

2024-25

# Welcome to Our New Faculty & Staff



## **Samantha Thomas - 1st Grade Teacher**

Mrs. Thomas grew up around Youngsville, North Carolina. She attended West Coast Baptist College in California where she earned her B.A. in elementary education. This will be her sixth year teaching in elementary Christian education. She and her husband, Walker, live in Cary with their two dogs. She enjoys working with her husband in the teen ministry at her church, game nights, and cooking.



## **Charity Grindstaff – 1st Grade Teacher Assistant**

Mrs. Grindstaff was born and raised in the mountains of western North Carolina, and attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill earning a B.A. in History followed by her J.D. from UNC School of Law. She and her husband, Jenis, have two children, a rising Kindergartner and a second grader. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends, baking, needlepoint, exploring the outdoors and reading with her kids.



## **Marissa Verdes - Second Grade Teacher**

Mrs. Verdes, originally from Virginia Beach, earned her B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies with a concentration in Elementary Education and M.S. in Education from Old Dominion University. She is trained in classical education and Classical Conversations and has taught kindergarten, second grade, homeschool, and co-op. She and her husband, Josh, love spending time with their children, entering grades third, fifth and eighth.



## **Breanne Ayala – Third Grade Teacher**

Mrs. Ayala, originally from New York, holds a B.S. in Child Studies from St. Joseph's College and a M.A. in Liberal Studies from Stony Brook University. In 2021, she and her family relocated to Clayton. Her husband, Mr. Ayala, has been teaching at CCS for three years. Mrs. Ayala is excited to join the CCS third-grade team and is delighted that her three children will be attending CCS in kindergarten, second grade, and fifth grade.



### **Emma Dillard – 3rd/4th Grade Teacher Assistant**

Mrs. Dillard is a born and raised North Carolinian. She moved to Raleigh six years ago to complete her B.A. in Communication at NC State and has loved her time in the City of Oaks. She and her husband, Luke, have been married just over a year and are soaking up their newlywed time together. She enjoys taking neighborhood walks, reading, crafting, and trying new things in the kitchen.



### **Kelly Fisher- 5th Grade Teacher**

Mrs. Fisher moved from Suffield, CT three years ago with her husband, Joe and their 4 children (grades 4, 6, 9, and 10). She earned her B.A. in Elementary Education from Grove City College and her M.Ed. from Middle Tennessee State University. She taught first grade for 10 years before homeschooling through Classical Conversations. Her family loves going to the beach, family game night, great books, and playing sports.

### **Sarah Allen - History & Literature Teacher**

Ms. Allen grew up in East Tennessee with her parents, three sisters, and a menagerie of animals. She has a B.A. in Biblical and Religious Studies and a minor in Classical Studies at Grove City College then taught for two years at New Covenant School in Anderson, SC. She enjoys spending time outdoors on a run or walk, game night with friends, and listening to audiobooks.



### **Kendall Johnson - ??**

Ms. Johnson is a recent graduate from Meredith College. She earned a B.S. in Nutrition with minors in Exercise Sports Science and English. Kendall is from Apex, NC and in her free time loves writing, reading, and exploring local coffee shops. She is excited to be a part of the CCS community and to serve God through teaching His children.

**Myers -**



**Jonathan William Myers (“JW” for short) - Logic School Bible Teacher**

Mr. Myers taught at New Bern Christian Academy. He has written a commentary on 1 John and a book that deals with pastoral, systematic, and biblical theology. Currently, he is writing his doctoral dissertation, entitled: *The Session of Christ in Hebrews: An Intertextual Analysis*. His wife and he have one daughter. In his spare time, he enjoys playing drums and guitar. He also likes Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, UGA football, and Mountain Dew.



**Phillip Yelverton - Classical History & Rhetoric**

Phillip Yelverton is a fifth year teacher and enjoys reading history, poetry, philosophy, and theology. A native from Fredericksburg, Virginia, he moved to Durham in 2018 where he met his wife Lauren. They are members of Church of the Good Shepherd where they serve together in the High School Youth Group and where Phillip also serves as a Deacon. He enjoys baseball (go Tigers!), cooking, and time with family and friends.