

NOVEMEER 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:

- 11/11 Friday: No School! Veteran's Day
- 11/17 Thursday: TAG Day!
- 11/18 Friday: December Lunch Forms Due!
- 11/22 Tuesday: Half Day- NO AFTERCARE!
- 11/23-11/27 Thanksgiving Break: No School!
- 11/28 Monday: Mid Q2
- 11/29 Tuesday: Giving Tuesday!
- 12/2 Friday: Babysitting Fundraiser! (Info to come!)

Lunch Forms Found [HERE!](#)

Message From the Office

We want thank everyone so far who has donated to one of our mission driven fundraisers. We have been able to donate \$500 to Samaritan's Purse for hurricane relief and are currently packing shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Every time we have expressed an opportunity to donate, whether it is for the classroom, nurses office, club or sports team, the office starts to fill with items. ***We truly have a wonderful set of parents here at GCA.*** With the holiday season coming up we will have more opportunities to give. We want everyone to know that while we truly appreciate it, we do not expect every family to give to every cause. If you can, that's great! But we want each family to find a way to give that works for them. All of our ways to give impact a different part of the school or outside mission. If you feel led to give, please do!

We can't say it enough....

Thank
you!

Photo Retake Day!

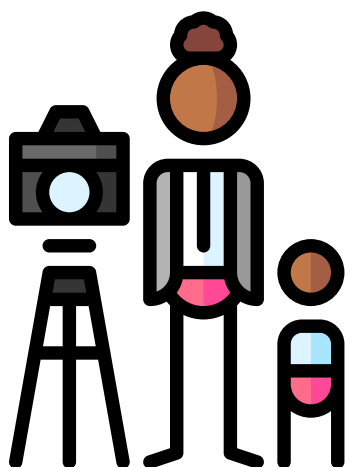
February

Date TBA

Individual photo retake day will take place when we have our class photos in February. Any student who was absent the day of individual photos will take their photo on the make-up day in February.

If you purchased individual photos, you must return your photo packet.

More information to come!



Giving Tuesday

stacie.buhl@graceknights.org

GCA will participate in a Giving Tuesday Campaign, if you would like to give money towards GCA's ongoing needs to make the school better. These donations will be tax deductible. Soon we will send out a list of needs we plan to use for any generous giving which comes in. More instructions to follow. As always, GCA appreciates the generosity and support of our parents!



GCA Athletics

latasha.jones@graceknights.org

We are welcoming our newest student athletes playing on the boys and girls basketball team and the cheerleading squad. The new practice schedule has gone out to all players and parents. We look forward to seeing everyone support the Knights. Our December game schedule is finalized and 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.

Program Fees

nancy.kemmerer@graceknights.org

This is a reminder for those who have not paid their program fees for the year. Please log into your FACTS account to check your balance. These fees should be paid at the start of the school year and we have quite a few families who still have balances. Thank you for your attention to this matter!

Spiritual Emphasis

stacie.buhl@graceknights.org

Please remember if you feel your child needs a safe place to talk and work through feelings, or you as a parent have a concern please feel free to reach out to Mrs. Buhl.


Here is a quick little devotional to encourage you as a parent.

<https://shortdailydevotions.com/parenting-gods-way/>



OUT SICK?

If your student will miss school due an illness, appointment, or anything other reason, please email 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.



Note From the Nurse:

kristin.barber@graceknights.org

healthnotes@graceknights.org

STUDENT HEALTH FORMS

- If you have received an email or phone call from the nurse requesting health forms for your student, please have these turned in no later **NOVEMBER 14th**. A report is due to the state and we want to do our best to ensure your child is up to date on everything before it is submitted.

FLU SEASON

- The flu has arrived! Please monitor your child for symptoms and keep them home in the event they become ill. Your child must be fever-free for 24hrs without the use of fever-reducing medication to return. It is preferred they remain at home until symptoms are improved or a note from their health care provider stating their return date. Please continue to remind your children about the importance of hand-washing and cough & sneeze etiquette. It is imperative that your child is maintaining a well balanced diet, staying hydrated throughout the day, and getting a good nights rest.

STAY HEALTHY AND STAY SAFE!



USED BOOK DRIVE

**DONATE YOUR USED
SCHOOL-AGE BOOKS
TO GCA!**

**STUDENTS WILL
RECEIVE A FREEZE POP
FOR DONATING!**

WEEK OF NOV 28-DEC 2

WWW.GRACEKNIGHTS.ORG



Used Book Drive

amanda.reed@graceknights.org

Are your bookshelves and toy boxes starting to overflow? Consider donating your used kids' books! We are wanting to replenish the libraries within the classrooms. You may drop off the books in the main office and mark your student down as donating. When the book drive is completed, we will give a freeze pop to those who donated. Books will be leveled and disbursed amongst the classrooms.

Thank you for your donations!

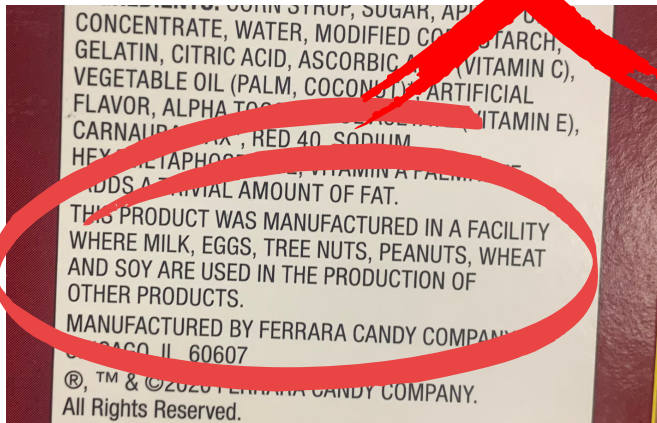
**WE'RE
HIRING**

Part-Time After Care Worker

michelle.goodson@graceknights.org

We are looking for part-time employees for our before and after care program. The slots available are T-Th, 3:30-5:30. This is an hourly position. Applicants must be 16 years old.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Birthday Parties

Are you wanting to celebrate your student's birthday at school?

