

AUGUST 2022

NEWSLETTER



Welcome to Grace Christian Academy!

School Contact

13000 Zekiah Dr
Waldorf, MD 20601

(301) 645-0406

Office Hours: 7:30-4:00 M-F



Important Dates:

- 8/11 Thursday: Binder Orientation 6pm
- 8/15 Monday: Ice Cream Social 3-4PM
- 8/15 Meet and Greet 4-6pm
- 8/17 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!
- 8/26 Friday: September lunch forms due
- 9/5 Monday: No School!
- 9/8 Thursday: Chick-Fil-A lunch begins
- 9/9 Friday: Pizza lunch begins

Lunch Forms Found [HERE!](#)

Message From the Office

Welcome back! We have been fervently praying for a great start to the school year and we know God has heard our prayers! There are many new faculty and staff members and families at GCA this year. We are praising God for our growth in new families and those who are returning. We know this is a busy time and can be overwhelming. We are here to help! A great tool for information is the school's website and newsletters. We will use Renweb's text message service to send out reminders this year as we received positive feedback from this service last year. We have worked hard on improving the facility and its programs over the summer and we are looking forward to showing parents and families these additions and improvements throughout the school year. Take time and carefully read this newsletter, it is full of information for the start of the year. We will see everyone on August 17th!

Amanda Reed
Director of Education

Meet and Greet night!

8/15 Monday 4-6PM

- Meet your child's teacher and see their classroom
- Receive your Middle Schooler's schedule
- Drop off school supplies in classroom
- Receive locker combinations (6-8th graders)
- Drop off student medication
- Visit the School Store (school supplies and used clothing)
- Try out various instruments for middle school band

Other information present:

- Before/After Care
- Lunch Programs
- Transportation Programs
- School of Music
- Athletic Table

Binder Orientation

Thursday, Aug 11, 6PM

GCA makes organization and study skills a priority in our students' education. One way we teach this is through our binder system which begins in 3rd grade. This orientation walks students and parents through the binder system and what all it entails. This orientation last about an hour. All third graders and new 4-8th graders are asked to attend.

Mrs. Debbie Collignon will host this event in the learning commons at GCA.

debbie.collignon@graceknights.org

Ice Cream Social!

All 6th - 8th Graders

Monday, Aug 15, 3:00PM

Last year really took a toll on our social life. Let's kick off the new school year with an **Ice Cream Social!**

This is an opportunity to forge new friendships before the first day of school and form a relationship with a couple of the middle school teachers. Mrs. Debbie Collignon and Mrs. Stacie Buhl will host the Ice Cream Social in the Mezzanine above the gym. **All students must enter through the main office.**

GCA Athletics

Please join us in welcoming Latasha Jones as our new Athletic Director! Ms. Jones joined our Grace family last year as the girls' basketball coach and the track and field coach.

latasha.jones@graceknights.org

Is your Knight planning on playing sports this school year? We need a current sports physical on file before your child can participate. Physical forms are found [HERE!](#)

Go Knights!



