

LIFTED ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2025



SAVE THE DATE!



BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

Tuesday, Aug. 26th @ 7 PM
Parents are invited to a meeting with your child's teacher about classroom expectations for the new school year.



AWANA SCOUTS CLUBS

Christian Scouts for kids Ages 3 - 5th Grade.

Parent Orientation: Aug. 20st @ 7 PM
Awana Clubs begins Aug. 27th @ 7 PM



LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

Monday, Sept. 1st Church & School closed due to the holiday.

14955 SW 88 ST - MIAMI, FL - 33196 - 305.388.8059

WWW.LIFTED.ACADEMY

AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			13	14	15	16 LCN Men's & Women's Breakfast 9:30 AM
17	18	19	20 Awana® BEGINS! Scouts Clubs 7 PM	21 Zoom Meeting 6:30 PM	22	23
24 Staff Inauguration Service 11 AM	25 Men's & Women's Discipleship @ 7 PM	26	27 Awana® Scouts Clubs 7 PM	28	29	30
31	SEPT 1 CLOSED LABOR DAY	SEPT 2	SEPT 3 Awana® Scouts Clubs 7 PM	SEPT 4	SEPT 5 Grandparents DAY	SEPT 6



WELCOME BACK TO LIFTED ACADEMY: A NEW SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS!



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Lifted Academy Families,

It is with immense joy and gratitude that I welcome you all to a brand-new school year at Lifted Academy! Whether you are a returning family or joining us for the first time, thank you for entrusting us with the privilege of partnering with you in your child's educational journey from preschool through elementary—and now, for the first time, sixth grade!

This year marks a significant milestone as we open our doors to our inaugural sixth-grade class, broadening our community and deepening our commitment to academic and spiritual growth.

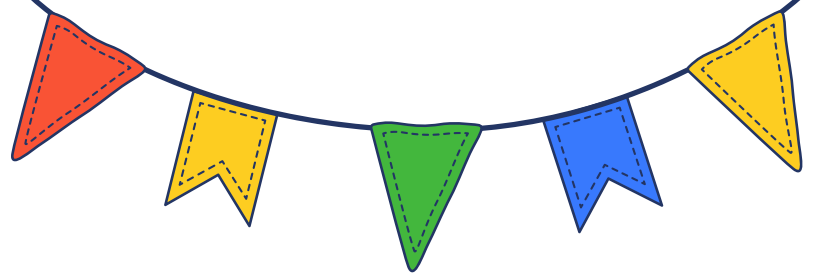
To our new teachers and students, we extend the warmest of welcomes. We are excited to see the unique talents and perspectives you will bring to our school. To our returning teachers and families, your steadfast support and dedication have been the foundation of our continued success. Together, we form a community united in purpose and dedicated to Faith, Family, and Future.

As we step into this promising new chapter, our focus remains steadfast on nurturing a love of learning, fostering resilience, and inspiring each child to shine both academically and in character. The addition of sixth grade represents not only growth in numbers but also in opportunities for leadership, for deeper inquiry, and for the building of lifelong friendships.

Throughout the year, students will embark on engaging projects, collaborative activities, and enriching experiences that encourage curiosity and creativity. Our dedicated teachers are committed to guiding each child on their individual path, ensuring that every learner is seen, supported, and celebrated.

We invite families to participate fully in the life of the Academy attending events, volunteering, and staying connected through open communication. Together, let us model for our children the strength and joy found in a caring, faith-filled community.

Welcome BACK to SCHOOL



At the heart of all we do lies our guiding motto:

*"Train up a child in the way he should go
and when he is old he will not depart
from it."
PROVERBS 22:6*

Reverence our Lord, Jesus Christ at all times. This in turn leads us to true wisdom in our lives, which is to think and act like Jesus. When asked what exactly this looks like, Jesus responded with **"Love God with your heart, soul, mind, and strength and love others as you love yourself."** He explained that all of the teachings of the law and prophets could be summed up in these two simple statements. Love God and love what God loves people; this is Reverence and Respect. When we take these two commands seriously, we will be personally Responsible for our actions, and that in turn will lead to great Rewards/Blessings in our lives, as Jesus reminded us in His famous "Sermon on the Mount" found in Matthew 5-7.

