

October 11, 2024

COMMUNIQUE

Monthly

THIS EDITION:

- “Center of Attention”
- Thanksgiving
- Athletics
- Food Drive
- Picture Retake Day
- Farm Fresh Eggs
- Gym Doors
- Upcoming Events
- GCS Blankets
- 24-25 Calendar



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

THE CENTER OF ATTENTION

What a privilege and learning experience it has been these 7 weeks teaching gym classes! The extra work has been difficult to assimilate into an overly full life, yet it is through these trials that God often teaches us the most. I previously had taught middle school for 5 years nearly 10 years ago and came to the conclusion that adults were just covert middle school kids. In many respects, adults have just learned to hide their immaturity in the different settings that demand it. When there is no standard of conduct, our natural behavior is expressed. This is most openly seen at football tailgates, late-night bars, and behind the doors of our homes.

The elementary world has been eye-opening. I am astounded over the silly things that kids pick a fight over. Then they come to the teacher to settle the dispute. It causes me to reflect in my own life about the things that I get hung up on and how silly they may seem to our God. In my short time in leadership at Grace Christian School, my greatest conflicts have been with other Christians over what would seem to be (actually are) trivial with respect to the mission at hand.

Christianity has a call for unity. Unity comes not by arguing your point unto victory, but rather sacrificing your own personal interest for the interest of others and therefore the benefit of the whole body.

Philippians 2:3-4 "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others."

Christianity is not a monolithic belief system that details out every belief and behavior. Rather it is a principled belief system that you apply to various situations in life. Romans 14 details how we are to disagree with one another according to our convictions, knowing it is before God who we stand in judgement, and not one another. The conclusions start in verse 13 that we ought to be walking according to love (John 13:35) and that we pursue the things that make for peace (vs 19). Yes, that is peace with those we disagree with. That peace often comes from personal sacrifice, as detailed in Philippians 2. When we are wronged or sacrifice our interest for the interest of others, we place our faith in the God who knows and promises to work out everything for the good of those who love Him (Romans 8:28).

So, there is a "Center of Attention" problem. One of the many things we are teaching our students at Grace is that you are not the only person in the room. There are others who have needs. This runs contrary to human nature. After 3 years of walking with Jesus, the disciples were still arguing over who was the greatest among them. This is a battle we are engaged in on an hourly basis for the development of the character of our students. Please pray for our teachers because this is exhausting, but it is essential if we are going to produce graduates that "impact the world for Jesus Christ".



Benjamin Williamson
GCS Administrator



Thanksgiving Page

- ◆ In October, we were able to hire a PE teacher with Watervliet through the Shared Time* program.
- ◆ \$4,000 (half of the amount needed) was donated toward replacement gym doors. The \$4,000 given was intended to inspire a matching gift. Would you consider helping us get this significant need met?
- ◆ Title money was obtained to enable our teachers to benefit from professional development training last week at the Michigan Association of Christian Schools (MACS) Conference.
- ◆ An anonymous donor covered the fee for GCS student athletes to participate in Twin City Sharks football.
- ◆ In August, we were able to contract two teachers with Watervliet through the Shared Time* program.
- ◆ 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.

* Watervliet is covering the salaries of these teachers through an elective program with the State.

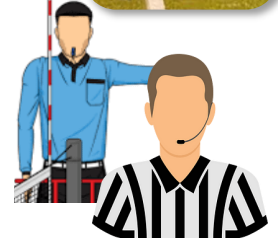


GCS ATHLETICS PROGRAM

At Grace Christian School, athletics truly is a privilege. All of our equipment and uniforms have been donated over the years by generous supporters. Our football co-op with the Twin City Sharks is not free. Last year there was a \$3,000 expense covered by participating families and a generous supporter who made up the difference. Our coaches all volunteer and we get everything we can out of our current equipment. If you would like to support our athletics, please consider calling our Athletic Director Kip Wellin to see where our greatest need is.



Admission Fees: I (Ben) had always found sport admission fees to be at best annoying. ‘Why am I being charged to watch my kid play?’ Now that I have sat on the administrative side of things I recognize that every game has paid officials, the cost for which has increased by about 50% over the past couple of years. Our culture has abused officials, and there are not many people interested in being yelled at. The purpose for the admission fee is to cover the expense of officiating. So, when you come to our games and pay to get in, we encourage you to look at it as sharing the burden to make athletics available to our students.



