

November 8, 2024

# COMMUNIQUÉ

Monthly

## THIS EDITION:

- “With Thanksgiving”
- “Elementary Pattern”
- Thanksgiving Page
- Student Activities
- Athletics
- Picture Retake Day
- Food Drive
- Poinsettias
- Apple Pie Making
- Upcoming Events



@Romeo'sScenicViews



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

### “WITH THANKSGIVING”

The Psalms and Paul use this phrase 9 times. Six of these are connected with prayer and worship. Two center around eating and receiving everything (nothing is unclean) with thanksgiving. The last one describes an attitude of life. A foundational instruction on prayer from Philippians 4:6-7:


*“Be anxious for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”*

The American culture is one of the most anxious and medicated people in the world, even when we are the richest people to ever live. The irony of a materialistic life is that we pursue the things of this world thinking we will find comfort and security. What we rather find is that as we accumulate stuff and/or influence we become overwhelmed and anxious by it. It does not give us comfort or security. I believe it was Dave Ramsey I heard say to a caller that one of the best ways to get through a recession/depression is to have nothing going in. Then you do not have to **worry** about losing anything.

The things of this world we think we own, actually own *us*. Jesus encourages believers to lay up for themselves treasures in heaven (Matthew 6:19) because those treasures cannot be corrupted or stolen: a stress we deal with in our own lives. We lock up our things and set up security cameras to protect our things. Many times, I have been to a junk yard looking for a car part. A sea of cars waiting for the crusher were at one point brand new and someone’s great happiness; these things are passing away. Value the things that last forever. Grace has very few physical assets, but we work daily with God’s treasured ones (Matthew 18:10).

We are approaching the season of Thanksgiving. It is a time of reflection. It is a time to reorient our mind away from anxiety to recall the goodness of God. This is true for godly institutions as well. We can easily get caught up/overwhelmed in payroll and budgets and fail to recognize all the ways our Savior has provided for us. As we make our request and needs known to God, we do so with thanksgiving, which reminds us of all the times He has been faithful.

*“For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.”* ~Philippians 1:6



Benjamin Williamson  
GCS Administrator



# ELEMENTARY PATTERN

Dear Elementary Parents and Guardians,

I'm reaching out on behalf of our teachers and office staff to address a pattern we've noticed among our elementary students regarding frequent visits to the school office for minor, non-urgent concerns like needing an ice pack or a Band-Aid. These visits happen multiple times throughout the day and seem to be more about seeking a break than addressing an actual health need, as symptoms are non-visible and seemingly imaginary.

While we want every child to feel safe, comfortable, and cared for, these frequent trips to the office can be disruptive to the learning of the student and the class as a whole, not to mention our office staff. We encourage students to remain in the classroom unless they are genuinely feeling unwell or have a visible injury. Of course, if there's ever a true need for attention, they are always welcome to visit the office.

To help support this, we kindly ask for your assistance in talking with your child about the importance of staying in class and using the office only when it's absolutely necessary. This will allow our staff to focus on students with immediate needs and help keep the office and learning environments as productive as possible.

Thank you for your understanding and partnership in helping us provide the best care for all of our students.



Leslie Colford

Principal



## SAFETY REMINDERS



- When signing in a student who is arriving late, we ask that you not escort them down the hall to class or move throughout the building. Our office staff will be happy to walk your younger students to class if needed.
- Upon entering the building during the school day, parents and visitors should immediately report to the office.
- When waiting inside to pick up your elementary child at the end of the day, please wait outside the double glass doors near the office until our staff releases your student. Our staff are busy making sure all students are accounted for and are dismissed in a safe and organized manner; it creates confusion when parents open the door and call their students to them.

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Congratulations to these students who were chosen to attend this year's BCS student leadership conference with Craig Hilliard. To be eligible, students had to show leadership in both athletics and academics. Way to represent, Patriots!



# Thanksgiving Page

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- ◆ The Chapel sent a work group that painted the elementary hallway.
- ◆ Patriots-In-Action raised \$10,871 for our school
- ◆ 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.



