



## Valley Christian Academy

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### *Principal's Post*

Welcome back!

We are so looking forward to having students back in the building and being able to attend school once again. Obviously this has been a long stretch for all of us, the longest summer holiday ever, but the VCA staff are happy to be back.

Our focus at the start of this school year is really all about student learning and helping all of us return to a routine again and a sense of normalcy. I want to assure you that the school looks the same and the classes too, except there will be a little less clutter and desks are more spread out.

I understand that many students and parents are anxious/unsure/nervous about returning with the guidelines the government and school division have put in place, but we will do our best to limit the effect on students. Our desire is to work with the students in implementing the new protocols and do our best to keep the students safe at all times. Hopefully with the students returning the new guidelines will become the new norm very quickly, COVID numbers will remain low across the province, and guidelines will be relaxed somewhat. We are starting the year with a 6 week mindset, after which the government and school division will re-evaluate things and move forward from there. So the guidelines and protocols in place to start the school year are not necessarily permanent moving forward.

As many have shared through conversation and email, our trust is in the Lord. Prov. 3:5-6, "**Trust in the LORD** with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; **In** all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths." And at the same time, it is not that we live in fear but rather live in obedience. Romans 16:19, "For your **obedience** has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil."

Mr. Laskowski

As we prepare to welcome all our students back to school, here are a few things to be aware of:

- there will be **no** lockers for any students
- bring a water bottle to fill (as water bottle filling stations have replaced our fountains)
- the senior math department is asking that students bring their own white-board markers and erasers for use during class
- Students are required to have an inside pair of shoes as well as an outside pair of shoes.



# Yearbook

The task of the yearbook committee is to capture the events throughout the school year to record memories that will last a lifetime. In normal years the yearbook can be quite predictable with the regular programs in place. Last year the yearbook needed to be different as just over 3 months of the school year was spent at home.

As we begin this year we are anticipating a very different year once again. There will be many challenges for the yearbook committee to capture events and feelings of the staff and students as we navigate through this time during this pandemic. The yearbook committee faces these challenges with hope that this yearbook will tell the complete story for the 2020/2021 school year. Thank you for your support by ordering the yearbook as we look to cherish these memories forever.

If you regularly order a yearbook, we thank you. If you do not order a yearbook regularly, we want to encourage you to order one so that you can treasure these memories as we tell the story for the year.

Thanks for your support.

Yearbook Committee

Wes Peters

# New Staff:

We are fortunate to welcome a few new staff members to VCA and wanted to introduce (or re-introduce you in one case) to you!



## **Brad Wall**

I've been away for a little while; but I am glad to be at VCA on a part-time basis this fall. I'll be teaching in the mornings and calling grade 11 my home-room. It's nice to be back!



## **Andrea Mitchell**

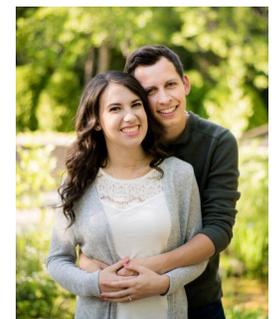
Hello VCA families! My name is Andrea Mitchell and I'm very excited to be joining you teaching Grade 2 this year! My husband, Kevin, and I live here in Osler - we have four kids ranging in age from 21 all the way down to 8. I previously taught preschool in Osler, but a few years ago I decided to move to teaching elementary. My passion is for



working with young children and my greatest joy is being surrounded by them every day – I can't imagine doing anything else! Regardless of what age I am working with, my heart is that all kids would know they are loved and valued and created for a special purpose. That I get to do that here is something I am very grateful for. Thanks for sharing your kids with me!



Hi! My name is Mikayla Clarke, and I'm so excited to be teaching Grade 1 this year at VCA. I was born and raised in Saskatoon, and I still live there with my husband of one year. When I'm not at school, I enjoy reading, going for walks, eating popcorn and planning my next travelling adventure. This will be my first classroom of my own, and I'm



really looking forward to being a part of the VCA community this year!



My name is Dayton Reimer and I will be filling in as the Special Education Resource Teacher. Before joining VCA, I was a substitute teacher with the Saskatoon Public division for four years. I enjoy all things hockey, and my wife and I love playing board games. I'm very excited to be joining the VCA family!

## Prayers

As I have watched our teachers get ready to welcome your children back to school, I've seen them work hard to make school a place of happiness, joy and warmth. I know they are excited to have your children back in their classrooms. I am so thankful for the teachers that God has placed at VCA for such a time as this. I found a prayer that I'd encourage all of us to pray over our teachers as we start this year:

Dear Father,

As countless teachers begin to prepare for a new school year ahead, grant them an abundance of Your wisdom. Prepare their hearts to welcome and love our loved ones, and may we make sure to show them love and respect in return. Give them grace as they help students who aren't thriving, courage to say what needs to be said, tools and knowledge on how and when to speak love, and strength when they feel weak. When they feel unseen, remind them that no moment goes unnoticed. They are shaping the future in one million small - yet incredibly important - ways every day. We are overwhelmed with gratitude for the gift of learning they share with our children. Bless them, Lord, and may they see even just a glimpse of how their faithfulness will forever impact generations to come.

Amen.

As our children come back to school in this different time, let's pray Philippians 4:13 over them:

Father God,

May our children learn to be quite content whatever their circumstances. May they be just as happy with little as with much, with much as with little. May they find the recipe for being happy whether full or hungry, hands full or hands empty. **Whatever they have, wherever they are, they can make it through anything in the One who makes them who they are!**

Amen