This timeless wisdom shapes our approach to every lesson, relationship, and moment of growth within our halls. We do this by focusing on the 4 R's at the beginning of the school year: Reverence, Respect, Responsibility, and Rewards. The "way" that Proverbs 22:6 refers to is the path we learn about in God's Word that teaches us to first, and foremost, We are so excited to see how God is going to move in the lives of our young people and staff this year. We want to invite you to worship with us every Sunday morning, but on August 24 we will be having a special Inauguration Service for our staff that we would love for your families to witness at 11 AM. Also, all parents are encouraged to attend our annual **Back to School Night on Tuesday, August 26, from 7-8 PM**. This event gives you an opportunity to get to know your student's teacher better and hear his or her expectations of you, as parents, throughout the upcoming year to ensure your child's overall success.

Here's to a year filled with discovery, achievement, and cherished memories. Welcome back to Lifted Academy, where every student has the opportunity to lift their dreams to new heights!

In His Service and Love,
Dr. Estelle C. Myers
Dr. Estelle C. Myers
School Principal





MIGHTY 2'S
MRS. MYRIAM ROJAS &
MS. LAURA BARRETO

Dear Parents,

I am excited to introduce the team that will be caring for and guiding your children this year. I am Mrs. Myriam Rojas, blessed with a loving home for 35 years alongside my husband and our only son, now a happily married young adult. My calling and profession are in education, and I bring more than 40 years of teaching experience across all levels early childhood, elementary, secondary, and higher education. I have also served as a dean, coordinator, and teacher, leading numerous educational projects in my home country of Colombia. I am delighted to begin my third year guiding the youngest children of Lifted Academy. I am also grateful for the valuable presence of Ms. Laura Barreto, who will be assisting me in the classroom.

For many of our little ones, this will be their first time away from the warmth of home and the constant presence of family. This is an exciting new chapter their school will be a safe place for learning, friendship, and growth while you cheer them on from afar. Our commitment is to welcome them with love, care, and safety, ensuring they are happy, well cared for, and learning through play in an environment that reflects our Christian values.

We will enjoy monthly activities designed to spark curiosity, build confidence, and develop skills, including:

- Chapel gatherings to help children know and love Jesus.
- Bible stories and lessons inspired by Luke 2:52: "Jesus grew in wisdom, in stature, and in favor with God and man."
- Core values practice—kindness, respect, and cooperation—woven into every activity.

BACK TO SCHOOL

We will also enjoy educational outings where children can explore new places, meet different animals, play games, and discover shapes, colors, and a variety of new words. Each unit of our curriculum is designed to help them better understand the world around them while developing their cognitive, fine motor, and gross motor skills.

Our curriculum this month is designed especially for two-year-olds, focusing on growth in every area of their spiritual, intellectual, social, emotional, and physical. Through Bible stories, songs, art, movement, and hands-on exploration, children discover God's world while building language skills, fine and gross motor abilities, and social confidence. Every activity is carefully planned to nurture curiosity, encourage kindness, and create joyful learning experiences in a safe, loving environment.

We invite you to take part in a special project that Ms. Laura and I are creating a Remembrance Book for each student of our class. These will capture your child's favorite foods, toys, activities, family traditions, and a family tree. At the end of the year, we'll compile them into a beautiful keepsake for each child to treasure.

In addition, we warmly invite you to two upcoming events at Lifted Academy and Lifted Church:

- Staff Inauguration Service - Sunday, August 24, 2025, at Lifted Church
- Back-to-School Night - Tuesday, August 26, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., here at Lifted Academy

We look forward to partnering with you in making this school year a meaningful and memorable one for your children.

With warm regards,
Mrs. Myriam Rojas & Ms. Laura Barreto



BLESSED 3'S

MS. KATHLYN DIAZ
MS. SHIRLEY SERNA



A Hello from Ms. Kat

My name is Kathlyn Diaz, but most people know me as Ms. Kat. I am thrilled and honored to be your child's Pre-K3 teacher for the 2025-2026 school year! I am 20 years old and have been a proud member of Lifted Church and Lifted Academy since 2022.

This upcoming school year will mark my third-year teaching in the Pre-K3 class. It has been such a joy to watch our students grow academically, emotionally, and spiritually during this important stage in their development.

I am currently pursuing my Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education at Miami Dade College through the School of Education. My educational background includes an Associate of Science in Early Childhood Education, as well as a Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential. I am deeply passionate about early childhood education and feel incredibly blessed to be part of a school that nurtures young minds in both faith and learning. When I'm not in the classroom, I love spending time doing things that bring me joy and help me recharge. You'll often find me playing video games on my Nintendo consoles, staying active at the gym, or diving into God's Word to grow deeper in my faith.

