GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Home of the Patriots

NOVEMBER 2026

IMPACT

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

November 2

REMINDER:
NO SCHOOL
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND
Teacher In-Service

THIS EDITION:

- "Let's Not Be Robbed of Gratitude"
- Praise & Prayer Requests
- Athletics
- Parent News
- Board
- Supporting GCS
- Calendar

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LET'S NOT BE ROBBED OF GRATITUDE

There are so many good things at our school and it is the right time to highlight them and give thanks. We can be robbed of the experience of joy, happiness, and satisfaction when we focus on what we don't have or what could happen. Here's an example from this week. Monday evening, I was coaching our girls' varsity volleyball team against Countryside Academy. This was a game we are equipped to win with little stress and yet, I was stressed. Are we winning by a large enough margin? Are we playing well enough to compete against the next team? Instead, I could have appreciated the fact that this is our 6th year in a row of having our own team, our second winning season in a row, that our team is playing well together, and that we have seen significant growth in ability this year. There is much to be grateful for, including the fact that these girls get along with one another.

We live in a pampered society whose pastime is to complain. As Christians we are called to something better. We are told in I Thessalonians to "Give thanks in everything for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Philippians calls to pray to address anxiety, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." The result is that "the peace of God that surpasses all comprehension will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

As you consider the demands of life, do not be robbed of peace and joy by not seeing the blessings of God in your life. Things to be thankful for at Grace:

- Winning season in volleyball and football & successful cross country. We have conference honors in all three teams.
- Our student sponsorship needs were met. At the August board meeting we prayed for the need of $25,000 to pay for payroll and some curriculum ($18,000 & $7,000). Tuesday morning the school received a notice that $25,000 was on its way for the student sponsorship. This helps families pay tuition, which pays for teachers and materials. We see the hand of God in that. God had things in motion long before we shared with Him our need.
- No staff turnover in our core teaching positions and stable school board and administration.
- New additions to music: Mr. Harris and Mrs. Pullins.
- The Chapel in Action group has come out twice a year and faithfully helped us get work done.
- We enjoyed air conditioning in the Commons for the first time in many years this fall. We are thankful all our furnaces/air conditioners have single digit birthdays.
- We have a very nice gym, it is a nicer gym than my daughter's college gym they compete in.
- Our lawnmowers did not breakdown this year. (It's been known to happen.)
  - We are thankful for the volunteers who have mowed.
- The secondary online learning is going much better this year. The switch to Ignitia is good.
- **Mrs. Grey is receiving a kidney November 4th from a Grace family member. This will be life saving and changing for Mrs. Grey. We are so thankful for her and the extension of life this will provide.**
- We should not overlook the fact that we are warm, fed, and dry. We share freely the love of God in word and in deed. We are a school that corrects and admonishes wrong.
  - *'For those the Lord loves He disciplines.' Hebrews 12:6*

Take a moment and reflect on the fact that the staff of Grace Christian genuinely desires what is best for your children. We operate out of love and sacrificially give a part of our lives to care for them just as Paul shared his life with the Thessalonians:

"Having so fond an affection for you, **we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives,** because you had become very dear to us."

In loving service,

Benjamin Williamson
Administrator

In this season of Thanksgiving I would like to share with you the blessings that abound at our little school.

3RD GRADE SKILLS

Last week, the 3rd grade students picked apples while on a field trip and Mrs. Wilkerson taught the class how to make homemade applesauce. Thank you, Mrs. Wilkerson, for teaching this delicious life skill to our Patriots!

Photo: Hope, Rosalee, Santiago and Claire

FALL FUN!

Our students have been enjoying the beautiful fall weather God has given us, both on our own campus and at local farms that they visit on field trips.

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands."

PRAISE & PRAYER

SURGERY & SACRIFICE

Surgery is scheduled for a life saving kidney transplant operation on Wednesday, November 4th for our 4th - 6th grade English teacher, Mrs. Grey. Please join us in praying for both the incredible donor and the teacher at this time, as well as their families as they support them in their recovery.

We are thankful for the families involved in this gift. If you desire to support them anonymously, the school is prepared to receive and distribute these gifts on your behalf.

THANKSGIVING

- New digital sign in progress, thanks to Mr. Randol for building the frame.
- Members of the Chapel EFC served at GCS this past Saturday, October 24th.
- Volunteers that have helped with mowing the grass on campus, including some of our own high school students.
- We received a $25,000 gift toward student sponsorship
- The Schrages and Mr. Behr smoothed out the driveways and around walkways
- New volleyball net, donated by the Class of 2026
- Student Sponsorship need met
- Staffing needs met
- Carpet cleaning donated by Mr. Clean's Cleaning & Restoration in August

