



August 10, 2022

Dear LKNC community,

After a series of online meetings, it was good to be on campus to meet students, parents, staff, and board members in person. I am happy that God connected us so I can be part of the LKNC community. The plan was to take a full year off and then discover how God will use me in retirement. That plan fell apart when the LKNC Board of Directors talked with me and I felt compelled to join with you in this blessed school. God's timing is best.

Please pardon the length of this note. There is much to share!

It is so good to have the teachers back at school getting ready for students to join them on Monday. I had been meeting with the Board of Directors and administrators. They are great people but there is just something special about the interest and enthusiasm of teachers that fires me up for the school year. Some are new, some are returning after a time away, and many are picking up where they left off in May.

After years as LKNC teachers and assistant principals, Mrs. Wendy King and Mr. Richie Swaim accepted the Board of Directors invitation to become our principals. I am pleased with the school's organization into two divisions, K-5 and 6-12, under their leadership. Their experience with LKNC, their commitment to students as children of God, and their confident humility have quickly established their leadership roles. Please go to them with your needs, support them, and encourage them as the leaders they are.

I am pleased to report that Mrs. Lynn Claunch has returned to LKNC to serve the needs of our college-bound students as College and Career Counselor, Academic Scheduling. I have experienced her scheduling expertise and look forward to the college admissions and scholarships that she supports.

Please join me by giving thanks for each of our teachers and administrators for 2022-23. The staff is listed below with their supervisors who report to the Head of School.

Mrs. Wendy King: Lower Division (K-5)

- Mrs. Lori Fitzsimons Kindergarten Teacher
- Mrs. Jamie Bailey 1st Grade Teacher
- Mrs. Amy Rogers 2nd Grade Teacher
- Mrs. Brenna Warren 3rd Grade Teacher
- Mrs. Susan Puckett 4th Grade Teacher
- Mr. Matthew Waller 5th Grade Teacher
- Mrs. Jesse Rae Atkinson Physical Education
- Mrs. Wendy King Music
- Ms. Kate Detwiler K-12 Art

Mr. Swaim: Upper Division (6-12)

(The primary duties of teachers are listed. Some teachers are part-time.)

- Ms. Beth Aukerman High School AP English
- Mrs. Sarah Cameron Upper Division Physical Education and Health
- Mrs. Lynn Claunch: College and Career Counselor, Academic Scheduling
- Mr. Christian Eggleston High School science, Athletic Director
- Mrs. Kat Eggleston High School English, history

- Mrs. Hannah Gealy High School math
- Mr. Sean Kerckhoff High School Spanish, computer, K-12 Technology Director
- Mr. Keith Rhoney High School history and government
- Mrs. Holly Strother Middle School history and K-8 drama
- Mr. Swaim Middle School science
- Mrs. Lauren Westog Middle School math and English

Ms Chastity Gerringer: Office Manager and Admissions Director

- Receptionist TBD

Mr. Scott Claunch Business Manager

You can honor and support our fine workers while providing the best for your child. When you have a question or concern, please go to them first. I am confident you will be received with a caring spirit and desire to do what is right and what is best. While we will not always agree, we can handle times of disagreement with openness, clarity, and confidence. First, let’s go to the person who is closest to the situation. Most often that person is a teacher. If the matter cannot be resolved, then go to their supervisor and then to me. For example, if someone approaches a principal with an issue with a teacher, among the principal’s first questions will be, “Have you talked with the teacher?”

On Monday, I was pleased to spend the morning with the entire staff. We enjoyed breakfast provided by the Board, worshiped together, and then dove into important topics that will lead us to success throughout 2022-23. Later in the day, the school divisions (K-5, 6-12) met and teachers began their individual preparations for the school year. Safety and security are critical so the schedule includes training sessions and preparation for emergency drills including a system for school-wide announcements. On Tuesday, we enjoyed breakfast courtesy of the staff and members of First Baptist church. The morning continued with a time of worship and then more meetings, training, and classroom preparations.

You might be interested in this taste of what I shared with them.

First Impressions

Parents tell me that the top two reasons they love LKNC are “the faculty” and “the community”. A school is its people! Don’t get me wrong. Curricula, facilities, activities, and more are important, but they pale to the positive impact of our great teachers and staff who are blessings of our generous God. Relationships are vital in this time in history when people are better connected electronically yet grow further apart personally. The personal sense of community of LKNC is described as “family”. At our school, lasting bonds are nurtured to last a lifetime.

School Slogan: Teaching truth. Transforming lives. Serving others.

We examined the school’s slogan that emphasizes the reasons parents and staff sacrifice to be part of this wonderful community. It was noted that our school’s slogan flows from 1) teaching truth to (2) transforming lives which leads to (3) a desire to serve others.

1. We find truth in the Word of God, the Bible. That book guides our lessons, our decisions, and our plans. We seek to properly integrate the Christian faith throughout the day and all school activities.
2. Those truths lead to transformed lives. A parent told me of their now confident LKNC student who came to us defeated. We rejoice with students who had faith in nothing outside

themselves but responded to the work of the Holy Spirit and realized that they need a savior named Jesus Christ.

3. Those transformations naturally lead to selfless service. The influence of the LKNC experience and the people of its community lead children and youth to identify needs and do something to meet them.
 - As Mrs. King observed, all of this is accomplished with excellence because we have an excellent God!

For me, the “bottom line” is that LKNC is a very special place. I am so happy to be with you this school year.

Part-time Interim Head of School?

- Part-time means that I get to be retired part-time! I will be on-campus an average of several days a week. My schedule will vary so that I can be present for important school events. At times I will work from home which, I hope, will seem no different that if I was at my office on campus.
- Interim means that my work is between LKNC Heads of School. I am committed to serving the Lord through LKNC through this school year and doing so with excellence, confidence, and joy.
- Head of School means that I am fully responsible for school operations with a focus on preparing LKNC for what comes next. While I do not intend to bring changes to our school, I am watching for improvements and will take action as needs and opportunities are revealed.

What’s next?

I think you will be pleased to know that the Board has already begun the process to find the next Head of School. The search process was designed during the first Board meeting of this school year. My role is to support and encourage them as they seek God’s direction for this key position.

More about our school will be shared in future editions of this periodic “LKNC Interim Head of School Update”.

While the teachers, principals, business manager, and office manager are well informed about what happens day-to-day, please let me know if I can help you. You can reach me at pbrandt@lknc.org.



I will see you at the Open House on tomorrow night!

God bless you throughout the 2022-23 school year.

Paul Brandt

Interim Head of School