

January 19, 2024

COMMUNIQUE

MONTHLY

THIS EDITION

- Thank you!
- Classroom Updates
- Student Highlights
- K Entrance
- Poppin Popcorn
- Athletics
- Auction
- Calendar of Events



"Inspiring students to impact the world for Jesus Christ through an excellent educational experience from a Biblical worldview."

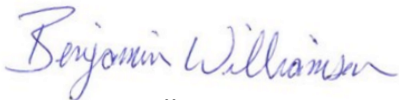
RECEIVING GIFTS

Throughout the month of December Grace Christian School received many gifts and we are thankful. Families gave gifts of chocolate, expo markers, and gift cards to our staff. We received several trailer loads of school desks and chairs from a couple of supporting businesses. God provided an opportunity to purchase school equipment at a huge discount. (The next page highlights some of those.) We have four 27 year old furnaces on the roof that run about \$10,000 each to replace. A business man gave us a gift of \$10,000 earmarked for furnaces for when that day comes. As I write this note, furnace guys came into my office to say that our most troubled unit is down 2 months because the parts are not available. The cashier's check is not 30 days old and is still on my desk. It seems that God still uses His people to provide. There are many others who gave year end gifts and because of those, we made it through 2023 without any payroll drama. We are in the middle of January and we will receive the first significant gift from our thrift store, Reclaimed by Grace, to help us make this week's payroll. That store has been a blessing to our school in so many ways, and yes, they are still in need of helpers/volunteers.

There are a lot of moving parts in a system like this. There are many days I am overwhelmed with what needs to be done at GCS, and the difficulty the problems present. I often walk away from the school at the end of the day and say out loud that Grace Christian School is a miracle. There is no other way to explain its existence for 50 years. In the course of time, we have done some dumb things, and yet God chose to sustain us. Even during the 'smart times' we find ourselves falling before the Throne of Grace. January and February are often lean times for Grace and this year seems to be no different. We thank you and many others for the gifts of support you give us.

We begin the second semester of this school year on Tuesday, the 23rd. Please pray for us: our teachers as they teach our students, the administration as we begin to switch our enrollment process to a digital format, our auction & banquet committees and our school board, that they would have wisdom and be given vision for our school.

Continuing to learn faith,



Benjamin Williamson

Administrator



ELECTRIC WINCH FOR BASKETBALL HOOPS



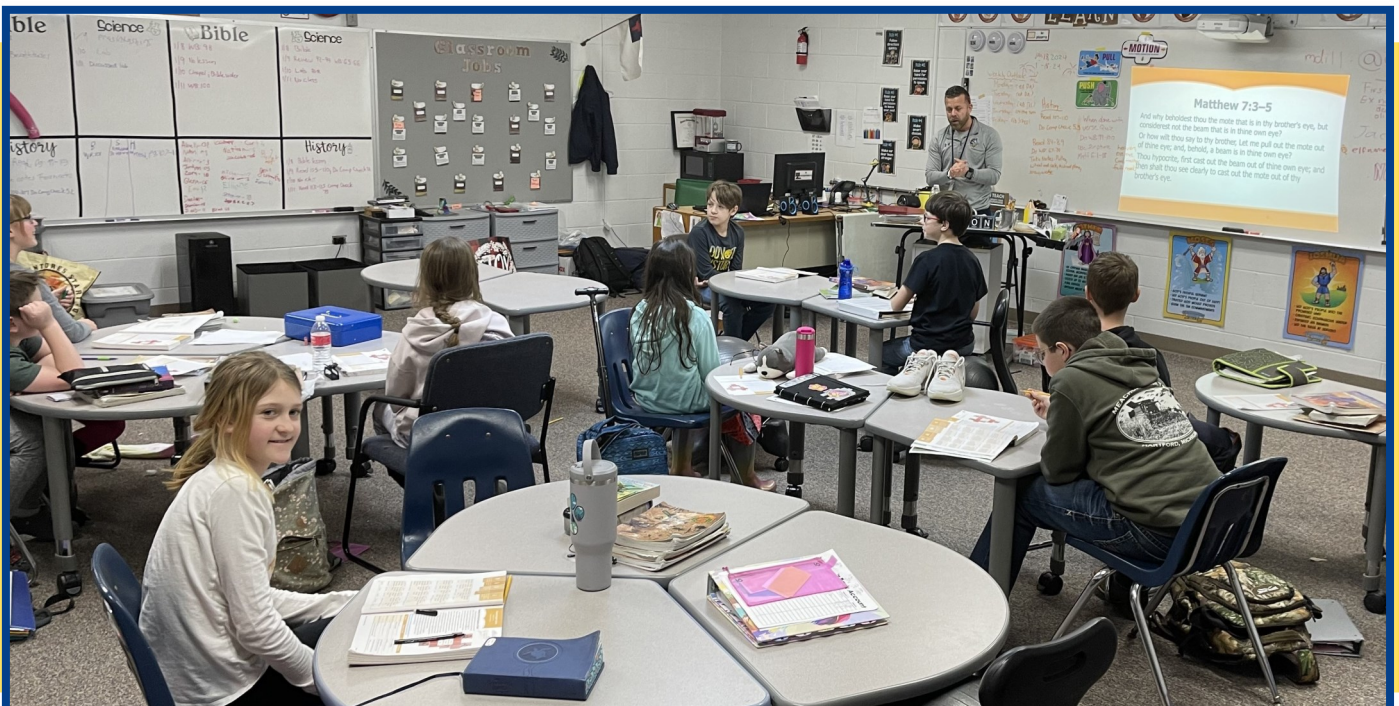
Thank you to the Conwell family for gifting GCS with an electric winch for our side basketball hoops! This device saves time and limits risk of injury compared to the manual way of retracting and extended the hoops. This is such a great blessing!

CLASSROOM UPDATES

Over the 2-week Christmas break, our school was blessed with two trailer loads of teacher grade desks and shelving units from supporting businesses. We were then notified of an auction at a Schoolcraft elementary school. For \$722 we brought home 3 trailer loads of student tables, chairs, white boards, and 4 short-throw projectors. This was an incredible amount of work accomplished in just two short weeks. Here are a couple photos of the classrooms, and we will share more in the next publication.



Mr. Dill's Classroom: The curvy desk were part of the Schoolcraft purchase. Mr. Dill also got a significant upgrade in desk: a two piece oak unit from a supporting business. Mr. Dill chose to rock out a retro green office chair. If you keep it long enough it will come back in style! He is using an ultra short throw projector that we updated at the beginning of the year (also a generous donation).



DECEMBER MIDDLE SCHOOL HOUSE WINNERS

Standout Student

(earned the most House points)

ERIKA ROMEO

Teacher on Fire

(for awarding the most House points)

MR. STANBRO



DECEMBER STUDENT OF THE MONTH

ADAM SKIPPER

SCHOOL DAY CANCELLATION

In the event of a school day cancellation, we send out the announcement via text, email, Facebook, Instagram and the website. We have noticed that at times, parents do not receive the text messages that are sent. Please be sure to not solely rely on text messages for your information. Thanks!



KINDERGARTEN ENTRANCE

For the 2024-25 schoolyear, hearing, vision and dental screenings are required by state law for all children entering Kindergarten at public and private schools. Parents may have these screenings completed with the health care professionals of their choosing or take advantage of the free clinics available over the summer.

Use the QR code or this link to [schedule an appointment today](#).

A list of dates and locations is located at the end of this Communiqué.





AUCTION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our annual auction is just 2 months away.

It's our biggest fundraiser of the year and we need your help!

We need volunteers to call for and pick up donations. We'll show you how.

Please reach out to Rebecca Dill at rdill@gcspatriots.com to volunteer. Thanks!

ALUMNI GAMES ARE SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23.

WATCH EMAIL FOR DETAILS!

POPPIN POPCORN SALE EXTENDED!

Due to the recent snow days, this fundraiser will be extended through Tuesday, January 23.

The school makes 50% profit on this hybrid fundraiser, which means that family and friends can order online and have it shipped directly to themselves or they can order from a student on the order form. For orders placed with the student, merchandise is expected to arrive on February 8th. All the information you need is in the packet. Remember to have students select their prizes when they are all done selling. If you have any questions, please email Rebecca Dill at rdill@gcspatriots.com.



MUSIC FESTIVAL INFORMATION



This is a reminder that all students, grades 7-12 are strongly encouraged to attend the ACSI Music Festival on March 8 and 9, 2024. This is an overnight trip and involves all 7th-12th grade bands and choirs. The cost of the festival, which includes the festival fee, 5 meals, hotel and transportation is \$150 per student. The next two turn in dates are: February 1 and February 23. If you have questions regarding the festival, please email Mrs. McBride:

rmcbride@gcspatriots.com

FEBRUARY MENU

The February menu is attached to this week's Communiqué email.

Please submit menus by Wednesday, January 24*

If you prefer, please email to info@gcspatriots.com.

**No menus will be accepted after the 1st of the month.*

FEBRUARY 2024				
GCS LUNCH MENU				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 ...Breakfast Tacos Orange Juice ...W...J...M ...Dessert	2 ...Pizza Bread Blue Salad Applesauce ...W...J...M ...Dessert	3 ...Chicken Stir Fry White Rice Mandarin Oranges ...W...J...M ...Dessert	4 ...Burgers Bacon Ranch Potato Salad ...W...J...M ...Dessert	5 ...Chicken Salad Apple Pizzas ...W...J...M ...Dessert
6 ...Chili Dog Tater Tots Apple Slices ...W...J...M ...Dessert	7 ...Beef Stew Mashed Potatoes ...W...J...M ...Dessert	8 ...Tacos Rice and Beans Pineapple ...W...J...M ...Dessert	9 ...GCS BOWLS Peaches ...W...J...M ...Dessert	10 ...Mid-Winter Break
11 ...Mac and Cheese Green Beans Jello ...W...J...M ...Dessert	12 ...Meatball Sub Biscotti Peaches ...W...J...M ...Dessert	13 ...Chicken Stir Fry White Rice Mandarin Oranges ...W...J...M ...Dessert	14 ...Bacon Ranch Potato Salad ...W...J...M ...Dessert	15 ...Pizza Pop, Cha Side salad ...W...J...M ...Dessert
16 ...Mid-Winter Break	17 ...Teacher In	18 ...Sub Sandwich Pickle Relish Chips ...W...J...M ...Dessert	19 ...Hearty Chicken Noodle Soup Breadsticks Apples	20 ...Mrs. Testera



UPCOMING BASKETBALL GAMES

GCS Basketball season is in full swing for Middle School Girls, JV Boys and V Girls!

Game schedules are changing regularly, so please go to:

<https://gcspatriots.com/athletics-calendar/>

for the most up-to-date athletic calendar!

SIGN UP!

Our athletic program has grown by leaps and bounds in the last few years and it is incredibly exciting for GCS students, families and staff alike. This growth cannot be maintained without the help of many hands. We invite you to use the following link to sign up for a variety of opportunities to serve at home games throughout the basketball season and beyond: <https://signup.com/go/hKbQQaw>



CHRISTMAS WEEK RESULTS

Christmas Week was great fun this year! Below are the results of the contests:

Elementary Door Decorating Contest..... 3rd Grade
Secondary Classroom Door Decorating..... 8th Grade
Dress Up Participation..... 12th Grade
Trivia Game..... 7th Grade
Candy Cane Hunt..... 8th Grade

The overall winner of Christmas week was 8th Grade! Congratulations!



AMERIGAS

Amerigas Customers can support GCS without paying anything extra!

Simply visit the link below and enter your account information and the **School ID# 680389884** and AMERIGAS will send \$0.02 on every gallon of propane you purchase to benefit Grace Christian School!

<https://www.amerigas.com/company-information/amerigas-in-the-community/school-days-program/participant-form>



JOB OPPORTUNITY

We have a wonderful lady who is part of our GCS family that is in need of a fellow worker that can help her with her home cleaning business. If you have a good work ethic and enjoy cleaning houses, please email info@gcspatriots.com and we will be sure to get you connected!



Signs
&
Custom
Graphics



B&I SUPPORTERS

BUSINESS BOOSTERS

When you buy from or use the services of one of these businesses, they give a portion of your purchase as a gift to GCS (but only if the receipt is turned into the GCS office).

Featured Boosters of the Month:



Colbert/Ball Tax Service (10%)

Jerry & Tashama Brown
Orchards Mall
1800 Pipestone Rd., Benton Harbor
269.927.8888 or 269.927.8886



Wil-O-Paw Animal Hospital (10%)

Veterinary services and products.
Drs. Alan and Christy Stockdale
4809 Paw Paw Lake Road, Coloma
269.468.7297



Parable Christian Bookstore (10%)

Bibles, Christian books, music, gifts and church supplies
2913 Niles Avenue, St. Joseph
269.983.7889

**THE NEXT GCEA BOARD MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON
MONDAY, JANUARY 29 AT 6:30 P.M.**

2023-24 GCEA SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Ben Williamson, President
Mrs. Whitney Tinker, Vice President
Mr. Trevor Meachum, Treasurer
Mrs. Holly Crouch, Secretary

Mrs. Shirl Bontrager
Mr. Marshall Downs
Mr. Joel Layman
Mr. Nathan Hutchins

GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

2023-2024 School Year*

AUGUST

- 14 Senior Parent Meeting, 5:00 pm
Secondary Info Night, 6:00 pm
- 24 Back to School Night, 5:30-8:00 pm
- 28 **First Day of School**
Quarter 1 Begins

SEPTEMBER

- 1-4 **NO SCHOOL - Labor Day Wknd.**
- 12-14 SEW Retreat (Grades 9-12)
- 11 Picture Day
- 15 **NO SCHOOL - Staff Enrichment**
- 27 **Patriots-In-Action Day**

