

And He took the children in His arms, put His hands on them, and blessed them.

-Mark 13:16

Welcome to Kindergarten!

Hi everyone! I hope you have all enjoyed a relaxing summer break and are ready to begin a new year filled with fun and learning at Grace Lutheran School. My name is Mrs. Tracy Harrell (you can call me Mrs. Tracy), and I am so excited to be your child's teacher this year!

First, as a new teacher at Grace Lutheran, I would like to tell you a little about myself. The Lord called me into Christian education ministry when my own two now-adult sons were in preschool. My volunteer time in their classrooms led to my pursuit of a teaching degree. I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Early Childhood Education from Ashford University and earned my AA and AS degrees in Elementary Education and Early Childhood Management from FSCJ. I have been teaching preschool, kindergarten, first, and second grades for the past 17 years. I am happily married and enjoy spending time with my husband, family, and three beagles. My husband, Mr. Scott, is a US Army veteran and works for the City of Jacksonville. We are active members of North Jax Baptist Church. Atlanta is my birthplace and I love to go home for visits! I especially enjoy hiking and kayaking in the mountains of Georgia and North Carolina, where most of my extended family still resides.

Now I will give you a brief glimpse of our upcoming school year. You will be receiving more in-depth information in your orientation packet. Kindergarten is an exciting year of "firsts". There are many new and wonderful things to experience during this first big-kid year of school! We will spend our first days together getting to know one another, establishing rules and routines, and reviewing basic skills. Your children will also be allowed some down time in class as their little bodies adjust to a longer school day. Our curriculum covers phonics/reading, language skills, math concepts, discovery science, social studies, handwriting, and Bible, as well as resource classes. I also incorporate technology wherever I can. Most importantly, we will spend time each day learning about Jesus' love for us and how we can let that love shine through us in our thoughts, actions, and words.

I believe that the best parent-teacher relationships have a strong foundation of trust and communication; therefore, I communicate in a variety of ways, including in person and through daily folders, notes, behavior charts, email, and fb messenger. You will also receive a calendar and newsletter each month. You will find that I am quite accessible and I will always do my best to keep communication strong.

One last thing! I would like for your child to bring something to school on the first day that tells a little something about who he/she is, i.e., a favorite stuffed animal, an object that represents a favorite activity or sport, or pictures of a beloved place. I would also love a family picture that I can hang on our "family" board. I will bring something also and we will spend some time getting to know one another as we share!

Teaching is my joy and passion, and I especially love this age group. The Lord has called me to teach at Grace Lutheran and I feel privileged to have the opportunity to serve as your child's teacher this year. I look forward to meeting everyone! Together, I hope to make this a memorable, fun, and exciting year of learning, growth, and discovery with your child! ☺

God's Blessings,

Mrs. Tracy