

April 13, 2024

COMMUNIQUÉ

MONTHLY



- . GCEA Meeting
- . Re-enrollment
- . Accounts
- . Athletics
- . Field Day
- . Performances
- . Thanks
- . National Bible Bee
- . Upcoming Events



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

THE BOY WHO CRIED WOLF

We are set to celebrate our 50th year April 27th. We will hear testimony and memories from decades past and close with a vision for the future of GCS. There have been many blessings, successes, and miracles realized in the history of our loved school. There has also been stress, sleepless nights, and devoted prayer meetings about how our school will stay open. This Tuesday, April 16th at 7:00 PM, is the GCEA Annual Meeting. If you are not familiar with our school, this is the one meeting a year where the members of our Association make decisions (Budget & Board Members) for the coming year. It is where the School Board gives a report of what has happened in the 23-24 school year and sets the agenda for the 24-25 school year.

The Annual Meeting is an opportunity to share the year's triumphs and describe the hopes and plans for the coming year. There are so many good things we want to give God glory for. What often keeps the Annual Meeting from being a celebration is the budget. We have 50 years of witness and testimony that this is not a new thing. So, when I say, "We have a money problem," I hear from those familiar with GCS, "Well, that's nothing new." This is where 'The Boy Who Cried Wolf' reference kicks in. There is a sense that Grace always needs money and that 'somehow, someday God will provide. It just won't be through me. I did my time.'

This year we have more clarity of the needs of the school than we have had in many years. We have financial needs and we have volunteer needs. For 50 years, our school marvels that we made it through the year, financially. We are usually in bad financial shape to start the next year. In the recent past as a budget is set, there is concern and wondering how this is going to work out. That tension is realized during payroll weeks when the business office says, "We're \$12,000 short on making payroll this week. What do you want us to do?" I cannot say "Go ahead and print some money." In the past, I think we've lied to ourselves by saying we have a cashflow problem. A cashflow problem indicates there is enough cash coming eventually, just not when you need it. Our problem is worse than that. We are cash deficient; it is not eventually coming. Why is that? We do not have a balanced budget. The 24-25 budget needs an additional \$150,000 of income to be a balanced budget, and this will be the central discussion at the Annual Meeting.

This year's school experience for both families and staff is as good as it has been in many years. There is a business principle that you do not cut your way into prosperity. We will discuss at the Annual Meeting different parts of the budget you could cut to balance the budget, but it would be like a wrestler trying to make weight by cutting off different parts of his body. He may have lost his left arm and will no longer be an effective wrestler, but he made weight. There are consequences to cuts. We would rather see growth and invite you to help us close the gap.

So, all hands-on deck: We need everyone to help us reach people who want to help kids get a Christian education. We will be replacing our financial aid with student/family sponsorship. Why? Because we do not have financial aid money. We also need more families to buy in and participate with the activities (building projects, cleaning, athletics, mowing) at the school. If you see a need, be the answer to the need. This school is your school. The school itself is not a self-willed entity. When we give up, the school gives up. The 24-25 school year is going to happen by God's grace if we have the desire to make it happen with God's help. The vision for the future of Grace Christian School is to



daily walk with God as we work out our mission statement of making disciples of Jesus Christ to impact their world with the tools they received in our classrooms. There are a thousand things that support our mission. We are starting with a balanced budget, school accreditation, and building/safety upgrades.

Looking forward to Tuesday, it is the first step where we get this figured out.

-Mr. Williamson

RE-ENROLLMENT IS ONLINE!

NEW THIS YEAR: Re-enrollment is online! Log into the Gradelink.com website* with your family login information and click on the "Re-enroll" tab on the left side of the screen. If you need your family login information, or have any other questions, please call the school at 269.463.5545 or email info@gcspatriots.com. Re-enrollment forms and tuition deposit (\$150 for 1 student and \$300 for 2+ students) are **due May 15** to reserve your child's seat for the 2024-25 school year. **Please note that the Gradelink App does not have this feature.*



