

GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Home of the Patriots

NOVEMBER 2025

IMPACT



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

Photo Credit: Ethan Romeo, Class of '18



THIS EDITION:

- "Light at the End of the Tunnel"
- Athletics
- Student Highlights
- Parent Reminders
- GCEA
- GCS Alumni
- Upcoming Events
- Prayer & Praise
- Ways to Support our School
- Community Events
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LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

Since the beginning, Grace Christian has been in the tunnel depending on God's provision through faithful supporters to make Christian Education more affordable for families. Year after year, we ask in faith for God to provide through many of you. What we ask for is difficult to provide; sacrificial giving. There is an opportunity on the horizon that could completely flip our financial model.

The Federal Government **already passed** a tax credit (\$1,700 per tax payer) that will help people give to student scholarships starting in 2027. The details of which are provided on the back of this letter. The State of Michigan has not been friendly to private education, and this program requires the governor of the state to opt into the scholarship program. We have an election in 2026 for Governor. We need to communicate as a community to both the Democrats and Republicans that this is important to us and it is a means for them to get votes; it needs to be a campaign issue where both parties will pledge to opt in to get federal dollars to support education in the State of Michigan. Please reach out to your representatives and the State parties as a whole.

The Five-Year Plan

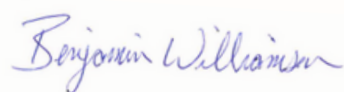
It has seemed to be a poor use of time to plan for more than 2 years ahead at Grace Christian School due to the instability of enrollment, finances, and staffing; it is hard to say we will plan on x, y, or z with any seriousness in our voice. Dreams we have, of course, but an actionable plan requires resources in hand. Considering that there is a significant and stable revenue source on the horizon totally changes what is possible for Grace. I've outlined some of those plans for you on the back of this page.

What about today?

If the light is as bright and wonderful as I expect it to be, what must be done while we are in the tunnel? Grace Christian has subsidized tuition for decades with fundraising and sacrificial giving of its supporters. There has been plenty of debate over the years among our school boards and families of what is the best course of action with respect to tuition rates. We are praying that we will raise \$100,000 by year's end by the love offering of our supporters. It has been said that Grace is a sinking ship and I do not want to put my money in a hole that will not survive. Well, we are going to survive (God willing and God has been willing for 52 years), and as we position ourselves correctly with this tax credit we are going to thrive. To get there we need God's help. Will you be the instrument He uses?

In October we received a \$40,000 gift from a local family (not connected to Grace) that called us from 'out of the blue'. They came out to visit a school they had never been to and talked with me about what our school stands for. They talked about their philanthropy and said they want to support work that God is doing. Four weeks later the man quietly dropped off a check; God provides!

I'm excited about what God has in store for Grace Christian. Please consider helping us get to the coming light.



Benjamin Williamson
Administrator



ATHLETICS



VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

Tuesday night, our Lady Patriots defeated the Covert Bulldogs, earning them a chance to compete against the Martin Clippers on Thursday. Our girls fought hard, but lost in the end after an impressive effort, playing at peak performance. We are extremely proud of our Lady Patriots for giving their all in this highly competitive season!

Special thanks to Coach Williamson for his dedication to the team, to Athletic Director, Mr. Wellin, for creating the schedule and securing refs, and to Coaches Galens and Dill for standing in for Districts!

Congratulations goes to these student athletes (pictured with Mr. Wellin, AD)!

2025 BCS VOLLEYBALL ALL-CONFERENCE AWARDS

Honorable Mention

Sara Rutgers, Dailee Strickland
and Jenna Wilson

First Team

Anna Williamson



As the Winter Sports season begins, be sure to check the [Athletic Calendar](#) for game schedules!

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

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 academics and/or athletics. Way to represent GCS, Patriots!

