

# GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

*Home of the Patriots*

AUGUST 2025

## IMPACT



*Inspiring students to **IMPACT** the world for Jesus Christ through an excellent educational experience from a Biblical worldview*



### THIS EDITION:

- "Impacting the World"
- Back to School Night
- Parent Announcements
- Athletics Information
- Alumni News
- GCS Support
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- 2025-26 Calendar

## IMPACTING THE WORLD

With the start of each new year, the students come back wondering what is new and what has changed. There are many changes to look forward to and grow through this year. Some of these include our change over to a new student information/billing system, FACTS, our hybrid Jr. High & High School, building updates, a new shared-time partnership with Southgate Community Schools, and even the title of our monthly communication from *Communiqué* to *Impact*. "Impact" is from our school's mission statement. "Impact" is the resulting action of our school's mission to inspire students:

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

Our mission is to cause students to impact (hit, or have an effect on) the world around them for Jesus Christ. Bears without teeth (gummy bears) do not have an impactful bite. So too, students who leave an educational institution without skills in reading, writing, math, and an understanding of historical (biblical) context are not well equipped to make a positive impact in their community. General education has come a long way from Martin Luther's desire that every child would be taught to read so they can know the Bible themselves. With the rapidly changing workforce landscape (AI) educational intuitions are slowly beginning to ask the question, what do students actually need to be successful? The State of Michigan requires Algebra II for graduation. Is that necessary to be successful today?

At Grace Christian we can be much more nimble than the State and larger educational institutions. We still have to meet State guidelines in order to present a State recognized diploma, but we are able to make additional offerings that meet the needs of students today as well as minister to the soul.

I look forward to hearing about the students' experience with the hybrid model. I expect to find that students will enjoy taking ownership of their education. We are able to offer so many more avenues for students to pursue and they will get out of it what they put into it. The Law of the Harvest is the biblical promise we have made for our theme this year.

*Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap."*

*-Galatians 6:7*

I am thankful for the many hours our staff, supporters, and volunteers has sown into the coming school year. We trust God to cause the growth just as He promised.

Thankful,



Benjamin Williamson

### LAW OF THE HARVEST

"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap... Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary." Galatians 6:7,9

## 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR THEME

## BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT



GCS families, new and returning, are invited to come to Back to School Night on Thursday, August 21, 5:00 - 7:00 PM. You won't want to miss all that we have to prepare your family for the school year! Here, you will have opportunity to:

- Meet teachers
- Fellowship with other families
- Drop off school supplies
- Talk to Athletic Director, Mr. Wellin, about our athletics program
- Get involved in Parent Teacher Fellowship and Advancement Committee
- Complete any missing enrollment paperwork
- Get necessary medication forms
- Talk to our Business Office
- Speak with Administration: Principal, Mrs. Colford and Administrator, Mr. Williamson.
- Learn about exciting, upcoming events

## UPDATED SUPPLY LISTS

Be sure to double check the School Supply Lists on our website: [GCS Patriots.org](https://GCS Patriots.org)!

**Secondary students:** Water bottles MUST be spill proof and transparent!



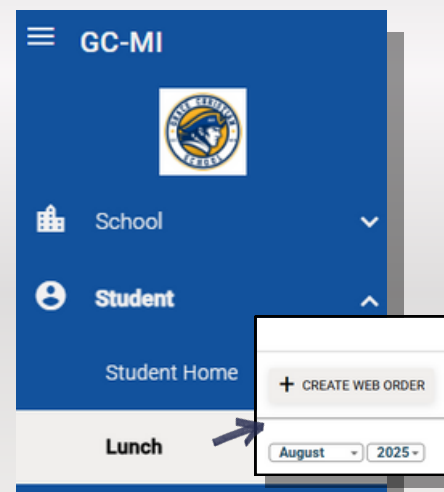
## MEDICATION

If your child will need to take medications while in the building or under the care of Grace Christian School staff members for off campus events, you and your child's doctor will need to complete the proper medical forms, which are available on our [website](#) and at Back to School Night!

## ORDER SCHOOL LUNCHES

**SIGNING UP FOR LUNCHES HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER!**

1. Go to <https://factsmgt.com> and click *Log In Here*.
2. Click *Family Portal Login*.
3. Type your school's district code (GC-MI), your username, and password.
4. When Family Portal displays, click the *Menu* icon if the left navigation menu does not display.
5. Click *Student*, then select *Lunch*.
6. Click **+CREATE WEB ORDER**.
7. Click the student name for which you wish to place an order. The Lunch Order Form expands listing each date an order may be placed.
8. Click the date to place an order.
9. Type the number of items to order for the student in the Quantity column. The Total column displays the cost.
10. **Repeat for all dates and all students.** The Grand Total will be listed at the bottom.
11. Click *Order Items*. The charges will now display for the student on their Family Portal to be paid on the Financial screen.
12. Payments take place at the end of each month.
13. Parents may modify the lunch order between the Begin and End dates.



**ORDERS DUE PRIOR  
TO AUGUST 25!**



## GCS ATHLETICS

The 2025-26 fall athletic season has begun. Varsity girls are preparing for their first quad on Wednesday and our co-op football team, the Twin City Sharks, are also gearing up for a great season. The junior high volleyball team will begin soon after school starts. We are looking for a coach for these ladies. If you are interested, please contact Athletic Director, Mr. Wellin, at [athletics@gcspatriots.com](mailto:athletics@gcspatriots.com) or 574.303.4852.

In addition to these returning sports, we are pleased to bring back cross country in a cooperative agreement with Our Lady of the Lake. Our Patriots do best when they have supporters show up to cheer them on! Check out the Athletic calendar on our website to see the game schedules. Changes happen frequently, so visit often for the most up-to-date details.

