

September 13, 2024

# COMMUNIQUÉ

Monthly



- “Settling In & Expectations”
- Picture Day
- Student Drop Off
- Thanksgiving
- PTF/Volunteers
- Upcoming Events
- Amazon Wishlists
- National Bible Bee Results
- Hot Lunch News
- Support GCS
- Community Service
- Calendar at a Glance



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

# ADMINISTRATION

## SETTLING IN AND EXPECTATIONS

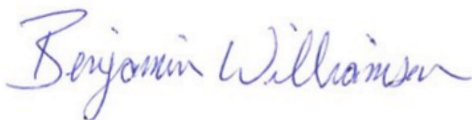
The first couple of weeks of school there are a lot of adjustments being made by everyone. Teachers, students, parents, and administration are adjusting schedules, expectations, and sleep patterns. Going into a school year we have the greatest of hopes and plans. These hopes and plans are shared by parents, students, and teachers alike. The first couple of weeks everyone is far more willing and able to make the adjustments needed for a great school year.

As we enter the fourth week of school this Monday, we recognize that most of the easy movement is past us and we begin to understand that what we are seeing from our students is what we are working with. At Grace Christian School we want our students to excel in academics. The time in the classroom is important and we have expectations for our students. They are not coming to school to be bumps on a log. We do not pass elementary students on to the next grade because they are just so crazy cute. (The middle school students truly earn their promotion!)

So, what I am trying to say is that we are fully committed to engaging with and teaching your children. We will endeavor to actively communicate with you if there is something impeding that teaching (which may be their own behavior). I know that our teachers have the heart, curriculum, and skills in place to make that happen. One of our pillars of our educational philosophy is The Primacy of the Parent - Student Relationship. Ultimately, according to Deuteronomy 6, parents are responsible (not the government) to teach their children. You have partnered with Grace Christian to come alongside you and help you teach your child. Not only is Grace coming alongside you and helping you with your child, but we are also coming alongside 90 other families to teach their children about the world the God of Heaven has made.

As the Administrator there is a tension between leading a school to do what is best for one student and doing what is best for 91 families. Let me encourage you to teach your children that when they come to school they come to give to the culture of Grace. Here's an example: Instead of sending them out the door with "Have fun today!" rather say "Be Kind!" or "Be good & Do good!" or "Learn something cool and tell me tonight about it." It changes the tone from a self-centered experience to others-center experience. The Bible clearly teaches that man is self-centered and it takes God's help for us to consider the needs of one another, Philippians 2:3-5.

In closing, we look forward to a great year as we serve all the families of our school.



Benjamin Williamson  
GCS Administrator





Picture Day at Grace Christian School is

**Friday, September 20**

Online ordering is available before and after Picture Day. Shipping and handling charges may apply after Picture Day.

**[ORDER HERE.](#)**

Picture Day Tips So You Can Share the Power of a Smile

This picture will be taken using Green Screen technology. Please note that if your child wears green, they may appear to blend in with the background on unedited proofs. This will be fixed in color editing.

You can create an account [here](#).

Visit <https://inter-state.com/myschoolcode> to view details about other Picture Day events in your school, like our sports pictures!



**USE ORDER CODE:**  
Use el código de pedido:

**91178XT**



## SPORTS PICTURES

Fall Sports Pictures will also be taken on Friday, September 20 for that are currently participating in the following sports:

- MS Football (Watervliet)
- JV/V Football (Twin City Sharks)
- MS Volleyball (GCS)
- V Volleyball (GCS)

Students need to bring their jerseys to school on this day for pictures.

Parents, order pictures online at

[inter-state.com/order](http://inter-state.com/order)

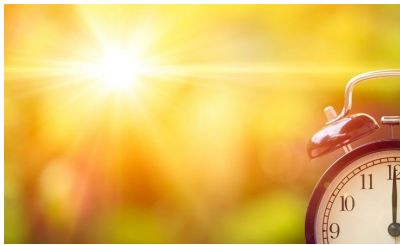
Order Code: **91178XT**

## CAR LINE TAGS

Elementary students are bringing home laminated signs with their last name on them. When you or a trusted loved one is coming to pick up your student, place this tag in your vehicle's driver side dash to show the car line workers which child(ren) you are picking up. If you need more tags made for your family, please call the school or email your request to [info@gcspatriots.com](mailto:info@gcspatriots.com).



