March 9, 2024

COMMUNIQUÉ

MONTHLY

- Alumni
- Good Friday/Spring Break
- GCEA Meeting
- Auction
- Athletics
- National Bible Bee
- Upcoming Events
- Book Fair

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

ALUMNI

We are grateful for the alumni that joined us for the alumni game just 3 weeks ago. We nearly had triple the alumni participate in the game than we had the previous year. As we look to improve the alumni night experience I recognize that will happen with Alumni taking the lead in planning the night. Looking to next year we will have an Alumni night in October for Volleyball and in February for Basketball. I would love for the alumni to take ownership of these nights and make them great. - Benjamin Williamson

GOOD FRIDAY/SPRING BREAK

There will be no school on March 29, in honor of Good Friday. Spring Break will follow April 1 - 5, and classes will resume on Monday, April 8.

We praise our Risen Savior, the LORD Jesus Christ, and are forever grateful for the sacrifice He made so that we might spend eternity with Him.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." ***- John 3:16***

ANNUAL GCEA MEETING

We have moved our annual Grace Christian Educational Association Meeting to April 16th this year. Members should be on the lookout for more information about this meeting coming soon. If you are not currently a member of the GCEA and would like to know more about it, please contact us via info@gcspatriots.com and we will send you information!

HOW *YOU* CAN HELP WITH THE AUCTION:

Week of the Auction

⇒ Auction Set Up (various tasks that require roughly 100 hours total)

Day of Auction

⇒ 5 friendly auction assistants to help people with bidding and make guests feel welcome

⇒ 3 cashiers and 3 runners retrieving items (at the end of the event)

⇒ 3 registration helpers (at the beginning of the event)

⇒ 2 kid zone volunteers (sign up for a shift)

WE STILL NEED HELP!

Email Rebecca Dill at rdill@gcspatriots.com.

COME TO THE AUCTION!

All of the work leading into the auction is wasted if we do not have you and friends and the community *come* to the auction. It is a great time to visit as you shop for things that as a result support our school. So much has been done: let's make the most of this opportunity.

Share on Social Media and Tell:

Neighbors Friends Church Family Alumni

APRIL MENU

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

Please submit menus by **Monday, March 25***

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

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

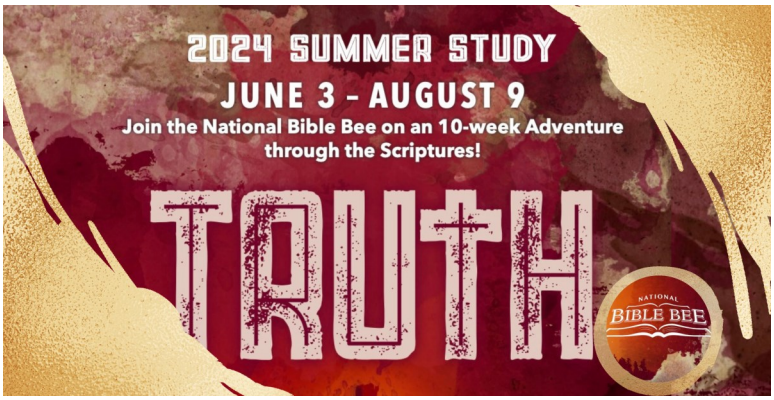
UPCOMING BASEBALL GAMES

GCS will co-op with Howardsville this spring for Varsity Baseball!

All games will be away, so be sure to check the Athletic Calendar regularly on our website: **https://gcspatriots.com/athletics-calendar/**

NATIONAL BIBLE BEE SUMMER CAMP

Registration for the National Bible Bee Summer Camp begins Tuesday, March 12th! Join us for more information and get your questions answered this Tuesday, March 12th at 2:30pm in the commons area.



KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM*

Thursday, March 14 at 6:00 PM

The Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten classes will be on stage on March 14, showing off what they have learned at GCS this year. We invite families to come and see, as well as anyone who might be considering GCS for their young ones next school year. Doors will open at 5:30 PM. Prior to the program, our preschool rooms will be open for viewing from 5:00 - 5:45.

*Please note that this is not a Kindergarten Round Up.

GIVE BACK NIGHT

Monday
March 18
3-8:00 PM
This give back night will gift 25% of the night's profits to

GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

in Watervliet, MI.

GCSPATRIOTS.ORG

Grace Christian School equips the youth of our community with the knowledge of right and wrong though a Biblical framework as we teach traditional math, English, history & science. Tonight's giving will go towards providing CPR recertification classes for staff.

