

Spartan Newsletter

August– September 2020 Edition

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Kerr-Vance Academy
Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow



Welcome Back Address From Our New Head of School

I would like to welcome everyone back to the 2020-2021 school year. Getting to see our students face-to-face has been extra special this year. We usually take seeing each other for granted, but I think now more than ever, we appreciate real conversations, time to laugh together, and getting outside and enjoying nature with a different perspective.

I also want to thank each family for following our protocol. The students have been amazing and are adjusting to this different way of doing things. It is all worth it when a student gets to ask a question right when he or she needs to or when a teacher gets to read a book aloud to a class and enjoy their responses.

Please stay in contact with your child's teachers. They are here to answer questions and help when needed. They cherish the class time that we have together and are working so hard to make each day meaningful. I could not ask for a better group of people to work with. Know that your children are cared for each day by people who really care. Know that we are here to help if you have questions or concerns.

Alison Short

Head of School



Welcome New Students

We would like to introduce our new students of KVA. We are glad to welcome you into our family! We hope that your experience here is everything that you expect it to be.

K4- Caleb Satterwhite, Thea Taber

K5- William Groshans, Joshua Whitt

1st- Levy Drake,

6th- Isabella Boucher, Hailey Ellington, Preston Loffman, Ashley Elliot, Raul Hill

7th- Nathan Lotz, Austin Coleman-Carter

8th- Katelyn Holtzman, Kianna Richardson, Macey Southall

10th- Shamar Foster

11th– Jay-Quan Pierce, Mary Allen

Joel Lewis

Staff



Coming to a New School Amid COVID-19:

A Student Perspective

Switching to Kerr Vance Academy during a global pandemic has shown to be an exciting experience. Many things have changed in the past few months because of Coronavirus. For one, new rules have been put into place to keep all the students safe here at KVA. Masks are now required during the school day, and we're not allowed to carry a backpack around. Sanitizing all things we touch that others may have to come in contact with during the day. We also have to maintain a distance of six feet at all times. Everyone has to adjust to these new rules and regulations and implement them into our daily lives.

While taking these safety measures is very important, it can also come at a disadvantage. Being a new student is already a challenge with having to meet new people, adjust to a different curriculum, and drive to a new area. The anonymity makes it difficult to recognize who everyone is, and remembering faces is almost impossible at first. Not seeing someone's entire face makes it a lot harder to remember the different students' names. Usually, when trying to remember who someone is, you go by their face. But when someone's face is almost entirely covered, you have to go off how tall someone is and hair, making it a lot more challenging to know who someone is before speaking. Masks also make it slightly difficult to hear some people talk. So when you have some quiet people, it can be hard to listen to them from six feet away. Book Bags are also no longer allowed in the school building, making it difficult to carry everything around. You have to bring a binder from class to class, along with your laptop and other items. The binder system is actually really nice since everything is in one place. Having a singular binder to carry around all of your things can also be slightly hectic. With all your papers going into one place, it's easy to slide something into the wrong section of your binder. Even with all of these significant changes switching schools in a global pandemic was very similar to usually switching schools. I'm very excited to be at KVA and hope to make many memories here.

Mary Allen

Staff



Staff Changes

Mrs. Medlin's second year teaching at Kerr-Vance has been a different experience. Prior to working at KVA, Mrs. Medlin worked in the public school setting for thirty years. For her first twenty years she worked with elementary and middle school students with behavioral issues. Her last ten years she was the Behavioral Specialist for the county, worked with all grades, and was based out of the Central Office Building. Her first year at Kerr-Vance she worked part time with two students and was an assistant for the first grade. This year she is teaching both first and second grade and is assisted by Mrs. Sherrill. Mrs. Medlin said "Teaching two grades is much different than two students. I am extremely busy and tired each day but I wouldn't trade it for the world. Each student is unique and amazing in their own way and I look forward to being with them everyday!"

Blaire Boyd

Staff



Staff Changes

This year KVA welcomed Elizabeth Wilson as our new Kindergarten Teacher. Mrs. Wilson previously worked alongside Mrs. Moseley as the Teacher's Assistant for 3rd/4th grade. I had the pleasure of speaking with her and she answered a few questions. I asked her if her class was adjusting to the new COVID-19 rules and how she likes her new job. Mrs. Wilson responded, saying that she misses working with Mrs. Moseley and 3rd/4th grade but she absolutely loves her kindergarten class and she would do it again in a heartbeat. Mrs. Wilson also commented about COVID and how it has not really affected her move between classes, that her students are amazing at wearing masks and don't complain at all. She also added that they go on many walks to take deep breaths throughout the day. Lastly, I asked Mrs. Wilson if there was anything that she would change about her job and she said no, that with the support of her parents and the routine that she has with her kids, that kindergarten is going very well this year.