## STUDENT DROP OFF



The main entrance of the school building will be open to students beginning at 7:30 each morning. If you need to leave your student at school prior to 7:30, you must take your student to the modular building behind the school for Early Care. Please do not leave your student unattended.

## MORNING ROUTINE

Just a reminder that while students are not considered tardy until the 8:00 bell rings, it is important that they arrive in the gymnasium by 7:50 each morning to participate in prayer and pledges and hear the morning announcements. Please make every effort to ensure that your children can benefit from this time.

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The Lord is near to all who call on Him in Truth

**7:50**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

# Thanksgiving Page

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- ◆ Heart of Cook Grant \$5,000 for the purchase of a new commercial refrigerator.
- ◆ Anonymous donor gave \$2,000 toward student sponsorship.
- ◆ Mr. Clean's Cleaning and Restoration cleaned our carpets to prepare for the school year.
- ◆ Thank you to those who have brought in school supplies, paper, pencils, facial tissue and cleaning supplies for classrooms.
- ◆ School furniture was donated by a St. Joseph business man.
- ◆ The thrift store hit their first anniversary on August 12th and in this first year contributed about \$53,000 to the school scholarship fund.
- ◆ We received a \$15,000 gift to put toward student scholarships last year. This year we have many other sponsors who have picked families to support. Sponsorship for the 2024-25 school year is complete.
- ◆ Roy's Computer Repair and the Nuismer family for their generosity in helping to update our network infrastructure.
- ◆ Many hands came together to help get the building and grounds ready for students.



**A thankful  is a happy **



# VOLUNTEERS, CHAPERONES & DRIVERS

In order to host extracurricular activities and special events for our families throughout the school year, GCS relies on volunteers who are willing to help out with a number of different services. Some of these services include driving students to and from field trip locations, chaperoning trips and helping out in the classroom. If you are interested in volunteering, please be sure to submit a Volunteer Form to the office. Paper copies can be picked up at the Main Office, or you may go to the website and download it [here](#).

**VOLUNTEER APPLICATION**  
**Join the elite force of Minutemen!**

Members of the Minutemen will be called up to serve in a variety of ways. This form allows us to do a background check and enlist help via email, Communiqué and Patriot Preview.

**Contact Information**

Name	
Email Address	
Phone Number	

**Agreement and Signature**

By signing this form you give Grace Christian School permission to conduct a background check and you agree to abide by the policies of Grace Christian School.

Name (printed)	
Signature	
Date	
Date of Birth	

GCS Form  
FAM 3.17/24

## PATRIOTS-IN-ACTION



One of the greatest fundraisers at Grace Christian School is Patriots-In-Action, where our students ask friends and family members to pledge them as they spend a day serving others. This year, our elementary will be going to nursing homes to show God's love to the residents. Our secondary students will be going in groups of 3 - 5 to those in our community who need work done in and around their homes. If you know someone that our students can bless this fall, please reach out to Rebecca Dill at [rdill@gcspatriots.com](mailto:rdill@gcspatriots.com).

Watch for Patriots-In-Action packets to come home soon!

## GRANDPARENTS DAY

Grandparents Day is coming up on October 18! Invitations will be sent home with each student to give to their grandparents or grand-friends. If you would like more invitations, please let the Main Office know and we will get those to you.

Grandparents should RSVP by Friday, October 11. If you are a parent who needs to accompany a grandparent/grand-friend, we ask that you also RSVP, and consider giving a \$10 donation toward your breakfast.

Reminder: October 18 is scheduled to be a **HALF DAY** of school for all students, and there will be **NO AFTERCARE** available.

If grandparents or grand-friends will be taking students home afterward, parents must call or email the Main Office to give permission prior to Grandparents Day.