QUARTER 1 CHAPEL SPEAKERS

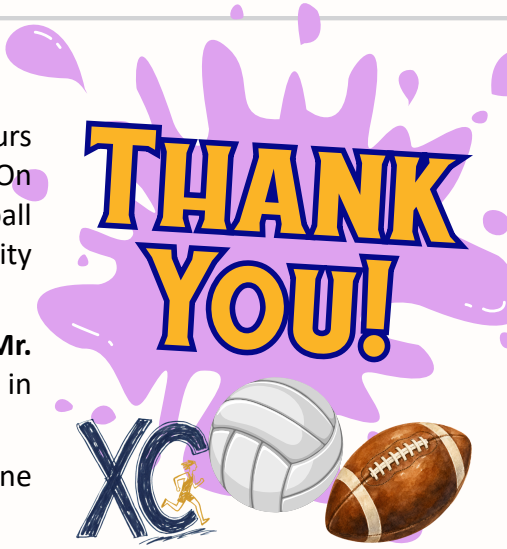
Grace Christian School is very thankful for those that come in on Wednesdays to teach God's Word to our students. This quarter, our thanks goes to alumnus Brooke Hennen, the Life Action Team from Buchanan, Austin Eichhorst from Oakland Community Church, and our Administrator, Mr. Williamson.

FALL SPORTS COACHES

We are also incredibly thankful for our coaches that devoted countless hours working with our volleyball, football and cross country students this season. On campus, **Mrs. Wilkerson** and **Miss Newell** coached the middle school volleyball team, and **Mr. Williamson**, **Ms. Marissa**, and **Mr. Cade** coached our varsity volleyball team.

We are also thankful for the hard work and efforts of our Athletic Director, **Mr. Wellin**, as well as the athletic team at **Our Lady of the Lake** and those involved in the support of the **Twin Cities Sharks** football team.

Special thanks to **Mr. Bradshaw, Miss Sheri,** and all who helped with gate, line judging, scoreboard, scorebook and concessions that made the season possible.



ATHLETICS

THANKFUL FOR A SUCCESSFUL FALL SEASON!

The Middle School Volleyball Team experienced a great level of growth and learning. Congratulations to 1st year volleyball players, Ashlyn and Anastyn!

The Varsity Volleyball Team had a winning record and placed 4th in the BCS Conference. Districts start Monday, November 2nd at 7:00pm at Our Lady of the Lake.

The Twin Cities Sharks Varsity Football Team finished up the season with a winning record and won the Conference.

Our three Cross Country runners performed exceptionally well this year. Zooey earned Honorable Mention in the BCS Conference.

BE SURE TO CHECK THE ATHLETIC CALENDAR FOR UPCOMING GAME SCHEDULES!

WINTER SPORTS ARE COMING!

We look forward to another Boys Varsity Basketball Season. Thank you, Mr. Dill for all the years of work that have brought us to this point. Mark your calendar for these upcoming home games:
December 17, January 8, 15, 22, 29, February 2, 19
Varsity and Junior Varsity Girls will work again with Our Lady of the Lake this basketball season. Their games will be found on our Athletic Calendar.
We have in the last 2 weeks worked out a Co-op with Watervliet for Varsity boys Wrestling. Ben Williamson will be assisting Head coach J.T. Meyers. Schedule will be made available through our athletic calendar.
Elementary Girls Basketball has started practicing. We are grateful for Mr. Stanbro coaching this year!

EMERGENCY DRILLS

One part of ensuring school safety is practicing emergency drills. All GCS drills are practiced following the Standard Response Protocol. The State of Michigan requires all public and non-public schools to practice five fire drills, three lockdown drills, and two tornado drills per school year. We schedule our drills with the Berrien County Office of Emergency Management and also report to them once each drill has been completed. Occasionally, we may add additional drills to ensure that our students and staff know exactly what to do in case of an emergency. We do not announce drills beforehand, as this would defeat the purpose of the drill. Drill reports can be found here: https://gcspatriots.com/emergency-preparedness/

The following **GCS WINTER SPORTS TEAMS*** will also be photographed on this day:

- GCS Varsity Boys Basketball
- GCS Middle School Girls Basketball
- GCS Elementary Girls Basketball

If your son or daughter is interested in joining one of the teams, please let Mr. Wellin know as soon as possible.

**co-op teams pictures will be arranged by the host team*

WEBSITE CONTENT

We encourage you to get in the habit of visiting the GCS website:

GCSPATRIOTS.ORG

for valuable information, including newsletters, staff email addresses, calendars, announcements, documents and more.

2026-27 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@frazeeteam.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@frazeeteam.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.

Contact Brandon Dockham at (269)213-0410.

Donate Your Casey's Points to GCS!

PRE-ORDER GCS APPLE PIES!

Apple season is pie season at GCS.
Order from your favorite Patriot, or use this link to order directly. Pies will be available for pick-up at:
Michiana Christian Camp on **11/21, 12 - 3pm;**
or at the school on **11/24, 4-6pm and 11/30, 3-5pm.**

SIGN UP FOR PIE MAKING

We could use help making apple pies on **Saturday, November 21st**. There will be stations for peeling, slicing, mixing, dusting, bagging, boxing and more. Sign up for a time when you can help using this link.
Morning Shift: 8:00 - 12:00. **Afternoon Shift: 12:00 - 4:00**.
If you are unable to serve in this way, please consider donating toward the cost of ingredients, and sell pies.

Patriots-In-Action

Our Patriots-In-Action Fundraiser is going on now! Students are actively collecting sponsorships for the work they will do on November 11th to serve the community! Keep going Patriots! You're doing great!

