

October 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:

- 10/7 Friday: NO Aftercare
- 10/10 Monday: No school!
- 10/13 Thursday: Tag Day
- 10/14 Friday: Middle School Career Day!
- 10/18 Tuesday: Claire's Gourmet Pick Up
- 10/19 Wednesday: Last Day of Quarter 1
- 10/20 Thursday: No school!
- 10/21 Friday: No school!
- 10/25 Tuesday: November lunch forms due
- 10/31 Monday: Parent Conference Day - no school for students!

Lunch Forms Found [HERE!](#)



Message From the Office

Greetings GCA Parents & Guardians,

I pray that you and your student(s) have had a great start to the school year! Can you believe we have already almost finished the first quarter?!

The last day of Quarter 1 is Wednesday, October 19th. Please take the time to check your student's grades in RenWeb and see if they have any absent or missing assignments that they need to turn in. Teachers will not accept any work turned in after the 19th.

Teachers have dedicated our lives to helping students learn and excel in everything they do. We want to see their first quarter report cards reflect all of their hard work so far this year. We ask that you partner with us in this last week of the quarter to help them finish strong!

If you have any questions about how you can help your child finish the quarter on the right foot, please email their teachers and they'll be happy to help!

In His Service,
Megan Schaniel
Academic Advisor



End of Quarter 1!

Last day of quarter 1 is
on **Wed., October 19!**

All student work is due by October 19th. Teachers will not accept work after that date.

NO SCHOOL

There will be no school for students on **Thursday, October 20 or Friday, October 21.**

Claire's Gourmet

stacie.buhl@graceknights.org

Claire's Gourmet order will be ready to be picked up on October 18th. More information will be sent out soon.



Parent

Conference Day!

Monday, October 31st!

Elementary Conferences

Elementary parents are required to schedule a conference in order to receive your student's first quarter report card. Please contact your child's teacher to set up a time to meet.

Middle School Conferences

Middle school parent conferences are optional. Parents may request a conference with one or multiple teachers. Mrs. Schaniel will email out more info about sign ups soon.

GCA Athletics

Our girls volleyball team has gotten off to a great start! The sports schedule is found [on the school's website.](#)

10/11 Home vs Holy Trinity 4PM

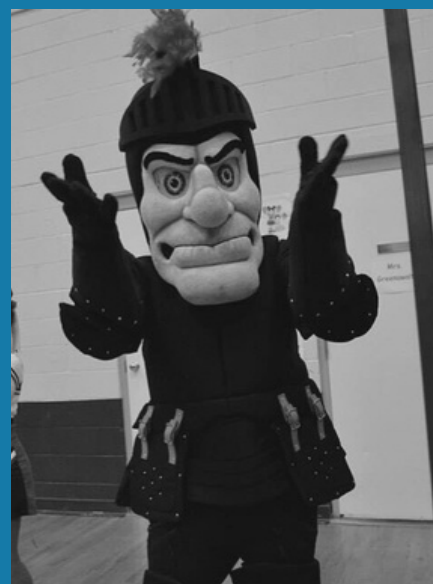
10/18 MISAL Middle School Volleyball Semi Finals

10/20 MISAL Middle School Volleyball Finals

Winter Sports will begin tryouts on Tuesday, November 1st!

They will run on Nov. 1st, 3rd, and 4th after school at 3:30pm in the gym and will end at 5pm. Winter sports are: girls basketball, boys basketball, and cheerleading.

Latasha.jones@graceknights.org



Go Knights!

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!

MAP Growth Testing

amanda.reed@graceknights.org

Students did an excellent job on their MAP Growth testing over the past couple weeks. Students took a Math test and a Reading test. Results will be sent home for parents to view next week. If your student missed one of these tests, they will be scheduled for a make up test soon.

More information on reading these results coming soon!

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.

Middle School

Career Day!

Megan.schaniel@graceknights.org

Middle School Career Day is October 14! We are excited to expose students to a variety of careers so they can begin thinking and praying on what they want to do when they grow up. We know our GCA parents have a wide array of professions and would love to invite you to speak to our students about yours! If you are interested in coming to speak with our middle school students about what you do from 1pm - 3pm that day, please reach out to Megan Schaniel at megan.schaniel@graceknights.org and she will give you more information about the event.

