August 20, 2026

Dear UDS Family,

My name is Mrs. Bickel, and I am your child's fourth-grade math teacher. I am so thrilled for a wonderful year at Union Day School! While this is my first year at UDS, it is my seventh year teaching! I was born and raised here in Charlotte. My undergraduate degree is from UNCC, and my Master's is from UNCW. I am married to my wonderful husband, Bill, and we are slowly working on building a small farm here in Union County. We have a 6-month-old son who lights up every bit of our world. We also have two dogs, Fenway and Lilly. In my free time, I like to read, go hiking, knit, and bake. I also love spending time with my family and creating memories in the small moments.

In math, students will be encouraged to meet high expectations that I know they can achieve! I'm excited to incorporate projects and games into our learning to help reinforce the topics they are studying. Students should also expect to work on math fact fluency daily. I try to meet with every student at least once a week to touch base on their mastery of concepts. In addition to working in groups with me, students should be prepared to work independently, with a partner, and in small groups. Students learn best from each other, so collaboration is key in my classroom.

This year, your student will be expanding their knowledge from third grade. Students will add, subtract, multiply, and divide using larger numbers while refining previously taught skills. It is especially important for them to truly master those multiplication facts! Students will also be learning angles this year. They will have another EOG at the end of the year, so it is crucial that they continue to practice word problems as well. Expect to see fact fluency and word problems in your child's homework throughout the year.

I can't wait to meet you all at Meet the Teacher on Thursday from 4:00–6:00 PM. This will be a time when you can come see the classroom, meet all of their teachers, and drop off any labeled supplies you may have. You will also have the opportunity to purchase spirit wear and agendas, as well as learn more about after-school programs. Special area teachers will be available to meet as well. I'm excited to work with you as a team this year, and I am confident that your child will have a wonderful school year!

Please reach out to me at any time with questions or concerns! My email is kelly.bickel@uniondayschool.com. Looking forward to a great school year!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Bickel
4th Grade Math
Union Day School
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