

GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Home of the Patriots

JUNE 2026

IMPACT



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



THIS EDITION:

- “Kingdom Work”
- Student Sponsorship
- New Hire
- Parents
- Athletics
- Projects
- Recent Events
- Supporting GCS
- Prayer & Praise
- Calendar

KINGDOM WORK



On June 3rd, the Grace Christian School staff said goodbye to the 25-26 school year at our last meeting/cookout/potluck. We recognized 276 years of service among the 27 different people who served in various capacities. I would like to recognize Mrs. Colford for finishing her 20th year at Grace Christian School. Without a doubt, she has shared much joy and many tears as she has shared her life with those she holds and held dear. If I do not fail to remember, I will have the pleasure of recognizing another 20 year veteran next June. You'll have to wait till next year to find out who.

I thanked our staff for serving the Kingdom of God at Grace Christian School and I made a special point that you do not have to be at Grace Christian School to be serving the Kingdom of God. Our own Miss Nelson, who served at Grace faithfully for many years, is now serving the Kingdom of God at River Valley High School.

There is a misnomer in the Christian community that you have to work in a church or Christian school or be a missionary or pastor to be 'really' serving the Kingdom of God. That is simply not true. Jesus calls all of us to seek first His Kingdom and Righteousness. That commandment is not just for those people. The New Testament reveals that the Christians can set apart all that we do for the Glory of God, regardless of how mundane or low we or the world view it.

"Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus..."

~This sentiment is echoed in Colossians 3:17, 23; I Corinthians 10:31

I left my staff with this challenge that I think would benefit all of us to hear: Life is hard. Work is hard. We should not be surprised that we struggle and have to give an effort in our employment. Genesis 3's consequence for sin has not yet been rescinded. We do not see death cast into the Lake of Fire until Revelation 20:14. Being a Christian does not exempt you from difficulty. If we read the scriptures properly, we recognize that not only does the believer have the Genesis 3 consequences to manage, but also a world system that hates Christ and those who follow Him (John 15:18-25; 16:33; I Peter 4:12-19; I John 2:15-17). But take courage, Jesus has overcome the world. (Sing now *Faith is the Victory*, an old hymn for those who know it!)

To conclude, Christians: It is so important that we encourage one another (Hebrews 10:25 - find this encouragement at church)! Life is hard and many times it does feel like everything is up hill. This is what Peter told a heavily persecuted church:

"Those who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right." And just a few verses later: "Casting all your cares upon Him because He cares for you."

We serve a great God. Too bad we try to do too much ourselves instead of first going to our heavenly Father and seeking His help. I regularly fail in this regard. Let us together change that and seek Him first.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Benjamin Williamson".

Benjamin Williamson
Administrator

STUDENT SPONSORSHIP

This is our way of helping families be able to attend Grace Christian. Our tuition covers a majority of our expenses, but not all of them. Even subsidized, our tuition is about \$7,000, which is a real number for families to face. That number becomes overwhelming when you have multiple children. The tension between ministry (enrolling families who really struggle to afford the tuition cost) and business (paying our staff and expenses) collide this time of year as we begin enrolling for 26-27 school year and set up financial agreements.



Student sponsorship reaches out to our Grace Community to match those who love the ministry of Grace with those who need help with tuition. The thrift store has been a tremendous help, but these needs exceed what the thrift store scholarship can provide. Please consider helping a family or part of a family. You may donate unspecified to the sponsorship account or you may choose a specific family.

Grace Christian continues to be a ministry of sacrifice even after 52 years, and we thank our staff, families, and donors that contribute to making Grace Christian School possible.

<u>Family Total</u>	<u>Tuition Annual</u>	<u>Help Needed</u>	<u>Monthly Help Needed</u>
1 Student	1,000	1,000	83
4 Students	27,000	13,400	1,120
3 Students	21,000	500	45
4 Students	28,000	4,400	375
3 Students	21,000	2,100	175
2 Students	14,000	6,000	500
2 Students	14,000	9,200	770
2 Students	14,000	9,300	775
3 Students	21,000	10,800	900
2 Students	14,000	2,200	200
26 Students	Total Need: \$58,900		\$4,908
		\$2,265 per student per year	\$189 per student per month

Benjamin Williamson

Benjamin Williamson
Administrator



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 GCPatriots.org
- Find **Admissions** in the menu
- Complete the **Inquiry Form**
- GCS will schedule a **Tour with the family**

NEW HIRE

INTRODUCING MR. MIKE HARRIS!

Mr. Mike Harris has joined the Grace Christian School team for the 2026-27 school year. Mr. Harris will lead a worship-focused class and will teach private piano lessons this summer and throughout the school year (*see flyer for additional information*).

Mr. Harris has been playing piano for 47 years and has faithfully attended and served at Miracle Harvest Church for the past 36 years in a variety of ministry roles, where he enjoys helping people grow in their relationship with God and discover their purpose.

