

# GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

*Home of the Patriots*

SEPTEMBER 2025

## IMPACT



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



### 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

Thank  
you



### THIS EDITION:

- "Let Us Serve the LORD"
- Upcoming Events
- Join the GCEA
- Job Posting
- Thanksgiving
- GCS Support
- How You Can Help
- 2025-26 Calendar

## LET US SERVE THE LORD

I grew up in a Bible Church. Over the course of my developmental years I heard various preaching about spiritual gifts. In our youth group and in my college ministry group we would occasionally take the 'spiritual inventory gift test' so that we can know our spiritual gift and get busy serving God. As I have aged I have learned that it doesn't work that way. The two most prominent lists of spiritual gifts in the Bible are I Corinthians 12:27-28 and Romans 12:6-8. The Corinthians passage is Paul giving correction to the church about their coveting the greater gifts and not appreciating all the gifts. In verse 28 I remember one speaker talking about each gift and then he comes to helps. He takes advantage of imbedded humor in that gift. A 5 letter word that really is a servant word. Who wants that? He said something to the effect that nobody is looking to have the gift of helps in the context of tongues, healing, and miracles. Naturally, like the Corinthians, we want the gift(s) that are visible and seemly more powerful. As I have aged I have found that I recognize the gift of helps is perhaps my strongest spiritual gift. It is the gift from which other gifts and service launch from. The gift of helps is not an inferior gift. Jesus called the Holy Spirit the Helper. Eve was called Adam's suitable helper. Eleazar was Abraham's number one servant whose name means EL (God) Ezer (Helper). Jesus taught that serving one another in no way diminishes one's standing, but rather if you desire to lead in Christ's church you will lead through serving the body of Christ, Matthew 20:24-28. I say all of this to introduce Ezekiel 22:30:

*"I searched for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, so that I would not destroy it; but I found no one."*

Since there is nothing new under the sun, what Jesus says in John 4 about the fields being white and ready for harvest applies today. What an exciting time to be a Christian with all the opportunity to serve our God in seemingly meaningful ways! This message extends far beyond Grace Christian School. This is a call to all Christians to serve the King not someday, but today. We need to man the gaps and breaches. Let it not be said of our generation that there was no man willing to build up the wall and stand in the gap. Grace Christian is one of many fronts in our Christian community where we can be involved and serve the Kingdom of God. Let this work start with prayer for our school.

If you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Spirit of God has given you a gift just as He wills, I Corinthians 12:11. We have been created to do these good works that God has prepared for us to do, Ephesians 2:10. We should all be busy with our Father's business so that when we stand before Jesus He will be able to say:

*"Come, you who are blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me." - Matthew 25:34-38*

Come, let us serve the Lord as we have the strength to do so,

*Benjamin Williamson*

Benjamin Williamson



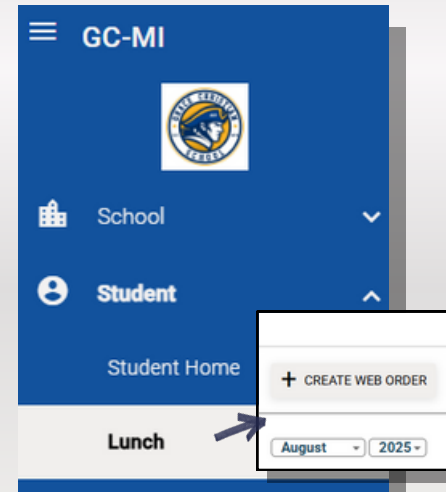


## OCTOBER LUNCHES

It's time to order student lunches for OCTOBER. Please submit your order by **Friday, September 19** and be careful not to alter your August/September order! Ordering instructions are available below.

