

# GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

*Home of the Patriots*



MAY 2026

# IMPACT

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



## THIS EDITION:

- “Celebrating & Turning a Page”
- Parents
- Projects
- Athletics
- Student Highlights
- Alumni
- Job Postings
- Prayer & Praise
- Supporting GCS
- Upcoming Events
- Calendar

## CELEBRATION & TURNING A PAGE

With every celebration of an accomplishment or completion of something significant is also a pivot to what is next. Now, humanity lives on a spectrum. What I mean by that is we are all different in how we process various experiences of life. Whether it be father/motherhood, or filing our taxes. There is a whole spectrum of feelings and attitudes about it. There are those who live to celebrate and on the other end of the spectrum there are those who live to conquer the next thing. Superbowl winning coaches have complained that they are behind for the next season because of the long playoff run and we are very familiar with people still living in the dying glow of a past victory. The Scriptures teach us that we are to balance the extremes of life.



As the year comes to an end, we celebrate the accomplishments of our students and also begin making preparations for the coming year. There is much to celebrate at Grace Christian and we should take the time to honor that. Throughout the year we note accomplishments and at the end of the year we see the completion of hard work. We invite you to celebrate with us:

- Graduation May 21st 7:00
- Moving Up Ceremony May 29th 9:00

Continue to pray for us as we prepare for the coming year. We are thankful for what the Lord has done and that He was willing to use us to accomplish His will.

God's blessings to you this summer,

Benjamin Williamson  
Administrator

## PARENTS



### GRADUATION CEREMONY

Our beloved seniors, Dailee Strickland, Anna Williamson and Jenna Wilson, are graduating on May 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM! Mr. Schwarze, former GCS Bible teacher, will be our guest speaker as we celebrate the accomplishments of the Class of 2026 and send them off to impact the world for Jesus Christ! We hope you'll join us for this incredible event.



### MOVING UP CEREMONY

Students in grades TK - 6 will be celebrated at the "Moving Up Ceremony" on the last day of school, Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. This will be a **HALF DAY** for elementary students. Parents, please plan to arrive at 8:30. Students will be dismissed following the event.\*

**\*No Aftercare services will be available after the ceremony.**





## BEWARE OF SCAMS

When you receive an email from a GCS staff member's name, ensure that the email address ends in "@gcspatriots.com" to verify the sender. Also, please remember that the school will **NEVER** email you requesting your banking information. When in doubt, give us a call at 269.463.5545!

## E-SPORTS

MIHSEF started to bring the E-Sports experience to Middle and High School students in 2019. There is an opportunity for GCS students to be part of this growing community. Before our school decides to establish a partnership and offer E-sports at Grace, we need to gauge the level of interest.

If you are interested, contact the school at 269.463.5545 or [info@gcspatriots.com](mailto:info@gcspatriots.com) at your earliest convenience.

For more information go to <https://mihsef.org/>



## SUMMERCARE 2026

The Grace Christian SummerCare Program is designed to incorporate fun, educational activities with the need for daycare for working parents. This year's theme is "National Parks" and we will enjoy crafts, activities, and field trips that will help to enhance this theme. Students will have free play and rest, along with lunch and snacks within the daily schedule. Bible will be an integrated part of the program with a Bible devotional time every day. Field trips, both on campus and off campus, are included in the full time cost of care, along with morning and afternoon snacks. However, lunches are unavailable during the summer, so packed lunches from home are required.

### COST

Registration: \$40 per family **due by May 15<sup>th</sup>**

Late Registration: \$75 per family **after May 15<sup>th</sup>**. First come, first served

- Weekly: \$175 for the first child, \$125 for each additional child
- Prepayment for the whole summer: \$1,750 for child 1 and \$1,250 for each additional child

*Cost includes field trips and snacks.*

- Daily rate is available upon request, if space is available. Please email the address below to inquire. *Field Trip fees not included in daily rate.*

Please email any questions to [bcorwin@gcspatriots.com](mailto:bcorwin@gcspatriots.com).



