

# *RCA IN THE NEWS*

## **RCA, 1st PRIVATE SCHOOL IN TENNESSEE TO HAVE AN AGRICULTURE PROGRAM**

Riverside Christian Academy's administration is pleased to announce that the school will be offering an agriculture program beginning in 2017-2018.

"RCA is leading the way of meeting the needs of students and families in our community with this agriculture program. RCA's agriculture program will be one of only a handful of its kind at private schools across the nation and the first among private schools in Tennessee," said RCA's President, James Bryant.

Julie Burnum has been hired to lead the agriculture program at RCA. Julie was the Middle Tennessee State Future Farmers of America (FFA) Vice President, she participated in a National FFA Agriculture Tour of Germany and Austria, holds a degrees in Agribusiness and Secondary Education, and is certified with endorsements in Agriscience, Agriculture Education, and Biology for seventh- through twelfth-grades.

"I think I am most excited about the opportunity to weave my faith into agriculture education. Teaching creation and agriculture just makes sense. They weren't meant to be separated. Honestly, when I'm riding the tractor raking hay each summer it is truly a time for me to just praise my Creator for His marvelous works. I can never fathom how anyone could be a farmer and not see God so evidently!" said Julie. "My Daddy was my agriculture teacher in high school. He was an outstanding example of faith to his students and would have absolutely jumped at this opportunity. I remember he always would use the saying 'If you give a man a fish he will live for today, but if you teach a man to fish he will eat for a lifetime.' How true is that statement in both education and living out our faith!"

Julie has taught middle school agriscience, high school agriculture education, and high school science classes. She has also sponsored an FFA chapter. Julie has also been involved with the Lincoln County FFA Alumni Association since 2008; she is currently president of the association.

At Riverside, Julie will pioneer agriculture education components in elementary, middle, and high school as well as begin the first FFA chapter at a private school in Tennessee.

"Agriculture education and FFA has made such an enormous impact on my life. From a shy ninth-grader to relishing the opportunity to speak publicly it truly transformed me. FFA's mission statement is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success. I know that it absolutely does those things. I have seen evidence in my life, my husband's life and hundreds of students lives I have personally watched develop through FFA," said Julie. "What an honor to be a part of building an Agriculture Education program and FFA Chapter at Riverside Christian Academy. It will be the first private Christian school in the state of Tennessee to offer agriculture and FFA. Just my quick research showed only 4 others nationally! I hope we can show everyone how important agriculture is in all of our lives."

Julie is married to Thomas Burnum and they have two sons, Lane and Ethan, both of whom will attend RCA in the fall. Julie is a member of First Baptist Church Fayetteville where she has taught 11th-12th grade Sunday school classes and Financial Peace University.

"We are so thankful for the continual blessings God has provided for RCA. Riverside Christian Academy is blessed with a very dedicated and excellent faculty and staff. I believe that the new agriculture program and Julie's involvement at our school will be a blessing for our students and their families. We are looking forward to this new endeavor for the 2017-2018 school year," said Bryant.