I look forward to an exciting, enriching, and faith-filled year with your little ones.

Thank you for trusting me with such a special part of their journey, I can't wait to see all that they will learn and accomplish this year! Don't hesitate to contact me through ClassDojo or email; kat@lifted.academy.

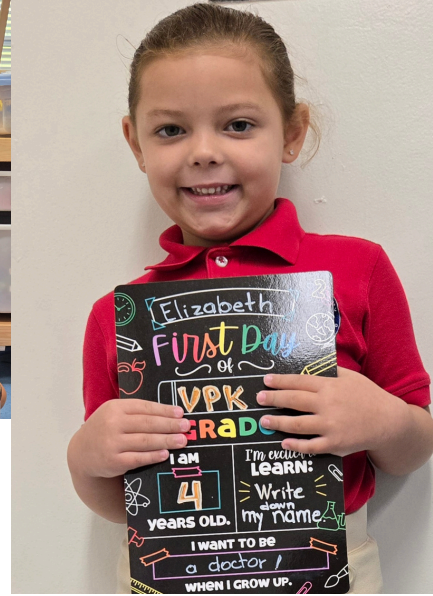
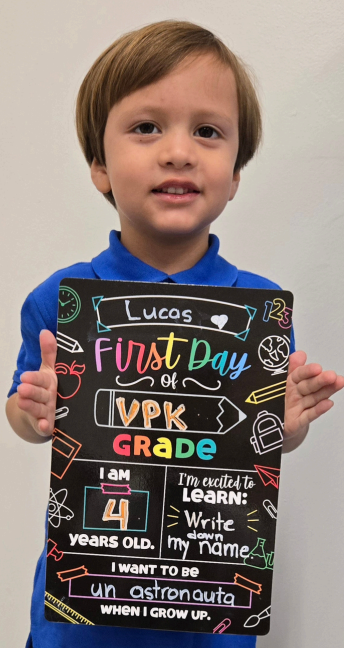
A Hello from Mrs. Shirley

My name is Mrs. Shirley Serna and I am looking forward to being your child's teacher for the 2025-2026 school year. With over five years of experience in Early Childhood Development. I've had the privilege of teaching at Lifted Academy for the past few years. Being part of this incredible team has truly been a blessing, as it allows me to live out my passion for teaching while nurturing the spiritual growth of my students. I strive to be a positive role model in both faith and character, and I'm deeply committed to creating a learning environment where God's love is at the center.

Teaching at Lifted Academy gives me the unique opportunity to blend my love for education with my desire to share Christ's message. It's an honor to witness my students grow each day in both their knowledge and their walk with God. Feel free to contact me through ClassDojo or email; serna@lifted.academy.

May God bless you,
Ms. Kat and Ms. Shirley





BACK TO SCHOOL

VPK

MRS. CATALINA DEL REAL

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2025–2026 school year! My name is Catalina del Real, and I am honored to be your child’s VPK teacher. With 19 years of experience in Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK), I am genuinely excited to get to know each and every one of your children this year.

I am originally from Colombia, South America, and I moved to the United States in 1992. Since then, I have been working with children in various capacities. Teaching is truly my calling, and I feel incredibly blessed to be entering my eleventh year at Lifted Academy.

I’m confident this will be a wonderful school year, and I am committed to giving my very best to support your child’s growth and development.

At the start of the VPK year, we focus on helping children understand the rules and routines of their new environment. This month, we’ll emphasize social and emotional skills navigating new friendships, adjusting to schedules, and learning through play, which is a child’s first language. Our goal is to ensure that learning is always joyful and engaging.

Our curriculum centers around three core areas: Bible, Language Arts, and Math. We also incorporate Art, Social Studies, and Science through learning centers and outdoor play. Above all, we prioritize character development and nurturing your child’s critical thinking skills.

In Language Arts, your child will begin recognizing their name and various sight words while mastering the phonetic sounds of each letter in the alphabet.

In Math, we’ll explore number recognition from 1 to 30, one-to-one correspondence, sorting, graphing, and simple addition and subtraction using objects. Children naturally enjoy math when it’s hands-on and fun!

For Character Development, we’ll begin by learning about God’s love for us and the importance of respecting and obeying Him and our parents—values that help guide us in our daily lives.

