. Mitchell has been a part of the Noble Academy family for more than just a semester!

Mrs. Romero recently moved to the area and will be the full-time art instructor. Prior to moving to Greensboro, Mrs. Romero taught at Jamestown High School in Williamsburg, VA. Mrs. Romero holds a Pre-K-12 Visual Arts certificate and graduated from Texas Tech University in May 2005.

Mrs. Stichter will be joining the Noble Academy staff as a math and science instructor. She holds a bachelor's degree in Engineering Science and Mathematics from Vanderbilt University and has her teaching licenses in elementary education, middle grades math and middle grades science. Previously Mrs. Stichter taught middle school math and science, physics, and computer classes in both public and independent schools.

And last but definitely not least, Mrs. Kiley will be returning to Noble Academy as a full-time history instructor. As she shared with me this week, Noble Academy's students are her passion, and she could not be happier about the opportunity to return.

We are pleased to welcome 33 new families to Noble Academy. We have 20 new families in the lower division and 13 new families in the upper division. To our returning families and staff, thanks again for your support during these remarkable times at Noble Academy. Please join me in congratulating our new administrators and welcoming our new staff members and new students and their families.

I look forward to the 2011-2012 Noble Academy learning community coming together in just a few short days!

Sincerely,

Laura Blackburn
Head of School