

Newsletter

SEPTEMBER EDITION



FISHING, FAITH & FAMILY: MEET MS. DUNAWAY!

Ms. Samantha Dunaway is Outreach Christian Education's new 1st & 2nd grade teacher. Her class of 22 students is the largest to date at OCE.

Although she's new to this position, she's well known by many as she's been a pre-K teacher at each of Outreach's preschool locations. "I've always worked with children in some capacity, afterschool children's programs, preschools, as a private nanny.

I fell into teaching when I worked with Lauren (Greenwood) at Riverside [Outreach North Academy], she says. Moving from pre-K to 1st and 2nd graders, Ms. Dunaway sees this position as an exciting new challenge and progression of her lifelong teaching experience.

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THEME VERSE

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."

Mark 12:30

UPCOMING EVENTS

Grandparent's Day

Pre-K - 6th: Invite you grandparents for a special Grandparents Day program Oct. 3rd at 10 a.m. in the elementary gym. Stay for First Friday lunch after the program!

Chili Supper Fundraiser

The annual Chili Supper will be held at the Secondary Campus October 17th at 4pm. Join us for all-you-can-eat chili, toppings and drinks for just \$10. Entertainment includes a raffle, cake walk, hay rides & a petting zoo!

MCSAA State Tournament

The MCSAA State Tournament for volleyball will be in Joplin, MO, from October 22nd - 25th.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parents, mark you calendar for Oct. 24th for Parent-Teacher conferences.

[Download Full Calendar Here](#)

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IN THIS EDITION:

- Meet Ms. Dunaway
- A Word from Mrs. Kathy
- Senior Spotlight with Miko Ehlers
- Monthly Update

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THE LATEST NEWS AT OUTREACH...



It has been a busy month for the OCE Bulldogs! In this first full month of school, students have already been completing paces, taking tests, going on field trips, and having fun!

In September, OCE students participated in "Blackout Week", a challenge for families to pick an evening to turn off devices and connect with one another. This unplugged week ended in a worship night where OCE families gathered to fellowship and bring praise to the Lord together! Be on the lookout for information relating to the next Blackout Week!

The OCE Bulldogs have had an exciting beginning to the athletics season! Both the Junior High and Varsity teams have been playing hard and taking home wins. We also had our first ever boys volleyball tournament where the team showed excellent sportsmanship and had so much fun! Elementary soccer and volleyball teams have also been playing hard, learning lots, and having fun.

A WORD FROM MRS. KATHY

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength" (Matthew 12:30) is a central message in my life. I grew up in a home where faith was lived out daily and modeled by my parents, shaping our identity and values around Jesus and His church. Their example taught me about commitment, love, and discipline, rooted in Christ.

At eight, I chose to follow Jesus, and my faith deepened as I learned to trust God's power and grace. My conviction that salvation and hope come only through Him has guided me through life's highs and lows.

I am grateful for a family legacy of faith that continues across generations, each of us striving to share Christ's love with others.

Our salvation is personal but meant to be shared. Is Jesus at the center of your life? He gave us everything! We are called to give Him our whole hearts in return. If you want to learn more about following Jesus, please reach out to me today.

Blessings!

Kathy



Kathy Taylor
Head of School & Co-Founder

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Samantha Dunaway with her dad, Jerald.

MEET MS. DUNAWAY, CONT.

Salvation Experience

"I was saved when I was a teenager at church camp, maybe 13 or so. I had always believed, but I guess I didn't 'get it' until those two weeks of church camp." She credits the consistent environment she was in for fourteen days straight as setting the stage for her to receive Christ. "Everyday they are talking to you and praying with you...then I understood...Jesus wasn't just someone you go see when you die," she says. The realization was that Jesus was ready to be her Lord and Savior *now!*

Ms. Dunaway, her 17 year-old daughter and adult son attend Hope Church in the KC metro area. "It's a really big part of our lives." The church regularly sees unbelievers being saved and the weekly challenge to continue pressing toward God's high calling (Phil 3:14) is motivating. "The church's motto is 'You were made for more.' Every time we go, it's life changing!"

Influences

Ms. Dunaway's father, Jerald Dunaway, was a well-known fisherman and savvy entrepreneur. "There were documentaries done on him...he has a plaque in the Hall of Fame at the Wonders of Wildlife in Springfield, MO (at the Bass Pro Store)," she says. Heavy fish on a light tackle was the category he loved and excelled in. "He traveled the world and I would go with him." Recalling the 210 lb Blue Marlin she caught on an 8lb test line when she was a teenager, she says, "[It] took 9 hours, because you have to fight the fish until he gets tired because you can't [let him] break your line! At the end you're exhausted and usually sun burnt," she laughs. Her father's catches were impressive at more than 1,000 lbs. "He still holds many of the world's records in fishing...They just can't beat him," she beams.

Fishing was her father's hobby, not his full time job. But he was very invested in the sport and spent his free time either fishing or building businesses around it. With the help of his employees, he chartered out his boats and after he purchased an old military oiler tank, he was able to refuel other boats (that didn't want to come inland) for a nice fee.