2022-2023 Academy Calendar

Date	Day	Event
08/11/2022	Th	Binder Orientation and Study Skills, 6pm (All 3rd graders and new 4th-8th graders)
08/15/2022	M	Meet and Greet, 4pm – 6pm
08/17/2022	W	First Day of School – Begin 2022 – 2023 School Year – Q1
09/05/2022	M	School Closed – Labor Day
09/16/2022	F	Half Day for Students (Teacher Professional Development)
10/07/2022	F	Full Day for All – NO AFTER CARE
10/10/2022	M	School Closed – Columbus Day
10/19/2022	W	End of Q1 for 2022 – 2023
10/20/2022	Th	No School for Students (Teacher Professional Development)
10/21/2022	F	No School for Students (Teacher Professional Development)
10/24/2022	M	Begin Q2 for 2022 – 2023
10/31/2022	M	No School for Students – Parent Conference Day (Teacher Workday)
11/11/2022	Th	School Closed – Veterans' Day
11/22/2022	T	Half Day for All – NO AFTER CARE
11/23/2022	W	No School – Thanksgiving Break Begins
11/25/2022	F	No School – Thanksgiving Break Ends
11/28/2022	M	School Reopens
12/21/2022	W	Half Day for Students (Teacher Workday) NO AFTER CARE
12/22/2022	Th	No School – Christmas Break Begins
01/03/2023	T	No School – Christmas Break Ends
01/04/2023	W	School Reopens
01/12/2023	Th	End of Q2 for 2022 – 2023
01/13/2023	F	No School – Semester Break
01/16/2023	M	School Closed – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
01/17/2023	T	Begin Q3 for 2022 – 2023
02/17/2022	F	Half Day for Students (Teacher Professional Development) NO AFTER CARE
02/20/2023	M	School Closed – Presidents' Day
03/01/2023	W	Half Day for Students (Teacher Professional Development)
03/16/2023	Th	End of Q3 for 2022 – 2023 – NO AFTER CARE
03/17/2023	F	No School – Quarter Break
03/20/2023	M	No School – Quarter Break
03/21/2023	T	School Reopens
03/21/2023	T	Begin Q4 for 2022 – 2023
03/27/2023	M	Standardized Testing Week Begins
03/31/2023	F	Standardized Testing Week Ends
04/06/2023	Th	Elementary Grandparents Day – Half Day for All – NO AFTER CARE
04/07/2023	F	No School – Easter Break Begins
04/14/2023	F	No School – Easter Break Ends
04/17/2023	M	School Reopens
05/03/2023	W	Half Day for Students (Teacher Professional Development)
05/23/2023	T	Half Day for Students (Teacher Workday)
05/24/2023	W	Half Day for Students (Teacher Workday)
05/25/2023	Th	Half Day for Students (Teacher Workday)
05/26/2023	F	Half Day for Students – Last Day for Students – NO AFTER CARE
05/26/2023	F	End of Q4 for 2022 – 2023 (Teacher Workday)

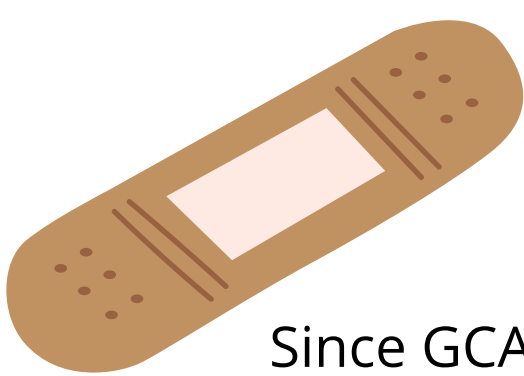
Four inclement weather/snow days have been built into the school calendar.

After four inclement weather days are used, the following will modify the school year:

- May 30, 2023 (Snow day number five)
- May 31, 2023 (Snow day number six)
- June 1, 2023 (Snow day number seven)

Last edited: 9/2/2021

To provide academic excellence from a biblical perspective in order to develop servant leaders of all walks of life who live and love like Jesus Christ.



Immunizations

Since GCA is a MSDE approved school, we must follow the immunization requirements per the health department. Below is a chart for your reference to see what you child needs to attend school in the fall. *If your child has an updated shot record within the past school year, please email them to healthnotes@graceknights.org.*



Age-Appropriate Vaccination Requirements For Children Enrolled In Child Care Programs Valid 9/01/22 - 8/31/23



Per **COMAR 13A.15.03.02 and 13A.16.03.04 G & H**

Vaccination requirements are met only by complying with the vaccine chart below.

Instructions: Find the age of the child in the column labeled "Child's Current Age". Read across the row for each required vaccine. The number in the box is the number of doses required for that vaccine based on the CURRENT age or grade level of the child. The age range in the column does not mean that the child has until the highest age in that range to meet compliance. Any child whose age falls within that range must have received the required number of doses based on his/her CURRENT age in order to be in compliance with COMAR.