You're Invited to  
**GRANDPARENTS DAY**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18**

9:00 AM	Breakfast
10:00 AM	Program
11:00 AM	Classroom Visit

"This I recall to my MIND.  
Therefore, I have HOPE.  
The LORD's  
lovingkindness  
indeed never cease.  
For His compassions never fail.  
They are new every morning.  
Great is your faithfulness."  
- Lamentations 3:21-23

**RSVP BY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11<sup>th</sup>**  
(269)463-5545 or [info@gcspatriots.com](mailto:info@gcspatriots.com)

## AMAZON WISH LISTS

If you are looking for ways to bless our staff, check out the links below:



[Mrs. Colford, Principal](#)

[Miss Erickson, Middle School](#)

[Mrs. Corwin, Preschool](#)

[Miss Newell, Kindergarten](#)

[Mrs. McBride, Music](#)

[Mrs. Wilkerson, 3rd](#)

[Mrs. Moore, Kitchen](#)

# NATIONAL BIBLE BEE

Congratulations to EVERYONE who participated and supported Grace Christian's first National Bible Bee Summer Study Program! What an amazing adventure as families, alumni, and community members worked together to create an epic experience for our 52 participants. Each child received numerous opportunities for spiritual mentorship and academic growth. They surprised themselves and their family members by accomplishing more than they thought possible in an 8-week summer program!

Our aim this summer was to introduce each child to the essentials needed for a living encounter and life-long relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. This was achieved as children learned practical means to know God (through *His Word*) and make Him known (*with their words*).

Our long term goal is to establish a self-sustaining culture in which parents mature in discipling their child's heart, children display self-initiative in the study and memorization of God's Word and our school and community feel the transformative impact that occurs when the human and Divine collide!

As a school community we celebrate our children's success with the program this summer:

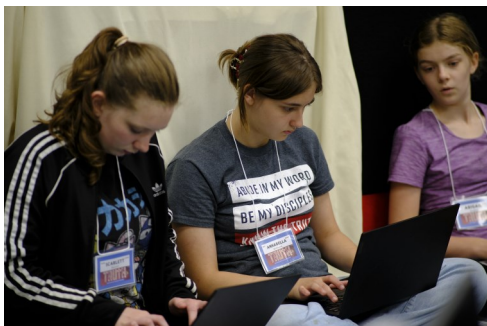
- Memorizing more Scripture than they thought they could
- Mastering tools to more in-depth study of God's Word
- Building community with other like minded hearts
- Challenging one another to deeper depths in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ!

This **program's greatest success** by far were the positive responses to the invitation to become followers of Jesus! We are grateful to have witnessed these **young hearts saying "yes" to Jesus!** We pray that Grace Christian will continue to be the place that nurtures and nourishes these new-found relationships with our Savior!

We also recognize three of our students who qualified in the top 120 (out of thousands) nationwide and will be representing Grace Christian at the National Bible Bee Competition this November! We are proud of you!

- Abigail Malaka - Junior Division
- Elizabeth Malaka - Junior Division
- Deborah Malaka- Primary Division

We pray our children, families, and school sustain the gains made through the National Bible Bee this summer and continue to desire and capitalize on upcoming opportunities to study and memorize God's Word! Thank you for supporting your child as they learn to love and live for Christ here at Grace Christian School!



# OCTOBER MENUS

If you would like to purchase school lunches for your child for October, please email one completed menu for each child to [info@gcspatriots.com](mailto:info@gcspatriots.com) at your earliest convenience. The menus for October are attached to the Communiqué email and can be found on our [website](#). **DUE SEPTEMBER 23.**