## SAVE THE DATE

The 2026-27 School Year kicks off on **Monday, August 31, 2026!**



# PROJECTS

Below is a list of things that need to be done around the school.  
Is there something *you* could do? Give us a call! 269.463.5545



**Bathroom Fans:** Need to be replaced

**Install 3- 2'x4' Fluorescent Barn Lights:** 12ft off the ground;  
mild electric & carpentry skills required

**Commons Update:**

- Cement Patch Commons walls (30 minute job)
- Paint
- Trim the doors, ceiling, and floor

**Install Ridge Vent** in place of turbines

**Replace the Last Elementary Furnace:** (We have Furnace)

**Caulk and Seal December Furnace Installs**

**Spray Weeds**

**Elementary Playground Updates:**

Install balance beams & replace wood on roller

**Baseball Fence:** Needs repair

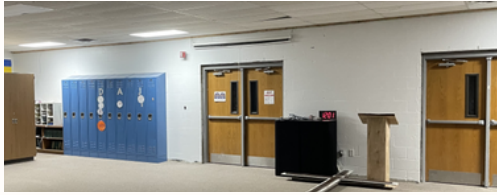
**Insulate Gym's Heat Tube in Storage Section:**

Creative ideas welcome.

**Suspended Basketball Hoops Build or Purchase:** \$3-5,000 each.

**Stain Preschool Ramp & Decks**

**Sign Construction:** Iron work; Cement work; Brick work, and landscaping



## NON-BUDGETED NEEDS:

**Sound Board:** \$900 for a digital Behringer X32  
*(If you were at our Elementary Musical you experienced the inconsistency of an old board.)*

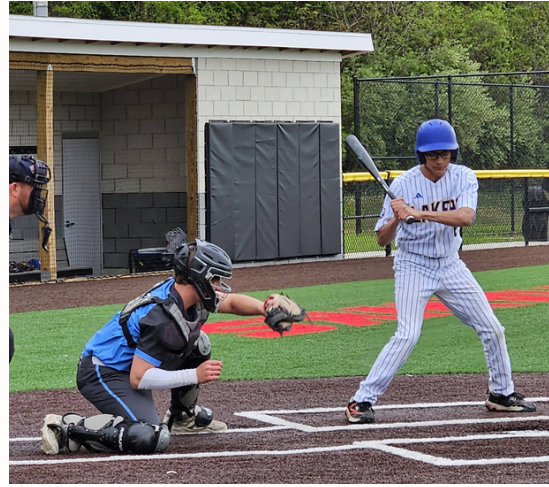
**Disc Golf Basket:** \$100



# ATHLETICS

Many of our student athletes are at it again, with baseball and soccer seasons in full swing. The Lakers and Patriots come together to make up very competitive teams. Come on out and cheer them on!

**BE SURE TO CHECK THE [ATHLETIC CALENDAR](#) FOR COMPLETE GAME SCHEDULES!**



**Grace Christian BASKETBALL CAMP**  
FOR BOYS & GIRLS Grades 1st-4th  
(Grade they will be in next year)

**JUNE 8TH-12TH** Grace Christian School Gym  
9:00 AM - 10:15 AM

LEARN BASKETBALL SKILLS, TEAM PLAY, & MORE

Please fill out attached permission slip and return it to Mr. Dill by May 21st.

**GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS**

**JUNE 8TH-12TH** Grace Christian School Gym  
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

LEARN BASKETBALL SKILLS, TEAM PLAY, & MORE

Please fill out attached permission slip and return it to Mr. Dill by May 21st.

**GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS**

REGISTRATION FEE **\$40** PER PERSON

## SIGN UP TODAY!

Complete the basketball camp form on Page 11 and submit with payment to the Main Office as soon as possible.

# STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

*Students of the Month*

**MARCH**  
**Zoey Burfield**

**APRIL**  
**Joshua Melton**

**MAY**  
**Mason Green**

*Jr. High House Project*

**MARCH**  
**Aiden Manning- Yoder**

**APRIL**  
**Jordynn Redman**

*Teacher on Fire*  
**Ms. Erickson**

# ALUMNI NEWS

## KAYLEE BRADSHAW

Class of 2024 GCS alumnus Kaylee Bradshaw was awarded the honor of speaking at the Southwest Michigan College graduation ceremony on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. Read about it [HERE!](#) **Congratulations, Kaylee!**



## CLASS OF 2016

Last weekend, the Class of 2016 came together to celebrate their ten year class reunion!

*Pictured: Nathaniel Benham, Levi Stalcup, Joel Ross, Siyul Byun, Landon Clark, Julie Newell, Francine Barchett, Annabelle Kohns*

**ATTENTION, GCS ALUMNI!** We love to learn what God is doing in the lives of our Patriots! If you would like us to share His work in your life with the greater GCS community, we encourage you to send us your accomplishments and news, such as awards, births, graduations, marriage, moves, promotions and other announcements with us at [info@gcspatriots.com](mailto:info@gcspatriots.com). Photos are appreciated, but not required.

# 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**  
*mdowns@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, MAY 18 @ 6:30 PM.