Starting next month, we’ll celebrate two special recognitions: Star Student, who exemplifies the character traits we’ve been working on, and Student of the Month, who shows significant academic growth. Stay tuned to see if your child is featured in our next newsletter!

I’m looking forward to a joyful and enlightening year together.

God bless you always,
Mrs. Catalina del Real





KINDERGARTEN

MRS. MARIA JOSE GROSSY &
MS. TIFFANY LUCK



Dear Parents,

Even though I've had the chance to meet most of you, I'd like to introduce myself to those I haven't met yet. My name is Maria Jose Grossy. I am originally from Chile and have been living in Miami since 2013, which is also when I began attending this church. I studied language education and have had the opportunity to work with students of various age groups throughout my career. Each group presents its own unique challenges, and as teachers, we always have much to learn from our students.

I began working at Lifted Academy in 2017 but took a break when my daughters were born. My daughter Samantha, who is currently 5 years old, is one of my kindergarten students this year. My baby girl, Sarah, just turned 6 months old.

I am very excited about this new school year. Of course, having my daughter in our class brings its own special challenges, but I know we have an amazing group of students who are eager to learn. I'm also confident that their wonderful parents will continue to guide and support them. Your collaboration not only helps your children but also strengthens our classroom and school community. I'm certain that, with the love and support of all the parents and most importantly, with God's help we will have an incredible school year ahead.

We are starting an exciting month filled with surprises and new activities for the students. They will explore their new classroom, discover new books, and use materials in creative ways to explore the beautiful world God created. They'll also get to know their classmates better and continue learning about themselves and God each day.

The goal of our first unit is to help children develop a deeper understanding of their surroundings and what they observe around town. In this unit, they'll meet many new characters who will introduce letters, handwriting strokes, word families, and high-frequency words. They will also enjoy learning about community helpers and life in the town.

Verse of the Month: "God is love." – 1 John 4:16

Looking ahead to some exciting upcoming events:

- Sunday, August 24th - Teacher Inauguration Service at Lifted Church
- Tuesday, August 26th - Back to School Night from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

We hope you can join us for these wonderful events. Looking forward to a fantastic school year!

Best regards,

Mrs. Maria Jose Grossy & Ms. Tiffany Luck





1ST GRADE

MRS. LAUREN NIETO &
MRS. KELLEY PRIETO



The 2025-2026 school year is here, and I couldn't be more excited to welcome our new first graders! This is a year filled with big milestones—learning to read more fluently, exploring God's amazing creation, and discovering how we can live out His Word every day.

As the first grade teacher, I feel truly blessed to be walking alongside your children on this journey. First grade is such a precious time when curiosity grows, faith deepens, and friendships blossom. Each lesson, whether in reading, math, science, or heritage studies—will be rooted in God's truth, reminding us that He is at the center of all we do. My prayer is that students will leave each day feeling both confident in what they've learned and knowing they are deeply valued.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways submit to Him and He will make righteous your path."

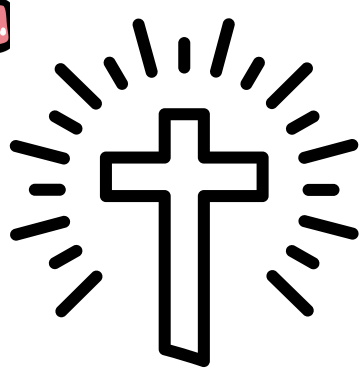
Proverbs 3: 5-6

A little about me, I graduated with my bachelor's degree from Florida International University. I have a wonderful loving family, including my husband, Giancarlo, and our two beautiful children. Mia is in 4th grade here at Lifted Academy and Giancarlo II (Gianni) is a part of our 2's class. Being a parent at this school makes me even more thankful for the Christ-centered education and community we share. I know firsthand the joy of watching children learn in an environment that nurtures both their hearts and minds, and I am committed to providing that same experience for your child.

We are so blessed to have Mrs. Kelley Prieto as our classroom aide this year. Her kindness, patience, and love for the Lord will be a blessing to our students. Together, we are excited to get to know each of our little ones and look forward to spending each and every day with them, helping them grow in knowledge, faith, and character. Our goal is to make the classroom a place where children feel safe, loved, and inspired to do their best.

Mrs. Kelley and I are praying for a great school year for you. We can't wait to see all the ways God will work through our class this year and to watch your children shine in the unique ways He has made them. Here's to an amazing first grade adventure!