Anna Blake Overby

Special Sections Editor



Remote Learning

Marcia Hartness, KVA art teacher for 23 years, is currently teaching all art classes remotely. Mrs. Hartness uses Google Classroom and digital resources she purchased, plus she created art supply baskets for her students. She has watched videos to learn how to teach online and to better her student's experience in her class.

Kaitlin Combs

Staff



Randi Niles is KVA's Spanish teacher. Mrs. Niles' schedule is remote Tuesdays through Fridays. She is at school on Mondays, and saves the most difficult lessons for then so she can explain in person while doing the activities together. On remote days, she provides lessons and assignments from the textbook, or Quizlet, Dulingo and other resources. She says it is harder to grade online work because if a student is having a problem, she can't explain it in person, but she tries to communicate regularly.

Richard Murrieta

Staff



Fall Athletics

As we all know, 2020 has been a tough year for sports. But on the bright side, KVA athletics are back and in action! While Varsity soccer, cross country, tennis, and volleyball (Middle School, JV, and Varsity) are all in preparation to take on the 2020 season, it won't look like previous years. George Hoyle, who is the athletic director at Kerr-Vance Academy, gives a little insight on what you can expect to see in this year's athletics. Coach Hoyle stated that, although this year may look a lot different, they are going to do as much as they can to ensure that this year's athletics are as safe as possible. Safety has already begun for our fall sports in practices throughout the week. Student Athletes are only able to change in the bathrooms they use throughout the day and change one by one. There is no use of locker rooms as well. He also said that the fall season will be half the schedule as you'd usually see, consisting of mostly non-conference games with the exception of a few conference games. The teams will also still have a State Tournament. However, this new season comes with an unfortunate circumstance. There will be no fans in attendance this fall for any sports. This may not stay true throughout the remainder of the year, however the athletic department is working on a way to stream the volleyball games. And as for soccer families, they are allowed to watch the games from their cars in the parking lot. As for now, these are the guidelines for your 2020 fall athletics.

RJ Johnson

Sports Editor



New Volleyball Head Coach

Casey Ellington, our new Head Volleyball coach for both JV and Varsity teams, is from Oxford. She graduated from South Granville, where she was on the varsity volleyball team all four years and received the Conference Player of the Year award her senior year. She also played travel for six years, until she went on to play volleyball at the college level at William Peace University. She has been coaching travel volleyball for the past five years. We are so excited to welcome her into the KVA family!

Katelyn Balentine

Copy and Captions Editor



New Volleyball Assistant

First and Second Grade teacher Debbie Medlin, is new to the Kerr-Vance Academy Volleyball Team. Medlin lives in Roxboro, North Carolina. She began playing volleyball in 7th grade in Jr High, as well at Jordan High-school, and ended her volleyball career at St. Andrews Presbyterian College. She loved the game so much that after her college days of playing were over, she set off to coaching. Medlin Coached at Jordan High-school for 13 years and had two state championships under her belt. When Medlin moved to Roxboro, she helped coach at the Middle School level as well as varsity, until she took some time off. Medlin says “ After not coaching for three years, I am happy to get back on the court coaching middle school and junior varsity, as well as varsity. My goals for the season are to promote great sportsmanship and help kids develop a love for the game. “ The volleyball team and I welcome you aboard to our little family, and can’t wait to get the season started.

Cheyenne Owen
Business Manager



New Tennis Head Coach

Kerr-Vance Academy welcomes Cameron Breedlove as our new head coach for the Varsity Tennis Team. She has had a love for tennis ever since she played throughout middle and high school at KVA. She graduated from Kerr-Vance Academy in 2013 and made her way to William Peace University to major in communications. While also managing a boutique, she will be leading the KVA tennis team to a win! She says, "When George Hoyle reached out to me, I was super excited about it," and, "would love to come back and coach!" Cameron Breedlove has high hopes for this year's season even with a small team.

Leah Moseley

Class Sections Editor