More exciting plans are in the works for our athletic department, so be sure to stay tuned!



## ALUMNI NEWS



We are dedicating a page of our monthly Newsletter to hear about what our Alumni are doing. Please share Births, Graduations, Marriages, Moves, and other announcements with us at [info@gcspatriots.com](mailto:info@gcspatriots.com) (photos are welcome). We are looking forward to hearing what God is doing in the lives of our Alumni.

## SUPPORTING GCS

### LOOKING FOR A WAY TO BLESS GCS STAFF?

Check out the links below:

[Mrs. Colford, Principal](#) [Mrs. Corwin, High School](#)

[Mrs. Tavernier, 2<sup>nd</sup>](#) [Mrs. Vogel, P4](#)

[Miss Newell, Kindergarten](#) [Mrs. Litten, 1<sup>st</sup>](#)

[Mrs. Wilkerson, 3<sup>rd</sup>](#) [Mrs. Grey, 4<sup>th</sup>](#)

[Mr. Dill, 5<sup>th</sup>](#) [Mr. Bradshaw, Strength](#) [Miss Hemingway, TK](#)



## 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:

#### Cheyenne Chernugel, Realtor (10%)

10% of any commission proceeds will go to GCS when this ad is mentioned.

269.252.6595

[cheyenne@frazeeeam.com](mailto:cheyenne@frazeeeam.com)



#### 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



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

Custom canvas products (boat covers, awnings, tarps)

2355 Niles Road, St. Joseph

269.429.0600

## 2024-25 SUPPORTING CHURCHES

Below is a list of churches that are attended by GCS families. We are very grateful to the churches that support GCS through both prayer and financial gifts (*indicated in bold*).

- Apostolic Lighthouse Church
- Berrien Center Bible
- Blue Roof Church
- **Bright Star Tabernacle**
- Calvary Bible Church
- Calvary Missionary Baptist Church
- Coloma United Methodist Church
- **Decatur Bible Church**
- Deeper Life Bible Church
- First Baptist Church
- First Church of God
- Freshwater Church
- Full Gospel Assembly
- **Hartford Bible Church**
- Hartford Church of God
- Lakeshore Christian Church
- Latter Day Worship
- LifeBridge Church
- Midway Baptist Church
- New Covenant Church
- New Day Church
- New Freedom Church
- New Hope Community Church
- New Jerusalem COGIC
- **New Life Baptist Church**
- **New Life Christian Center**
- **North Wayne Mennonite Church**
- Overflow Church
- Pioneer Memorial Church
- **Sister Lakes Community Church**
- **South Haven Church of Christ**
- St. Mary Catholic Church
- St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church - Niles
- **The Chapel, EFC**
- The River
- The Well Ministries
- Victory Life Church
- Volinia Baptist Church
- Watervliet Free Methodist Church
- Woodside
- Yore Community Church



## BOARD

### 2025-26 GCEA BOARD MEMBERS

**Whitney Tinker**

*wtinker@gcspatriots.com*

**Joel Layman**

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**Trever Meachum**

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**Nathan Hutchins**

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**Ruth Malaka**

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**Brian Montgomery**

*bmontgomery@gcspatriots.com*

THE NEXT GCEA BOARD MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON  
MONDAY, AUGUST 18 @ 6:30 PM.

# GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

## 2025-2026 School Year\*



### AUGUST

- 21 Back to School Night, 5-7:00 PM
- 25 **First Day of School**  
Quarter 1 Begins
- 29 **NO SCHOOL - Labor Day Wknd.**

### SEPTEMBER

- 1 **NO SCHOOL - Labor Day Wknd.**
- 3-5 SEW Retreat (Grades 9-12)
- 26 Picture Day

### OCTOBER

- 2-3 **NO SCHOOL - Inservice**
- 17 **Grandparents Day, Half Day,**  
**No Aftercare**  
End of Quarter 1
- 20 **NO SCHOOL - Inservice**
- 21 Quarter 2 Begins

### NOVEMBER

- 3 Picture Retakes
- 4 **NO SCHOOL - ELEMENTARY**  
**Parent/Teacher Conferences,**  
**11:00 - 6:00pm**
- 24-25 **NO SCHOOL - Fall Break**
- 26-28 **NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break**

### DECEMBER

- 10 Pastor Appreciation
- 18 **HALF DAY**  
End of Quarter 2
- 19-1/5 **NO SCHOOL - Christmas Break**

### JANUARY

- 5 Inservice
- 6 Quarter 3 Begins
- 19 **NO SCHOOL- MLK Jr. Day**

### FEBRUARY

- 13-17 **NO SCHOOL - Mid-Winter Break**
- 17 InService
- 20 Homecoming

### MARCH

- 2-6 Science Fair
- 6 Kindergarten Program/Round Up
- 7 Open House, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
- 13 End of Quarter 3
- 16 **NO SCHOOL - Inservice**
- 17 Quarter 4 Begins
- 22-28 Mission Trip - Guatemala
- 30-4/6 **NO SCHOOL - Spring Break**

### APRIL

- 6 **NO SCHOOL - Spring Break**
- 14 **GCEA Meeting**

### MAY

- 21 Graduation
- 22-25 **NO SCHOOL, Memorial Day**
- 29 Moving Up Ceremony  
(TK-5th), **HALF DAY,**  
**NO AFTERCARE**  
End of Quarter 4  
Cruise-In, 5:00-8:00 pm
- 30 Golf Outing, tee-off 8:30 am

### SCHOOL HOURS

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

OFFICE HOURS 7:30-3:30 pm

*\*This calendar is subject to change.*

Please visit [GCSPatriots.org](http://GCSPatriots.org) for current calendar.