God Bless You,
Mrs Lauren & Kelley



1 John 4:16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

2ND GRADE

MS. DANAI PADRON

Dear Lifted Academy Families,

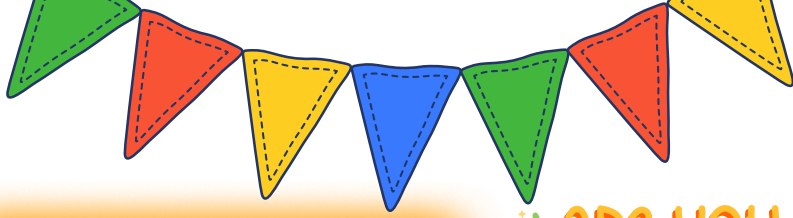
My name is Miss Danai, and I am absolutely thrilled to welcome you and your precious child to 2nd Grade at Lifted Academy! I am incredibly grateful to be starting this new school year with your family and honored to be entrusted with the blessing of teaching your child. It is my deepest desire that this year will be filled with meaningful growth, joyful learning, and Christ-centered transformation.

Teaching is far more than a profession for me it is a divine calling and a profound joy. The Lord has placed a passion in my heart to guide young hearts and minds both academically and spiritually. I truly believe that every child is fearfully and wonderfully made, designed by God with a purpose, a voice, and a future full of promise. It is my mission to nurture their academic skills, their creativity, and most importantly their relationship with Jesus.

I'm so blessed to be entering my third year at Lifted Academy, where I've found a loving and faith-filled school community that shares my values. Although this is my third year here, I bring over 6 years of experience teaching various elementary grades, including 2nd through 6th, as well as multi-grade classrooms. My prayer is that the Lord will use every moment in our classroom to build not only knowledge but also godly character, compassion, and courage.

May God Bless You,
Ms. Danai





3RD GRADE

MS. SEMIRA KHALIL

ARE YOU
READY
FOR
SCHOOL?