## HOW TO ORDER SCHOOL LUNCHES

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  
SEPTEMBER 19!**



GET READY FOR

**PICTURE DAY**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**

Starting at 8:30am



**SPORTS PICTURES WILL ALSO BE TAKEN  
FOR MS & VARSITY VOLLEYBALL.  
STUDENT ATHLETES: REMEMBER YOUR JERSEYS!**

**ORDER ONLINE AT [INTER-STATE.COM/ORDER](https://inter-state.com/order)**

**SCHOOL PICTURES**

**USE CODE: 0257MYA**

**BAND/VOLLEYBALL PICTURES**

**USE CODE: 0282XHA**

## STUDENT ABSENCE



If your student will be absent from school, please notify the Main Office as soon as possible by emailing [info@gcspatriots.com](mailto:info@gcspatriots.com) or calling 269-463-5545. We will also be sure to inform your child's teacher.



# MISSION TRIP MEETING - SEPTEMBER 24 AT 6:00 PM

All junior and senior students planning to attend the Guatemala trip, along with their parents, should plan to attend this important meeting. Please bring your passport and your trip deposit. If you have not yet watched the information video sent out on May 27, please do so before the meeting. We look forward to seeing you soon!



## ATHLETICS



Junior High volleyball is in full swing and welcomes you to encourage them as they develop.

Varsity Volleyball has more wins than the previous 3 years combined. We invite you to enjoy competitive play. Monday, September 15, we host Eau Claire. Check the [Athletic Calendar](#) for other games.

Football with the Twin City Sharks is exciting again. We have 3 young men contributing to the 4 school Co-op. Homecoming is October 3rd.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### GRANDPARENTS DAY

This year's Grandparents Day will take place on Friday, October 17.

Reminder: October 17 is scheduled to be a HALF DAY of school for all students, and there will be NO AFTERCARE available on this day.

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:

269-463-5545 or [info@gcspatriots.com](mailto:info@gcspatriots.com)



### PATRIOTS IN ACTION – COMING SOON!

Do you know a family who could benefit from a few hours of student help with yard work or housework? Please contact [colford@gcspatriots.com](mailto:colford@gcspatriots.com) to let us know. We'll be sending out groups of students who are eager to serve and bless members of our community, especially widows and the elderly.

We are also in need of drivers for this special day of community ministry. If you're available for the day and would be willing to take a small group of students in your vehicle, please email [colford@gcspatriots.com](mailto:colford@gcspatriots.com).



### FISH FRY

Grace Christian School is hosting a Fish Fry! Save the date and tell your friends, neighbors, family members. It will be a great opportunity to show off all the work that's been done on the softball field and meet up with other Patriots, both past and present! There may even be a chance to play ball!

**Adults: \$15 Seniors (62+): \$12 Children: \$5**

More details coming soon!



## WE HAVE ONE POSITION OPEN: Jr. High/High School Band Director

A musically competent person to lead our two bands is needed 12:30-3:00 each school day. There are about 12-15 capable students in each group. Winter and Spring Concerts are scheduled as well as a music festival in the early spring that is overnight (ACSI festival).

Presently, both bands are meeting under the direction of Benjamin Williamson until a suitable replacement can be found. It is reported that Mr. Williamson and the students are making the most of missing Mrs. McBride as they are learning about marching band and memorizing music to march to. Besides that, Mr. Williamson is bringing in some of his favorite hymns with the goal that a group would be able to lead chapel worship with their instruments.



### THANKSGIVING

- \$30,000 pledged donation to sponsor a teacher
- \$31,950 came in to meet our student sponsorship needs
- New volleyball cart donated
- Waxing our floors and carpet cleaning donated in August by Mr. Clean's Cleaning & Restoration
- We received over \$20,000 in electrical supplies from a vendor with All-Phase electrical in Benton Harbor. We will be able to completely update our building to LED from fluorescent.
- We were able to secure a shared time partnership with Southgate Community Schools
- Softball field's Summer/Fall refreshing work (looking great)
- New and consistent volunteer keeping the grounds beautiful
- Gym and Locker Room refurbishment
- 1949 Cadillac (open to ideas of what to do with it)
- A lot of furniture & professional displays donated in July/August

### JOIN THE GCEA!

As we start our academic year we want to invite you to be part of the GCEA (Grace Christian Educational Association), the governing body of our school. The fiscal year for the GCEA runs July 1 to June 30. Membership requires agreement with our organization's doctrinal statement and \$10 membership fee. The membership fee is waived for parents of students at GCS. Each year we have an annual meeting where the School Board is elected and an annual report is presented to the membership. There have been special/extra meetings announced to discuss pressing issues within the organization.

