

FEBRUARY 2024

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:

- 2/1 - Red Shirt Day
- 2/3 - Saturday Open House
- 2/14 - Valentine's Dress Day
- 2/15 - TAG Day
- 2/16 - HALF Day for students, NO AFTERCARE
- 2/19 - NO SCHOOL for President's Day
- 2/20 - Mid-Quarter
- **2/22 - MARCH LUNCH FORMS DUE**

Lunch Forms Found [HERE!](#)

Message From the Office

Ready, Set, Re-Enroll!

See the next page for a message from the Director.





February 1, 2024



Greetings GCA Families,

Thank you for your prayers during this time of transition for Mr. Johnson and myself. I am honored to serve GCA and our students in this new role as Interim Director of School.

We are more than halfway through the school year and I thank God for the many blessings he has bestowed upon our school despite the many challenges our world is currently facing. We are more committed now than ever to the calling of Christian Education and helping developing "Kingdom Kids."

Enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year has begun. We are excited to be used for Kingdom building another year. You will see an increase in tuition this year to help keep up with the rising cost of operating our school. Keep in mind that re-enrollment assists in the hiring of quality teachers, class sizes, building upgrades and adequately meeting classroom needs. You will receive a separate email next week with re-enrollment details.

We thank you for your belief and investment in our school and Christian education. You are sowing into your child by providing them an education that is spiritually based. As Galatians 6:7 says, "Whatever a man sows, that shall he also reap." You will reap the harvest and the word that has been poured into your child's spirit and will not return to Him void. You will see the return of your investment. Therefore, I pray that you will see the value of Christian education and reinvest in the future of our children. God Bless.



In His Service,
Gregory Harris
Interim Director of School



2024-2025 RE-ENROLLMENT NOW OPEN!

Current families can now enroll for the
2024-2025 school year!
Enroll now to secure your spot before
Open Enrollment begins on March 1!

RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW!

301-645-0406



graceknights.org/admissions



WE'RE HIRING ELEMENTARY AIDE

HOURLY, FULL-TIME
POSITION

SEND APPLICATION TO
MEGAN.SCHANIEL@GRACEKNIGHTS.ORG



We're Hiring

GCA is looking to hire a couple additional substitute teachers and aftercare workers. If you are interested in more information, please reach out to megan.schaniel@graceknights.org.

New Family Referral Program!

Our first Open House of the new year is coming up! If you are on Facebook, please share this event. Do you know about our New Family Referral Program? You have an opportunity to earn up to \$1,500 towards your Facts account! Click [HERE](#) to read more.

MISSING SCHOOL?

If your student will miss school due an illness, appointment, or anything other reason, please email [**healthnotes@graceknights.org**](mailto:healthnotes@graceknights.org) to let the office know. This email is used to track absences. **This email is not used as an avenue to receive information from teachers or staff as it is not monitored in that aspect.** Health related questions should be emailed to kristin.barber@graceknights.org.

GCA Athletics

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

2/2 - Basketball Game AWAY vs. Riverdale Baptist at 4pm

2/6 - Basketball Game HOME vs. SMCA at 5pm

2/8 - Senior Night Basketball Game HOME vs. Kings Christian at 4pm

The entire sports schedule is found on the school's website.

Go Knights!



TARDY!

Student tardies are becoming very frequent. Please review the school's tardy policy from our handbook. Student tardies to school and to classes can and will effect their enrollment at Grace and their class averages. We need your help in getting students to school on time.

ATTENDANCE

Good attendance and punctuality are not only critical to the overall academic success of students, they are also important for the development of personal responsibility. Not only is the absent or tardy affected, but the teacher and the entire class may be affected by the need for adjusted instruction. Please join with us in training your child to possess these qualities.

- Students are expected to be in school every day that school is in session. If a student is absent twenty (20) days during the year, the school may either retain or not allow the student to return the following year. A student who achieves passing grades will be promoted if the parents withdraw and place their child in another school. Absences due to extenuating circumstances, such as extended illnesses, will not apply if the parents keep in constant communication with appropriate school personnel and provide the school with necessary medical documentation.
- An elementary student who has a total of forty (40) tardies to school (excused and unexcused) may not be permitted to return to Grace Christian Academy. Students will be counted as on time if they are with their teacher by the start time. Students leaving before 2:00 p.m. shall be credited with one-half day in attendance.

Unexcused Tardy to Class (Middle School)

Students are expected to be in their seats, ready to work at the start of the period. Students who fail to reach their next class period during the allotted time without a valid pass, note from teacher, or note from office, will be unexcused tardy. The student should not argue with the teacher or try to explain the tardiness. One point will be deducted from the student overall class average at the end of the quarter for every 3 unexcused tardies to class.

Grace Christian Academy

Save the Date!

**GLOW
RUN**

May 10



RAIN DATE: MAY 11

Black History Month

Door Contest

Teachers and their homeroom classes will decorate their classroom doors this month as a way to study and celebrate African Americans who made an impact on the Arts. The Association for the Study of African American Life and History picks the theme every year. Read more about the theme [HERE](#).

OPEN HOUSE!