BASKETBALL CAMP



We have a fantastic opportunity for those wanting to take their basketball play to the next level. We have a one day basketball camp with PGC (Point Guard College) for boys and girls in grades 5 - 11 planned that will take place at GCS on Saturday, November 2nd.

Mr. Dill encourages all players who are planning on playing basketball this year to sign up because we are going to focus on our program’s culture and development. If you're interested you **MUST** fill out the [Program Clinic Waiver](#) in order to participate. The signed waiver and money are due by **Oct 31st**. All

checks need to be made out to Mike Dill. If money is a deciding factor, please email me at mdill@gcspatriots.com.

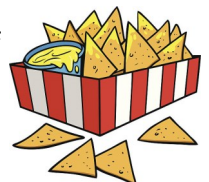
CONCESSIONS AT HOME GAMES

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



Come hungry and support our high school classes 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.



YOU'RE INVITED!

Alumni Volleyball Players are invited to come play against our girls at GCS this Saturday, 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 to let him know you're interested.



FOOD DRIVE



National Honor Society and Junior Patriots are organizing a food drive this fall for the Living Water food pantry at Watervliet Free Methodist Church. We will be collecting non-perishable foods items from Friday, November 1, 2024 through Friday, November 15, 2024.

Let's have a little competition while we help feed our community!

The elementary class that has the most food items will win a pizza party with Mr. Williamson and Mrs. Colford. The secondary class with the most food items will get a batch of baked goods to share from Miss Nelson. Additionally, this will be a middle school house competition and each middle school student will earn one individual house point per item.

BAND PICTURES

Attention all Parents/Guardians of 5th-11th grade Band Students



On picture retake day, all band members will have group pictures and individual pictures taken. These will be available for you to purchase, just like regular school pictures or team pictures. Students will be photographed with their instrument. All band members should wear the required band uniform for the pictures as follows

Girls: Long black skirt/black pants, SOLID black or white blouse, SOLID black shoes, black socks. Boys: Black pants, SOLID black or white shirt, SOLID black shoes, black socks. If a tie, SOLID black. Picture Retake Day is **November 14.**

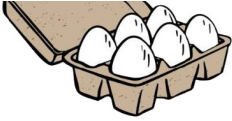
GYM DOOR REPLACEMENT NEED

We are so grateful for the gift of \$4,000 (half of the amount needed) that was donated toward replacing the gym doors last week. This donation was intended to inspire a matching gift. Would you consider helping us get this significant need met?



FARM FRESH EGGS

Farm Fresh Eggs



A recent policy change at the eggery will bring this fundraiser to a conclusion. We are thankful for the eggs we were able to use and we trust that you were able to enjoy them while we had them.

PATRIOTS-IN-ACTION DRIVERS NEEDED

Patriots-In-Action Day is scheduled for next Wednesday, October 16. Groups will be departing from GCS between 8:30 and 9:15 AM. If you are willing and available to drive students for Patriots-In-Action Day, please email info@gcspatriots.com to let us know. You will also need to complete a Volunteer Application Form, which can be found [here](#) on our website.



GRANDPARENTS DAY

Grandparents Day is coming up on October 18!

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.



NOVEMBER MENUS

If you would like to purchase school lunches for your child for November, please email one completed menu for each child to info@gcspatriots.com at your earliest convenience. The November menu will be available on our [website](#) on Monday, October 14. **MENUS ARE DUE OCTOBER 21.**



APPLE PIE FUNDRAISER

The Apple Pie Sale will take place October 18th through November 5th. We will be selling pies for \$15 each. Pie Making Day will be on Saturday, November 16th and we will need many volunteers. A sign-up sheet will be available soon.



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](#)

[Mrs. Tavernier, 2nd](#)

[Miss Newell, Kindergarten](#)

[Mrs. McBride, Music](#)

[Mrs. Wilkerson, 3rd](#)

[Mrs. Moore, Kitchen](#)

GCS FLEECE BLANKETS FOR SALE

5ft x 6ft

\$30

Get yours today!



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 [this link](#) 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 pin pad.
- 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 for details.



Signs & Custom Graphics

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**
- 14 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

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

OFFICE HOURS 7:30-3:30 pm



*This calendar is subject to change. Please visit 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:



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, OCTOBER 28 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