

AUGUST 2023

# 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:

- 8/17 Thursday: Binder Orientation 6pm
- 8/21 Monday: Ice Cream Social 3-4PM
- 8/21 Meet and Greet 4-6pm
- 8/23 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!
- 8/31 Friday: September lunch forms due
- 9/4 Monday: No School!
- 9/7 Thursday: Chick-Fil-A lunch begins
- 9/8 Friday: Pizza lunch begins

Lunch Forms Found [HERE!](#)

### Message From the Office

Welcome back to school! I am reminded as we begin a new school year just how faithful our God is and how He always provides. We feel blessed by the wonderful servants that He has led to our staff, the additional classrooms that we are able to open, and the continued improvement to our school building and programs. We are excited to show you all what we have been working on and will continue to work on throughout the school year. We know this is a busy time of the year and can be overwhelming. We are here to help! Our monthly newsletters and information on our website will be great tools for you to keep track of what's going on at GCA. We will also continue to use Renweb's text message service for important announcements. Please take your time and read through this newsletter carefully; it is full of information to kick off the school year. We are so excited to welcome everyone back to school on August 23rd!

Director of School  
Dwayne Johnson

# Meet and Greet Night!

**8/21 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)

## Other information present:

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

# Binder Orientation

**Thursday, Aug 17, 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 will 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](mailto:debbie.collignon@graceknights.org)

# Ice Cream Social!

**All 6th - 8th Graders**

**Monday, Aug 21, 3:00PM**

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

### Pre-season Skills and Drill Workouts

Soccer: August 16 @ 6PM-7:30PM

August 23 @ 4PM-5:30PM

Volleyball: August 23 @ 3:30-5:30PM

August 24 @ 3:30-5:30PM

**Workouts are open to all 6th-8th grade students. Students MUST have a current physical on file!**

Questions: Contact [john.somerville@graceknights.org](mailto:john.somerville@graceknights.org)

Physical Form found [HERE!](#)



## 2023-2024 Academy Calendar

Date	Day	Event
08/17/2023	Th	Binder Orientation and Study Skills, 6pm (All 3rd graders and new 4th-8th graders)
08/21/2023	M	Meet and Greet, 4pm – 6pm
08/23/2023	W	First Day of School – Begin 2023 – 2024 School Year – Q1
09/04/2023	M	School Closed – <b>Labor Day</b>
09/15/2023	F	Half Day for Students (Teacher Professional Development) <b>AFTER CARE OPEN</b>
10/06/2023	F	Full Day for All – <b>NO AFTER CARE</b>
10/09/2023	M	School Closed – <b>Columbus Day</b>
10/25/2023	W	End of Q1 for 2023 – 2024 (44 days)
10/26/2023	Th	No School for Students (Teacher Professional Development)
10/27/2023	F	No School for Students (Teacher Professional Development)
10/30/2023	M	Begin Q2 for 2023 – 2024
11/06/2023	M	No School for Students – Parent Conference Day (Teacher Workday)
11/10/2023	F	School Closed – <b>Veterans' Day</b>
11/21/2023	T	Half Day for All – <b>NO AFTER CARE</b>
11/22/2023	W	No School – Thanksgiving Break Begins
11/24/2023	F	No School – Thanksgiving Break Ends
11/27/2023	M	School Reopens
11/28/2023	T	Giving Tuesday – Please consider Donating to GCA
12/20/2023	W	Half Day for Students (Teacher Workday) <b>NO AFTER CARE</b>
12/21/2023	Th	No School – Christmas Break Begins
01/02/2024	T	No School – Christmas Break Ends
01/03/2024	W	School Reopens
01/12/2024	F	Full Day – <b>NO AFTER CARE</b>
01/15/2024	M	School Closed – <b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b>
01/18/2024	Th	End of Q2 for 2023-2024 (44 days)
01/19/2024	F	No School (Teacher Workday)
01/22/2024	M	Begin Q3 for 2023 – 2024
02/16/2024	F	Half Day for Students (Teacher Professional Development) <b>NO AFTER CARE</b>
02/19/2024	M	School Closed – <b>Presidents' Day</b>
03/21/2024	Th	End of Q3 for 2023 – 2024 (43 days)
03/22/2024	F	No School (Teacher Workday)
03/25/2024	M	Begin Q4 for 2023 – 2024
03/28/2024	Th	Elementary Grandparents Day – Half Day for All – <b>NO AFTER CARE</b>
03/29/2024	F	No School – Easter Break Begins
04/05/2024	F	No School – Easter Break Ends
04/08/2024	M	School Reopens
05/03/2024	F	Half Day for All - Quarter Break <b>NO AFTER CARE</b>
05/06/2024	M	No School – Quarter Break
05/24/2024	F	Full Day for All – <b>NO AFTER CARE</b>
05/27/2024	M	No School – <b>Memorial Day</b>
05/28/2024	T	Half Day for Students (Teacher Workday)
05/29/2024	W	Half Day for Students (Teacher Workday)
05/30/2024	Th	Half Day for Students (Teacher Workday)
05/31/2024	F	Half Day for Students – <b>Last Day for Students – NO AFTER CARE</b>
05/31/2024	F	End of Q4 for 2023 – 2024 (Teacher Workday) (42 days)