MAY MENU

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

Please submit menus by **Monday, April 22***

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

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

Name: _____ Grade: _____		MAY 2024 GCS LUNCH MENU			
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	Notes
29	30	1 Tortito Soupe Grilled Cheese Grapes W, J, M Dessert	2 Grilled Chicken Wrap Carrots and Pepper Hummus Strawberries W, J, M Dessert	3 Pizza Rolls Applesauce Cucumbers W, J, M Dessert	Notes GCS Families, We are in the home stretch of this year. I know you can hardly wait for summer break, as I am anticipating that final school bell to ring. I want to thank you all for another great year. You all did exceptionally well learning in person and
6	7 Revisits Garlic Bread Broccoli W, J, M Dessert	8 GCS Bread Rait Berries W, J, M Dessert	9 Burgers Tots Applesauce W, J, M Dessert	10 Pizza Bread PEP_CHS Sub Sandwich Milk W, J, M Dessert	
13 Sub Sandwich Apple	14 Nuggies Grapes	15 Nachos Pineapple chunks	16 Breakfast Casserole Mixed Fruit	17 Pan and Pineapple Pizza	



MOMS IN PRAYER

Moms in Prayer meets Thursday mornings at 8:00 a.m. at GCS! If you feel called to pray for our school, kids, families, and community you are welcome, no commitment necessary. Unable to join but need prayer?

Call or text Whitney Tinker at 206-499-7852 with any questions or requests.

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>



ACCOUNTS



As the end of the year approaches, the Business Office would like to remind families to catch up on your accounts. Tuition, extended care and lunch must be caught up through May 31 in order to receive your child(ren)'s Quarter 4 Report Card(s). Report cards will be mailed the week of June 10th.



VARSITY BASEBALL GAMES

GCS is in a 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/>

ELEMENTARY FIELD DAY

Mrs. Colford is looking for volunteers to help plan this exciting day for our elementary students. If you're interested in helping create activities, gather materials, or solicit donations, please join us for a short meeting Thursday, April 18 at 2:30 PM. If you're interested in planning, but can't make the meeting time, please email lcolford@gcspatriots.com.



SPRING CONCERT



The GCS 5th - 12th grade bands and 6th- 12th grade choirs will perform on Thursday, April 18th at 7:00 PM. You won't want to miss out on the beautiful sounds of Grace! Music awards will be given throughout the event.

No tickets necessary. First come, first served.

ELEMENTARY MUSICAL

After months of hard work, GCS Patriots in grades TK-5th will present the "O Chicken of Little Faith" musical on Friday, May 3rd.

Matinee Showing at 9:00 AM

Evening Showing at 7:00 PM

No tickets necessary. First come, first served.

All TK-5th grade students are expected to perform.



THANK YOU!



LUTZ'S GIVE BACK NIGHT

Wow! What a great night at Lutz's in Dowagiac! The March 18th Give Back Night for Grace Christian School brought in \$764.50! This money will be put to good use: enabling GCS staff to continue their CPR training to keep our families safe. We are so very grateful to the wonderful staff at Lutz's!

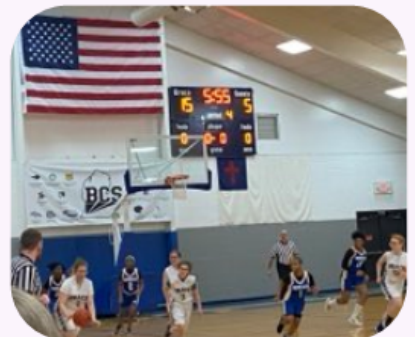
CERAMIC ARTS

A big thank you from the Grace Christian Art classes to Bee Crafty for sponsoring ceramic arts at Grace Christian School! Ceramics is for everyone from beginners to graduation and beyond! Bless the world by visiting Bee Crafty to create amazing gifts and show God's creative goodness! They are located at 101 East Main Street, Niles, Michigan, or contact them for wonderful ceramic painting parties at BeACraftyBee@gmail.com /269-240-7695.



NEW SCORE BOARD

Thank you Mr. Clean's Cleaning and Restoration for donating the beautiful new scoreboard to the GCS gymnasium this year! What a tremendous gift!



CHAPEL WORK DAY

Members of the Chapel, EFC came out to Grace Christian School today to volunteer their time helping out around the school. It's volunteers like this who help make such a difference in the LORD's work here at GCS.

THRIFT STORE VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to the Watervliet Free Methodist Church Youth Group for working over Spring Break at the Reclaimed By Grace Thrift Store. There's always something to do at the thrift store for those that would like to spend part of their day with us! Come see what a difference you can make.