2 REMAINING TURN IN DATES: 11/3 & 11/9

Alumni News

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

2026-27 GCEA BOARD MEMBERS

Whitney Tinker - President
wtinker@gcspatriots.com

Nathan Hutchins - Vice President
nhutchins@gcspatriots.com

Trever Meachum - Treasurer
tmeachum@gcspatriots.com

Holly Crouch - Secretary
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Shirl Bontrager
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Marshall Downs
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Laraine Fox
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Joel Layman
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Ruth Malaka
rmalaka@gcspatriots.com

Brian Montgomery
bmontgomery@gcspatriots.com

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

SUPPORTING GCS

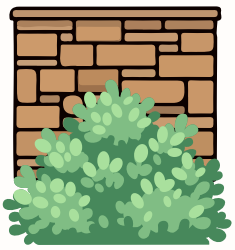
GCS STAFF WISHLISTS

Mrs. Colford, Principal Mrs. Corwin, High School
Miss Ally, Preschool 3 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 Mrs. Pullins, Music

COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

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

Mowing: We need a few volunteers to help us keep the grass mowed on our property.
Bathroom Fans: Need to be replaced
Elementary Playground Updates: Install balance beams & replace wood on roller
Insulate Gym's Heat Tube in Storage Section: Creative ideas welcome.
Stain Preschool Ramp & Decks
Sign Construction: Brick work, and Landscaping



GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Sound Board: $900 for a digital Behringer X32
2 Disc Golf Baskets: $100/ea.
Concrete: $1800
T-shirts: $3188
Security Upgrade (door lock): $2500
Mr. Stanbro's Classroom Carpet: $900
Fight Song Lyric Banner: $214
Curriculum: $28,000
Window Safety Film: $1000
2 Shipping Containers: $2500
New Copier: $3500
GCS Patriot Entrance Floor Mats: $2,500

GCS FIGHT SONG

Onward Patriots!
Onward Patriots!
On to Victory!
We will always stand beside
and show our Loyalty.
GOLD and BLUE our colors true
We lift our banner high.
FIGHT! FIGHT! For GCS and Patriot Pride!

GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

2026-2027 Calendar at a Glance*

AUGUST

27 Back to School Night, 5-7:00pm
31 1st Day of the School Year

SEPTEMBER

4-7 **NO SCHOOL** - Labor Day
8-10 SEW Retreat (9th-12th)
11 Jr. High House Kickoff @ MCC, 9:00am-12:30pm
25 Picture Day
Twin Cities Sharks Homecoming

OCTOBER

2 **NO SCHOOL** – Teacher In-Service
14 SAT/PSAT/NMSQT (10th-12th)
15-16 **TK - 3rd Grade - NO SCHOOL**
30 **Grandparents Day**
HALF DAY – No Aftercare
End Quarter 1

NOVEMBER

2 **NO SCHOOL** – Teacher In-Service
3 Quarter 2 Begins
6 Picture Retakes
11 Patriots-In-Action
17 **NO SCHOOL** – Parent/Teacher Conferences, 11:00am-6:00pm
23-27 **NO SCHOOL** – Fall Break/ Thanksgiving

DECEMBER

3 Christmas Band & Choir Concert
16 Pastor Appreciation Day
18 **HALF DAY**
21-31 **NO SCHOOL** – Christmas Break

JANUARY

1 **NO SCHOOL** – Christmas Break
4 School Resumes
15 End of Quarter 2
18 **NO SCHOOL** – MLK Jr. Day
19 Quarter 3 Begins

FEBRUARY

11 Hearing/Vision Screening
12 **HALF DAY** – Mid-Winter Break
15 **NO SCHOOL** – Mid-Winter Break

MARCH

1 Hearing/Vision Rescreen
5 Kindergarten Program
6 GCS Open House
10 SAT/PSAT (8th-12th)
17-19 **No School (7th-12th)** – Conference
19 End of Quarter 3
22 **NO SCHOOL** – Teacher In-Service
23 Quarter 4 Begins
26 **NO SCHOOL** – Good Friday
29-31 **NO SCHOOL** – Spring Break

APRIL

1-5 **NO SCHOOL** – Spring Break, continued
13 GCEA Annual Meeting, 6:30pm
23 Spring Concert, 7:00pm

MAY

6 Academic Awards Night
7 Elementary Musical
10-14 Elementary Spirit Week
14 Field Day @ MCC
12 Seniors' Last Day
20 Graduation Practice
21 Graduation Ceremony, 7:00pm
27 Last Day (7th-11th)
28 Moving Up Ceremony (TK-6th), 8:30am
HALF DAY – No Aftercare
End of Quarter 4
Cruise-In Car Show, 5-8:00pm

SCHOOL HOURS	
EARLYCARE	7:00-7:30am
PLEDGES	7:50am
SCHOOL DAY	8:00am-3:00pm
AFTERCARE	3:15-5:30pm
HALF DAY DISMISSAL	11:30am
Office Hours	*7:30am-3:30pm*

*This calendar is subject to change.
Visit GCSPatriots.org for updates.

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Rev. 8/18/26/