# DECEMBER MENU

If you would like to purchase school lunches for your child for December, please email one completed menu for each child to [info@gcspatriots.com](mailto:info@gcspatriots.com) at your earliest convenience. The December menu is now available on our [website](#).

**MENUS ARE DUE NOVEMBER 25.**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	News
2 _Chicken Nuggets _Drink _Salad Bar (secondary & 9th)	3 _Chicken Tacos _Drink _Salad Bar (secondary & 9th)	4 _Grilled Cheese & Tomato Soup _Drink _Salad Bar (secondary & 9th)	5 _Spaghetti & Meatballs _Drink _Salad Bar (secondary & 9th)	6 _Pizza Bread _Cheese Pop _Drink _Salad Bar (secondary & 9th) CONTRACTS DEADLINE	<b>News</b> A reminder that menus need to be turned in by <b>NOVEMBER 25</b> so I can shop for the correct number of students.  Please indicate by checking the line next to "Salad Bar" option if your student would prefer to have salad bar for lunch. If your student takes both entire and salad bar, the cost will be double.  Check the line next to the entire your student will be having, as well as the drink line if they are taking a drink as well.
9 _Hamburgers _Drink _Salad Bar (secondary & 9th)	10 _Beef Enchiladas (incl. queso) _Drink _Salad Bar (secondary & 9th)	11 _Chicken & Dumplings _Drink _Salad Bar (secondary & 9th)	12 _Sweet & Sour Chicken _White & Beef Fried Rice _Drink _Salad Bar (secondary & 9th)	13 _Pizza Bread _Cheese Pop _Drink _Salad Bar (secondary & 9th)	
16 _Homemade Beef Stew & Homemade Bread _Drink _Salad Bar (secondary & 9th) CHRISTMAS SPIRIT WEEK	17 _Christmas Dinner (ham or turkey, peas & carrots, green bean casserole, mashed potatoes, homemade rolls) _Drink _Salad Bar (secondary & 9th)	18 _Hotdogs _Drink _Salad Bar (secondary & 9th) EXAMS HALF DAY 8-12	19 _Chicken Nuggets _Drink _Salad Bar (secondary & 9th) EXAMS HALF DAY 8-12	20 NO SCHOOL WINTER BREAK!	
23	24	25	26	27	

## THRIFT STORE REMINDER

### Reclaimed By Grace

Tuesday - Saturday, 10-5  
Sunday - Monday, Closed

7053 Red Arrow Hwy.  
Coloma, MI 49038

[RCBGrace@gmail.com](mailto:RCBGrace@gmail.com)

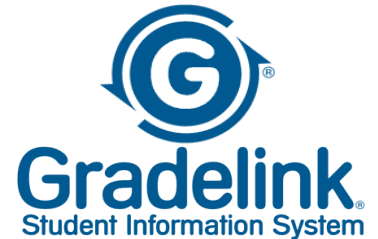
(269)285-3888

Thank you to those that have been working at the thrift store as part of the scholarship arrangement that you made with GCS this school year! Your hours of service are invaluable to the store, as well as our school. Some of our families have fallen behind on hours. Please contact the store to schedule your service hours at this time.

The store needs more volunteers. You do not have to be in the scholarship program to help. We are thankful for those who help in this way.

## GRADELINK.COM

Grace Christian School uses Gradelink Student Information System for attendance, grading and enrollment. While there is a Gradelink App available, it has some limitations. To best serve you and your students, please visit [Gradelink.com](https://www.gradelink.com) for access to all that Gradelink has to offer. If you have any questions, please call or email [info@gcspatriots.com](mailto:info@gcspatriots.com).



## SIGN UP



Middle School Boys Basketball season has begun and as with all home games, we will need volunteers to take money at the gate, run the concession stand, write down stats for the official scoring book and run the score clock. Sign up at <https://signup.com/go/KwKcOyD> today! Want to volunteer but need some training? Mr. Bradshaw is happy to help! Just send an email to [bbradshaw@gcspatriots.com](mailto:bbradshaw@gcspatriots.com).

