

Berean Baptist Academy



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New Building, Same Spirit

Shelby Derry

In the school year of 2017-2018, Berean Baptist Academy's elementary students and teachers have been able to move into the new building. Although this building process has taken years, many teachers are very excited to take the next step in helping Berean grow.

Gaining occupancy for the building was one of the main issues. All of the faculty and staff trusted that God would allow occupancy before the school year began.

Teacher in-service (week-long meetings all teachers are required to attend) tested all of the teachers' tenacity. Miss Chapman surprised them with the news that they had just gained occupancy. The shouts from all the teachers were full of excitement and joy.

Miss Smith, one of the 5th grade teachers, was hesitant at first when adjusting to the building. This year is her 25th year teaching at Berean. She taught in the same classroom for 21 years. Her collection ranged from teaching props to gifts from students. Her move was one of the hardest. Thankfully, she had many helpers during this transition. Although the move may have been somewhat stressful, Miss Smith says, "I love it now that I'm here and settled."

Mr. Whiting, a 4th grade teacher, was one of the biggest helps to everyone. He worked all summer, helping paint, fix, and move furniture, leaving little time for his own classroom. Mr. Whiting had to prepare his room for the excited students in two days. He is looking forward to enjoying this building for many years.

One of the K-5 teachers, Mrs. Dessellier, taught for five years before taking time off to have her first-born daughter. She came back after seven years of being a stay-at-home mom. Her favorite aspect of the building is the beautiful atrium by the front doors. She is definitely looking forward to many years in the new building.

The new school building is not only a beautiful, modern building, but is also a building with much more storage, size, and natural light. The front atrium, a large, glass panel with an immense tinted cross at the entrance, happens to be one of the favorite attractions.

The high school and middle school teachers were an immense help for all of the elementary teachers by moving desks, furniture, and personal keepsakes across the street. Mrs. Bullock, one of the high school English teachers, quoted, "I love my upper school team! It was a great team-building experience, and I know we are really feeling that "Unity of the Spirit"!"

The beautiful building also has a large part in BBC's ministry. Almost all of the classrooms are used for AWANA on Wednesday nights and Sunday school on Sunday mornings. With the new routes and rooms, it took some "getting used to". Mrs. Reyna Torberson, BBC Nursery Director, was eager to move into these beautiful new rooms. After a few weeks, everyone became comfortable and happy with these new classrooms.

The old building was a beautiful building and provided amazing experiences for countless families, and the new building provides a greater opportunity to create many more wonderful memories.

Proclaiming Christ Through Education