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

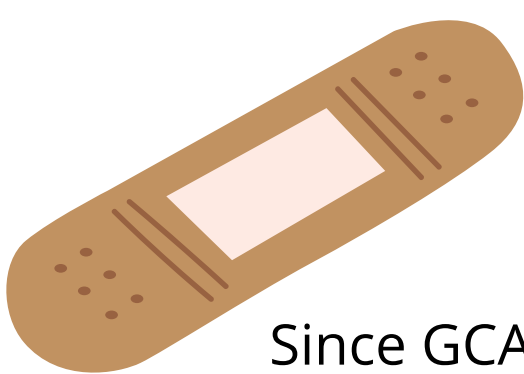
After two inclement weather days are used, the following will modify the school year:

- June 3, 2024 (Snow day number four)
- June 4, 2024 (Snow day number five)
- June 5, 2024 (Snow day number six)

Last edited: 01/20/2023

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 your 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](mailto:healthnotes@graceknights.org).*



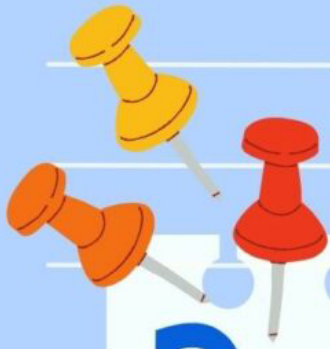
**Vaccine Requirements For Children**  
**Enrolled in Preschool Programs and in Schools — Per DHMH COMAR 10.06.04.03**  
**Maryland School Year 2023 - 2024 (Valid 9/1/23 - 8/31/24)**

Required cumulative number of doses for each vaccine for PRESCHOOL aged children enrolled in educational programs							
Vaccine Child's Current Age	DTaP/DTP/DT <sup>1</sup>	Polio <sup>2</sup>	Hib <sup>3</sup>	Measles, <sup>2,4</sup> Mumps, Rubella	Varicella <sup>2,4,5</sup> (Chickenpox)	Hepatitis B <sup>2</sup>	PCV <sup>3</sup> (Prevnar <sup>TM</sup> )
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 1 dose given after 12 months of age	1	1	3	2
15 - 23 months	4	3	At least 1 dose given after 12 months of age	1	1	3	2
24—59 months	4	3	At least 1 dose given after 12 months of age	1	1	3	1
60 - 71 months	4	3	0	2	1	3	0

Required cumulative number of doses for each vaccine for children enrolled in KINDERGARTEN - 12 <sup>th</sup> grade								
Grade Level Grade (Ungraded)		DTaP/DTP/Tdap/ DT/Td <sup>1,6</sup>	Tdap <sup>6</sup>	Polio <sup>2</sup>	Measles, <sup>2,4</sup> Mumps, Rubella	Varicella <sup>2,4,5</sup> (Chickenpox)	Hepatitis B <sup>2</sup>	Meningococcal (MCV4)
Kindergarten, Grade 1, 2, 3, 4 5 & 6	(5 –11 yrs)	3 or 4	0	3	2	2	3	0
Grades 7, 8 & 9	(11 -13 yrs)	3 or 4	1	3	2	2	3	1
Grades 10, 11 & 12	(13 - 18yrs)	3 or 4	1	3	2	1 or 2	3	1

\* See footnotes on back for 2023-24 school immunization requirements.





# Back to School

## IMMUNIZATION CLINICS

June 6, 2023	September 5, 2023
June 20, 2023	September 12, 2023
July 11, 2023	September 19, 2023
July 25, 2023	September 26, 2023
August 1, 2023	October 3, 2023
August 10, 2023	October 10, 2023
August 15, 2023	October 17, 2023
August 24, 2023	October 24, 2023
August 29, 2023	October 31, 2023

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





13000 Zekiah Drive  
Waldorf, Maryland 20601  
(301) 645-0406 • Fax: (301) 645-7463  
[www.graceknights.org](http://www.graceknights.org)

## 2023-2024 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 so please have your driver's license in hand.

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! 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.



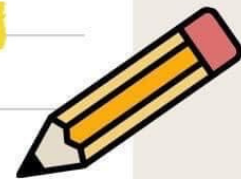




# BACK TO SCHOOL

## 10 VERSES TO PRAY OVER YOUR KIDS AS THEY HEAD BACK TO SCHOOL

1. EPHESIANS 4:32 – ASK GOD TO HELP THEM BE KIND.



2. JOSHUA 1:9 – PRAISE GOD FOR ALWAYS BEING WITH THEM.

3. PROVERBS 10:9 – ASK GOD TO HELP THEM WALK IN INTEGRITY THIS YEAR.

4. PSALM 56:3 – ASK GOD TO HELP THEM PUT THEIR TRUST IN HIM.

5. PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7 – ASK GOD TO HELP THEM NOT WORRY.

6. LUKE 2:52 – ASK GOD TO HELP THEM GROW THIS YEAR.

7. PROVERBS 17:17 – PRAY FOR THEIR FRIENDS.

8. COLOSSIANS 3:23 – ASK GOD TO HELP THEM WORK HARD.

9. JAMES 1:5 – ASK GOD TO GIVE THEM WISDOM.

10. PHILIPPIANS 4:12 – PRAY FOR THEIR CONTENTMENT IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES.