Mike has been married to his wife, Amy, for 13 years. Together they enjoy serving in ministry, encouraging others, and investing in the lives of those around them.

When he is not teaching, Mike enjoys creating Bible studies, writing Christian educational resources, developing ministry programs, teaching piano lessons, and spending time with family and friends.

Mr. Harris hopes to help students grow in their musical abilities, develop confidence in their God-given gifts, and learn how to use their talents to serve others.

Welcome to GCS, Mr. Harris!



PARENTS

SCHOOL SUPPLY LISTS

School Supply Lists are now available on the [GCSPatriots.org](https://www.gcspatriots.org) website under *Tools!*



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

- 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.

Please email any questions to bcorwin@gcspatriots.com.



THANK YOU!

Thank you to the Parent Teacher Fellowship and others that worked together in making Teacher Appreciation Week so special for the staff at GCS! Your kindness and love was felt by each one of us and we are truly blessed to be a part of this wonderful community. May God bless you abundantly for taking the time to bless us!

Thank
You



SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

The Main Office will be open throughout the summer, with the exception of the week of July 4th, when the office will be closed. Summer hours are 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Monday through Thursday.

ATHLETICS

A LETTER TO THE 2026 OLL/GCS LADIES SOCCER TEAM

Varsity soccer team,

I want to take a quick moment to say thank you and to congratulate you on the season. Sure, we didn't win as many matches as you would have liked, but your effort did not go unnoticed. You played the vast majority of your matches short handed, either with ten, nine, and even eight players. You also played injured a good part of the season.

For all of that, I just want to say how impressed I was and how proud I am of you. You worked hard all season and fought in every match, and even won a first round District match with eight players. You did this while playing with class, pride, and heart. That says an awful lot about who you are and about your character. I couldn't think of a better group of student athletes to represent Our Lady of the Lake and Grace Christian.

Thank you also to Coach Wheeler for somehow preparing you to compete short handed in almost every match!

Please know that we are all proud of you!

- Phil McDonald, Athletic Director



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

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

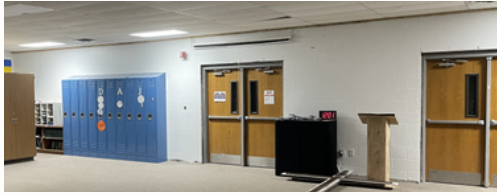
Insulate Gym's Heat Tube in Storage Section:

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

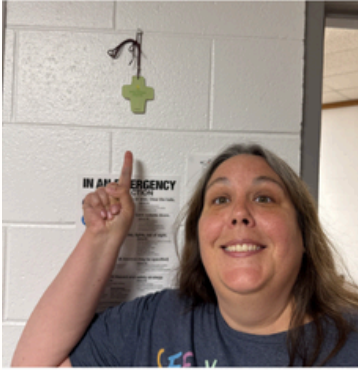


NON-BUDGETED NEEDS:

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





MRS. COLFORD'S SUPER SECRET STAFF SPIRIT WEEK CHALLENGE

OUR SHOES DIDN'T MATCH, WE WORE CHRISTMAS CLOTHES, WENT ON SCAVENGER HUNTS, MADE COMMERCIALS, PLAYED IN THE RAIN, DRESSED UP, GAVE GAG GIFTS, AND MORE... IF YOU SAW IT AND WONDERED, NOW YOU KNOW... 😊

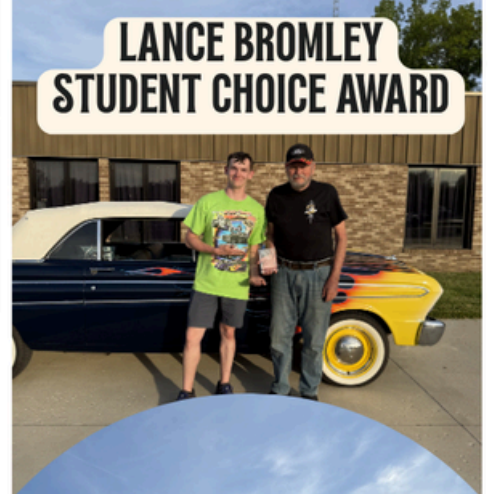


3RD ANNUAL CRUISE-IN

THANK YOU FOR A GREAT NIGHT! WE HAD OVER 100 CARS THIS YEAR!



**LANCE BROMLEY
STUDENT CHOICE AWARD**



**BRYAN TUTTON
STAFF CHOICE AWARD**



**STUDENT COUNCIL & CREW -
WORKING HARD BEHIND THE SCENES**





ALUMNI NEWS

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. 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
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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, JUNE 22 @ 6:30 PM.