LUTZ'S DRIVE-IN *is located at* **28102 M-152 Dowagiac, MI 49047**

BLOOD DRIVE

GCS Student Council is planning a Blood Drive here at the school on

Tuesday, May 7 from 2:00 - 6:00 PM.

You could save lives!

Classic Car Cruise-In

Sponsored by Student Council

- May 31st, 5-9 p.m. (Friday night)
- Food and fun
- Pre 2000s cars, and spectators are welcome!
- It's our 50th year as a school and our 1st Car Cruise-In.
- Come to support our school so we can continue to “inspire students to impact the world for Jesus Christ”.
- **More info coming soon!**

KINDERGARTEN ENTRANCE

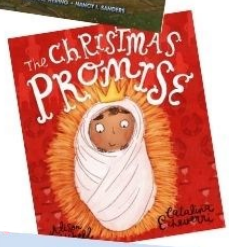
For the 2024-25 school year, hearing, vision and dental screenings are required by state law for all children entering Kindergarten at public and private schools. Parents may have these screenings completed with the health care professionals of their choosing or take advantage of the free clinics available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

MUD HEN MAMA BOOK FAIR

NOW THROUGH MARCH 15

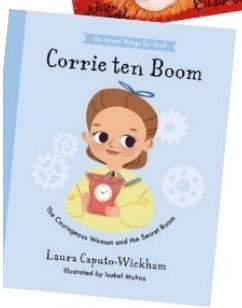
We're so excited to partner with Mud Hen Mama (MHM) again and share with all of you their great booklist! MHM has spent hours reviewing books to put together the best titles that support your values as Believers, so you can feel good about sharing them with your kids (and even yourself)!



Protect your kids against the prevailing culture with books that align with your values.

Shop MHM books!

So how does this work?



Go to **gracechristian.mudhenmama.com** and check out the great selection of books! Add your favorites to your cart, as well as a few books from your favorite teachers' wishlists if you'd like! Then check out! You're done!

Remember that orders need to be in by the end of the online bookfair. Books will be distributed at school within 2 - 3 weeks from the end of the bookfair (there have been some delays with a few of the books due to sourcing issues)!

*To avoid shipping charges, please choose FREE SHIPPING at checkout!

If you would like your items shipped directly to you, a $5 shipping charges will be applied!!*

BONUS: For every ~~10~~ 7 books purchased, your school will receive EITHER $10 worth of MHM dollars (to use towards books) or $5 CASH!

Anchor Signs Truck Graphics

Signs & Custom Graphics

McNew & Teeters Electric, LLC
"No Job TOO BIG or SMALL!"
269.325.2805 or 269.326.0542
mcnewandteeters@yahoo.com

Smittys Heating & Air Conditioning, LLC

Triple C Trailer Sales Inc. Est. 1975

High Acres Quality Fruit Phone 12323 Hartford Mich

Lake Michigan Bible Institute

Town & Country Plumbing & Electrical Services, Inc.
269-934-8155

Mr. Clean's Cleaning and Restoration
269-363-3675

Modern Woodmen Fraternal Financial

Chandler Construction Services LLC.
Adding Value To Your Investment

Celebrating 50 year serving southwest Michigan 1974-2024

Coloma/St. Joseph KOA Holiday
Your Outdoor Getaway...Close to Everything

Casey's General Store

TEED Heating & Cooling

bravecom.net

B&I SUPPORTERS

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

SAVE THE DATE

JUNE 1, 2024

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:

Perennial Accents

Every purchase made at Perennial Accents can earn 3%.
Just mention at the register that you want your purchase to go toward the Grace Christian School of Watervliet!
220 State Street
(269)983-5791

M&W Tire

Every time you make a purchase and mention Grace Christian School of Watervliet, 5% comes back to our school.
2216 M-139 Benton Harbor
(269) 983-7155

Great Lakes Truck & Auto Repair (10%)

Full Truck and auto repair facility
2159 Plaza Dr., Benton Harbor
(269) 983-7155

Dewitt Computer Technologies (5%)

Computer IT services
1826 Hilltop Rd
St. Joseph
(269)983-4011

THE NEXT GCEA BOARD MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON MONDAY, MARCH 25 AT 6:30 PM.

2023-24 GCEA SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Ben Williamson, *President*
Mrs. Whitney Tinker, *Vice President*
Mr. Trever 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

11 Apple Pie Making Day

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
Cruise-In

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

BERRIEN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
better health. stronger communities.

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