# JOB POSTINGS

## BAND, CHOIR & SPANISH

Grace Christian School is seeking passionate, Christ-centered teachers for secondary band and choir, as well as K-8 Spanish to join our team starting in August. Benefits and tuition discount are available for eligible dependents. These are shared time positions with Southgate Community Schools.

**JOIN OUR**

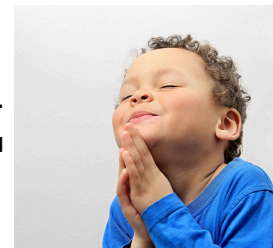
**TEAM**

Candidates for both positions must have strong classroom management and collaboration skills, and be committed to ongoing professional learning. As a Christian school, we're looking for individuals who model an active and growing faith in Jesus Christ and faithfully attend a like-minded evangelical church. If you or someone you know would love to inspire students through music and Spanish while living out their faith, please submit your resume to [lcolford@gcspatriots.com](mailto:lcolford@gcspatriots.com). *Applications accepted until positions are filled.*

# PRAYER & PRAISE

## PRAYER REQUEST

A GCS teacher is on dialysis and is in great need of a kidney transplant from a living donor. Please join us in praying for God's provision in His perfect time. If you'd like to find out if you could be a donor, please send an email to [info@gcspatriots.com](mailto:info@gcspatriots.com).



## BLOOD DRIVE SUCCESS

Thank you to those that donated blood on Tuesday!  
You made a difference!

Goal: 20 units  
Donation Attempts: 20  
~Student Donors - 9  
~Staff Donors - 3  
Total Units Collected: 18

## THANKSGIVING

- Breaking the \$150,000 mark on scholarship money given to the school from Reclaimed by Grace
- Two churches that made substantial donations to our Mission Trip: New Life Harvest Ministry and South Haven Church of Christ
- Thanks to Mrs. Dill and the staff, volunteers and attendees that supported the 2026 GCS Annual Benefit Auction!
- Thank you to the elementary families that recognized the value of supporting our upcoming mission trip and providing all of the items needed to send with our team!
- A new set of classroom headphones for the Jr. High Classroom
- Year End Giving donations
- The generous giving of parents and students to our staff during the Christmas season
- Thank you to the donor that provided Thanksgiving turkeys to our staff.
- Those who organized pie making, sold pies, bought pies and showed up to assemble pies for the fundraiser.
- PTF Christmas decorating
- PTF Meal provision for Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 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

Donate Your **Casey's** Points to GCS!



# ALUMNI PAGE

The Development Committee is looking for three volunteers to create and manage an alumni Facebook page. If you are interested, please contact Chris Leach at [cleach@gcspatriots.com](mailto:cleach@gcspatriots.com).

## OPEN ENROLLMENT 2026-27

If you know a family that may be interested in sending a student to GCS next year, here's our enrollment process:

- Visit [GCSPatriots.org](http://GCSPatriots.org)
- Find **Admissions** in the menu
- Complete the **Inquiry Form**
- GCS will schedule a **Tour with the family**



## GCS STAFF WISHLISTS



- [Mrs. Colford, Principal](#)   [Mrs. Corwin, High School](#)   [Mrs. Compton, PE/Music](#)  
[Mrs. Vogel, P4](#)   [Miss Hemingway, TK](#)   [Miss Newell, Kindergarten](#)  
[Mrs. Litten, 1<sup>st</sup>](#)   [Mrs. Tavernier, 2<sup>nd</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](#)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

GCS STUDENT COUNCIL PRESENTS THE 3RD ANNUAL

# CLASSIC Cruise-In

Pre-1990s

50/50 RAFFLE

T-SHIRTS

FRIDAY May 29

FREE ENTRY & ADMISSION

DONATIONS ACCEPTED

FOOD TRUCKS

5-8 PM

Ben's soft pretzels

HENDO'S BBQ

KONACE

CALLING ALL CAR ENTHUSIASTS!

Join us as we kick off summer with our 3rd annual Classic Car Show! No entry fee for vehicles and free admission for spectators. Donations will be accepted and will go towards new LED signage.

GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL  
325 M-140 WATERVLIET, MI

MORE INFO:  
[cruise-in@gcspatriots.com](mailto:cruise-in@gcspatriots.com)  
[gcspatriots.com](http://gcspatriots.com)

**\$95/GOLFER**  
Golf Cart, 18 holes, Snacks, Lunch & Door Prizes

# ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>

SPONSORED BY:

Honor CREDIT UNION   McNew & Teeters ELECTRIC, LLC   MR. CLEAN'S   SHEAR MAGIC SALON   Town & Country Plumbing & Electrical Services, Inc.