## CONCESSIONS AT HOME GAMES



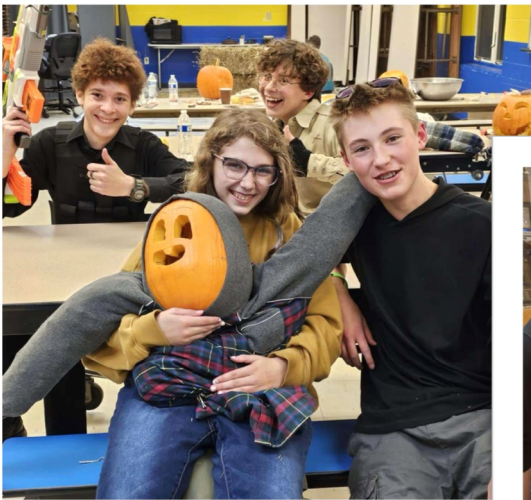
Hot food is now available at GCS home games for Middle School and Varsity Volleyball games!

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!





**FALL  
FEST  
'24**



# RETAKE DAY IS COMING

## Picture Retakes:

Retake Picture Day is 11/14/2024! If you're satisfied with your child's picture, no further action is required.

If you purchased and were unhappy with your Picture Package, please send your Picture Package to school with your student on Retake Day. Your Retake Picture Package will be produced and shipped to the school four weeks after Retake Day. *Please note, if your child is photographed on the original **and** Retake Picture Days, the Retake picture will replace the original picture in certain products, like the yearbook.*

Students who were absent for Picture Day should come to school prepared to have their picture taken. If you have not preordered, please use the Retake Order Code 87660BF to place your order at:

<https://inter-state.com/Order>.

Find answers to Retake Day questions [here](#).



## Band & MS/HS Basketball:

# ORDER ONLINE



## INTER-STATE.COM/ORDER

**USE ORDER CODE:**

*Use el código de pedido:*

**92523MT**

**Picture Day Is:**

*El día de fotos es el:*

**Thursday, November 14, 2024**

*jueves, 14 de noviembre, 2024*

**Pictures Will Be Taken At:**

*Las fotos serán tomadas en:*

**Grace Christian School**

**Order by Picture Day to receive free shipping to your school!**

*Ordene para el día de la foto y reciba envío gratis a la escuela.*

## 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 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**.

## MS & HS BASKETBALL PICTURES

Middle School and High School basketball players will also have their team/individual pictures taken on November 14. Please check with your coaches to see which jersey you will be wearing and be sure to bring it to school!



# 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.

## MUSIC DEPARTMENT ANNUAL POINSETTIA SALE

Beginning Friday, November 8th, all 5th through 11th grade band and choir students will be selling POINSETTIAS for the Christmas holiday season. Plants will come in 5 different sizes and colors and cost between \$8 and \$30 each. Profits will help the older students offset the cost of the ACSI Music Festival and flowers sold by the younger students will go toward the purchase of music for the bands.

If you do not have a student in the bands or choir, please contact Mrs. McBride [rmcbride@gcspatriots.com](mailto:rmcbride@gcspatriots.com) and I will place your order. Payment is made in advance and flowers will be delivered to the school on December 6th, the day of our Christmas Concert.

Thank you for supporting the GCS Music Department!



## APPLE PIE MAKING

Apple Pie Making Day is set for Saturday, November 16th at Michiana Christian Camp in Niles and we still need volunteers! There are two shifts to choose from: 8:00 - 12:00 & 12:00 - 4:00.

[Sign up today!](#)

## GYM DOOR REPLACEMENT NEED

We are so grateful for the gift of \$4,000 (half of the amount needed) that was recently donated toward replacing the gym doors. This will replace one of the two sets of doors. Would you consider matching this gift for the second set of doors?





# COMMUNITY EVENTS

*You are Invited To a Community Thanksgiving!*

Transportation Available!  
Text/call Tonja Young  
RSVP at: (269)357-9964

Berrien Center Bible Church  
8830 M-140 Berrien Center MI  
Thursday Nov.28th from 12pm-4pm

Dine In And Enjoy  
Or Take your Meal to GO!  
The Community  
ALL Are Welcome!

AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS  
TRAIL LIFE USA

Scan QR code to  
RSVP

Scan QR code to  
Volunteer



## THANKSGIVING DINNER

Do you or someone you know need a place to go to for Thanksgiving? Consider this community event!

RSVP for Thanksgiving Dinner at the Berrien Center Bible Church on Thursday, November 28 from 12:00-4:00 PM by calling the number on the flyer or visiting this [link](#).

If you would like to sign up to donate or volunteer for this event, please use this [link](#).

## MIDWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

Midway Baptist Church offers a children's program on Wednesday nights called Rock Solid, from 6 - 8 PM for ages 5-10. Also available is a youth program that runs on Sunday nights from 6-8pm.

**ROCK SOLID** K - 5TH GRADERS  
GAMES, BIBLE LESSONS, CRAFTS AND MORE!  
ALL FREE!!

EVERY WED FROM 6:00 PM TO 8 PM  
STARTS SEPT 4



If you would like to tell the Grace Christian School community about your church's programs, please send flyers and information to:

[info@gcspatriots.com](mailto:info@gcspatriots.com)

## HARTFORD BIBLE CHURCH

Hartford Bible Church has a new children's program called "Kids Club" on Wednesdays from 6-7:30 for Kindergarten through 6th grade, using Regular Baptist Press material: Kids 4 Truth. HBC also has Youth Group on Tuesdays from 6:30 - 8:00 pm.

Hartford BIBLE CHURCH

**Kids Club**  
Wednesday's 6-7:30 pm

Starting Nov/06/24

Welcome; Prayer; Large Group; Songs;  
Small Groups; Activities; Dismissal  
Materials: [www.kids4truth.com](http://www.kids4truth.com)



Play, Learn and Grow... Together!

K-6th

269-621-4521 HartfordBible.org  
Hartford Bible Church on FB—Children's Ministry Group Page



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LADY PATRIOTS ON THEIR 2024 VOLLEYBALL SEASON!

THANK YOU,  
COACH WILLIAMSON,  
FOR YOUR DEDICATION  
TO COACHING THESE  
FINE YOUNG LADIES!



## SPRING SPORTS

Head's Up: Spring sports are coming!

### Middle School:

- ⇒ Wrestling: January & February. Students will need wrestling shoes and headgear. Contact Josh Gabrielse with questions: [Joshua.k.gabrielse@gmail.com](mailto:Joshua.k.gabrielse@gmail.com)
- ⇒ Track: April & May. GCS is setting up a co-op with Watervliet

### High School:

- ⇒ Girls Soccer Co-op with Our Lady of the Lake: Students will need soccer cleats and shin guards.
- ⇒ Boys Baseball Co-op with Howardsville Christian



## FAMILY RESOURCES

[Protect Mi Child](#) - This Registry is your front-line defense in blocking adult-themed content from reaching your child or teen on their phone, tablet, or other electronic devices. Just register your child's cell phone number, email address, and Instant Messenger ID to help prevent ads for alcohol, tobacco, online gambling, and even pornography from reaching your child. It's free, simple, and so important. Sign up today!

<https://www.protectmichild.com/cybertips.html> - This free E-book is a valuable resource available to you and your family. It's full of tips on how to talk to your kids about internet safety at every age. It will give you five easy steps you can take today to limit your children's exposure to inappropriate content and it will tell you everything you need to know about the latest social media platforms and apps.



## 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](#)

## 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.

## 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.



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
- 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:*



### **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, NOVEMBER 25 AT 6:30 PM.**

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

Mrs. Whitney Tinker, *President*

Mr. Marshall Downs

Mr. Joel Layman, *Vice President*

Mrs. Laraine Fox

Mr. Trever Meachum, *Treasurer*

Mr. Nathan Hutchins

Mrs. Holly Crouch, *Secretary*

Mrs. Ruth Malaka

Mrs. Shirl Bontrager