Students are allowed to bring in a treat such as cupcakes and cookies to school. All food must be brought to the office, not given to the teacher directly or sent in with the student.

Any item sent must abide by the following:

MUST be SEALED from a STORE AND

MUST have a NUT FREE Label.

- Your food will not be passed out if the label says made in a facility the produces nuts.
- **No balloons or treat bags.** If brought in, these will be left in the office. The school cannot be held responsible for any times that may contain an allergen in a treat bag, nor can we search each bag that is brought in.

School Spirit

Spirit Shirt Fridays

We are bringing back our spirit shirt Fridays! Students are allowed to wear a Grace shirt with their school uniform bottoms. The shirt can be from a club, sport, camp, or any GCA related event.

Let's see that school spirit!

Share the Love!

Bare Necessities Donations

GCA is collecting items to make Blessing Bags for the Homeless in Charles County. Please send in any donations by Tuesday, November 15th.

Suggested Items

Toothpaste

Tooth Brush

Shampoo

Mouthwash

Washcloth

Small soap

Body Wash

Brush / Comb

Nail Clippers

Deodorant

Socks

Hats & Gloves

Band aids

Chap Stick

Lotion

Hand Sanitizer

Wipes

Flashlight

Small packages of tissues

Hand/Food Warmers





SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

HELP US SPREAD SUNSHINE AND APPRECIATION TO OUR GCA TEACHERS!

IF YOU ARE WILLING TO DONATE YOUR TIME, PLEASE EMAIL MEGAN SCHANIEL AT MEGAN.SCHANIEL@GRACEKNIGHTS.ORG.

IF YOU ARE WILLING TO DONATE MONETARILY, YOU CAN DO SO VIA PAYPAL, CASH OR CHECK!

PAYPAL: SCAN THE QR CODE OR GO TO THE SUPPORT US TAB ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE. PLEASE TYPE SUNSHINE COMMITTEE AS THE DESCRIPTION.



SCAN ME

Is your caller ID coming up as 'Maybe: Amanda Reed' when the school calls? **Consider adding GCA to your phone contacts!** There have been quite a few people call the school thinking that Mrs. Reed has called them but it was a different staff member. Having the school in your contacts will help clear up this confusion.
301-645-0406

We are excited to offer the opportunity for parents/guardians to help us spread sunshine to our teachers here at GCA! We are setting up what we are going to call the "Sunshine Committee" where we will do just that, There will be many ways to serve as part of this committee. If you would like to participate, you can do so by either donating your time volunteering and/or donate monetarily.

If you choose to donate your time, please email Megan Schaniel at megan.schaniel@graceknights.org.

Here is a list of areas where we would love help:

Recess Duty

Classroom Parent - helping with copies, organization, laminating, bulletin boards, etc.

Monthly Teacher Appreciation gestures - once a month we would like to bless our teachers with something small, such as coffee, donuts, treats or notes in their mailboxes, raffle for classroom gifts, etc.

Teacher Appreciation Week towards the end of the year

If you choose to donate monetarily, this money will help us bless teachers once a month with the gestures listed above. You can choose to make a one time donation or choose to donate monthly via PayPal, cash or check. Cash or check can be turned in to the main office in an envelope that says Sunshine Committee. If you would like to donate via PayPal, use the QR code on the Sunshine Committee graphic included or head to the Support Us tab on the school website.

Kinder-8th Grade Soccer Clinics

Soccer Clinics are wrapping up and have only a few sessions remaining for 4th-8th grade!



The GCA Athletic Department Presents: Soccer Mini-Clinic(s) Fall 2022

Session 1

K-3rd Grades

Session 2

4th– 8th Grades

ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE A GCA T-SHIRT AND A BALL

Register early to reserve your spot!

Families will be allowed to watch from the bleachers. Please do not interfere with the coaching.

Purpose: The GCA Soccer Mini-Clinic is a tool designed to help introduce the sport of soccer to our students. The Clinic will give participants a fundamental understanding of the game of soccer, and show them what it is like to be part of a Team. The program will take place after school.

Schedule: There will be two sessions. Session 1 will be for our younger students from Kindergarten through the 3rd grade. Session 2 will be for our older elementary and middle school students. (Please see the schedule for additional information).

Dress: Students should bring a change of clothes with them to school to practice in. We will provide assistance for our smaller children. Please make sure to dress them appropriately according to the weather.

Date(s) and Time(s):

K-3rd grade: Wednesday, 10/12, Thursday, 10/13, Friday, 10/14, Monday, 10/17, and Wednesday, 10/19

4th– 8th grade: Monday, 10/24, Tuesday, 10/25, Thursday 10/27, Friday, 10/28, Tuesday 11/1, Thursday, 11/3, Friday 11/4, Saturday 11/5 Scrimmage

Cost: \$125.00; fees are non-refundable, except in cases of a medical emergency

Registration: Return the registration form attached along with payment to the Athletic Office , by Monday, October 3rd

More Information: Contact Coach Tasha Jones, Athletic Director, at latasha.jones@graceknights.org, or by calling, 301-645-0406 x800

Volunteer: Contact Coach Tasha Jones, Athletic Director, at latasha.jones@graceknights.org, or by calling, 301-645-0406 x800

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.