PRIZES FOR:  
Longest Drive, Closest to Hole, Longest Putt & Closest Approach Shot

Indian Lake Hills Golf Course  
7:30 Registration Begins  
8:30 Tee Off

SIGN UP YOUR TEAM TODAY!

Questions?  
[info@gcspatriots.com](mailto:info@gcspatriots.com)  
269.463.5545

# 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



## BUSINESS BOOSTERS

When you buy from or use the services of one of these businesses, they support GCS:



### Town & Country (10/5%)

(10% for residential services, 5% for commercial services)  
2179 Plaza Dr.  
(269)934-8155  
cheyenne@frazeeeam.com



### 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



### T & C Water Treatments (10 or 15%)

(110% for salt and parts, 5% for softener systems)  
Softeners & water conditioning. Salt sales and delivery.  
2179 Plaza Dr., Benton Harbor  
(269)983-8156



### Tyler Automotive in Niles and Stevensville

New Honda, Chevrolet, Kia, Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram, as well as pre-owned vehicles at each store. When customers contact Brandon Dockham directly and mention Grace Christian, \$100 plus 25% of my commission will be donated back to the school. Use QR code to see current inventory, calculate payments and contact information for Brandon Dockham.



# 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
- 17 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, 6:30pm
- 24 Spring Band Concert, 7:00pm

### MAY

- 8 Elementary Musical
- 14 Elementary Field Day
- 21 Graduation
- 22-25 **NO SCHOOL, Memorial Day**
- 29 Moving Up Ceremony  
(TK-6th), **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](http://GCSPatriots.org) for current calendar.*



## Basketball Camp Sign Up

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

I give permission for my child to participate in Grace Christian Basketball Camp. I also waive Grace Christian School, the coaches, and volunteers from any liability.

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

# COMMUNITY EVENTS



**BERRIEN COUNTY  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
better health. stronger communities.

## HEARING & VISION CLINICS

### Spring Break Clinics - By Appointment

School-required hearing and vision screenings

**For: Kindergartners through ninth-graders**

**When: 8:30 a.m.-noon and 1:30-4:30 p.m.**

**Where: Berrien County Health Department**

**Monday, March 30**

2149 E. Napier Ave., Benton Harbor

**Tuesday, March 31**

1205 Front St., Niles

### Summer Clinics – By Appointment

School-required hearing, vision and dental screenings

**For: Students entering kindergarten**

**When: 8:30 a.m.-noon and 1:30-4:30 p.m.**

**Where:**

#### Benton Charter Township

- **June 23** – Benton Charter Township Hall

#### Coloma

- **June 30** – Coloma Junior High

#### Eau Claire

- **July 28** – Lybrook Elementary

#### Niles

- **June 8** – Brandywine (B.I.A.)
- **Aug. 10** – Northside Child Development Center

#### Stevensville

- **June 9** – Hollywood Elementary
- **June 15** – Roosevelt Elementary
- **Aug. 13** – Stewart Elementary

Schedule your appointment by scanning the QR code  
or by visiting [bit.ly/BCHDHearingVision](http://bit.ly/BCHDHearingVision).  
Questions? Call Melisa Jordan at 269.926.7121, ext. 5293.





# Back-to-School Bash!

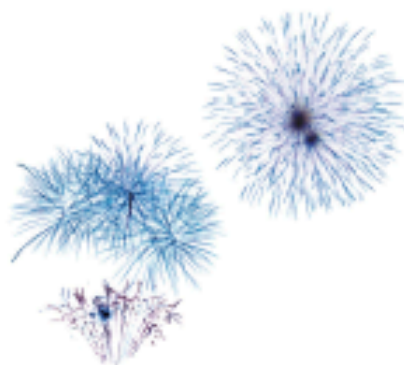
Join us for a Star-Spangled Start to School!

- State-required immunizations for school-aged kids (some costs may apply)
- Kindergarten hearing, vision and dental screenings
- Fun for the family
- Games
- Giveaways
- Food and prizes



**Berrien County Health  
Department**  
2149 E. Napier Ave.  
Benton Harbor

**Date: Tuesday Aug. 25**  
**Time: 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.**



**Berrien County Health  
Department**  
1205 N. Front St.  
Niles

**Date: Thursday Aug. 27**  
**Time: 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.**



**BERRIEN COUNTY  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
better health. stronger communities.



**Honor.**  
CREDIT UNION

**Brought to you by:**