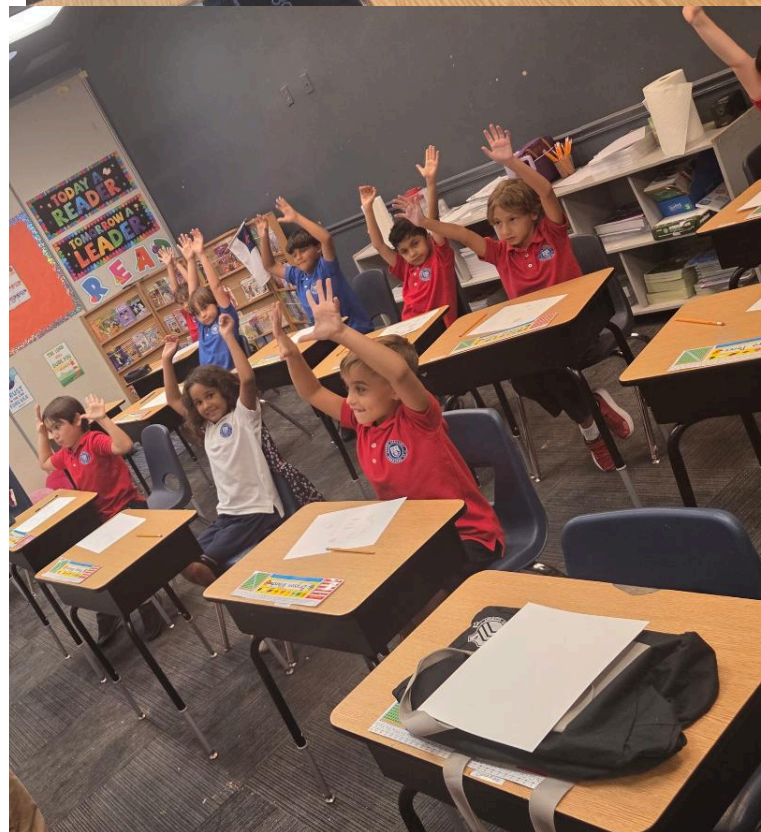
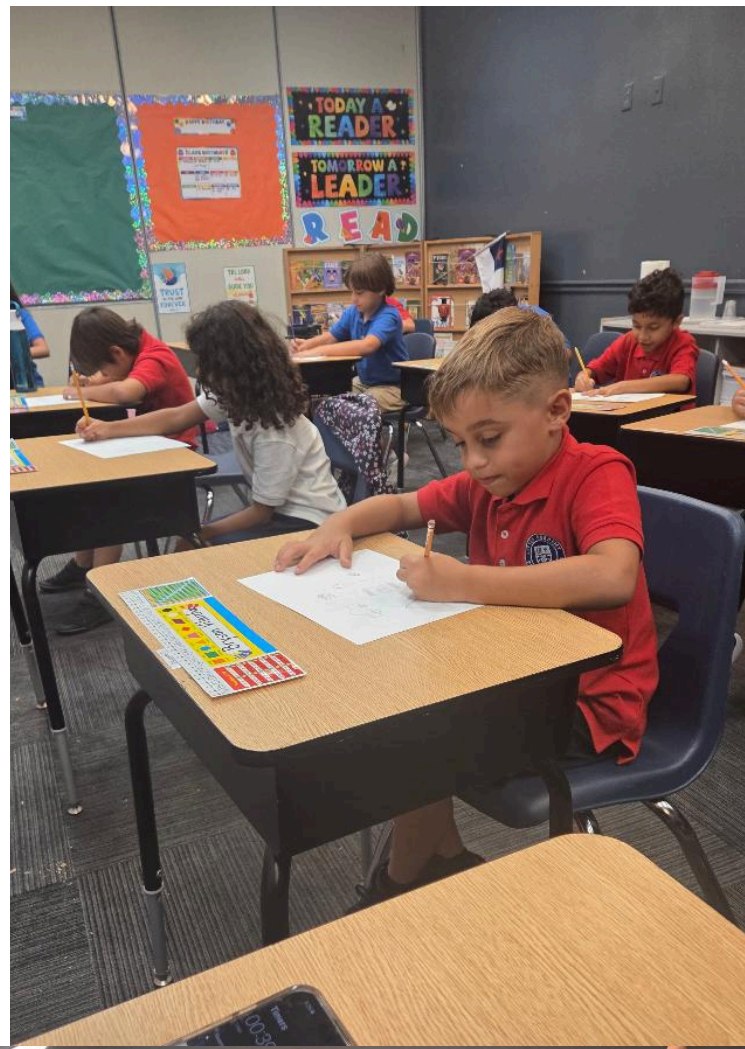
My name is Ms. Semira Khalil, and I am so excited to be your child's 3rd grade teacher this year. I have been teaching for 22 years and earned my degree from Lehman College. I am a native New Yorker, born and raised in the Bronx, and moved to Florida in 2017 with my husband and our two boys, Adriel and Sebastian. Teaching is not only my career, but also my passion, and I look forward to a school year filled with excitement, growth, and meaningful learning experiences.

Throughout my career, I have had the privilege of working with children from VPK through 5th grade, providing instruction that is both age-appropriate and supportive. Third grade is such a pivotal year in your child's life as they grow academically and socially. In this grade, students learn to write essays, develop critical thinking skills, and gain deeper understanding in reading and math. My goal is to encourage each student to reach their fullest potential while helping them develop confidence, independence, and a love for learning.

Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with my family, relaxing with coffee and sweet treats, and caring for my dog, Coco. I also love scents that bring calm and joy into my day. A favorite Bible verse that inspires me is Psalm 100: "Make a joyful noise to the Lord." I truly believe in creating a classroom environment where joy, encouragement, and learning go hand in hand. If you ever need me, please don't hesitate to contact me I am always here to partner with you in making this a successful year for your child.

If you need to reach me for any reason feel free to reach me at; Semira@Lifted.academy

God Bless,
Mrs. Semira Khalil



4TH GRADE

MS. BARBARA ARROYO

Back
to
School



Hello Parents,

I am thrilled to welcome you to another exciting year at Lifted Academy! I'm so blessed to be teaching 4th grade for my second year. For those who may not know me, I am Mrs. Barbara Arroyo—though your children know me as Mrs. Barbie. I hold a degree in Education from Florida International University, and teaching is truly my passion. I have been happily married for 15 years and am a proud mom of two: a 13-year-old daughter in middle school and a 6-year-old son in 1st grade here at Lifted Academy.

The school year is off to a fantastic start, and I know it will only get better from here! The children will continue to enjoy electives just as they did last year. We will also continue with i-Ready and AR while introducing an exciting new typing program to help students strengthen their keyboarding skills.