OCTOBER   2024				
GCS Menu				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
10 Chicken Nuggets Taco Tots _Drink _Salad Bar (secondary only)	1 Grilled Cheese Sandwich Taco Bites _Drink _Salad Bar (secondary only)	2 HALF DAY	3 NO SCHOOL TEACHER CONFERENCE	4 NO SCHOOL TEACHER CONFERENCE
7 Hamburger Fries _Drink _Salad Bar (secondary only)	8 Turkey Sandwich Cherry Potato Soup _Drink _Salad Bar (secondary only)	9 Biscuits & Gravy Casseroles Sausage Links _Drink _Salad Bar (secondary only)	10 Meat Tacos Corn & Bean Enchilada Tortilla Chips _Drink _Salad Bar (secondary only)	11 Pizza Pop Corn _Drink _Salad Bar (secondary only)
14 Baked Chicken Breast Macaroni & Cheese _Drink _Salad Bar (secondary only)	15 _Chili Cerebral Muffins _Drink _Salad Bar (secondary only)	16 _Nacho bar _Drink _Salad Bar (secondary only)	17 Sweet & Sour Chicken Beef Fried or White Rice _Drink _Salad Bar (secondary only)	18 Pizza Bread Pop Corn _Drink _Salad Bar (secondary only)

**News**  
Beginning this month, a salad bar will be offered to secondary students only. The salad bar will be the same price as the entree. Please indicate by checking the box next to "salad bar" option if your student would prefer to have salad bar for lunch instead of the entree. If your student takes both entree and salad bar, the cost will double.

## HOT LUNCH NEWS



I am so excited to be able to offer something new from the Grace Christian kitchen! October will bring the lunch option of a salad bar, offered to staff and secondary only at this time. You will see a change to your students' menus starting with the October menu. Every student who would like to have salad bar instead of the entree will need to fill out a menu even if your student will be eating school lunch daily. This will allow me to purchase ingredients more accurately. The salad bar options consist of romaine lettuce, heritage blend lettuce, freshly baked chicken breast, ham, bacon bits, hard boiled egg, cheese, tomato, cucumber, bell pepper, red onion, matchstick carrots, sunflower seeds, and croutons, as well as a variety of salad dressings. The cost of the salad bar will be the same as the entree. Students also have the option to sign up for both the entree and salad bar; this will be billed as a double lunch (3.75 for entree + 3.75 for the salad bar).

I am thoroughly enjoying preparing meals for your students this year! - Mrs. Moore

## M-STEP PARENT REPORTS

2024 M-Step Parent Reports were sent home with students this week. Some families received two reports: one that included errors in the subscores, and one that was a corrected version. The reports with a blue Patriot stamp in the bottom right corner of the front page are the correct reports. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask!



Apple Pie Fundraiser



## APPLE PIE FUNDRAISER

Mark your calendars! Apple Pie Making Day is scheduled for November 16 at Michiana Christian Camp in Niles, and this is always a great time for all. More details regarding this tasty fundraiser are coming soon!



## V VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE CHANGE



The JV Volleyball Tri that was originally scheduled for Monday, September 16 has been moved to Monday, October 28.

Be sure to visit our [website](#) regularly for updated calendars, important school information, lunch menus, upcoming events and more!

### YOU'RE INVITED!

Alumni Volleyball Players are invited to come play against our girls at GCS on the following Saturdays: September 28th and October 12th , 5-7pm .

Coach Williamson would like our local volleyball alumni to come out to the school and play volleyball with our Varsity team. Our girls do not get a lot of interactive play due to our few numbers. Please consider reconnecting with our program and meet our girls. Besides, volleyball is fun! So join us and come out and have a good time and help our team! He would love to see a monthly alumni volleyball night at Grace. Send Coach Williamson a message at [bwilliamson@gcspatriots.com](mailto:bwilliamson@gcspatriots.com) to let him know you're interested.



### CONCESSIONS AT HOME GAMES

Hot food is now available at GCS home games for Middle School and Varsity Volleyball games!



Come hungry and support our sophomore class as they prepare and serve hot foods from the kitchen service window. Items include hot dogs, popcorn, nachos and cookies!

A wide variety of candy and snacks, pop and water are also available on the other side of the court, and proceeds help pay for the athletics program.



### NEEDED - THRIFT STORE HELP

I'm reaching out to you with a chance to get some extra hours in this month. On Sunday, September 29th, from 1-5pm we are hoping to clean out and organize our storage trailers. With the success of the store, we have been receiving loads of donations and we need help organizing them all. It will be hard but necessary work that will tremendously help us as we continue to grow and receive donations.