RECLAIMED BY GRACE

TUESDAY - SATURDAY, 10 - 5
SUNDAY - MONDAY, CLOSED

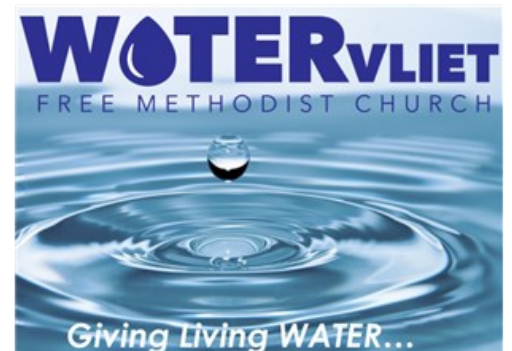
7053 RED ARROW HWY.
COLOMA, MI 49038

RCBGRACE@GMAIL.COM

269.285.3888



Pastor Brad with his children, Sam, and the Romeos



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. Use the QR code or this link to

[schedule an appointment today.](#)



NATIONAL BIBLE BEE SUMMER CAMP

Do you want a fun and wholesome summer activity for your child?

Do you want to strengthen your child in his or her faith?

Do you want to meet other Christian families who are passionate about the Bible?

For only \$35 for the entire summer (that's less than \$4.50 per week!!!), your children (ages 5-18) can participate in our 8-week exploration into God's Word.

With registration, you receive an activity workbook, access to the National Bible Bee community, digital memory cards, and most importantly, an opportunity for your child to build friendships centered around Christ and His Word. Meetings will be held weekly on Thursdays from 1-2:30 pm (June 3-August 9) on our GCS Campus.

Secure your spot today: bit.ly/gcsbiblebee

TRUTH

SUMMER STUDY
June 3 - August 9

GCS presents the National Bible Bee Summer Camp offering you a powerfully productive summer anchored in Knowing God's WORD and Making HIM Known.

REGISTER WITH OUR UNIQUE CODE TO RECEIVE A \$5 DISCOUNT
FOR ANY OF THE 4 AGE DIVISIONS: BEGINNER (5-6), PRIMARY (7-10), JUNIOR (11-14), & SENIOR (15-18)

REGISTER NOW:

🕒 THURSDAYS at 1 PM
📍 GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
325 N M-140, Watervliet, MI 49098
🌐 bit.ly/GCSbiblebee

RECEIVE ACCESS:

- Discovery Journal
- Official Memory Passage Cards
- Local Host Group
- Opportunity to Qualify for National Competition

VOLUNTEER HERE:

📞 269-287-0333
🌐 bit.ly/NBBvolunteer

EXPLORE GOD'S WORD • UNLOCK THE TRUTH • DISCOVER ETERNAL TREASURE



Signs & Custom Graphics



CLEANING AND RESTORATION
269-363-3675



B&I SUPPORTERS



YOU ARE A PART OF GCS HISTORY

COME CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF GRACE

APRIL 27 AT 6:00 PM

This event will include an interactive remembrance of God's grace these last 50 years, as well as casting a vision for the next 50 years. Students, staff, parents and friends from each decade between 1974 to 2024 will present memories of GCS.

- 5:30 - Doors Open
- 6:00 - Food
- 6:15 - Program
- Door Prizes
- Adults Only, Please

RSVP IS REQUIRED

- Send RSVP to celebrate50@gcspatriots.com by April 15

PLEASE SHARE GCS PICTURES AND STORIES

- Send pictures and stories to celebrate50@gcspatriots.com by April 15

THIS IS A CELEBRATION EVENT AND THE FOCUS WILL NOT BE ON FUNDRAISING

BLOOD DRIVE

Hope springs

**DONATE
BLOOD**

eternal

**Tuesday
May**

07

2:00 PM – 6:00 PM

**Helpful tip:
Make sure to eat a healthy
meal and drink plenty of
water before donating.**

GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE!

325 N M-140
WATERVLIET, MI 49098
GYM



You keep the pulse of the community going-what is donated today, by you or through your Versiti drive, helps patients here now, and in the future. Thanks for supporting local patients in need ♥

16 year olds must have a parental consent form signed and turned in before making an appointment.

APPOINTMENTS PREFERRED
Call 866-642-5663 or scan the QR Code

Call 866-642-5663



versiti™

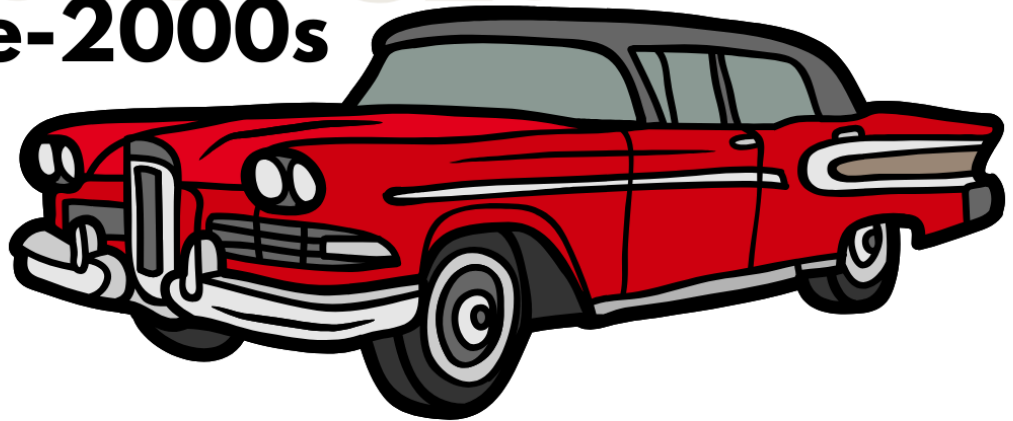
Blood Center of Michigan

GCS STUDENT COUNCIL PRESENTS THE FIRST ANNUAL

CLASSIC *Cruise-In* Pre-2000s

50/50
RAFFLE

T-SHIRTS



FREE ENTRY
&
ADMISSION

FRIDAY
May 31
5-9 PM

FOOD:

WOOD,
STOCK AND
GRILL

CALLING ALL CAR ENTHUSIASTS!

Join us as we kick off summer with our first ever Classic Car Show! No entry fee for vehicles and free admission for spectators. Donations will be accepted and will go towards the GCS parking lot fund.

GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

325 M-140 WATERVLiet, MI

MORE INFO:

cruise-in@gcspatriots.com



\$90/golfer includes:
Snacks & Lunch,
Fellowship, Door Prizes

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Sponsored by:



**PRIZES FOR: Long Drive, Closest to Hole, Longest Putt &
Best Approach Shot**

Saturday June 1st
Indian Lake Hills Golf Course
7:30 A.M. Check-In / 8:30 A.M. Tee Off

Questions?
Contact Outing Director
Marshall Downs
773.807.3930 or
mddowns@gcspatriots.com



Sign up your team today!

<https://forms.gle/rCck4Hk1SYG3gx6J6>

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:



Town & Country Electric Service (10/5%)

(10% for residential services, 5% for commercial services)
2179 Plaza Dr.
Benton Harbor
(269) 934-8155



Roseland Organic Farms & Market (10%)

Organic beef, chicken, pork, dairy and other organic items
60200 Daily Rd., Dowagiac
(269) 445-8769



Family Vision Associates P.C. (10%)

Optometric exams, eye glasses, contact lenses and solutions, Not to be used in conjunction with any other discounts, nor for ophthalmology & vision training.

Drs. Sisson, Fortenbacher & Dudley
2904 Division St., St. Joseph
(269)983-2020



Oxi-Fresh Carpet Cleaning (10%)

Bryan Bailey
bryan@oxifreshswmi.com
Commercial Sales: (269)206-2149 Cell: (269)277-0357

**THE NEXT GCEA BOARD MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON
MONDAY, APRIL 29 AT 6:30 PM.**

2023-24 GCEA SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Ben Williamson, *President*

Mrs. Shirl Bontrager

Mrs. Whitney Tinker, *Vice President*

Mr. Marshall Downs

Mr. Trever Meachum, *Treasurer*

Mr. Joel Layman

Mrs. Holly Crouch, *Secretary*

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**
- 15 M-Step Testing Begins
- 16 GCEA Meeting, 6:30pm
- 18 Spring Concert
- 27 GCS 50th Year Celebration

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.