October TAG Day Donation

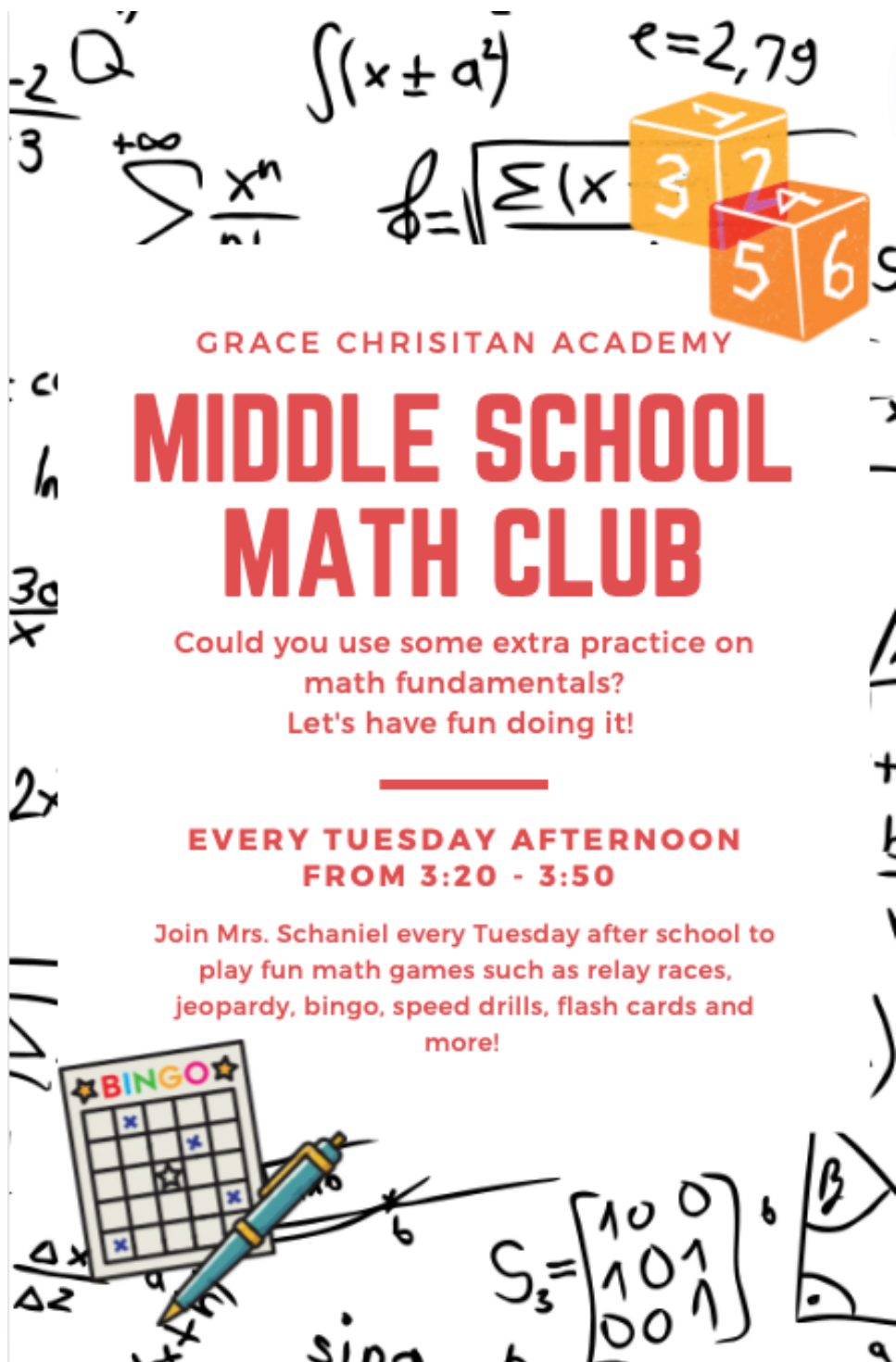
Debbie.collignon@graceknights.org

October TAG day money will be donated to a Hurricane Ian relief fund to help aid the many people who lost so much. This donation will be made to Samaritan's Purse. If you would like to donate any extra, you can turn in cash or check made out to GCA to the front office. We greatly appreciate it!

Middle School Math Club!

Begins Quarter 2! First day is October 25th!

Permission slips available in the front office.



GRACE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH CLUB

Could you use some extra practice on math fundamentals?
Let's have fun doing it!

**EVERY TUESDAY AFTERNOON
FROM 3:20 - 3:50**

Join Mrs. Schaniel every Tuesday after school to play fun math games such as relay races, jeopardy, bingo, speed drills, flash cards and more!