February 3, 2024

10AM-12PM

13000 Zekiah Dr., Waldorf, MD

Grace
Christian
ACADEMY
of MARYLAND

A Ministry of GRACE CHURCH | Waldorf

NOTE FROM THE NURSE:



Parents: Please encourage and monitor personal hygiene for the health and wellness of your students as their bodies continue to develop and change. During this time, please discuss the importance of the following:

- Showering, washing face, oral hygiene, wearing clean clothes, changing undergarments daily
- For girls menstruating, please encourage bringing products and a spare pair of clothes
- Please encourage use of deodorant for age appropriate children

GCA Teacher

Classroom Library Wishlists

Last year, our used book drive was a huge success! The purpose was to increase the quantity of books in our classroom libraries.

This year, we are looking to increase the quality of books.

Teachers have put together Amazon wishlists to enhance the selection of books in the classrooms. If your student's teacher is not listed, consider blessing another classroom or the school's library. Simply click on the teacher's name and it will take you directly to their Amazon list.



[School Library](#)

Thank
you



[PK4 ChyAnn Richie](#)

[PK4 Michelle Goodson](#)



[PK3 Shelby Ericson](#)

[1st MaryEllen Goodson](#)



[3rd Jennifer Heusted](#)

[5th Kelly Rolfe](#)

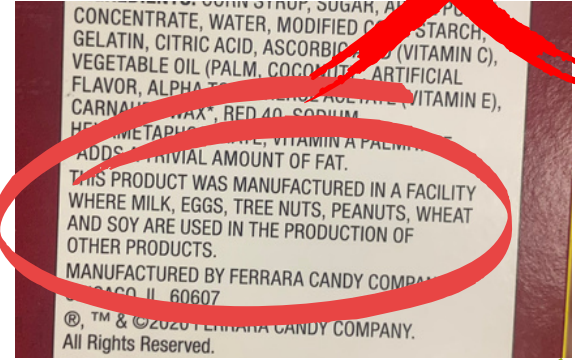


[Learning Lab](#)
[Debbie Collignon](#)

[Music Rebecca Clark](#)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

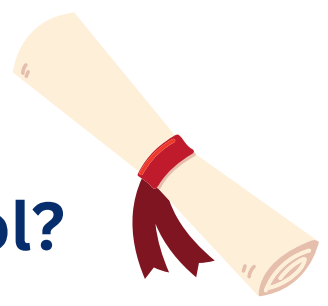
Birthday Parties



Want to celebrate your student's birthday at school? Treats such as cupcakes or cookies are allowed and must abide by the following:

- **A notice must be made to the homeroom teacher a week in advance to include what will be brought in and when.**
- The homeroom teacher will email a notice out to parents of what is being brought in and when. If your student is not allowed to consume the birthday treats, please notify the teacher.
- **All food and/or drinks MUST be SEALED from a STORE AND MUST have a NUT FREE Label.**
- All food/drinks must be brought to the office, not given to the teacher directly or sent in with the student.
- NO balloons or treat bags. The school cannot be held responsible for any items that may contain an allergen in a treat bag, nor can we search each bag that is brought in.

If your student has allergies or diet restrictions such as nuts, dairy, eggs, soy, wheat, vegan, etc. You may send in a separate treat with your child to be enjoyed on that day.



Applying for High School?

Hello 8th grade parents!

Many of you are in the process of helping your 8th grader apply for high school for next year. Here are some reminders for this process. When you are getting ready to apply to a school, you will send an email to megan.schaniel@graceknights.org for all records/transcript requests. Please include the email address of who they can be sent to or if you need hard copies, and state where they should be mailed or if you will be picking them up from the main office. Please allow 3-5 business days for records requests to be completed.

If you need electronic teacher recommendations completed, you can email those directly to the teachers. Their emails are listed below:

Rebecca Forrester (Language Arts) - rebecca.forrester@graceknights.org

Stacie Buhl (Bible) - stacie.buhl@graceknights.org

Jennifer Miller (Social Studies) - jennifer.miller@graceknights.org

Leslie Hess (Math and Science) - leslie.hess@graceknights.org

Christian Berrios (Advanced Math) - christian.berrios@graceknights.org

If you need hard copy recommendations filled out, you may email them to megan.schaniel@graceknights.org or drop them off to the main office and I will facilitate those getting completed by teachers and sent directly to the school. Please allow 5-7 business days for these to be completed and sent to the school and include the contact person's name and email they should be sent to.

I'd recommend going to the websites of each school you are thinking about sometime soon and checking their application deadline dates. Each school's deadline dates are different and might have a slightly different process for applications. It is better to be prepared and know when you should get this process started, than scramble right before deadlines! :)

If you have any questions about this process, please let me know! I'm here to help any way I can!

megan.schaniel@graceknights.org

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 – Labor Day
09/15/2023	F	Half Day for Students (Teacher Professional Development) AFTER CARE OPEN
10/06/2023	F	Full Day for All – NO AFTER CARE
10/09/2023	M	School Closed – Columbus Day
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 – Veterans’ Day
11/21/2023	T	Half Day for All – NO AFTER CARE
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) NO AFTER CARE
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 – NO AFTER CARE
01/15/2024	M	School Closed – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
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) NO AFTER CARE
02/19/2024	M	School Closed – Presidents’ Day
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 – NO AFTER CARE
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 NO AFTER CARE
05/06/2024	M	No School – Quarter Break
05/24/2024	F	Full Day for All – NO AFTER CARE
05/27/2024	M	No School – Memorial Day
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 – Last Day for Students – NO AFTER CARE
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)