



Dear Academy Family,

Whether you are a new family to our preschool or are returning for another year, I'm excited to welcome you aboard for the 2023-2024 academic year. My name is Sarah Bierle, and I am privileged to serve as the Abiding Savior Grammar School and Preschool principal this year. This past year, I served as Registrar and Curriculum Director for the Academy which provided such a fantastic overview of our commitment to quality education. More importantly, I have experienced firsthand the heart of the teachers who are investing on a day-to-day basis with our students and reflecting Christ's love to each of them as they instruct and lead them. This is a special place and I am privileged to be leading this wonderful group of preschool and grammar teachers, assistants, and staff.

I am blessed to be married to Brad (Schools of Logic and Rhetoric Principal) for almost 30 years! We have three children, Joshua, Jacob, and Tessa. Joshua and Ellie live in Dickinson, North Dakota, Jacob and Tehya are currently teaching English overseas in the country of Georgia, and Tessa is a junior at Belhaven University in Jackson, Mississippi. I love to walk and hike or get lost in a good book, but, ultimately, you will find me most content when I have a robust hot cup of coffee in my hand. We raised our family in Sioux Falls for twenty years, and Abiding Savior is our home church. Life has come full circle for us as I had once told Brad that our next move after living in Minneapolis these past few years was going to be south...but I had envisioned it being a little further (and therefore warmer) than South Dakota!

As I look back over these last years, I am able to see how God has graciously prepared me for this exciting opportunity at ASA. I was an occupational therapist for a number of years, but after we had children, Brad and I decided that homeschooling was the best educational option for our family, so I became the primary teacher. I have had the immense privilege of being a consultant for virtual and charter schools, homeschooling families, and helped develop an online program for a Christian school during our five years in Quito, Ecuador. During the last few years, I had been the registrar at the Free Lutheran Bible College and Seminary and also managed the accreditation process for the college as the Director of Institutional Effectiveness. I actually love a good spreadsheet and developing policies and procedures.

As I look forward to this next year, I reflect on the fact that the teachers and staff at ASA have been entrusted with teaching and leading your children, and we do not take this responsibility lightly. But we do not go alone or unprepared...we are guided by the light of Christ and through the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. We are grateful for the saving power of Jesus and we want and need to share this with those around us, beginning with your child! My commitment to you is that we will try, not on our own might, but with the strength of the Spirit, to show the love of Jesus to the

students of ASA and help guide them in becoming disciples of Him who raised Jesus from the grave and promises us eternal life forever with Him. This is what we teach unapologetically, through our subjects, through our actions, and through our community. We will fall short and fail, but, by the grace of God, we will continue to seek Him and foster gratitude for all that He has done for us.

This next year, we will focus on gratitude and how we can instill this as a core virtue for all members of our ASA community. You will hear more about this in the coming months, but I encourage you to join us as we focus on this quality. Talk about it at home, share with others, and look for the beauty in each day. We have SO much given to us and we often neglect recognizing these gifts while growing complacent or indifferent. May our eyes be open to being thankful for all the blessings we have received.

Thank you for entrusting your child to us at Abiding Academy. Thank you for your investment in classical Christian education. Thank you for partnering with us to spread the gospel. We look forward to the year ahead.

*Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude. Colossians 2:6-7*

With gratitude,



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