(Pictured, left to right: Hannah Hawley, Alexander Hartman, Ethan Brodie, Easton Downs, Erika Romeo and Abigail Malaka, with Craig Hilliard)



High House Project
OCTOBER
Jr. **Standout Student**
Samuel Valenti
Teacher on Fire
Ms. Erickson



Students of the Month
SEPTEMBER
Bethany Romeo
OCTOBER
Sara Rutgers

PARENTS



RECESS ATTIRE

Elementary students are expected to go outside for designated recess times twice a day in temperatures as low as 18°F. Please remember to send your child to school each day dressed appropriately for outside play. Students need a coat, hat, gloves, snow pants and boots. If you need help acquiring these items, please let us know how we can help you.

DECEMBER LUNCHES

It's time to order student lunches for DECEMBER. Please submit your order by **Wednesday, November 12** through FACTS Family Portal!



REMINDER: SCHOOL SECURITY



The security of our students is of utmost priority here at GCS. Parents, as kind and courteous as it seems, please remember not to hold the door for other parents/visitors to our campus. Each person must ring the doorbell and await staff permission before gaining entrance to our building. Thank you for your cooperation!

BOARD

2025-26 GCEA BOARD MEMBERS

Whitney Tinker - President
wtinker@gcspatriots.com

Nathan Hutchins - Vice President
nhutchins@gcspatriots.com

Holly Crouch - Treasurer
hcrouch@gcspatriots.com

Ruth Malaka - Secretary
rmalaka@gcspatriots.com

Shirl Bontrager
sbontrager@gcspatriots.com



Marshall Downs
mddowns@gcspatriots.com

Laraine Fox
lfox@gcspatriots.com

Joel Layman
jlayman@gcspatriots.com

Trever Meachum
tmeachum@gcspatriots.com

Brian Montgomery
bmontgomery@gcspatriots.com

THE NEXT GCEA BOARD MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17 @ 6:30 PM.

JOIN THE GCEA!

You're invited 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. Membership allows you the right to vote at our annual GCEA meeting and at special/extra meetings throughout the year. Join TODAY by completing the [GCEA Membership Application Form](#) on our website and emailing it to info@gcspatriots.com.

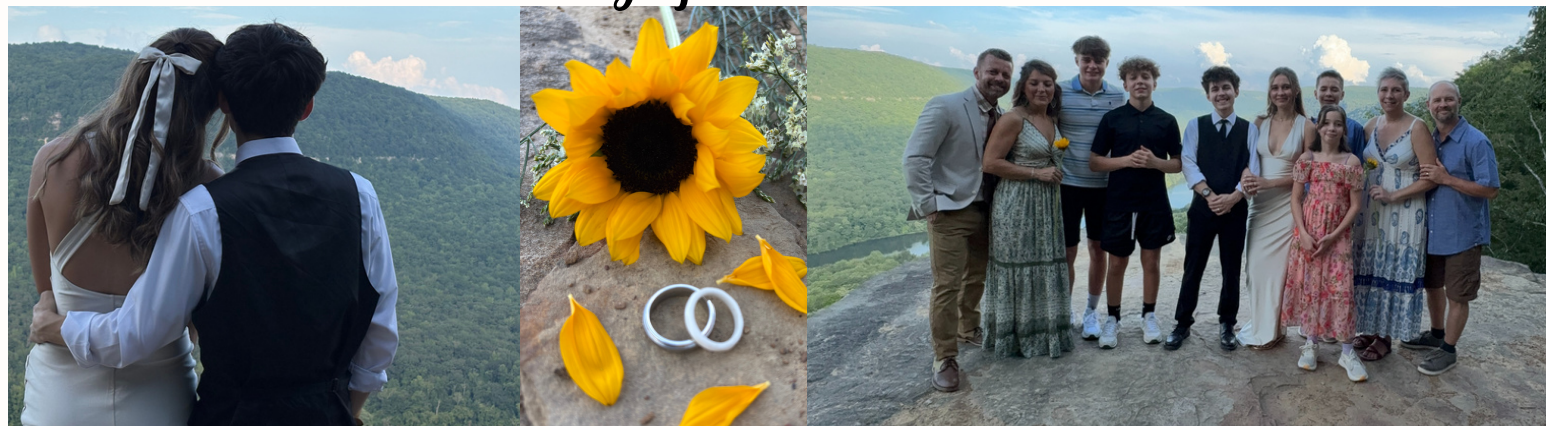
Our School Board is accessible to you through their email as well as open board meetings.