OCTOBER

- 5-6 **NO SCHOOL - Teacher Conference**
- 11 PSAT Testing, grades 10-11
- 27 **Grandparents Day, Half Day, No Aftercare**
End of Quarter 1
- 30 **NO SCHOOL - Teacher Record Day**
- 31 Quarter 2 Begins

NOVEMBER

- 14 **NO SCHOOL - Parent/Teacher Conferences, 12:00 - 7:00pm**
- 22-24 **NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break**

DECEMBER

- 8 Christmas Concert, 7:00 pm
- 18-21 Christmas Spirit Week
- 22-1/5 **NO SCHOOL - Christmas Break**

JANUARY

- 8 School Resumes
- 15 **NO SCHOOL- MLK Jr. Day**
- 17-18 Secondary Mid-Term Exams
End of Quarter 2
- 19 **NO SCHOOL - Teacher Record Day**
- 23 Quarter 3 Begins

FEBRUARY

- 16-19 **NO SCHOOL - Mid-Winter Break**
- 20 **NO SCHOOL Teacher In-Service**
- 21-23 Spirit Week
- 23 Alumni Games

MARCH

- 7 Open House/Science Fair
- 8-9 ACSI Music Festival at Olivet
- 14 Kindergarten Program
- 22 End of Quarter 3
- 23 Annual Benefit Auction
- 25 Quarter 4 Begins
- 29 **NO SCHOOL- Good Friday**

APRIL

- 1-5 **NO SCHOOL - Spring Break**
- 11 Spring Concert
- 12-13 Music Festival
- 15 M-Step Testing Begins
- 16 GCEA Meeting, 6:30pm
- 27 GCS 50th Year Banquet

MAY

- 3 Elementary Musical, 9:00 am and 6:30 pm
- 10 Secondary Awards Night
- 13 Elementary Field Day
- 15 Seniors' Last Day
- 16-21 Senior Trip
- 22 Graduation Practice
- 23 Graduation Ceremony, 7pm
- 24-27 **NO SCHOOL, Memorial Day**
- 29-30 Final Exams, Half Day (6th-12th only)
- 31 Moving Up Ceremony (TK-5th)
Half Day, No Aftercare
End of Quarter 4

JUNE

- 1 Golf Outing

SCHOOL DAY 8:00 - 3:00 pm

EARLY CARE 7:00 - 7:30 am

OFFICE HOURS 7:30 - 3:30 pm

AFTER CARE 3:15 - 5:30 pm

**This calendar is subject to change. Please visit GCSPatriots.org for current calendar.*



2024

PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

FREE HEARING, VISION AND DENTAL PUBLIC CLINIC SCHEDULE

Hearing, vision and dental screenings are **required by state law** for all children entering kindergarten at public and private schools. Our team provides these **free screenings** for all Berrien County residents **by appointment only**. We cannot accept appointments after Aug. 28. If you do not complete your child's screening by Aug. 28, you will need to arrange and pay for a private appointment with hearing, vision and dental professionals.

Location	Date(s)	Time(s)
Berrien County Health Department 2149 E. Napier Ave., Benton Harbor	Thursday, June 6	2-6 p.m.
	Thursday, July 11	8:30-Noon, 1:30-4:30 p.m.
	Wednesday, Aug. 14	8:30-Noon, 1:30-4:30 p.m.
	Wednesday, Aug. 28	8:30-Noon, 1:30-6 p.m.
Berrien County Health Department 1205 N. Front Street, Niles	Thursday, July 25	1-5 p.m.
	Wednesday, Aug. 7	8:30-Noon, 1:30-4:30 p.m.
	Wednesday, Aug. 21	8:30-Noon, 1:30-6 p.m.
Merritt Elementary 162 LaSalle Ave., Niles	Monday, June 10	8:30-Noon, 1:30-4:30 p.m.
Hollywood Elementary 143 E. John Beers Road, Stevensville	Monday, June 17	8:30-Noon, 1:30-4:30 p.m.
BCHD WIC Office 704 West Merchant Street, New Buffalo	Wednesday, June 19	8:30-Noon, 1:30-4:30 p.m.
Roosevelt Elementary 2000 El Dorado Drive, Stevensville	Tuesday, June 25	8:30-Noon, 1:30-4:30 p.m.
Coloma Administration Building 302 W. St. Joseph Street, Coloma	Tuesday, July 30	8:30-Noon, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Scan the QR code to schedule your appointment.

Questions? Call Melisa Jordan at 269.926.7121 ext. 5293



2149 E. Napier Ave., Benton Harbor
bchdmi.org