Calendar Order!

Calendars are available for pre-order! These make for great church and staff gifts. Each calendar is \$8. Order forms are available in the front office or you can click the link [here](#) to download and print.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child is a ministry of Samaritan's Purse, in which shoebox gifts are collected for children around the world as an expression of God's love! It is used as a tool to spread the gospel. This is a ministry that we are kicking off for the month of October. Packing a shoebox is easy!

1. Get a standard size shoebox (from home or from the main office)
2. Select what gender and age range you want to pack for (2-4, 5-9, 10-14)
3. Pack the box full of toys, hygiene items, and school supplies (see below for ideas)
4. Pray over the box and write a note to the recipient
5. Donate the \$10 to ship the box (optional) You can write a check to Samaritans' Purse or track it on-line and receive a notification of where your box ends up going.
6. Bring the box to the office or teacher during the month of Oct.





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.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

We are almost midway through the first quarter so all students should have their school uniforms by now. We have been lenient the first few weeks as many students/parents expressed they were waiting on items to arrive in the mail. However, many students are not wearing appropriate pants to school. A school uniform pant has a 'welt' pocket, not a *pocket on the outside*. Girls are not to wear *jegging style* or *stretchy pants* that are khaki or navy in color. We will be enforcing our dress code next week and will send parents an email if their child is out of dress code. *This goes for elementary students too.* Many girls are wearing stretchy material pants. *Cargo shorts* are not a school uniform bottom. Below are pictures of approved pants/shorts. Our [SCHOOL WEBSITE](#) has more detailed information about GCA's school uniform.



Note From the Nurse:

kristin.barber@graceknights.org

- Parents, cold & flu season is here as well as back to school “bugs” please be mindful of the following. Please be aware that any student requiring the use of medication must have a medication administration form signed by their provider and parent on file for each medication. Medications must be brought in to school un-opened and in the original packaging. Medications will not be accepted without a medication administration form. Medications must be turned in by a parent, not the student.

• **COVID Guidelines**

- When a child becomes ill at school, a mask is recommended and can be provided.
- Depending on symptoms and condition of child, parents will be called to pick-up their child.
- Current MSDE guidance recommends COVID-19 testing should a student/staff member develop symptoms
- Currently the school has a supply of COVID-19 tests that can be sent home with a symptomatic child to be completed at home
- If test is negative, student may return when symptoms are improved and no fever for 24 hours without medication
- A student or staff member who tests positive for COVID-19 should complete a 5 day isolation at home from the date symptoms start. Day 0 is considered the day symptoms start or the day of the positive test.
- After day 5, if the person has no symptoms or symptoms have improved and no fever for 24hrs without medication, they may return to school if they wear a well-fitting mask for 5 additional days (day 6-10)
- If they are unable to wear a mask, they may return if they have a negative test at day 5 or later.

Illness & Injury

- Please review and become familiar with the Parent/Student manual
- Children will be required to be sent home for temperatures 100 degrees or higher,
- vomiting, diarrhea (2 or more episodes), very frequent cough, any communicable disease listed by the State of Maryland
- Students who are ill should be picked-up within an hour of parental notification.
- Students may return to school if fever free for 24 hours without use of medication,
- vomiting & diarrhea free for 24 hours

Note From the Nurse:

kristin.barber@graceknights.org

The nurse's office would greatly benefit if the following frequently used items would be donated:

- Clorox wipes
- Kleenex
- Girls panties (all sizes)
- Boys underwear (all sizes)
- Jugs or bottled water
- Band-aids
- 3oz Dixie cups



With cold and flu season in full swing, please remind your children on the importance of hand-washing as well as cough and sneeze etiquette. I have attached two posters linked below to review with them. We value health and wellness of each child - practicing these simple things at home can help stop the spread of virus and illness at school.

[Germs Poster](#) [Cough and Cold Poster](#)

We are quickly approaching the deadling to have all health related documents turned into school. If you have recieved an email from me requesting a health inventory, immunizations, medication forms, or blood lead testing, please turn these in ASAP. These are items that are inspected by the state in order to keep kids healthy and in school. Stay safe and happy fall y'all!

Kinder-8th Grade Soccer Clinics

We are excited to bring back sports clinics to Grace. The registration form has been emailed out and can also be picked up at the school office.



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	F	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 – (Teacher Workday)
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: 9/20/2021

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.