ALUMNI NEWS

We love to share what God is doing in the lives of our Alumni! Please share births, graduations, marriages, moves, and other announcements with us at info@gcspatriots.com. Photos are appreciated.

Wedding of Jamin & Elise Dill



Jamin Dill and Elise Brodie (GCS graduates of 2024) at their intimate wedding on August 21st in Chattanooga, Tennessee with both of their parents and siblings present. Congratulations!

UPCOMING EVENTS



APPLE PIE MAKING DAY

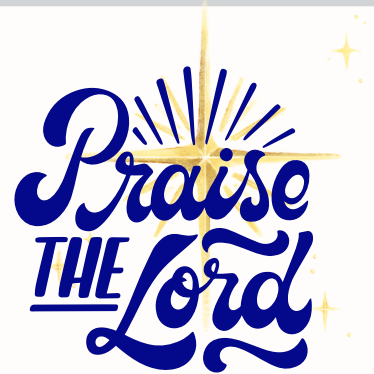
Come make delicious Dutch apple pies with us on Saturday, November 22 at Michiana Christian Camp in Niles! This is a fun event for the whole family!

Use [this link](#) to sign up! Choose between the following shifts, or sign up for both:

- 8:00am - 12:00pm
- 12:00 - 4:00pm

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP CONCERT

Join us on Friday, December 5 at 7:00pm for a night of Christmas worship as our Jr. High and High School bands lead a time of praise and worship for the gift of Salvation that came to us in the form of a baby, Christ Jesus, our LORD.



KINDERGARTEN DENTAL SCREENINGS



VBCDHD/BCHD Dental Outreach KOHA Program will be visiting Grace Christian Kindergarten students to conduct kindergarten dental screenings on Wednesday, December 10.

Parents that choose to have their own dental provider complete the assessment, please let the school know in advance and request a copy of form MDHHS 6067 from the Main Office to be completed and signed by their provider to show completion of the dental screening **requirement**.

GCS STUDENTS PREPARING FOR MISSION TRIP TO GUATEMALA

MARCH 2026

Each mission trip team member is currently raising financial support for their participation. If you would like to contribute toward an individual student, staff member, or the team as a whole, please reach out to lcolford@gcspatriots.com for more information. Your prayers and financial support are a vital part of this ministry, and we are deeply grateful for your partnership.

A full team list is included below. Watch for updates and prayer requests in future Impact editions as the team prepares for this exciting opportunity.

11th Grade

Jaxon Dill
Mason Green
Sara Rutgers
Matthew Williamson

Staff

Mike Dill
Jessica Flagel
Benjamin Williamson

12th Grade

Dailee Strickland
Anna Williamson
Jenna Wilson

Parents

Jimmy Green
Tasha Strickland
Keri Williamson
Apryll Wilson



PRAYER AND PRAISE

GRAHAM

Thank you all so much for your prayers!

Graham had his first official post-op appointment with his doctor and here is the report:

- VSD- No residual leak continues!
- Heart Block- Nope!
- Aortic Arch- Nice and Open!
- Left and Right Side of his Heart are no longer diminished (at U of M his Right side was slightly diminished)!
- Pulmonary Arteries- Mildly Narrowed, but par for the course with his Bands being on for 10 Months. Otherwise, blood is flowing well!
- Lasix- HIS ONLY HEART MED!!! And we say goodbye in 1 week!!!
- NO MORE PAIN MEDS
- Left Vocal Cord- Dr Halas, like many others, are confident his vocal cord will come back in a few months!

The doctor also said, "This cannot be more amazing. He looks like a million bucks and fat." We will follow up in 4 weeks and as long as all looks well then, we should not see any post surgery complications. Please continue to pray as Graham now has an NG TUBE due to his left vocal cord being paralyzed during surgery, intubation, etc. We are working with speech therapy and feeding therapy.