A few important points for this year:

- Homework will be sent home and checked daily.
- i-Ready will be completed weekly, with 2 lessons in math and 2 lessons in reading.
- Communication will take place regularly via ClassDojo, as needed, to keep you informed.
- We will continue using Gradelink for grade tracking and academic updates. If you have any questions about Gradelink, please don't hesitate to reach out.

I believe strong communication between parents and teachers is the key to a successful school year, so please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. You can always email me directly at barbara@lifted.academy.

A special thank you goes to Mrs. Karla, who has graciously returned as our classroom mom this year. Her help is such a blessing, but she can't do it alone—if you'd like to volunteer in the classroom throughout the year, we would greatly appreciate your support.

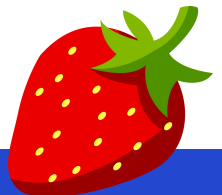
Important Dates:

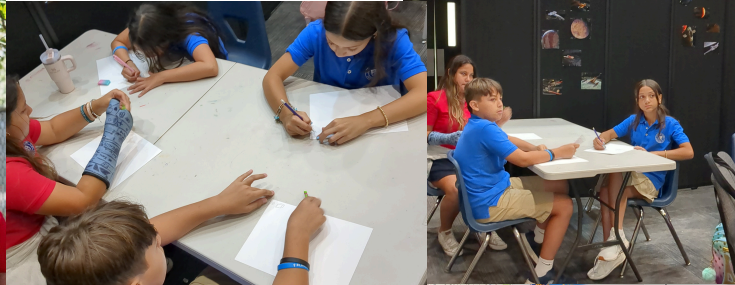
- Sunday, August 24 – Staff Inauguration Service at church – 11:00 AM
- Tuesday, August 26 – Back to School Night – 7:00 PM
- Monday, September 1 – School Closed – Labor Day
- Thursday, September 4 – First PTF Meeting – 6:30 PM (via Zoom)
- Friday, September 5 – Grandparents Day – 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
- Wednesday, September 24 – Parent Seminar – 7:00 PM

In closing, thank you for entrusting me with your child's education. I am committed to helping them grow, succeed, and become the very best version of themselves. I'm here to support both you and your child in making this school year truly amazing.

God bless you,
Mrs. Barbie

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways submit to Him and He will make righteous your path.” Proverbs 3:5-6





5TH & 6TH GRADE
MR. DANIEL ALVEREZ
MS. MS. ERIKA ELESPE

Dear Parents,

My name is Mr. Daniel Alvarez, and I am incredibly honored and excited to be your child's 5th-grade teacher this school year. Working with children has been a lifelong passion of mine—one that began when I was just 14 years old. I first discovered the joy of teaching and mentoring while volunteering at my school's summer camp, where I dedicated over 1,000 hours across four years. That experience laid the foundation for everything I do today.

I earned my B.S. Degree with an exceptional student education minor. Since then, I've continued to grow as an educator. I have served as a summer camp counselor for four years, worked as an aftercare counselor for three years, and spent the past two years teaching. Each of these opportunities has deepened my understanding of how to support students not only academically, but also emotionally and spiritually.

I am excited about stepping into my a full-time teaching position here at Lifted Academy. From the moment I walked through the doors, I felt welcomed with open arms. God's presence is so evident in this place, and I am confident that our classroom will be filled with love, growth, and joy. I look forward to getting to know each and one of you at our back to school night on Aug. 26th at 7pm. Please make every effort to attend, this meeting is for parents only.

I truly believe this will be a transformational year—not just academically, but in character and faith as well. My prayer is that each student is equipped and empowered to step confidently into middle school, knowing they are supported, loved, and prepared for what's ahead. I am grateful for the opportunity to partner with you in this journey. Together, let's make this a one year to remember!

With Joy and Anticipation,
 Mr. Daniel Alvarez

Hello Everyone!

It is such a pleasure and an honor to be the 6th grade teacher this year. I will also be teaching 5th grade math and science. God has blessed me beyond measure since I became a part of the Lifted family, and I am so excited to have the opportunity to share my experiences with my new students!