Join TODAY by completing the [GCEA Membership Application Form](#) on our website and emailing it to [info@gcspatriots.com](mailto:info@gcspatriots.com).

Our School Board is accessible to you through their email as well as open board meetings generally at the last Monday of the month. September's meeting is the 22nd at 6:30pm.



## 2025-26 GCEA BOARD MEMBERS

**Whitney Tinker** - President  
[wtinker@gcspatriots.com](mailto:wtinker@gcspatriots.com)

**Nathan Hutchins** - Vice President  
[nhutchins@gcspatriots.com](mailto:nhutchins@gcspatriots.com)

**Holly Crouch** - Treasurer  
[hcrouch@gcspatriots.com](mailto:hcrouch@gcspatriots.com)

**Ruth Malaka** - Secretary  
[rmalaka@gcspatriots.com](mailto:rmalaka@gcspatriots.com)

**Shirl Bontrager**  
[sbontrager@gcspatriots.com](mailto:sbontrager@gcspatriots.com)



**Marshall Downs**  
[mddowns@gcspatriots.com](mailto:mddowns@gcspatriots.com)

**Laraine Fox**  
[lfox@gcspatriots.com](mailto:lfox@gcspatriots.com)

**Joel Layman**  
[jlayman@gcspatriots.com](mailto:jlayman@gcspatriots.com)

**Trever Meachum**  
[tmeachum@gcspatriots.com](mailto:tmeachum@gcspatriots.com)

**Brian Montgomery**  
[bmontgomery@gcspatriots.com](mailto:bmontgomery@gcspatriots.com)

THE NEXT GCEA BOARD MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 @ 6:30 PM.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP!

### Work related Help:

- » Replace all our 4ft Florescent with LEDs (made possible by our All-Phase donation)
- » Staining Preschool Ramp
- » Improving the woodshop (painting to start)



### Service related Help:

- » Looking for a Grace Christian Historian: We have shoe boxes of photos and such that need the attention of someone who loves compiling history.
- » We need help with our Sporting events: Receiving Money at the Gate, Running the clock/scoreboard, Line judging for volleyball, We would be interested in a skilled person being the regular voice at GCS sporting events to do announcements; Help with concessions. Regular help in any of these areas is a significant help.

## SHARE THE IMPACT

Would you like to share what is going on at Grace with others in your church? Please request these postcards as bulletin inserts for your church where individuals can receive our monthly IMPACT newsletter. We will be happy to get them in your hands to share with your church. Let us know, [info@gcspatriots.com](mailto:info@gcspatriots.com).



## POP CAN DRIVE

Student Council wants your empty pop cans! Is taking back your family's pop cans and bottles a burden? Bag them up and bring them to the school and let Student Council take care of them! This is a great way to support student activities at GCS.



## LOSE YOUR KEYS?

A set of keys were found on M-140 very close to our driveway entrance. They are obviously Jeep keys, plus a few others. If they are yours please contact Ms. Sheri and identify any of the other items on the ring.

## SUPPORTING GCS

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

Check out the links below:

[Mrs. Colford, Principal](#)   [Mrs. Corwin, High School](#)  
[Mrs. Compton, PE/Music](#)   [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>](#)   [Miss Erickson, Jr. High](#)  
[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:



#### 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, St. Joseph  
(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



# 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.



## 2025-26 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



## AMERIGAS

Amerigas Customers can support GCS without paying anything extra!

Simply visit [this link](#) 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!





# 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.