TEACHER NEED

GCS has a teacher that is on dialysis and is in great need of a kidney transplant. Please join us in praying for God's provision in His perfect time.

THANKSGIVING

- Volunteers that made Shemmy's Fish Fry possible
- Parents, staff and students that participated in Patriots-In-Action Day
- Consistent volunteer for gate at home games
- Mrs. Leach repaired and recovered our basketball panels. They look great!
- Workers from the Chapel, EFC volunteered on Saturday, October 4.
 - 23 light units were updated and bleachers secured
- Stairs to the ball field finished
- Water to the ball field/well house plumbing updated
- \$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



SUPPORTING GCS



GOT PUMPKINS?

Student Council is in need of pumpkins for games at the upcoming Fall Fest on Friday, November 14. If you can donate pumpkins for this event, please let us know!

POSITION OPENING: PART-TIME BAND TEACHER

Grace Christian School is seeking a Christ-centered, musically gifted educator to teach Junior High and High School Band. The ideal candidate loves both music and students, models a strong Christian faith, and desires to inspire excellence through music.

This part-time, school-year position includes sick leave, personal time, and tuition benefits for qualifying dependents. A degree in music or related field and classroom experience are preferred. Will consider applicants who have a BA (or equivalent) in another field with a strong personal background in music. If you feel called to use your musical gifts to invest in students and glorify Christ, we'd love to hear from you! Applications accepted until the position is filled.



HOW YOU CAN HELP!

Work related Help:

- Help complete our project of replacing 4ft fluorescent lights 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.





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.

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, 2nd](#)
[Mrs. Vogel, P4](#) [Miss Newell, Kindergarten](#)
[Mrs. Litten, 1st](#) [Mrs. Wilkerson, 3rd](#) [Mrs. Grey, 4th](#)
[Mr. Dill, 5th](#) [Miss Erickson, Jr. High](#)
[Mr. Bradshaw, Strength](#) [Miss Hemingway, TK](#)



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





SHARE THE IMPACT

Would you like to share what is going on at GCS 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 at info@gcspatriots.com.

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:



Wil-O-Paw Animal Hospital (10%)

Veterinary services and products.
Drs. Alan and Christy Stockdale
4809 Paw Paw Lake Road, Coloma
269.468.7297



Parable Christian Bookstore (10%)

Bibles, Christian books, music, and gifts
Now known as **Sonlight Gifts**, at a new location:
102 St Joseph St in Lawrence
269.983.7889



Cheyenne Chernugel, Realtor (10%)

10% of any commission proceeds will go to Grace Christian School when this ad is mentioned.
269.252.6595
cheyenne@frazeeeam.com

COMMUNITY EVENTS

CHURCH

Revival

ROBIN JOHNSON MINISTRIES
Friday November 7th @ 7PM
Saturday- November 8th @ 7PM
Sunday- Novemebr 9th @ 10:45 am

**Come Join us
Come Expecting!**

New Freedom Church, Coloma
6210 Mountain Rd. Coloma
Coloma-exit 39 , off I-94
269-369-6613
newfreedomchurch.com

A TIME TO SEEK GOD WHOLEHEARTEDLY

PURSUIT 2025

6:30 pm 12.4 - 12.6 416 W Pleasant St, Watervliet, MI 49098

PRAYER | WORSHIP | WORD | GUEST SPEAKERS

We are contending for revival! Gen Z + Gen Alpha (all ages are welcome) - A time to bring God to South West Michigan!

FOR MORE INFORMATION MESSAGE US @NEWDAYCHURCH_WATERVLIET ON INSTAGRAM/FACEBOOK OR TEXT 269 - 999 - 6550

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—Parent/Teacher**
Conferences, 11:00 - 6:00pm
- 24-25 **NO SCHOOL - Fall Break**
- 26-28 **NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break**

DECEMBER

- 5 Christmas Worship Concert, 7pm
- 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
HALF DAYS	Dismissal: 11:30 am
OFFICE HOURS	7:30-3:30 pm

**This calendar is subject to change.*

Please visit GCSPatriots.org for current calendar.