Vaccine types and dosage numbers required for children enrolled in child care programs

Vaccine Child's Current Age	DTaP/DTP/ DT/Td ^{1,6}	Polio ²	Hib ³	Measles, Mumps and Rubella ^{2,4}	Varicella ^{2,4,5} (Chickenpox)	Hepatitis B ²	Pneumococcal Conjugate ³ (PCV)
Less than 2 months	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
2 - 3 months	1	1	1	0	0	1	1
4 - 5 months	2	2	2	0	0	2	2
6 - 11 months	3	3	2	0	0	3	2
12 - 14 months	3	3	At least one dose given after 12 months of age*	1	1	3	2
15 - 23 months	4	3	At least one dose given after 12 months of age	1	1	3	2
24 - 59 months	4	3	At least one dose given after 12 months of age	1	1	3	1
60 - 71 Months	4	3	0	2	1	3	0
Grade Level	DTaP/DTP/ DT/Td ^{1,6}	Polio ²	Tdap ⁶	Measles, Mumps and Rubella ^{22,4}	Varicella ^{2,4,5} (Chickenpox)	Hepatitis B ²	Meningococcal (MCV4)
Kindergarten, Grades 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6	3 or 4	3	0	2	2	3	0
Grades 7 & 8	3 or 4	3	1	2	2	3	1
Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12	3 or 4	3	1	2	1 or 2	3	1

* See footnotes on back

CHART IS FOR USE BY CHILD CARE FACILITY OPERATORS ONLY TO ASSESS AGE APPROPRIATE IMMUNIZATION STATUS



Back to School

IMMUNIZATION CLINICS

May 7, 2022

August 16, 2022

June 7, 2022

September 6, 2022

June 21, 2022

September 13, 2022

July 5, 2022

September 20, 2022

July 19, 2022

September 27, 2022

August 2, 2022

October 4, 2022

**Please call 301-609-6835 to schedule
your appointment**





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Waldorf, Maryland 20601
(301) 645-0406 • Fax: (301) 645-7463
www.graceknights.org

2022-2023 School Supply Lists

Click on the grade level to see the supply list.

[PreK 3](#)

[PreK 4](#)

[Kinder](#)

[Grade 1](#)

[Grade 2](#)

[Grade 3](#)

[Grade 4](#)

[Grade 5](#)

[Grade 6-8](#)

Arrival and Dismissal

Prek-5th Grade:

Students will receive a pick-up sign on the night of Meet and Greet. Please have this sign with you when picking up your student. While we know many of our families at GCA, every year we have new families and staff. This makes the process go much faster! For those who do not have their pick-up sign with them, we will have to call the office for an ID check.

Doors for arrival open at 8:15AM and close at 8:30AM. Any student not inside the school building (not the parking lot or sidewalk) by 8:30AM must be escorted by an adult and signed in at the main office to receive a tardy pass.

Dismissal will begin at 2:45PM everyday. Any student not picked up by 3:15PM is signed into the office and charged for aftercare. Parents must sign the child out from the office.

For drop off and pick up please use the following doors:

Prek: Breezeway door by the gymnasium

Kinder: Right side sanctuary doors

1st-2nd: Left side sanctuary doors

3-5th: Gymnasium doors

We will have signs directing foot traffic in the correct directions.

There is no car line this year! All students must be escorted to and from their appropriate doors.

6th-8th Grade:

Middle school students are allowed to escort themselves to and from their car in the morning and afternoon. Students enter through the gymnasium doors for arrival and exit the same doors for dismissal. Doors open for arrival at 7:45AM and close at 8:00AM. Homeroom **begins** at 8:00AM. Any student not in the building (not in the parking lot or on the sidewalk) by 8:00AM must go to the main office and sign in to receive a tardy pass.

Please know, entering through the school doors by 8:00AM does not guarantee your child will not be late for homeroom!

Dismissal begins at 3:15PM and ends at 3:30PM. Any student not picked up by 3:30PM will be signed into the main office and charged for aftercare. A parent must come to the office to sign them out.

