



Patriot Preview



OCT 26 - 30

PINK OUT GAME. Monday is our last varsity volleyball home game of 2026, and we are celebrating with a **PINK OUT GAME**. Every fan who comes in wearing **pink** gets free admission. Come cheer on our Lady Patriots as they take on the Countryside Academy Cougars at 6:00pm.

GRANDPARENTS DAY, October 30th. Students are expected to arrive at school at the usual time, dressed in their GCS Best! Grandparents Day will be a **HALF DAY**, dismissing after the event has concluded, at approximately 11:00am. There will be **NO AFTERCARE**. If your student will be going home with a grandparent, please contact the school by October 29th to let us know.

PATRIOTS-IN-ACTION. Patriots-In-Action Fundraiser is in full swing! Please be sure to read the letter from Mr. Williamson on Page 2 regarding the importance of each family's participation in GCS fundraisers. If there's anything we can do to help you in this endeavor, please let us know. The next turn-in date is Monday, 10/26. New pledges in the amount of \$50 will earn each student a Hat Day in the near future. *Please note: Parents will be notified of the date after the winners are determined.*

PRE-ORDER GCS APPLE PIES! Apple season is pie season at GCS! Parents and students, please remember to help us sell our famous, homemade, Dutch apple pies! Those reading this Patriot Preview are encouraged to order from your favorite Patriot, or [use this link](#) to order directly. Pies will be available for pick-up at the school on 11/21, 12 - 3pm; 11/24, 4-6pm and 11/30, 3-5pm.

SIGN UP FOR PIE MAKING. We need **YOUR** help making apple pies on Saturday, **November 21st**. Sign up for a time when your family can help using [this link](#). There will be stations for peeling, slicing, mixing, dusting, bagging, boxing and more. **Morning Shift:** 8:00 - 12:00. **Afternoon Shift:** 12:00 - 4:00. If you are unable to serve in this manner, please consider donating toward the cost of ingredients, and sell pies.

CHAPEL SPEAKERS NEEDED. We are in need of more pastors to speak at our elementary and secondary chapel services on Wednesdays this school year. Parents and students, please reach out to your own pastors and invite them to contact Mrs. Colford at lcolford@gcspatriots.com if they are interested in setting aside an hour to reach young people with God's Word.

26-27 T-SHIRTS FOR SALE. Now that the students and staff have received their GCS t-shirts, we are ready to offer remaining shirts for purchase at \$10 each. They will be available at home games, as well as before and after school.

ORDER PICTURES. School and Sports pictures are still available. Order school pictures using your Interstate Studios code that was sent home with your child and emailed to you. Order sports pictures using this code: <https://inter-state.com/flyerentry/0669YN>

PICTURE RETAKE DAY. Picture Retakes and Winter Sports pictures will be taken on Friday, November 6, beginning at 8:30am.



Patriots-In-Action

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- Oct 23 V Football @ Sacred Heart, 7:00pm
- Oct 24 XC Gobles Invitational, 9:00am
- Oct 26 Last V Volleyball HOME Game, **PINK OUT**, 6:00pm
- Oct 29 V Volleyball @ Eau Claire, 6:00pm
- Oct 30 **GRANDPARENTS DAY - HALF DAY, NO AFTERCARE**
End of Quarter 1
- Nov 2 **NO SCHOOL** - Teacher In-Service
- Nov 3 Quarter 2 Begins
- Nov 4 BCS Leadership Conference (*select students*)
- Nov 6 Picture Retakes & Winter Sports Pictures





COLOSSIANS 2:3

"In Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

Tuition and Fundraising at GCS

GCS Parents,

For those who are new to Grace, I want to communicate about how tuition is determined and what fundraisers provide. Over 50 years ago, Grace had five healthy and excited churches invest in building a Christian school, where their children would be taught the things of God daily. The Christian School movement was in response to the public system's removal of the Bible and prayer in schools. The public school is reaping what they have sown. In light of that, you would expect a robust response from our church community. Unfortunately, only 2% of our budget is covered by local church support. Individual donors who support us, the few but mighty, faithfully contribute about 5% of our annual budget. Our expenses are about \$1.3 million for about 130 students. Easy math tells us that it costs \$10,000 per student to run the school. The public school operates above \$15,000 per student.

As tuition payers, you realize the \$7,000 we ask for is short \$3,000. The math of \$3,000 for each of our 130 students creates a shortfall of \$390,000.

How do we close that gap?

We fundraise, cut expenses and depend on volunteers. We have some volunteer staff, as well as those who mow, coach, fix and build for the love of the ministry. We fundraise: our three biggest are Patriots-In-Action, Year End Giving, and the Auction. History tells us that a great year of fundraising will bring in \$100,000 together to address the \$390,000 gap.

We are still well short of what we need, so what do we do? We pray and have seen God provide in amazing ways. Then we do our best to make adjustments so that next year can be better.

As we look at the coming school year, I recognize that our school population does not understand that the \$7,000 tuition price is a subsidized number. I think it is important for you to know the way by which we subsidize tuition has been compromised by apathy and impotency. I believe our donors, churches and fundraising are not robust but are fatigued. I am open to hearing ideas to stir these things to life.

If we do not vote for a governor who will opt into the federal tax credit program, then we will be scheduling conversations with our school community and families about what we want our school to offer and what we are willing to pay for. Presently, our school community is paying \$7,000 for a \$10,000 Christian education. Either we reduce the product quality to \$7,000 or we increase the cost to \$10,000 to pay for the provided Christian education. The fun part is that there is a spectrum of opinions with regard to this, and I enjoy talking to anyone about these things.

To conclude, Patriots-In-Action is an important part of our fundraising platform to make Grace more affordable to our families. It also gives our students a genuine service opportunity. When you participate, you are not only helping our school. You are helping yourself.

Benjamin Williamson
Administrator
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269 910 0979 (Text/Call)

**THANK YOU FOR DESIRING TO "TEACH
THESE THINGS TO YOUR CHILDREN".**
- DEUT. 6:7

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