We will provide pizza and beverages for those who are able and willing to help. Thank you for your time and your support and we continue this journey of helping Grace Christian School to the best of our abilities.

If you are able to come and lend a hand I ask that you email [RCBGrace@gmail.com](mailto:RCBGrace@gmail.com) or text (269)285-3888 so we can plan accordingly.

Blessings,  
Taylor Beukelman



## REMINDER: ABSENCE REPORTING AND ILLNESS

If your child is going to miss school for any reason, please make a point to contact the school before 8:00 a.m. daily to report the absence: [info@gcspatriots.com](mailto:info@gcspatriots.com), 269.463.5545. Please leave a detailed message if you are calling outside of normal business hours.

If your child is ill, please leave a list of symptoms when you call. If your child has had a fever of 100.4, vomiting or diarrhea in the previous 24 hours, he or she MUST stay home from school until symptoms have been resolved for 24 hours without the help of medications.

Help us protect the spreading of illness by making this common practice, as well as promoting frequent hand washing.



## POP CAN DRIVE

Student Council is conducting a pop can/bottle drive this school year. Any returnable cans or bottles you would like to donate can be dropped off before or after school just inside the front door. Thank you!

## HARDING'S COMMUNITY REWARDS

If you are a Harding's shopper, you can start supporting Grace Christian School with every purchase. Follow the steps below and begin supporting GCS today!



- Click on the image above to create your Harding's Rewards Account.
- Enter your information and select "Grace Christian School-Watervliet" from the drop down menu.
- Each time make a purchase at Harding's, enter your 10-digit phone number on the pinpad.
- Harding's will issue a check to the school quarterly based on your purchases.

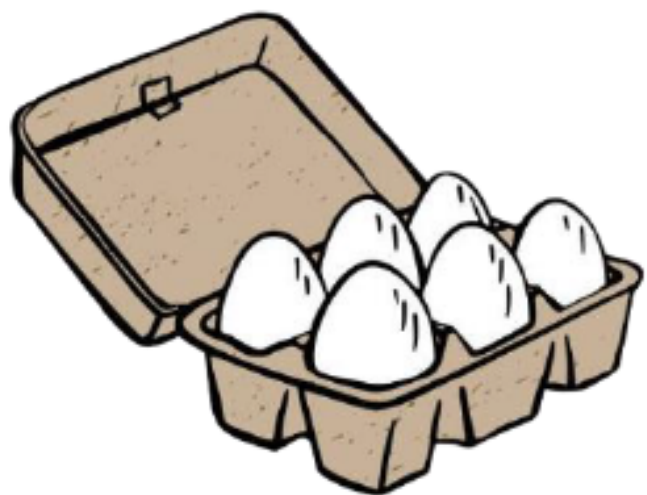
## 2024-25 Business & Industry Partners

If you are interested in partnering with Grace Christian School's Business & Industry Program, please contact [info@gcspatriots.com](mailto:info@gcspatriots.com) for details.



# Farm Fresh Eggs

30-count eggs for  
**\$5.00!**



*Available at*

**Reclaimed by Grace Thrift Store**

Tuesday - Saturday,  
10:00 - 5:00

*as well as*

**Grace Christian School**

Monday - Thursday,  
10:00 - 2:00

\*All proceeds will help Grace Christian School.

\*These eggs are unwashed

A general rule: unwashed eggs will last around two weeks unrefrigerated and about three months or more in your refrigerator. Washed eggs must be refrigerated and will last around two months in the refrigerator.