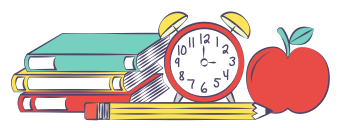
Fun Facts About Me:

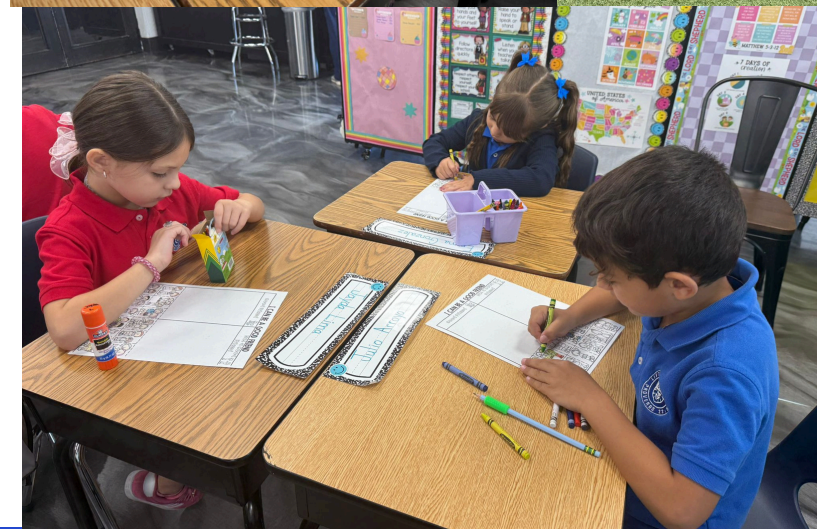
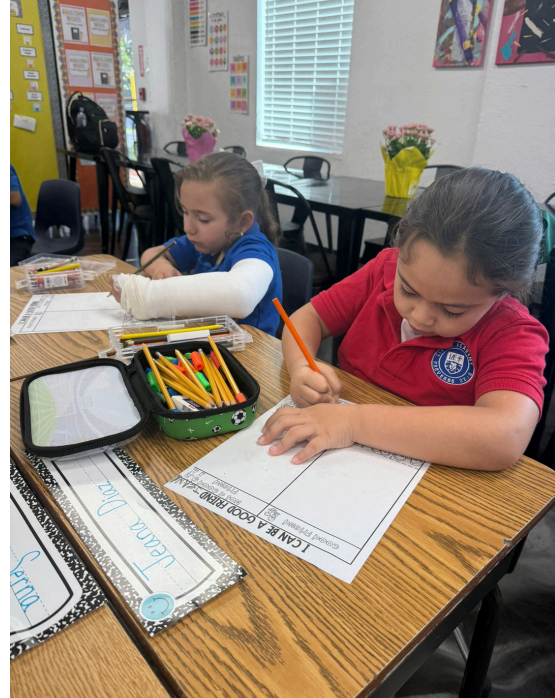
- I am of Cuban and Chinese heritage.
- I was part of the first graduating class at John A. Fergusson Sr. High School.
- I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from FIU.
- Later, I taught English in China for one year and then in Japan for seven years.
- I am fluent in three languages and can introduce myself in about four others.
- I am currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Christian Studies from Thirdmill Seminary.

The Story So Far...

We started school just a few days ago, and already I am so impressed with my students' enthusiasm and willingness to learn. They have shown genuine interest in learning and care for one another. In just three short days, they are already beginning to come out of their shells.

God Bless You,
 Ms. Erika Elesppe







CHURCH MINISTRIES



LIFTED LIFE GROUPS - Let's do Life Together!

Sign up to join, host, or lead a life group. Scan this QR code and sign up to be a part of a group today!



MEN'S & WOMEN'S DISCIPLESHIP CLASS

Mondays @ 7:00 PM (Second and 4th Mondays)

Join us for an in-depth men's and women's discipleship class on the "Experiencing God" book by Henry Blackaby. P. Mike Myers will be leading the men's group and Dr. Estelle Myers will be teaching the women's group. Childcare provided! Order your books now on Amazon.

AWANA CHRISTIAN CLUBS

Wed., Aug. 21: Parent Orientation & Ice Cream Social @ 7 PM

All parents are invited to Awana Orientation night to register your child, purchase uniforms and books, and enjoy a fun ice cream party! Awana Clubs begins Aug. 28th at 7 PM.



DNA SUNDAY CLASS

Join us for DNA Class - Discovering Church Membership every Sunday at 9:30 AM with P. Bob Brumley in the back right classroom and DNA Plus - Discovering My Ministry and Mission, with Dr. Estelle Myers in the Office.

PLEASE FREQUENT OUR FOLLOWING SPONSORS:



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