Several people in her family including siblings also hold world records in fishing. Asked if she still fishes much, Dunaway says, "No, after you've done that...you don't really enjoy lake fishing. I would need to be on a boat in the ocean."

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Lessons Ms. Dunaway learned from her dad:

- Work hard. Don't be lazy.
- You don't have to go to college, but do something – learn a trade.
- Every hour you're at school you should spend at least half an hour at home studying.
- Read the newspaper cover to cover every day.

"He felt that if [you] did this, you wouldn't need to go to college."

- Ms. Dunaway



Samantha, 16 years old on a fishing expedition in Panama. This sailfish she caught weighed around 210 pounds.

As much as Ms. Dunaway enjoyed fishing with her dad, it is her mother who she calls her primary influence. "My dad was not home very often. My Mom (Nancy) stayed home with us and was there 24/7 for us. Mom emphasized the importance of family and showing up for one another. She took us on the best vacations and gave us all wonderful memories. She never forgot anything. And that's how I am with my kids! I know I got that from her. She did everything for us...and she still does! My mom has always been the inspiration behind me striving to be the best mom I can be, and she's everything I want to be: Strong. Intelligent. Loving."

Lessons Ms. Dunaway learned from her mom:

- Be compassionate.
- Work hard.
- Stay ahead of the game

Favorites

Given her family background, it comes as no surprise that Ms. Dunaway enjoys traveling. International travels include Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Panama, and countries in South America. One of her most recent travels took her to one of her favorite destinations: Florida. "We were in Ponte Vedra outside of St. Augustine. The beach house we rented was right on the coast. Our backyard was sand...we saw dolphins jumping in the water, sharks swimming. It was like we were in a postcard!"

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Gratitude through Challenges

Ms. Dunaway says her favorite Bible verse is John 11:35, famously the shortest verse in the Bible: Jesus wept. She loves that it shows the Son of God experiencing the fullness of the human experience. "He may have been all powerful, but He was still a human. He had feelings and emotions. He cried... and I think it makes Him so much more real for me."



Ms. Dunaway with her mother and daughters in South Dakota in 2023.



Ms. Dunaway's mother, Nancy touring the city on a scooter!

Family changes not long ago required Ms. Dunaway to become the sole breadwinner. Challenges of all kinds, including a sudden plumbing failure at home have marked the last 9 months. With the challenges of taking on new roles at home and at work, Dunaway says, "I'm very thankful to be here (at OCE)...I'm with the people I'm supposed to be with. Prayer and chapel in the morning feed me. Mrs. Margie called me just last night to check on me! I mean, who does that?! I'm thankful...these are my people."



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SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



MIKO EHLERS

Meet Miko, a member of the Outreach Christian Education (OCE) 2026 graduating class. In his three years at OCE, Miko has been actively involved in sports as a player on the basketball team.

He also participated in the OCE band as a percussionist. Upon his graduation, Miko will be pursuing a career as a firefighter.

Miko views his experiences at OCE as opportunities to be prepared for the next steps in his life. This preparation took the shape of lessons in “hard work...being able to do a lot of work and not give up”, Miko remarked.

OCE’s educational model prizes self-motivation. The PACE model necessitates students who are hard workers and self-starters who are eager to learn. Miko echoed this self-motivation, adding that another lesson he will take away from OCE is the value of “holding yourself up to a high standard.”

For Miko, OCE is much more than the location of his classes or even where he learned valuable life lessons. It is a community that surrounds and supports him now, and past graduation day. He has known teachers who have invested in his education and classmates who have turned into close friends.

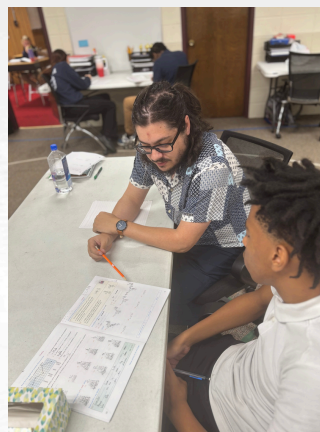
“After I graduate, I’ll be able to lean on them. I know them...and I’ll be able to say, ‘I need help’”, Miko remarked with confidence.

Miko also reflected on a community focused on knowing God. “[OCE is an] environment where we get to learn about God,” he commented about chapels, Bible memory verses, and daily devotionals all embedded into the weekly schedule of OCE. “It’s a very humble environment,” he added.

During his time at OCE, Miko has also learned the value of depending on God. He wants the next generation of OCE students to grasp that too. In reflecting on his time at OCE, Miko leaves us with this piece of advice: “Lean on God, because he will help you.”

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SEPTEMBER IN PHOTOS





Charlie Kirk

Here I am. Send me.

1993-2025

Yet in all these things we are
more than conquerors through Him who loved us.
For I am persuaded that neither death nor life,
nor angels nor principalities nor powers,
nor things present nor things to come,
nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing,
shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in
Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:37-39