-Purina Animal Nutrition-

# GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

## 2024-2025 School Year\*

### AUGUST

- 12 Secondary Info Night, 6:00 pm
- 22 Back to School Night, 5:30-7:30 pm
- 26 **First Day of School**  
Quarter 1 Begins
- 30 **NO SCHOOL - Labor Day Wknd.**

### SEPTEMBER

- 2 **NO SCHOOL - Labor Day Wknd.**
- 4-6 SEW Retreat (Grades 9-12)
- 20 Picture Day

### OCTOBER

- 2 **HALF DAY**
- 3-4 **NO SCHOOL - Teacher Conference**
- 9 NMSQT Testing (Grades 10-11)
- 16 **Patriots-In-Action Day**
- 18 **Grandparents Day, Half Day,**  
**No Aftercare**  
End of Quarter 1
- 21 **NO SCHOOL - Teacher Record Day**
- 22 Quarter 2 Begins

### NOVEMBER

- 5 **NO SCHOOL -Parent/Teacher**  
**Conferences, 12:00 - 7:00pm**
- 8 Picture Retakes
- 16 Apple Pie Making Day
- 27-29 **NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break**

### DECEMBER

- 6 Christmas Concert, 7:00 pm
- 9-13 Christmas Decorating
- 16-19 Christmas Spirit Week
- 18-19 **Exams/HALF DAY (Grades 6-12)**
- 19 End of Quarter 2
- 20-1/5 **NO SCHOOL - Christmas Break**

### JANUARY

- 6 **NO SCHOOL - Teacher Record Day**
- 7 Quarter 3 Begins
- 20 **NO SCHOOL- MLK Jr. Day**

### FEBRUARY

- 14-17 **NO SCHOOL - Mid-Winter Break**
- 18 **NO SCHOOL Teacher In-Service**
- 21 Homecoming/Alumni Game

### MARCH

- 7 Kindergarten Program/Round Up
- 7-8 ACSI Music Festival  
History Fair
- 8 Open House, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
- 13 End of Quarter 3
- 14 **NO SCHOOL - Teacher In-Service**
- 17 Quarter 4 Begins
- 22 Annual Benefit Auction
- 31-4/4 **NO SCHOOL - Spring Break**

### APRIL

- 7 M-Step Testing Begins
- 15 GCEA Meeting, 6:30pm
- 18 **NO SCHOOL- Good Friday**
- 21 **NO SCHOOL - Easter Monday**
- 24 Spring Concert, 7:00 pm
- 25 Jr/Sr Banquet

### MAY

- 2 Elementary Musical
- 8 Secondary Awards Night
- 15 Elementary Field Day
- 23-26 **NO SCHOOL, Memorial Day**
- 28-29 **Final Exams/HALF DAY**  
**(6th-12th only)**
- 30 Moving Up Ceremony  
(TK-5th), **HALF DAY,**  
**NO AFTERCARE**  
End of Quarter 4  
Cruise-In, 5:00-8:00 pm
- 31 Golf Outing, tee-off 8:30 am

<b>EARLY CARE</b>	7:00 - 7:30 am
<b>PLEDGES/PRAYER</b>	7:50 am
<b>SCHOOL DAY</b>	8:00 - 3:00 pm
<b>AFTER CARE</b>	3:15 - 5:30 pm
<b>HALF DAYS</b>	Dismissal: 12:00 pm

**OFFICE HOURS 7:30-3:30 pm**



\*This calendar is subject to change. Please visit [GCSPatriots.org](http://GCSPatriots.org) for current calendar.

# 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:*



### **T & C Water Treatments (10 or 15%)**

(10% for salt and parts, 5% for softener systems)  
Softeners & water conditioning. Salt sales and delivery.  
2179 Plaza Dr., Benton Harbor  
(269)983-8156



### **Zbattery.com (5%)**

Batteries, flashlights, chargers  
1826 Hilltop Rd., St. Joseph  
(269) 983-7155



### **Peerless Canvas Products, Inc. (5%)**

Custom canvas products (boat covers, awnings, tarps)  
2355 Niles Road, St. Joseph  
269.429.0600

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

## **2024-25 GCEA SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:**

Mrs. Whitney Tinker, *President*

Mr. Joel Layman, *Vice President*

Mr. Trever Meachum, *Treasurer*

Mrs. Holly Crouch, *Secretary*

Mrs. Shirl Bontrager

Mr. Marshall Downs

Mrs. Laraine Fox

Mr. Nathan Hutchins

Mrs. Ruth Malaka