SUPPORTING GCS



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, 1st](#) [Mrs. Tavernier, 2nd](#)

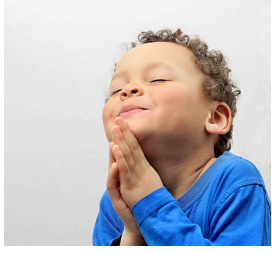
[Mrs. Wilkerson, 3rd](#) [Mrs. Grey, 4th](#)

[Mr. Dill, 5th](#) [Miss Erickson, Jr. High](#)

[Mr. Bradshaw, Strength](#)



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



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.

THANKSGIVING

- Thank you to our golfers for supporting GCS at the 2026 Golf Outing!
- Thank you to those that donated and participated in the 50/50 raffle at the Cruise-In
- McLachlan Transport donated the awards given at the Cruise-In
- 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



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.



PIANO LESSONS

by Mr. Harris

Mondays 6:00 - 9:00pm
Thursdays 10:00am - 2:00pm

AT GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Learn to play. Love to play.

Lessons held at Grace — no extra driving needed

WHO'S IT FOR?

Grace Christian students
Open to grades 2-12
Beginners welcome

HOW IT WORKS

- Weekly 30-minute lessons
- *Scheduled during school hours*
- \$100 per month

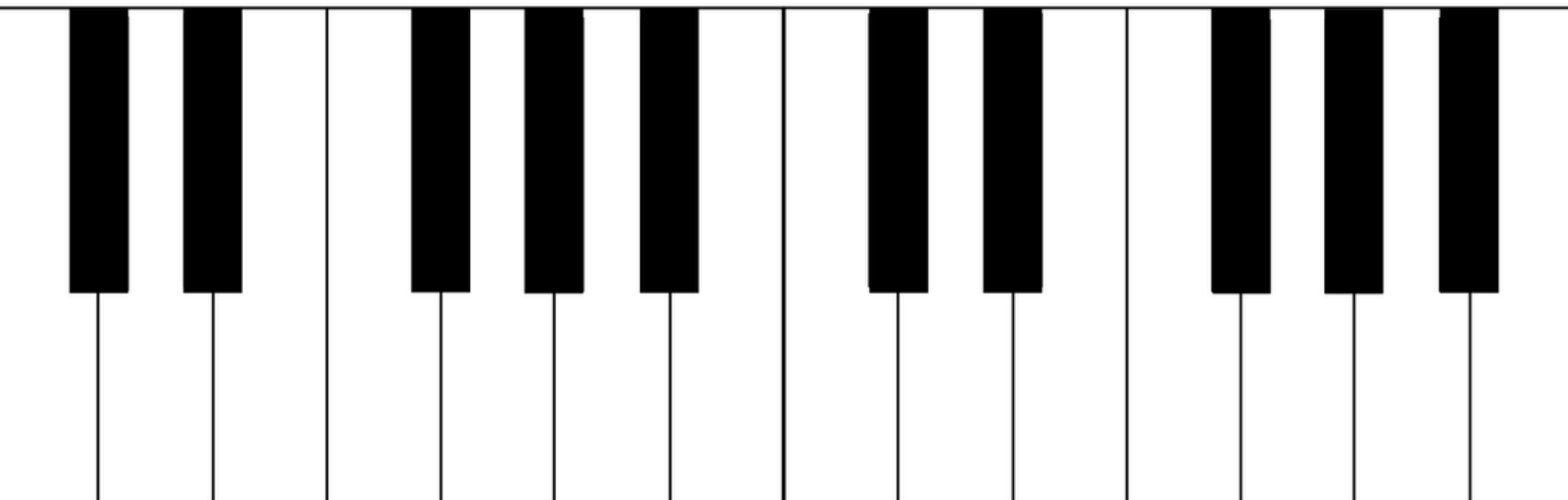
WHAT STUDENTS WILL GAIN

- Personalized Instruction
- Build Confidence and Discipline
- Learn to read music, play songs, and basic improvisation

CONVENIENT

Built into your child's school day
No extra trips or scheduling
Simple weekly routine

ENROLL TODAY: **TEXT 269-206-1903**
(SPOTS ARE LIMITED)



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

Niles

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

Coloma

- **June 30** – Coloma Junior High

Stevensville

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

Eau Claire

- **July 28** – Lybrook Elementary

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





Back-to-School Bash!

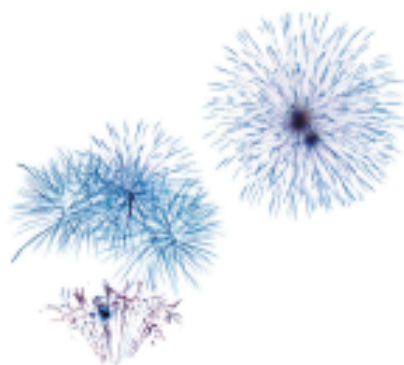
Join us for a Star-Spangled Start to School!

- 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: